

HCCOLA Hybrid Meeting 3-27-2025 Minutes – Approved 4-24-2025

In-person at Northwoods Bank Community Room and on Zoom

Item	Discussion	Action
Jon Dennis – President called meeting to order 6:30 PM	Post in Chat pls what software your LA uses for tracking membership & we're sending a sheet room too; Big Sand LA is inquiring of HCCOLA.	Membership tracking by 5 LAs = Excel; Belle Taine uses Google Docs to manage membership DB. Some others are not sure. Little Sand mentioned a subscription concept. Newsletters and email used to communicate with membership.
Gina Kemper, DNR Invasive Species Specialist shared map/pictures of Zebra Mussels on Fish Hook plus equipment & tips for shoreland owners to help protect lake water quality.	Gina shared experience with Flowering Rush in Detroit Lakes area. Went from acres yrs before to no treatment last yr. Keep using techniques of Clean.Drain.Dry + Dispose of unwanted bait	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lakeshore owners on the lakes just added to the infested waters list are asked to carefully check their equipment before placing it in the lake. Let Gina know if you find any ZM so can map locations. Understanding the locations may help with MAISRC studies on management opportunities. Use MLR's Lake Stewardship Tips to guide actions. <p>Contact info: Gina Kemper, DNR Invasive Species Specialist, Gina.Kemper@state.mn.us 218-537-6100 (can text AIS pictures to her cell phone or attach in email) 603 1st St W., Park Rapids, MN 56470</p> <p>Presentation video, slide deck and map on hubbardcolumn.org</p>
Jake Shaughnessy, Watershed Planner / Coordinator, HCSWCD discussed the Crow Wing River Comprehensive Watershed Mgmt Plan (CWMP) which has been completed.	Jake shared opportunities & funding for shoreline stewardship practices which are available to landowners. Some prioritized areas / lakes for outreach / project implementation.	<p>You can view the CWR Priority Lake Areas map to see if your lake is in the watershed or priority area. Even if you do not fall into one of these priority areas, the HCSWCD may still be able to assist with other funding sources so do not hesitate to reach out to Jake.</p> <p>Jake Shaughnessy email: jake@hubbardswcd.org Hubbard County Soil and Water Conservation District (HCSWCD) 603 North Central Ave, Suite 100 Park Rapids, MN 56470</p> <p>Jake's Cell Phone: 218-252-5391</p> <p>Presentation video, slide deck and map on hubbardcolumn.org</p>
Approve Draft Minutes of 10-24-2024; sent in Fall & placed on Google drive in March'25.	Motion to approve: Keith Minkel Second: Gene Hanson Passed: Unanimous	Placed Approved Minutes on website hubbardcolumn.org in Communications → Minutes → 2024 https://hubbardcolumn.org/uploads/3/4/5/6/34563649/2024-10-24_hccola_hybrid_mtg_approved_minutes.pdf
Approve Treasurer Rpt. Keith Minkel reviewed spending since Oct '24 – and provided balances	Motion to approve: Burney Fischer Second: Ken Grob Passed: Unanimous	All Member Lake Associations of HCCOLA are paid for 2025. If there had been a gap in payment, that lake association's (LA) HCCOLA Representative, LA President & LA Treasurer would have been contacted.
Reviewed HCCOLA ByLaw on Conflict of Interest & voted annual acknowledgement. State of MN & IRS requirement	Jon Dennis stated and read aloud the HCCOLA ByLaw, Article IX – 9.2 and the MN Statutes Section 317A.255. Discussed examples & handling.	All in attendance, whether in the conference room in-person or on Zoom, voted to indicate their understanding and agreement to adhere to the Standard of Conduct as stated in the HCCOLA ByLaws for Article IX 9.2 Conflict of Interest. www.hubbardcolumn.org → Organization & Strategy section on website. Scroll down to ByLaws. MN Statute 317A.255 Director Conflicts in minutes way below..

