

# HUBBARD COUNTY COALITION OF LAKE ASSOCIATIONS (HCCOLA)

## Committee Reports and Announcements

October 30, 2014

[www.hubbardcolamn.org](http://www.hubbardcolamn.org)

### **LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE**

Strategic Actions 1, 2 and 3

By Lynn Goodrich

#### **1. Executive Committee**

- i. COLA welcomes Nate Sitz, for an update and season end report on the 2014 AIS boat inspection program.  
**Arrive early for Nate's report. It starts at 6:15pm**
  - ii. Ken Grob will present a preview of the 2015 Hubbard County Local Plan for AIS Prevention and Management
  - iii. Sharon Natzel will present the summary of the member survey conducted earlier this year.
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- a. **HCCOLA's mission is to protect and enhance the quality of our lakes and rivers, preserve the economic, recreational and natural environmental values of our shore lands and promote the responsible use of our waters and related habitats. COLA's mission enhances, promotes and protects the interests of lakeshore property owners, lakes associations, local government, the general public and future generations.**
  - b. Steve Hall has assumed the duties of HCCOLA Treasurer.
  - c. Call for members to fill important positions within HCCOLA. We are still in need of a Secretary (or Secretarial team to share those responsibilities.) Filling this position is paramount to our future success.  
The Executive Committee (Team) is looking for people to help build communications within HCCOLA and to get our message out to the public. I am continually amazed by the lack of knowledge by about issues that are paramount to the future success of Hubbard County. We need to inform and engage the public about these issues. They affect us all, whether we live in the city, country, or on a lake. Whether we are year round, seasonal, or occasional visitors. Whether we involved in industry, retail, agriculture, or the services industry. The future of this area is so closely tied to the environment that we must work tirelessly to protect and enhance it. Please help by sharing your unique talents with HCCOLA. Please contact me at [tripplake1@mac.com](mailto:tripplake1@mac.com) or give me a call.
  - d. Watch for COLA's Ad and Enhanced Business listing in the 2015 Park Rapids Lakes Area Discovery Guide. COLA's participation in the Discovery Guide helps us get our message out to tourists that come to the Park Rapids Lakes area to vacation and enjoy our clean lakes. It fits with our public relations strategy by giving us a vehicle for sharing our values, expands our partnering with local businesses in supporting the Park Rapids area and affirms our commitment to work together with others to protect our lakes.
  - e. 2014 League of Women Voters Candidate Forums
    - i. I would like to thank all HCCOLA members that participated in the forums. In particular those of you that volunteered your time and talents to help host. Your attendance at these events is important to our electoral process.

- f. **The Heavenly Seven Fellowship Hosts** for the October 30 HCCOLA meeting will include Eagle, Long, and Stony Lakes. Each group is responsible for setting up the Northwood's Bank Community Room, providing and preparing the refreshments and treats, and doing the tear down and clean up after the meeting. **Please pick up the key at the Bank a day or two before the HCCOLA meeting.** Until HCCOLA has a Secretary, the Heavenly Seven Lakes are responsible for taking minutes at the HCCOLA meeting.
- g. **The Heavenly 7 or 8 or 9 or ?** The Executive team will review and update the Heavenly Seven groups over the winter months. We want to improve the program and involve more presidents and reps. If you have any ideas to improve the program please let me know so I can pass it on to the right people.
- h. **IU SPEA students harness their skills to improve Minnesota lakes**  
 The 2014 Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs graduate capstone course is looking at lake association lake-monitoring programs. The new program is underway and many of you were asked to participate in a survey on your personal and your lake association's activities in this area. Students are evaluating the lake monitoring programs across the 29 HCCOLA lake management associations by studying water quality and clarity, aquatic invasive species, shoreline rules compliance and more. They are also reviewing lake monitoring programs across more than 20 Minnesota counties. Finally, to assess government interests, they will speak with Minnesota officials at the state and county level.  
 HCCOLA once again is collaborating with IU and urges all HCCOLA lake associations to take an active role in this lake monitoring project.  
 Collected data will be compiled in a final report to the HCCOLA that will include lake protection and restoration best management strategies and guidelines for enhanced lake monitoring.  
 More information will be available at the October HCCOLA meeting where HCCOLA members will have an opportunity to participate in a conference call with the IU SPEA Capstone Class and Burney Fischer. Further information can be found on the HCCOLA website at [hubbardcolamn.org](http://hubbardcolamn.org).

