

Committee Reports 3-27-2025 HCCOLA Meeting, plus Announcements, & Opportunities from:

- AIS Operating Team
- Education Team
- Water Quality Monitoring Team
- Restore the Shore Team

AIS Operating Team

- 1) Billboard determined for May – Sept in partnership with Hubbard County Environmental Services – Hwy 71



- 2) Resort Letters explaining our services along with the Starry Trek Guide to Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) and native look-alikes being provided to resorts in partnership with Hubbard County Environmental Services.
- 3) HCCOLA providing a similar letter to short term rental property owners along with the Starry Trek Guide also.
- 4) If you are aware of a weedy public water access on a lake in Hubbard County, please email lake name / public water access to hccolamn@gmail.com. We'll consider placing a "pincher" tool at the access for boater use.
- 5) Planning to have the boat cleaning toolset at the public water accesses for opening of fishing 5/10/25!
- 6) Packets will be available for HCCOLA Reps to use for personal visits to your lake's resorts by 4/24 HCCOLA mtg

Education Team

- 1) MN DNR AIS Volunteer Training scheduled with the DNR on Wed 4/23/25 at 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM at Northwoods Bank – email hccolamn@gmail.com to register. This class is required to be able to educate the public on AIS at your public water access. <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/ais/volunteer.html>
- 2) The Freshwater Festival on Wed 5/21/25 needs volunteers to help. Sign up with Jack Slipy at the Hubbard County SWCD. jack@hubbardswcd.org

- 3) HCCOLA is sponsoring the **“Social Hour” on Thurs June 12 from 5 PM to 6 PM for 2nd Street Stage** in Downtown Park Rapids. We will be positioned near Pioneer Park & the Beer Garden (wine / beverages too). Here’s the 2025 Button & Concert lineup: <https://www.parkrapidsdowntown.com/2nd-street-stage>

Reach out to your lake association members and invite them to attend our Social Hour focused on lakes!

Celebrate Our Treasured Lakes Together on Thursday June 12th from 5 PM to 6 PM during “Social Hour” before the 2nd Street Concert. Wear your lake association attire! Have Fun! Participate!



The HCCOLA-sponsored “Social Hour” focus will be “Eyes on the Water” & what we each can do for our lakes!

- We have arranged to have a **MN DNR K9 Unit** where the dog will demonstrate sniffing out zebra mussels.
- Attendees will be able to check a **boat/motor/trailer** for “fake” AIS!
- Individuals that show us their own actual valid watercraft operator’s certificate / permit issued by their home state will receive a gift from HCCOLA!
- Participants will be able to touch / feel live native aquatic vegetation and learn to identify
- HCCOLA will have games for Youth and also Adults plus gifts for participation!
- Our Youth game involves catching plastic fish & answering a question (OK for parents to help too 😊)

HCCOLA REPS & Others! We need your help to create the Questions and Answers for our **Adult Game** .



In our **Adult Game** a player gets a chance to answer 3 questions, as in **“Wait! Wait! Don’t Tell Me!”**. We will use a spinning wheel with 4 colors to “land” on.

See the **4 Color Categories** below and the example Q1 & A1 to help get you started in developing the Q & A’s.

Email at least 2 Q&A for each category below to hccolamn@gmail.com by our 4/24 HCCOLA meeting.

BLUE: LAKE RECREATION TIPS ⓘ *How do I keep the lake clean and protect our waters?*

Q1: What should boaters do before putting a boat into a lake or body of water?

A1: *Always arrive a lake cleaned and drained. Consider visiting a [decontamination site](#).*

GREEN: MN NATIVE ANIMALS & PLANTS ⓘ *What animals & plants are good for our lakes?*

Q1: Which species of frogs are native to Minnesota?

- a. Bull frogs
- b. Green frogs
- c. Northern Leopard frogs
- d. All of the above

A1: **(d)** Currently there are no known invasive frog species in Minnesota

RED: AQUATIC INVASIVE PLANTS & ANIMALS ? What do I watch for?

Q1: What mussel is the most invasive species in Minnesota?

A1: Zebra Mussels (*Dreissena polymorpha*)

– How to stop: **Clean, Drain, Dry:** It's crucial to clean, drain, and dry watercraft and equipment before leaving a water access to prevent the spread of zebra mussels and other aquatic invasive species.

YELLOW: SHORELINE STEWARDSHIP ? What can I do to protect our lake shores?

Q1: What is the littoral zone of a lake?

A1: The littoral zone is located at the edge of a lake, extending from the shoreline into the water, to where sunlight can reach the lake.

- 4) **April's Library Displays** - Partnership with Hubbard COLA + Park Rapids Area Library + Kitchigami Regional Library
Presented for the month of April and with an Earth Day focus: **"Preserving Our Treasured Lakes"**



Check out the displays being readied now.

The display has Loon preservation information and why lead free tackle is important. Water safety is also featured for children.

HCCOLA is providing 2 complimentary educational books (30 copies of each book):

- Aquatic Invasive Species Coloring Book by Sawyer Lorentz (MAISRC)
- Shoreland Guide to Lake Stewardship by Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates

Check out the Library in April! Stop by to get your free Zebra Mussel Settlement Sampler (ZMSS) for your dock. These ZMSS were assembled by the 4-H Shooting Sports and Wildlife Club!