Lake Associations sharing 1 to 2 items of 2025 focus (2 minute time limit per LA)	See the Recap way below.	Dues amount question was posed about half-way through the sharing exercise. See that recapped below also.
Committee Report – Christine Hill & Sharon Natzel	Discussed topline, events and help needed with Q&A!	See Committee Report that will be sent out with Minutes; will be on website too: https://hubbardcolumn.org/2025.html Sign up Pls!!
	PDF of Billboard Image - Tuber	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ljX58C_JqQgf0J0LogUxun8ATabXrweJ/view?usp=drive_link
	HCCOLA Events -	HCCOLA Sponsoring Thurs 6-12-2025 2 nd Street Stage social hr from 5 to 6 PM. Please invite your lake association members & wear your LA attire! HCCOLA Reps asked to define questions and answers for 4 Categories for Spinning Wheel Adult Gameboard – see assignment on committee reports. We will have a Youth fishing game, the DNR K9 Unit with dog that sniffs out ZM on a boat will be there plus we'll have aquatic vegetation to identify and more! We will need 6 volunteers for the event; email hccolamn@gmail.com to volunteer.
	DNR AIS Volunteer Training so can educate at public water access	Wed, April 23, 2025 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM at Northwoods Bank Lower Level Community Room Sign up by emailing: hccolamn@gmail.com We need at least 10 people for the class. If you took it last year, you do need to take it again this year too. This is per the DNR, Mike Bolinski.
Keith Minkel	Water Quality Monitoring Cost	As in past years, reminder that the goal is to do all 5 WQM tests May – Sept. If you only do 3 WQM tests, you will be charged for 5. If only do one or two test, then charged for the tests you do.
Meeting Adjourned		Motion by Lynn Goodrich; Seconded by: Keith Minkel Unanimous

HCCOLA 3-27-2025 Business Meeting Minutes Continued Below:

3) Conflict of Interest Information from the HCCOLA ByLaws & the MN Statute 317A.255 MN law for nonprofits & IRS policy also.

HCCOLA ByLaws:

https://hubbardcolumn.org/uploads/3/4/5/6/34563649/bylaws_final_version_approved_7-27-2023_hc_colamtg_with_signatures.pdf

Note this information below was read aloud by Jon Dennis, President HCCOLA, for the attendees of 3-27-2025 HCCOLA Mtg so as the HCCOLA Board of Directors, who are the HCCOLA Reps, can certify that you each have no conflicts of interest and that you have received the policy and you've understood it. Vote yes and thumbs up – yes I've heard it and understand. If not, we can go further. vote to acknowledge understanding annually.

Following the reading, there was Discussion on Examples.

Unanimous.

Article IX – Indemnification; Standard of Conduct

9.2 Conflicts of Interest.

HCCOLA shall not enter into contracts or transactions between HCCOLA or a related corporation and a director of HCCOLA or between HCCOLA and an organization in which a director of HCCOLA is a director, officer or legal representative of has a material financial interest, except in accordance with the provisions of Minnesota Statutes, Section 317A.255, as now enacted or hereafter amended.

Minnesota Statutes 2024 317A.255 <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/317A.255/pdf>

HCCOLA 3-27-2025 Business Meeting Minutes Continued Below:

317A.255 DIRECTOR CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.

Subdivision 1. **Conflict; procedure when conflict arises.** (a) A contract or other transaction between a corporation and: (1) its director or a member of the family of its director; (2) a director of a related organization, or a member of the family of a director of a related organization; or (3) an organization in or of which the corporation's director, or a member of the family of its director, is a director, officer, or legal representative or has a material financial interest; is not void or voidable because the director or the other individual or organization are parties or because the director is present at the meeting of the members or the board or a committee at which the contract or transaction is authorized, approved, or ratified, if a requirement of paragraph (b) is satisfied.