## 2. **President's Report and Announcements**

- a. Mark your calendar and save the date.....Attend COLA's next meeting on October 30, 2014; AIS boat inspection report 6:15 p.m., social gathering at 6:30 p.m. and meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the Northwood's Bank Community Room.
- b. Interested HCCOLA members that are unable to attend our September 25<sup>th</sup> HCCOLA meetings will have the opportunity to participate in our "Teleconferencing" during the September HCCOLA meeting. Burney Fischer and some of his graduate students will be participating via "Teleconferencing" to discuss the 2014 Capstone Course on Water Quality monitoring. Please let me know if you would be interested in connecting to our HCCOLA meeting via your phone.
- c. HCCOLA next board meeting will be on **Thursday, February 5, 2015**.  
 A full 2015 meeting schedule will be posted to the HCCOLA website soon.
- d. **What's happening on your lake?** Please provide updated contact information for your HCCOLA reps, presidents and e-mail coordinators so we can keep our contact lists up-to-date. Lake associations are encouraged to send newsletters to Lynn Goodrich at [triplake1@mac.com](mailto:triplake1@mac.com), or Dan Kittilson at [drkittil@q.com](mailto:drkittil@q.com)
- e. Hubbard COLA's e-mail address: Correspondence and questions can be sent to [hccolamn@gmail.com](mailto:hccolamn@gmail.com)

## **Improve Internal Communications**

Strategic Action #4

By Larry Roberts

Continuing to explore ways to improve communications with lake associations, their boards and individual members.

Coordinating with Sharon N. regarding communications portion of the HCCOLA survey.

How do we keep e-mails focused on important areas, yet keep membership informed of lake issues. An informed membership is critical to the success of HCCOLA.

## **Lakeshore Education Committee**

Strategic Action 5

By Sharon Natzel

- 1) The “Lake Monitoring Template” Helps Teams Report and Recruit....

The lake association team involved in multiple and varied lake monitoring activities may input information into an Excel workbook for easy reporting purposes. By tracking the volunteer names and hours spent on the activity by date, by season, it will be relatively easy to compile any reports. The information can also be utilized for presentations to your membership on time spent in water quality monitoring activities or doing Zebra Mussel Veliger sampling, for example. You may also find it a useful tool to recruit volunteers for the varied lake monitoring opportunities. It is possible that this type of information will be needed for future grant application purposes too. See details on the HCCOLA website: <http://www.hubbardcolumn.org/other-resources.html>

- 2) Helpful Hints to Participate in the Hubbard County Board of Adjustment Process.....

Includes how to locate the schedule for the BOA for the year and an example of a published agenda. At the Hubbard County Court House you may view the variance documentation on file and find out the approximate lot viewel time. See details on the HCCOLA website: <http://www.hubbardcolumn.org/other-resources.html>

- 3) The HCCOLA Q&A Survey Recap and Prioritized Goals are completed thanks to all of you! The Education team during the summer of 2014 utilized the nearly 600 ideas generated by the HCCOLA Board Members who attended the 5/29/14 HCCOLA Meeting. Members were given an opportunity to contribute ideas also by email after the meeting. Like ideas were combined. You did further prioritization and ranking. The Executive Team reviewed all the information and helped to focus the recap goals.

The information gathered by the HCCOLA Education team will be used by the HCCOLA leadership as a guide to help determine our future HCCOLA efforts and activities in 2015 and beyond. We'll take advantage of the winter months. We'll incorporate appropriate information on goals into the strategy map and committee org chart to reflect the new ideas gathered from the survey. Thank you VERY much for your valued input!!!

## **Manage Public Image Committee**

Strategic action #6

By Larry Roberts

Articles for the “Voices on the Water” series are on the website. We have a new article on the website from Jeff Mosner’s daughter. If you haven’t read it, check it out on the HCCOLA website. Her story was previously published in the Northwoods Press (NWP). They have just published Peter Pierson’s “Restoration” article in the Wednesday, October 29, 2014 edition. NWP would like to continue this as a feature series want to encourage others to submit articles from throughout the community. Share your lake experiences by writing a short story 300-700 words. You can e-mail them to Larry Roberts, [lrobertsmn@gmail.com](mailto:lrobertsmn@gmail.com).

Peter Pierson, our public image advisor has recorded the article written by Vern Thompson “To the Last Loon on Little Sand Lake” for KAXE-KBXE, Northern Community Radio. Broadcast date has not yet been determined. Notice will be posted on our website. It will also be available on their website: [www.Kaxe.org](http://www.Kaxe.org).

The radio station has expressed interest in doing additional articles from HCCOLA.

