

HCCOLA Meeting Minutes – Approved 5-29-2025

HCCOLA Hybrid Meeting 4-24-2025 on Zoom with in-person at Northwoods Bank Community Room

Item	Discussion	Action
Jon Dennis – President called meeting to order 6:30 PM		
Aaron Anderson - Hubbard County Environmental Specialist, Environmental Services	AIS Prevention Program Manager presented the 2025 Hubbard County Aquatic Invasive Species & Watercraft Inspection Program Overview of AIS Updates, State & Local, Watercraft Inspection Program Outlook, AIS Public Outreach Objectives, & Decontamination Station	Aaron Anderson , Hubbard County Environmental Services, Environmental Specialist - AIS Prevention Program Manager presented the plans for 2025. It is on our HCCOLA website hubbardcolamn.org under communications → presentations: Click here for Aaron's presentation. Click here for the YouTube video link.
Gary Smith – President - Fish Hook Lake & River Association Gary updated attendees on the Fish Hook Lake & River Association's response to Zebra Mussels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - adding more zebra mussel settlement sampling tubes to detect ZM locations, - continue veliger sampling - doing a lake-wide professional aquatic vegetation survey this summer, - increased watercraft inspection hours by supplementing approx \$7000 - making sure boater tools in place at the accesses - asking individuals to inspect their docks / lifts before they go into the lake after this past winter and again in autumn; coaching on how to do this now & at annual meeting - collaborating with polato 	If you wish to view the 7.5 min YouTube video of Gary's presentation on the Fish Hook Lake & River Association's response to zebra mussels, it is on our HCCOLA website hubbardcolamn.org under communications → presentations: https://hubbardcolamn.org/presentations.html
Approve Draft Minutes of 3-27-2025.	Motion to approve: Gary Smith Second: Gene Hanson Passed: Unanimous	Place Approved Minutes on website hubbardcolamn.org in Communications → Minutes → 2025
Approve Treasurer Rpt provided by Keith Minkel ahead of the meeting	Motion to approve: Burney Fischer Second: Lynn Goodrich Passed: Unanimous	Jon brought up Budget document on screen for HCCOLA Reps to view. Funds come in at end of summer so appears in "red". This is "normal" for this time of the year in the annual cycle.
HCCOLA Charitable Fund Advisory Team Recommendation on Grant Round 2026	Motion to approve Recommendation by Committee: Gene Hanson Seconded: Sharon Natzel Passed: Unanimous	Recommendation by HCCOLA Charitable Fund Advisory Team that we motioned to approve is: HCCOLA Charitable Fund Grant Proposal deadline is Monday, 10/20/2025 for grant funding for 2026. HCCOLA will allow there to be multiple grants for up to 3 grants at \$2000, up to a sum total of \$6000 for 2026. The grant awards will be communicated in Nov 2025 and made available in June 2026.

		Update the HCCOLA Charitable Fund Grant Documentation on our website and work with Northwest MN Foundation to publicize open grant round in June.
Approve E-Team Addition – Gary Smith, FHLRA Pres is willing to serve in the vacant position on the E-Team.	Gary provided a 2 min update on his extensive background. Jon asked if there were other nominations from Floor for E-Team? None Motion to Nominate Gary Smith & Approve: Sharon Natzel Seconded: Jon Dennis Motion passed unanimously	Jon recognized Mike Glynn, President of Stony Lake Assoc, for serving on the E-Team for 16 months.
HCCOLA Representative Survey	Jon Dennis recapped survey that 20 of the HCCOLA Reps responded to in Survey Monkey; high level.	More in depth discussion in May business meeting See slides here from Jon's overview of survey results. See the actual dues answers here.
Lake Associations that didn't share in March shared 1 to 2 items of 2025 focus (2 minute time limit per LA)	See the Recap way below.	Blue, Crow Wing 8th/9th, Crow Wing 10th/11th, Duck LA, Ham LA, Palmer LA, Plantagenet, Portage, Stony, Steamboat
Committee Report – Sharon Natzel	Discussed key dates for Restore the Shore pickup, water quality monitoring (WQM) and 2 nd Street Stage Social Hour Q&A Input for Adult Game	Review the Committee Reports 3-27-2025 on HCCOLA website hubbardcolamn.org → Communications → Committee Reports. Reminder that Water Cooler Wed for picking up cooler, water sample bottles and sampling tube is Wed 5/14/2025 at the Chamber of Commerce parking lot in PR. Many of the animals come from our lakes area that are aided by the Northwoods Wildlife Rescue. Julie Dickie presented to HCCOLA on Feb 28, 2019 – slides here Please note that Northwoods Wildlife Rescue 3rd Annual Fundraiser Dinner will be held August 8th, 2025, at the American Legion in Park Rapids from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM.
Q&A	Ingrid Bey asked about the MN COLA Webinar on 1 MN lake's success with wake boat restrictions. Also HCCOLA Reps discussed conversations with various Lake Service Providers and what the LSP does to decontaminate equipment when going from lake to lake.	Lynn Goodrich, HCCOLA's Representative on MN COLA Board, encouraged all interested to review the webinar as the extensive steps required by the individual MN lake were in the webinar here in our collaborator share area . Check the DNR List to see if your LSP is certified and ask your LSP also.
	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.
Meeting Adjourned		Motion by Lynn Goodrich; Seconded by: Sharon Natzel Approval was Unanimous