(b) A contract or transaction described in paragraph (a) is not void or voidable if:

(1) the contract or transaction was, and the person asserting the validity of the contract or transaction has the burden of establishing that the contract or transaction was, fair and reasonable as to the corporation when it was authorized, approved, or ratified;

(2) the material facts as to the contract or transaction and as to the director's interest are fully disclosed or known to the members and the contract or transaction is approved in good faith by two-thirds of the members entitled to vote, not counting any vote that the interested director might otherwise have, or the unanimous affirmative vote of all members, whether or not entitled to vote;

(3) the material facts as to the contract or transaction and as to the director's interest are fully disclosed or known to the board or a committee, and the board or committee authorizes, approves, or ratifies the contract or transaction in good faith by a majority of the directors or committee members currently holding office, provided that the interested director or directors may not vote and are not considered present for purposes of a quorum. If, as a result, the number of remaining directors is not sufficient to reach a quorum, a quorum for the purpose of considering the contract or transaction is the number of remaining directors or committee members; or

(4) the contract or transaction is a merger or consolidation described in section 317A.601.

Subd. 2. **Material financial interest.** For purposes of this section:

(1) a director does not have a material financial interest in a resolution fixing the compensation of the director or fixing the compensation of another director as a director, officer, employee, or agent of the corporation, even though the first director is also receiving compensation from the corporation; and

(2) a director has a material financial interest in an organization in which the director, or a member of the family of the director, has a material financial interest.

Subd. 3. **Exception.** The procedures described under subdivision 1, clauses (1) to (3), are not required if the contract or other transaction is between related organizations.

Subd. 4. **Member of the family.** For purposes of this section, a member of the family of a director is a spouse, parent, child, spouse of a child, brother, sister, or spouse of a brother or sister.

History: 1989 c 304 s 45; 1992 c 503 s 6-8; 2010 c 250 art 1 s 29; 2011 c 106 s 12

IRS info below's on the purpose of the conflict of interest policy:

<https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/form-1023-purpose-of-conflict-of-interest-policy>

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- 4) HCCOLA Reps from each lake introduce themselves & share 1 to 2 plans their lake association has for summer 2025 (each HCCOLA Rep has up to 2 mins)

Lake Associations that are Members of HCCOLA (alph order)

Bad Axe · Belle Taine · Big Mantrap · Big Sand · Blue · Boulder · Crow Wing 1st-4th is Lower Crow Wing Lake Assoc (LA) · Crow Wing 5th/6th/7th is Middle Crow Wing LA · Crow Wing 8th/9th is the 8th & 9th Crow Wing LA · Crow Wing 10th/11th is the 10th & 11th Crow Wing LA · Duck LA · Eagle-Island LA · Emma-Stocking-Bottle · Fish Hook Lake & River Association · Garfield LA · Gilmore · Ham Lake · Hinds Lake · Kabekona · Little Sand · Long Lake · Palmer · Plantagenet · Portage · Potato · South Island · Spider · Stony · Tripp · Twin Lakes

Bad Axe Lake Association: Stacey Barrow, HCCOLA Rep

BALA received a HCCOLA Charitable Fund Grant for \$2,000 for 2025. They will do an overall point intercept aquatic vegetation survey of the entire lake. They will also be doing a Eurasian Watermilfoil survey. In 2024, large EWM bloom was treated and will determine if needed in '25. Fundraiser last year; received good feedback & donations. 300 Acre lake, no access, Camp Wilderness on lake (boy scouts).

Lake Belle Taine Association: Andrea Dutcher, HCCOLA Rep

First ever professional aquatic vegetation survey of all Lake Belle Taine last year – Andrea was able to accompany Steve Henry one morning and found it fascinating. This year will be the points of interest aquatic vegetation survey with Steve Henry. LBTA is again pushing the [Muskie Card](#) membership – very successful for membership and support of AIS prevention. Donations beyond the first \$35 for dues help with AIS prevention. Muskie Card level is \$195. Card provides discounts at specific local businesses. (Volunteer aquatic vegetation shoreline monitoring divided in lake sections routine under Andrea's leadership – Jon Dennis noted success!)