### **Membership Committee Report**

Strategic action #7

By Hillary Stoltz

1. 2015 Membership Dues – **DUE NOW** – Please remit  
Thank you to the following lake associations for their prompt payment: Bad Axe, Belle Taine, Big Mantrap, Big Sand, Boulder, Duck, Eagle, Fish Hook, Gilmore, Ham, Hinds, Island, Kabekona, Long, Palmer, Peysenske, Portage, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> Crow Wing, Potato, South Island, Spider, Tripp
2. HCCOLA Report:
  - a. Eighteen (18) Lake Associations were represented at the September COLA Meeting.
  - b. Changes in COLA representatives and/or newly elected Presidents need to inform Deb Rogers so that they can be added to the COLA Master Lists and have their Badges made up.
  - c. Dues and Association Membership Info has been received from \_\_\_\_ of our 28 Lake Association Members. Reps should please follow up with getting these in before the November 1st deadline.
3. MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE “CAPSTONE STUDY” PROJECTS
  - a. Lake Associations, as well as COLA, benefit when Memberships increase. The Membership Committee would like to compile “Success Stories” from the COLA Reps and Association Presidents as a part of producing a “Best Practices” document.
  - b. Social events and fund-raisers to broaden local interest, organizing and supporting events that may appeal to younger residents and the creation of leaders, and lake-related restoration/volunteer projects will continue as a focus of the Membership Committee.

### **Finance Committee:**

Strategic action #8

By Steve Hall, HCCOLA Treasurer

- 1 I have just this past week started to learn about how our finances work. While I have had a basic knowledge of our budget I have many things to learn about our different revenue streams and how they have been kept track of in the past. Over the next few months I will be working with several committees to develop spreadsheets for our budget, membership dues and water testing. Other improvements may be on the horizon depending on the need. Please bear with me as I get up to speed, I am sure I will have lots of questions.
- 2 COLA Membership Dues - At this point we have just a handful of lake associations who have not paid their dues yet. COLA dues are due on November 1, 2014.
- 3 Water Testing – It appears that most if not all of the water testing payments have come in. I have a couple of questions that need answers and will follow up to ensure that all payments are received.
- 4 Fresh Water Festival – From April through October we received a total of \$ 1,085.00 in donations from individuals and Lake Associations.

As we get into the New Year I will be reviewing who has been on the finance committee in the past and who is still willing to be on it. Several folks have volunteered already and we will develop a new committee by ice out 2015.

### **Impact Political Action Committee**

Strategic Action #9

By Chuck Diessner

1. ESO has prepared a revised draft of the Shoreline Management Ordinance. The proposed amendments according to ESO are largely housekeeping items to align the ordinance language with recent statute changes concerning nonconformities, improve wording, clarity, and simplify processes, interpretation and administration.

The first proposed revised draft is on the COLA website. The PC review the draft at its meeting on 10/27, the results of which are not known. The IPA committee has not yet reviewed the draft.

There will be future opportunities to comment on the proposed amendments. If anyone has comments on the proposed amendments, please contact Chuck Diessner, Dan Kittilson, Bill Cowman or Janine Weidemann.

### **Civic Service Committee**

By Peter Tuomisto

Civic Committee activities for 2014

1. Restore the Shore orders for 2014 are past due. Call Theora Goodrich if you have questions.
2. Veliger Water Testing was done again in July and August. In 2014, Potato, Blue, Eagle, Big Sand, Little Sand, Long, Spider, the Crooked Lakes, Ojibway, Belle Taine, Fish Hook and Kabekona participated. Please let Pete Tuomisto know if your lake would like to participate for the first time in 2015.
3. Hydro Lab SWCD will again have the Hydro Lab testing for those interested lakes in 2015. This is for monitoring the dissolved oxygen and the water temperature in your lake. Please see Julie Kingsley at SWCD if interested. There will be a charge for SWCD to perform this test. SWCD will also Veliger Sample and Map Vegetation for a fee. Contact SWCD if interested.

4. Water Monitoring is done for the year. Please remind your lakeshore members to keep an eye out for adult zebra mussels when removing docks and boat lifts. Contact the DNR immediately if any are found.-

### **AI Sandpiper Pipeline Update**

By Jeff Mosner

Since this is the last COLA meeting for the year I wanted to provide a more comprehensive report of status of the Sandpiper pipeline battle. Richard Smith, President of Friends of the Headwaters wrote the following status last week, that I wanted to share with you.

