

HUBBARD COUNTY COALITION OF LAKE ASSOCIATIONS (HCCOLA)

Committee Reports and Announcements

April 30, 2015

LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

Strategic Actions 1, 2 and 3

By Lynn Goodrich

1. **Executive Committee (E-Team)**

- i. The HCCOLA member email subscription is live on the home page of hubbardcolamn.org website. The 2015 pilot program will be demonstrated at the April 30th meeting.
- ii. The E-Team has received a couple of email inquires concerning Short Term Vacation Rentals (STVRs) here in Hubbard County. We have researched the matter and will present an overview of our findings to the board.
- iii. For those of you that do not have a Lake Management Plan in place. HCCOLA has volunteer mentors available to assist Lake Associations and individual lakes to develop this important asset. The mentors can also offer assistance in updating plans created in the past. Please contact Lynn Goodrich for further information.

a. **Share your talents to make HCCOLA better:**

The Executive Committee (Team) is looking for people (members) to help build communications within HCCOLA and to get our message out to the public. We need to inform and engage the public about the issues that affect the waters here in Hubbard County and northern Minnesota. Our waters affect us all, whether we live in the city, country, or on a lake, whether we are year round, seasonal, or occasional visitors. 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. You can email me at hccola.lynnng@icloud.com or give me a call.

a. **Getting to know HCCOLA lakes:**

To allow everyone in HCCOLA to better appreciate the diversity of our lakes we are initiating a new feature at the board meeting. Each meeting we will ask the “Nifty Nine” host lakes to tell us about their lakes. We are looking for some basic background (size, type, population mix, etc) as well as what you feel is unique about the lake, history, greatest asset, best accomplishment, biggest problem, organized lake activities, or anything else that you would like to share.

- b. **The “Nifty Nine” Hosts** for the April 30th HCCOLA meeting are Potato, Palmer, 8th & 9th Crow Wing Lakes. This group is responsible for setting up the Northwood’s Bank Community Room, providing and preparing the refreshments and treats, and doing clean up after the meeting. Nifty Nine hosts are responsible for taking minutes at the HCCOLA meeting.

- c. **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. Our mission enhances, promotes and protects the interests of lakeshore property owners, lakes associations, local government, the general public and future generations.**

2. **President’s Report and Announcements**

- a. Mark your calendar and save the date.....attend HCCOLA’s upcoming meeting on **Thursday, April 30, 2015**; social gathering/networking at **6:30 p.m.** and meeting at **7:00 p.m.** at the **Northwood’s Bank Community Room.**

- b. Hubbard County Extension and Hubbard COLA will present a training course on aquatic invasive plants and invertebrates. Participants will learn how to identify aquatic invasive plants and invertebrates, and when and where to look for these invasive species. This training program will be held on Friday, June 19, 4:30 p.m. at Northwoods Bank, Park Rapids, MN. Pre-registration is REQUIRED. For further information/registration contact Sally Shearer at 218-732-3391 or email sshearer@umn.edu Or register online at hubbardmastergardeners.org. Flyers will be available at the April 30 meeting.

- c. Your continued action is needed to ensure stable state funding of the local AIS County Prevention Aid program set in place a year ago. Challenges to this funding have been introduced at the state legislature by shortsighted politicians that fail to consider the long-term importance of our lakes, rivers and wetlands to Minnesota's economy, citizens, their lifestyle, and the quality of our environment. These state funds now provide the base for the Hubbard County AIS Prevention and Inspection Program. In the past the program was funded primarily by locally provided funds. The state monies have allowed the program to expand and provide more comprehensive coverage, while allowing some relief to local financial support. I would encourage you to write or email your legislators to encourage them to oppose any cut in funding for this vital program. I attended a meeting recently with Representative John Purcell where he stated that flood a of constituent emails and thousands of Facebook posts have had a profound impact on the decisions made by our legislators.
 To simplify access to information and contact with legislators, I would recommend that you subscribe to Minnesota Lakes & Rivers Action Network. They provide you with current information via email and a fast, easy to use way to contact your legislators and let them know how you feel about important issues affecting our waters. Click on link [MNL&R](#). Look for the Citizens Action Network button.
 I will continue to pass along information via email to HCCOLA and LA leaders and members.

- d. Interested HCCOLA members that are unable to attend our April 30th HCCOLA meeting will have the opportunity to participate via your phone during the meeting. Please let me (Lynn G) know if you would be interested in connecting to our HCCOLA meeting via your phone. I will email instructions to you.