Big Mantrap Lake Association: Burney Fischer, HCCOLA Rep

1) Big news from the BMLA is that 430 acres undeveloped land purchased from 3M / Wonewok by Northern Waters Land Trust / MN Land Trust. BMLA will monitor the transition of land to the MN DNR where after some cleanup, the DNR's opening the Mantrap Wildlife Management Area later summer / autumn. BMLA assisting where can. Unknown what will occur with the rest of the Wonewok complex.

2) With BMLA board changes, rebuilding board for BMLA and moving forward with what's next.

KAXE 2.5 minute recording / article after transfer of 3M / Wonewok to Trusts occurred from 3-17-25:
<https://www.kaxe.org/local-news/2025-03-17/3m-camp-wonewok-big-mantrap-lake-minnesota-wildlife-management-area>

Big Sand Lake Association: Steve Kimpton, HCCOLA Rep

- 1) Highlighting something boaters and anglers are happy about. BSLA is in process of purchasing all new buoys for the shallow spots in the lake. Some issues recently with placement of buoys, moving them around and not being properly designed. BSLA agreed to spend approximately \$5,000 to buy proper, reliable buoys. BSLA has identified a "buoy owner" who will be "in charge."
- 2) BSLA resurrected the zebra mussel settlement sampler detection network last year, receiving some from HCCOLA BSLA made several more. Focusing on areas near the resorts and the public access. Continuing to build that out this year and monitoring well with good education on what to look for.

3) BSLA discussing what opportunities might be besides watercraft inspection at public access (some of which they fund themselves) with news of Fish Hook and Potato Lake. With testing occurring for early detection and boat inspections, how effective is it? They wonder if they are being lulled into complacency and there is more to do like a decontamination unit at the public landing, etc.

Boulder Lake Association: Bob Wolf, HCCOLA Rep

The Boulder Lake Association is reorganizing. Identifying the right people for right place. Recruitment.

Lower Crow Wing Lake Association: Cindy & Dave Martins, water quality monitors 1st Crow Wing

In the stage of getting people to join and becoming aware of what they can be doing. Our first step will be to have Jake come out and talk to us as a group about shoreline education. Great news is had a flock of about 300 trumpeter swans fly through the other day.

Middle Crow Wing Lake Association: Derek Carlson, HCCOLA Rep

When we closed out last year, we had a record number of over 100 members. Focusing on AIS this summer as well as a couple of social events. Food always brings people to meetings. We are building a couple of dozen zebra mussel settlement samplers, materials at my house now. We will put them out for people to take home at our annual spring meeting in June.

Eagle-Island Lake Association: David Fastenow, HCCOLA Rep

Being right upstream from Potato Lake, we are quite concerned about zebra mussels. One of our big issues always is too many people / boaters at our sandbar. This has prevented other boaters from getting through the channel between Eagle and Island. We're working to get better channel markers.

Emma-Stocking-Bottle Lake Association (ESB): Gene Hanson, HCCOLA Rep

We have reconstituted the lake association board in the last year or so and have some fairly active people which is good! The focus now is on getting a spring newsletter out to all lake association members. We successfully worked with the Lake Emma Township in early March for supplemental funding for the watercraft inspection program approval for the following year. Dues are \$40.

Jon Dennis also thanked Gene for chairing the HCCOLA AIS Operating Team!

Fish Hook Lake & River Association: Don and Jan Rumpza, water quality monitors

We were sad that we have zebra mussels. Don explained, as the water tester, that the veliger sampling has come back clear (plankton net tow). He also checked the zebra mussel settlement sampling tubes that he has hanging around the lake. Jan explained that an email has been sent to all FHLRA members to look at their equipment before they put it back in the water and report any ZM found so they know where they are. This request by the FHLRA was also mentioned in their article in the Park Rapids Enterprise on the ZM discovery. Jan explained LA dues are \$30; property owners can donate for AIS prevention through the City of Park Rapids who handles the AIS donations for Fish Hook.