*“As you know, Enbridge, a Canadian company, applied last fall to the Public Utilities Commission (the “PUC”) for permission to construct the Sandpiper Pipeline, a new pipeline through our water resources of northern Minnesota, to move North Dakota oil from the Bakken oil fields to Superior, Wisconsin. Enbridge’s preferred pipeline route goes through our lakes, rivers, including the Mississippi, streams, wetlands, watersheds, aquifers and wild rice waters (the “Enbridge Route”).*

*The Friends of the Headwaters (“FOH”), tribes, private organizations and governmental agencies, numerous individuals, including local, state and national elected officials, have all been saying for months that there has to be a better way to route a pipeline than the Enbridge Route. Also, the County Board and County SWCD submitted resolutions to the PUC requesting that it include a non-water alternate route in its proceedings regarding the Sandpiper pipeline. FOH and others are not against a pipeline, they just want the pipeline route to be one of the System Alternatives, as defined below.*

*For the first time in an energy request before the PUC, both the MPCA and the DNR, the state’s agencies charged with protecting the state’s environment and natural resources, have raised very serious environmental and other concerns regarding the Enbridge Route. The DNR and MPCA comments are located at <http://friendsoftheheadwaters.org/index.html> under Latest News and Information.*

*For Enbridge to have its application approved, the PUC must issue both a Certificate of Need and a Route Permit. First an Administrative Law Judge (“ALJ”) will conduct public hearings and then an evidentiary hearing which is similar to a trial before a judge. After that the ALJ will make his recommendations to the PUC and the PUC will then make the final decision.*

*On September 11<sup>th</sup> the PUC decided that: (i) as requested by the MPCA, 6 route alternatives that are totally different routes in Minnesota that are away from the Enbridge Route and referred to as System Alternatives (4 of which were proposed by the FOH and 2 of those were endorsed by the MPCA) and as shown on the map below will be included in the environmental analysis and the PUC’s process to determine if a Certificate of Need should be issued to Enbridge and (ii) its historical single process will be separated into two proceedings, first to decide if the PUC will issue the Certificate of Need and second to decide if the PUC will issue the Route Permit, but only if the Certificate of Need is granted.*

*The PUC took this unusual action because of the strong opposition to the Enbridge Route. Also, the PUC wanted to be sure that (i) the process was fair for the public, (ii) it avoided the confusion of the single process, and (iii) it provided an opportunity for the organizations with limited resources to be able to allocate their resources more effectively in challenging the pipeline.*

*This is a very important victory for the FOH, the MPCA, the DNR, and the other groups that are challenging the Enbridge Route and support some or all of the System Alternatives. Also, the PUC’s decisions confirmed that the Sandpiper Pipeline is not a done deal as Enbridge and its supporters want everyone to believe.*

*To date the FOH, a locally based grass roots organization, (which COLA is actively supporting) has protected us against the Enbridge Route. This matter has now moved into the legal phase regarding the Certificate of Need proceeding which is anticipated to be completed about June, 2015. If the Certificate of Need is granted then there will be a Route Permit phase that could take up to an additional nine or more months.*

*FOH is working with attorneys specializing in these matters in its challenge of the Enbridge route. The attorneys anticipate that the legal and expert witness fees will be at least \$150,000."*

At September's COLA meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> Lynn advocated that Hubbard County lake associations as well as individual members support financially, the efforts of Friends of the Headwaters. Fund raising efforts have begun on Potato Lake where a letter has been sent to each lakeshore owner. A kit assembled from the Potato Lake documents will be distributed next week to assist other in mounting a successful fundraising campaign.

Over the coming months, I encourage you to visit FOH's website at <http://friendsoftheheadwaters.org/index.html> to retrieve the latest news, view events, read what local "voices" are saying as well as see what actions you can take to become a part of this effort. Also be sure to "like" FOH's Facebook site at <https://www.facebook.com/savemississippiheadwaters> to get the latest breaking reports.

### **AIS Task Force Report**

Strategic Action #10

By Ken Grob 10.30.2014

1. Countywide watercraft inspection program is complete for 2014. Nate Sitz will provide a detailed watercraft inspection report for the year at 6:15 pm before COLA meeting on the 30th. Everyone welcome.
2. County AIS Task Force has completed work on the plan for use of the State AIS funds for 2014/2015. A final draft has been completed and was forwarded to the County Commissioners on October 24. SWCD Board review and full Task Force review were completed on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, respectively. An overview of the plan will be available at the October 30 COLA meeting, including an outline of the supplemental hours that each lake association/township will need to fund in 2015. Plan is scheduled to be presented to County Commissioners on Nov 4.
3. UMISC Conference in Duluth October 20-22. This was an excellent conference on AIS. The Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference is sponsored every other year. Over 650 individuals from 10 states attended. I was the only attendee from Hubbard County. Limited time to cover all the topics of interest. Wish more would attend!
4. Dates to remember:
  - 2015 Aquatic Invaders Summit in St. Cloud January 20-21, 2105. Expert presentations from national AIS leaders on what local organizations can do to lower risk of AIS spread. Sponsored by MLRA, Initiative Foundation, & MN Association of Watershed Districts.