- e. Lake contact information and newsletters: 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 their newsletters to Lynn Goodrich at <mailto:tripplake1@mac.com>, or Dan Kittilson at drkittil@q.com

- f. HCCOLA's e-mail address: Comments, suggestions, and questions can be sent to hccolamn@gmail.com

Improve Internal Communications

Strategic Action #4

By Larry Roberts

No report this month. A full report will be included in May 2015 Committee report.

Lakeshore Education Committee

Strategic Action 5

By Sharon Natzel

- 1) The Speaker series for the monthly HCCOLA meetings in 2015 will include the Lake Monitoring types from the 12/2014 Capstone Report on Enhancing Hubbard County COLA's Lake Monitoring Program by the Indiana University, School of Public and Environmental Affairs. Our April speaker is Doug Kingsley, DNR – Area Fisheries Manager. Doug's topic is Lake Monitoring – Beyond Water Quality. You will learn more about the DNR's Lake Finder, where you can find information about your lake's Water Quality, Fisheries Surveys, Stocking, Fish Consumption, and Aquatic Plant Surveys. Plus learn about "Score The Shore", Vegetation Sampling, Dissolved Oxygen/ Temperature Sampling, and Watershed Monitoring.
- 2) The subscription / unsubscription instructions for our 2015 pilot for HCCOLA Lake Association members who want to subscribe to HCCOLA news via email is now available through the HCCOLA website. It was tested thoroughly during the month of April. Sign up online!
- 3) An education event is being hosted by Friends of the Headwaters on Tuesday 5/12/15 at 6:30 PM at the Northwoods Bank Community Room. Come to learn more on the proposed North Dakota Pipeline Company, LLC / Enbridge affiliate Sandpiper Oil Pipeline Corridor. This corridor heads East from Park Rapids to Superior, WI in an existing power line / transmission corridor. Enbridge also just applied to the MN Public Utilities Commission for a Certificate of Need for the Line 3 Replacement Project, which carries Canadian Tar-Sands Oil and is planned to be placed in the proposed Sandpiper corridor from Clearbrook, MN to Park Rapids, and then East to Superior. Together these two pipelines would carry more oil than the Keystone XL. Light refreshments. Handicapped accessible.

Manage Public Image Committee

Strategic action #6

By Larry Roberts

No report this month. A full report will be included in April 2015 Committee report.

Membership Committee Report

Strategic action #7

By Hillary Stoltz

1. No report this month. A full report will be included in May 2015 Committee report.
2. Please report any changes/updates in Lake Association Presidents or Representatives or their contact information to Deb Rodgers. No updated information was submitted this month.

Finance Committee:

Strategic action #8

By Steve Hall, HCCOLA Treasurer

1. We will discuss, vote on, and set the HCCOLA members dues for the 2015-2016 year. This is specified in our Bylaws to be done in April.
2. Steve will be out of the area for our April meeting. He has, however, provided a treasurer's report that will be available that night.

Impact Political Action Committee

Strategic Action #9

By Chuck Diessner

1. No report this month. A full report will be included in May 2015 Committee report.

Civic Service Committee

By Peter Tuomisto

Civic Committee activities for 2015

1. Children's Freshwater Festival at Wilderness Boy Scout Camp near Emmaville - **contributions are appreciated**. Please send checks payable to Hubbard COLA at PO Box 746 Park Rapids, MN 56470 with Children's Freshwater Festival in the memo line. Volunteers should contact Melissa at the SWCD.
 2. Restore the Shore orders for 2015 arriving at the HC Fairgrounds April 30th to be repackaged for distribution. The orders will be available for pick up on May 1 or 2. The Shore Coordinator is Theora Goodrich. Call the SWCD for more information on hours and place.
 3. Veliger Water Testing will be done again in July and August. In 2014, Potato, Blue, Eagle, Big Sand, Little Sand, Long, Belle Taine, Kabekona, Fish Hook as well as Spider, the Crooked Lakes and Ojibway participated in the testing. No veligers were found. Please let Pete Tuomisto know if your lake will continue testing in 2015 or if your lake would like to participate for the first time in 2015. For those participating in 2015, supplies and training will be available at the May 13th pick up at Northwoods Bank. I will be making blocks available (to hang on the end of docks) at each COLA meeting. We will have a signup sheet for the blocks at the April 30th meeting and distribute them at the May 28th meeting as well other meetings and events. The blocks are provided at no cost to the member.
 4. Hydro Lab The SWCD will again offer 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.
 5. Water Monitoring Kits will be handed out on May 13th at 7:00 p.m. at the Northwoods Bank. Training will be provided at the Bank. Further information and program registration forms will be sent electronically to lake associations. Registration Forms will be available at the March and April COLA meetings also. As of April 27, I have received registrations from the following lakes: Blue, Long, 2nd Crow Wing, Bad Axe, 5th and 6th Crow Wing, Little Sand, Big Sand, Big Mantrap, Kabekona, Spider, Stony, Boulder, Peyenske, Belle Taine, Potato, Palmer, Eagle. Have not heard from 7th, 8th and 9th Crow Wing Lakes, Duck, Gilmore, Hinds, Island (N), Skunk, Portage.
- The following normally pay directly to RMB : Emma, Stocking, Upper and Lower Bottles, Fishhook. The following test every other year with this year (2015) being the test year: Stony and Peyenske (already registered), Lower Twin, 11th Crow Wing, Island (S).