Jon Dennis - In talking about effectiveness, one of the most effective things in getting individuals to do what we each should do in preventing AIS is that person to person contact, talking to your neighbors, and talking to the visitors. It is those relationships that are probably the most effective at getting to them do what we should do.

Garfield Lake Association: Mike Frank, HCCOLA Rep

We continue our testing for the ZM veligers (plankton net tows) and our rake tossing (aquatic vegetation ID for early detection). We have a new deal going on now where every new property owner on the lake

receives a package of information and a tube to hang from their dock (zebra mussel settlement sampler). We were “clear” with all our testing last year, so that is a good thing!

Gilmore Lake Association: Keith Minkel, HCCOLA Rep

- 1) We are a small lake of about 92 acres with under 50 property owners and no public water access. There are few places where people can launch a boat so we are not as concerned about that as it is carefully watched. With age, we have had about a 25% turnover in properties in the last 4 to 5 years with younger new owners. We see more kayaks, canoes, water tubing and all the other toys that can easily access the lake from anywhere. One of our goals is to make sure we educate all those new owners. That it is not the power boat that necessarily brings in the AIS, but the tube that you maybe have over on Leech for the weekend with the big boat sitting in the driveway could be a danger.
- 2) Another concern is placement of the loon nesting box. Last year we moved it where there are less activities and we did have a hatch but lost the chick. So our goal is to monitor where best to put the loon nest and to monitor what the predator might be. We had an old PVC loon nest platform for yrs but purchased one from St. Cloud Community College; same place that the Big Mantrap loon program uses.

BMLA Loon Raft Information – bottom of this website page: <https://mantraplake.org/loons>

Hinds Lake Association: Christina Hill, HCCOLA Rep

- 1) As the Hinds Lake Advocate on the Hinds Lake Association Board of Directors, Christina explained she is the only non-voting member on the seven member BOD. In this last year they have 3 new board members and a new president and VP. They now have the bylaws in place. We don't have a lot of new members so that is one of the goals. The board is going to go out and start talking to people more. We have invited Jake Shaughnessy, HCSWCD, to speak July 5th to the lake gathering.
- 2) One of the board members on Hinds Lake Assoc is part of the University of MN - Duluth programming. He submitted an LCCMR grant proposal for 2026 for continuous monitoring with buoys for two different lakes that are next to each other – Hinds and Long. Continuous monitoring is something he has done in other places like the Great Lakes / ponds <https://system.umn.edu/healthier/harnessing-gales-november> .
- 3) We lost our couple of loons again. With the activity on the lake, the loons have just taken off. We are in the process of building a new PVC nest platform. We are figuring out what's the best design and with the activity on the lake, where to put it.

Kabekona Lake Association: Ingrid Bey, HCCOLA Rep Alternate

Since the question was asked about dues, our board considered going from \$25 to \$30 for years and we finally did it. We also offer the option of \$50 for 2 years.

- 1) Our association board is continuing to work on some of the things that we've kind of laid foundation for, and one of those things is to continue to grow our membership. We have a good membership, but I think some people have fallen through the cracks, partly due to technology when we went away from paper. And so we have this pie in the sky of having 100% of the property owners having membership in the KLA. So I'll tell you when we get there.
- 2) We are also committed to strengthening our ais prevention program. So we've committed to a professional aquatic vegetation survey every 3 years, but to augment that a couple of years ago we started our own Aquatic Vegetation group. We are lovingly called the Kabekona Aquatic Vegetation

Surveillance team, otherwise known as the KABs Team, otherwise known as the rake tossers. We have about a dozen people who committed to Rake tossing their shoreline twice a year in July and August, but we'd love to get more participation in that group and get better lake-wide coverage.