Recap of Lake Reports for 4-24-2025 will be added to the minutes:

Crow Wing 8th/9th - Kristin Basinger

We just are kind of getting started for the season again. We did some monthly get togethers during the winter, where whoever was around was able to join us, and we just try to keep that social aspect going as much as we can. We're going through the similar thing as other people, I guess, where our 2 years are up for our board – difficult finding new prospects. Positive interactions with the resorts as have a lake assoc rep just for the resorts now. Goal is to get one of the resort owners to be a member of the board. Loon platforms are out and loons are frequenting them.

Plantagenet: Krystie North

We are also a lake that, for whatever reason, our water level drops quite substantially in summertime. The Schoolcraft River that flows through the lake south to north, and then eventually ends up in the Mississippi River and then into Lake Bemidji. We do know that there is a connection with a dam in regards to some of that issue, but also and it's a spring fed lake, so we don't quite understand. And the DNR can't quite help us understand why it is that our table water level table drops so substantially throughout the summer. We did find zebra mussels a couple years ago. Do early detection for starry stonewort and do hope that doesn't get started. Krystie shared how their lake assoc started too.

Portage: Paul Wibe

We've had some monthly meetings, not really meetings, but get togethers, with the Lake Association through this winter, and we've got another one coming up next week. Basically, we're just waiting for the weather to warm up and get back in the water!

Ham Lake – Walt Stachon provided this in email: Our goal is to find a volunteer for Restore The Shore trees for next year. We hired a beaver trapper this past winter and spring to deal with shoreline trees disappearing near a newly established lodge. Also, our loon volunteer has repaired the artificial nesting platform to reduce the chance of eagle predation. A pair of loons are currently on the lake.

Note: If your lake association is not represented above for April, nor in March 2025, please plan to share 1 or 2 of your goals for 2025 in email to hccolamn@gmail.com for May. Thank you!

Blue Lake, Crow Wing 10th / 11th, Duck, Palmer, Stony, Steamboat Lake

HCCOLA Hybrid Meeting Attendee Info for Thursday 4-24-2025:

21 member lake associations out of 31; 12 in-person in the Northwoods Bank Community Room, plus 18 signed into Zoom. Total attendees: 30

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*

Big Sand LA: Steve Kimpton – Z*

Blue LA:

Boulder LA:

Duck LA:

Eagle- Island LA: David Fastenow – Z*

8th & 9th Crow Wing LA: Steve & Kristin Basinger – Z / 1 vote*

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

Fish Hook LRA: Gary Smith – P*

Garfield LA: Mike Frank – P*, Ron Ray, Greg Mehlhop

Gilmore LA:

Ham LA:

Hinds LA: Christina Hill – Z*

Kabekona LA: Ingrid Bey – Z*

Little Sand LA: Cindy Nollette – Z*

Long Lake Area LA: Sharon Natzel – P*

Lower Crow Wing LA:

Middle Crow Wing LA:

Palmer LA: Phil Kirkegaard – Z*

Plantagenet LA: Krystie North – Z*

Portage LA: Paul Wibe – P*

Potato LA: Ken Grob – P*

South Island LA:

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

Steamboat LA:

Stony LA: Bill Petersen – Z*

10th & 11th Crow Wing LA:

Tripp LA: Lynn Goodrich – Z*

Twin LA: Debra Massey – Z*

Sustaining Individual Members (Non-Voting): Bernie Gearin (lives on Brush), Dave Nelson (lives on Pickerel)

Guests: Aaron Anderson - Hubbard County Environmental Services, Shannon Geisen - Park Rapids Enterprise