- 5) **Two HCCOLA Trifold Brochures** updated – ready for your annual mtgs (email hccolamn@gmail.com if need some)
- A) The trifold on HCCOLA explains our all-volunteer nonprofit with 31 lake assocs & our committees / services.
 - B) The Hubbard County COLA Charitable Fund trifold brochure explains How and Why to donate to our Northwest MN Foundation endowment fund. Explains the type of grants available through grant process.
- 6) Let us know if you would like one of the **10 Fishline Recycling Tubes** for your public water access, created by 4-H Shooting Sports and Wildlife Club. Protect loons & wildlife from entanglement! Easy to hang & clean.
- 7) A Team completed a reference document [“Local Partners Who Help Preserve and Protect the Lakes and Rivers”](#) . This document highlights our local partners that lake associations may work with, depending on the opportunities present at the time. The responsibilities are outlined at a high level. We hope to **cut your research time** on various circumstances you may encounter through this Quick Reference Guide. Available on our website.
- 8) Hold the date for a **Stop Starry Stonewort Summit – June 27-28** in Walker, MN. Planning in process with MLR.
- 9) HCCOLA will again be at the **Hubbard County Fair July 15-19** in the Environmental Education Building. Focus is on “Eyes on the Water” with hands-on activities for youth and adults. **Volunteer** for a 3-hr shift. Training provided.

Water Quality Monitoring (WQM) Team – Schedule and Details for the Season

Our **“Water Cooler Wed” is 5/14/2025 5:30 to 7 PM**. The water quality monitoring (WQM) coolers, sample bottles, forms, and the two-meter long integrated water sampling tubes will be available for WQ monitors to pick up from 5:30 to 7 PM at the parking lot of the Park Rapids Chamber of Commerce, 1204 Park Ave S, Park Rapids, MN.

The 2025 Hubbard County Water Quality **Monitoring Schedule** for Sundays / Mondays is below. Your lake water cooler with refrigerated sample bottles on ice can be dropped off on the Mondays below, between 9 AM – 11 AM at the parking lot of the Park Rapids Chamber of Commerce, 1204 Park Ave S, Park Rapids, MN 56470. The HCCOLA volunteer-driven shuttle leaves for RMB Environmental Laboratories in Detroit Lakes promptly at 11 AM!

Sundays / Mondays WQM Schedule 2025

May 18/19
June 15/16
July 20/21
August 17/18
Sept 21/22

Pricing for WQM for HCCOLA is expected to be the same as last year: \$67 per sample per month. HCCOLA will bill the lake associations that participate toward the end of the season for the 5 months of WQM samples. If your lake only does 3 samples for the summer, you are still charged for 5 samples by HCCOLA. Strive for 5! If the HCSWCD is able to contribute to WQM for HCCOLA lakes in 2025, the savings will be passed on to member lake associations, as before.

For lakes also sampling for the presence of **Zebra Mussel Veligers** using specialized plankton nets, the sample bottles and forms for ZM Veliger analysis will be available 5/14. The 2025 price for analysis by RMB for ZMV is \$120 a sample

for zebra mussel veliger analysis and \$40 extra to analyze the same sample for spiny water flea (a separate process.) Please email hccolamn@gmail.com with the number of ZMV sample bottles you will need by 4/24/25.

On “Water Cooler Wed” 5/14/25, we will have **kiosk flyers, aqua weed sticks** (if you have a resort with boat access that has not yet received theirs yet), plus free **Zebra Mussel Settlement Samplers (ZMSS)** with dock owners instructions on how to participate in the “Eyes on the Water” survey each Fall. Let us know **what and how many** your lake association needs by emailing hccolamn@gmail.com by 4/24/25, our April HCCOLA mtg.

Brush up on your **WQM training on the RMB website** [here](#). Training will be available on Water Cooler Wed 5/14 too.

Reminder for **proofing your Lake Monitoring data** - - RMB's Lakes Monitoring Database is updated by RMB staff. Lake Associations are able to view / check their data trends online at RMB [here](#). At the end of the season, RMB supplies data to the State of MN Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) database so statistics for the past season are reflected. This information then becomes easily available in the [MN DNR Lake Finder](#) information also.

Attention WQM team, Peter Tuomisto, HCCOLA WQM Coordinator reached out by email on 3/22/25. If there are changes for your lake WQM, or if you didn't receive Peter's 3/22 email, please let us know at hccolamn@gmail.com or Water Quality Monitoring Coordinator - Peter Tuomisto petertuomisto@gmail.com Cell 612-597-1386

Restore the Shore (RTS) Team

Update from Cheryl Hilgemann, HCCOLA's “Restore the Shore” Coordinator on the expected date that the lake association RTS coordinators for their lakes will be able to pick up their lake's RTS orders for their lakeshore owners. Based on information from the Hubbard County SWCD, it currently looks like **Thurs May 1st** will be the date! We do not know the exact time or exact location instructions yet for pick up in Park Rapids. Stay tuned to your email as it gets closer to that date for final information from Cheryl!