- 3) Last year, at our public launch, we installed a boat cleaning station. It's a simple sign with 4 tools. We have a brush, a plug wrench, the grabber and the aqua weed stick. We didn't get it set up until kind of late in the season. So looking forward to having that up for the whole summer this year.
- 4) We continue to inform and educate our membership about AIS and water quality, primarily doing that through our newsletter and email blasts and our picnic and annual meeting.

Jon Dennis pointed out that Ingrid is now on the [Advisory Board](#) for the Minnesota AIS Research Center. So she's a direct line for us, and thank you for all that, Ingrid.

Little Sand Area Lake Association: Cindy Nollette, HCCOLA Rep

We have been really busy this year! Dedicated and committed to get better organized and try to, in some ways, to really reduce the number of hours that some of us volunteers are spending doing so many of the tasks. We have a really good web developer and tech consultant that's been working with us the last couple of years that has really been helping with that process.

We're in the process of working with our membership records, trying to automate that a bit more and moving that to a subscription model. We did move a couple of years ago to \$50 a year for dues, which was a big jump for us. It's just kind of part of the process at this point. We've been really trying to work on our database. We too have had a lot of change in ownership. It has been really a big project to try to keep up with that. We are still trying to figure out how that works.

We have a fun project that is ready to launch this summer. Now with the information that we have in our database, there's a PIN for each property. So you can now drive around the lake with your technology and see whose property it is which will be kind of fun to kind of figure that out from the lake shore. And so people are really excited about that.

We've been working on our bylaws. It's taken a year to do that. We will be maybe wrapping that up here with final votes over the next month or so.

We've added a new social activity. One of my goals is to try to engage younger members. We, too, are getting younger members on our lake and trying to figure out what kind of activities really intrigue them. And what can build a kind of a sense of community. For those younger members, one of the things that we did this year was to launch our first ever photo contest, which was really fun and successful. We used the funds for donations for moving into our AIS fund.

We are trying to increase AIS prevention. With Andrea Dutcher's consultation from Lake Belle Taine, we've added additional committee members. At our annual meeting we were able to allocate the ZM settlement samplers so that they were geographically placed around the lake. This was the 1st time we have had a lake-wide presence there. We too are very concerned about the aquatic invasive species.

Long Lake Area Association (Hubbard County) Inc: Sharon Natzel, HCCOLA Rep

We will be at the Main Lodge at Timberlane Resort on Long Lake, County 20 for our Summer Social / Annual Meeting open house. There will be a couple of food trucks to purchase from. Jake Shaughnessy

from Hubbard County SWCD and others will be there to visit with lake-wide attendees as the people come and go as they please. Our new website will launch this spring.
This is the second year of our 3-year DNR variance with the benthic barrier for mitigating the starry stonewort at the south public water access at Hubbard. We are working with Gina Kemper, DNR Invasive Species Specialist on that project.

We will be attending the MnDOT Open House on April 30th at the Hubbard Community Center, 4 to 6 PM on the [Highway 87 Hubbard MnDOT project](#) & subscribe for project updates. The box culvert (the dam) replacement is part of project; expect it will be poured in-place at the south end of Long Lake at Hubbard.

Portage Lake Association: Paul Wibe, HCCOLA Rep

We will be hiring Professional Lake Management (PLM) to do a lake vegetation survey again. We have an invasive species in the lake – Curly Leaf Pondweed. Fortunately we haven't had to do any treating for the last 5 years, so we will see what they come up with. We usually follow their recommendations.

Jon Dennis – shared that Lake Okoboji in Iowa has Curly Leaf Pondweed. When they got zebra mussels which clarified the water, then the light got down farther and CLP went nuts.

Potato Lake Association: Ken Grob, HCCOLA Rep

Last year we had 176 members, a high! Our current membership drive started in Jan '25. We are in the process of compiling our annual newsletter report. And the third thing is the infestation of zebra mussels.

See Ken's PLA AIS Team Plan for 2025 which he provided for these Minutes to share with HCCOLA since the plan went beyond the verbal sharing of the "2 minutes allotted" for each lake association.

- 1) INCREASE INSPECTION HOURS FOR 2025
- 2) CONDUCT LAKE WIDE VEGETATION SURVEY – AUGUST
- 3) INCREASE VELIGER SAMPLING FREQUENCY
- 4) INCREASE NUMBER OF PVC TUBE SAMPLING LOCATIONS
- 5) EDUCATE LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ON CHECKING DOCKS/LIFTS
- 6) UPDATE SIGNAGE AT LAUNCH SITES
- 7) COORDINATE (WITH ESD) INSPECTION ACCURACY AT LAUNCH SITES
 - Provide Inspection cards
 - Ensure all checks are performed and documented
 - Focus on exiting watercraft
 - Ensure inspectors are aware of SSW lakes and do close inspections
- 8) PROVIDE INSPECTION/CLEANING TOOLS TO RESORTS/CAMPGRDS/PUD's
- 9) ENCOURAGE RESORT/CAMPGROUND/PUD OWNERS TO HAVE ALL PONTOONS/WAKEBOATS COURTESY INSPECTED
- 10) WORK WITH CONNECTED LAKES ON PREVENTING SPREAD
- 11) WORK WITH FISHERIES ON LAKE ACTIONS/DATA
- 12) CONDUCT PLA EDUCATION/INFORMATION SESSION ON ZM's
 - Overview of history/ZM impacts/PLA Status on ZM's
 - DNR report on status/connections
 - Vegetation ID Training
 - Inspection Training for private dock/lift by owners
- 13) EXTRA CREDIT ITEMS
 - Use AIS Explorer to identify high risk lakes for infestation to PLA
 - DNR divers do in-water checks near infested properties
 - More PLA members take Volunteer Educator (inspector) training – April 23
 - Limit access at West launch site

South Island Lake Association: Jim Driessen, Lake Association President

I am fairly new to the leadership of the lake association. Our primary focus has been on water quality monitoring. We do have an active loon nest, which our survival rate has been a little bit low the last couple of years. We'll continue to work on it. I really appreciate the great information I received tonight from Gina and Jake, and look forward to including some of that in our spring meeting we are planning for the end of May.

Spider Lake Association: Jon Dennis, HCCOLA Rep Alternate & Rose Lawler – LA President

- 1) We've established a separate foundation from our lake association and it is now set up as a 501(c)(3). We are up to about \$3000 in contributions so far. We have been looking at the overall goals, plans, and mission of the foundation. The idea is that we are going to need a big war chest for AIS. For lake association dues, it is \$60 where \$20 goes to the actual dues and \$40 for AIS. For many years, we had a separate AIS fund.
- 2) We are one of the two lake associations that received the HCCOLA Charitable Fund Grant for 2025 which is to reforest the small island which had been somewhat devoid partially due to beavers. Beavers have been another issue for several years. Trappers helped a couple of times. Emily Fairfax, Ph.D., an expert on beavers from the University of MN presented on Minnesota's Beavers: balancing benefits and conflict management at the 3-18-25 MNCOLA Meeting. [Video here](#) Better ways to manage. She is also presenting at Itasca Waters Practical Water Wisdom Series on 4/3/25 – noon CST, registration at ItascaWaters.org. Recordings of all Water Wisdom presentations are [here](#).
- 3) Establishing some connections with our Nevis local school district with a science teacher who has expressed interest in us working with the students.

Tripp Lake Association: Lynn Goodrich, HCCOLA Rep

We are a small lake. Our dues are \$10 annually. We're transitioning to younger families owning properties on the lake. This summer, we are going to put forth some effort to encourage the younger members around the lake to complete the watercraft licensing course because that's great education there. Lynn added that as being a long-time HCCOLA leader, he is very impressed with all he heard tonight with what the lake associations are doing!

Jon Dennis – pointed out that Lynn also serves on the MNCOLA board and is an elected supervisor for the Hubbard County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Lynn encouraged everyone to consider volunteering at the Hubbard County SWCD Freshwater Festival for 6th graders (300 youth from in the entire area). Reach out to [Jack Slipy](#) at HC [SWCD](#). Lynn said that through your participation, you'll have a good feeling about the future of our lakes and the environment here in Hubbard County when you see how engaged the 6th graders are.

At the 3/18/25 MNCOLA meeting, Lieutenant Eric Sullivan, MN DNR presented on the new Boat Operator's Permit. [Video here](#)

Twin Lakes Association: Deb Massey, Lake Assoc President along with Rose and Paul Ragole

We have dues of \$25 per year. We have between 30 to 35 paid members in any given year.

We are now on the downstream flow of the zebra mussels. Normally we have 2 newsletters a year because a lot of our people are not full time residents. Because of the ZM listing this year, we will do an April newsletter too. The focus will be alerting folks to the fact that we even need to be more prepared

than we knew we had to be at this point in time! Providing them with ideas as to what can be done and what to look for. It is a fine line to walk to share the knowledge about zebra mussels (ZM) yet not cause a reaction in people with no knowledge of ZM to think, "I've got to sell my place" and then sell it. We'll be continuing the newsletters.

We do have two meetings, May and Sept. Not very well attended. We did have a party with food with people there. Having food, getting them talking - - wonderful! Next step – don't have food and getting them involved. That is the step we're just not quite making. But we continue to try!

The end of the HCCOLA 3-27-2025 Business Meeting Minutes.

Note: If your lake association is not represented above, please plan to share 1 or 2 of your goals for 2025 in less than 2 minutes at our April 24, 2025, 6:30 PM hybrid meeting during the business section of our HCCOLA meeting. Thank you!

HCCOLA Hybrid Meeting Attendee Info for Thursday 3-27-2025:

From 3-27-2025 Attendees: 23 member lake associations out of 31; 19 in-person in the Northwoods Bank Community Room, plus 14 signed into Zoom. Total attendees: 33

Attendee List Key: LA = Lake Association, P = in-person, Z = Zoom, *=LA's "Designated voter"

Bad Axe LA: Stacey Barrow – Z*

Belle Taine LA: Andrea Dutcher – Z*

Big Mantrap LA: Burney Fischer – Z*, Bill Dinger - P

Big Sand LA: Steve Kimpton – Z*

Blue LA:

Boulder LA: Bob Wolf – P*

Duck LA:

Eagle- Island LA: David Fastenow – Z*

8th & 9th Crow Wing LA: Ann Kern – Z

Emma-Stocking-Bottle (ESB) LA: Gene Hanson – P*

Fish Hook LRA: Don and Jan Rumpza – P*

Garfield LA: Mike Frank – Z*

Gilmore LA: Keith Minkel – P*

Ham LA:

Hinds LA: Christina Hill – P*

Kabekona LA: Ingrid Bey – Z*

Little Sand LA: Cindy Nollette – Z*

Long Lake Area LA: Sharon Natzel – P*

Lower Crow Wing LA: Cindy Martens – P*, Dave Martens - P

Middle Crow Wing LA: Derek Carlson – P*

Palmer LA:

Plantagenet LA:

Portage LA: Paul Wibe – P*

Potato LA: Ken Grob – Z*

South Island LA: James Driessen – Z*

Spider LA: Rose Lawler – Z*, Jon Dennis – P (votes as President HCCOLA)

Steamboat LA:

Stony LA:

10th & 11th Crow Wing LA:

Tripp LA: Lynn Goodrich – Z*

Twin LA: Debra Massey – P* plus Rose and Paul Ragole - P

Sustaining Individual Members (Non-Voting): Bernie Gearin, LaDonna Cleveland

Guests: Gina Kemper, presenter, MN DNR Invasive Species Specialist - Z, Jake Shaughnessy, presenter,

Hubbard County SWCD - P