Sandpiper Pipeline Update

By Jeff Mosner

On April 13th Judge Eric Lipman apparently disregarded all of the environmental concerns submitted by Friends of the Headwaters (FOH) and HCCOLA as well as hundreds of concerned citizens and **recommended** approval of a certificate of need for Enbridge's proposed route for the Sandpiper, stating that all other alternate proposed routes should not be considered. He further went on to chastise the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) for allowing the process to be "harder than it ought to have been", deriding the large public comment opportunities held in venues "more suitable to rock concerts and sales conventions". One has to wonder if he was working for Enbridge or the State of Minnesota. We have learned this past week that Judge Lipman has been "reassigned". The PUC Commissioners will make their decision in June as to the approval or denial of the Certificate of Need for the Sandpiper.

In the meantime, FOH, along with other citizen groups opposed to the Sandpiper route, are submitting "exception briefs" this week directly to the PUC Commissioners. These briefs are expected to argue the points made in Judge Lipman's recommendation. I will place a link to the FOH brief when available on the FOH website. Look for it and other updates at <http://www.friendsoftheheadwaters.org/index.html>

Also, we are approaching crucial time. You can help this cause by contacting our elected representatives now. Tips on how to do this, including some ideas to get you started, as well as addresses are on the above mentioned website within the "Take Action" section. You will also find links to a draft "white paper" by several cooperating state agencies on pipelines in Minnesota. Public comments are being accepted through May 31st.

Please refer to the HCCOLA and FOH websites for the latest information.

AIS Committee

Strategic Action #10

By Ken Grob

County AIS Task Force continues to make progress on 2015 Objectives. Status by project follows:

- 1. Public Awareness:** DNR AIS Public Awareness Grant for billboards, radio PSA's, and resort materials has been received, and contract signed. This is a matching grant with COLA. SWCD seasonal employee hired to help with resort support in 2015. Work in process on developing a screening survey for resorts to check guests compliance with AIS rules. Help with resort contacts is expected from lake association AIS coordinators again in 2015
- 2. Watercraft Inspection and Decontamination:** Watercraft Inspectors have been hired and Level 1 training completed. Level 2 training next week. Schedule has been developed for inspections on each lake. Decontamination station hours have been established. Unfortunately Nate Sitz has resigned his position to pursue another opportunity. SWCD actively working to find replacement. Overall, Hubbard County will have watercraft inspectors at about 31 lakes and 37 accesses during 2015, with almost 15,000 hours scheduled. This is an increase of almost 6000 hours from 2014, thanks to the state aid funding and the strong commitment of lake associations and townships/cities. PPI committee working with Becker SWCD on contract for funding for Hubbard to provide inspectors for Two Inlets and Straight Lakes. Two Inlets is a critical lake to the Fish Hook Chain, but in Becker County. SWCD received a \$12,000 grant from DNR for watercraft inspection. This will supplement our other funds.
- 3. Lake Monitoring:** Early Detection/lake Monitoring planning is progressing well. See Peter Tuomisto report. Dan Kittilson will describe plans at Board Meeting. It should be noted that the County AIS Plan provides funding for about 18 lakes to do veliger sampling (in 2014 sampling was funded by individual lake associations) and about 37 lakes to do concrete block sampling. These projects will require volunteers from lake associations. Dan has scheduled training session on lake monitoring for June 19.
- 4. Rapid Response Planning:** Bob Berdahl has outlined a RRP plan for the county. Work to start on coordination planning with DNR. It is expected that once the overall plan is in place, a few individual lake associations will be asked to help develop a lake specific plan.
- 5. General Information:** State AIS Advisory Committee is working on a strategic set of objectives for recommendation to the DNR...The four categories are: Legislative Agenda, Research Priorities, Communications, and On-The-Ground Strategies. State Legislature is discussing several options for changes and funding for the State AIS program. Hopefully there are not any major changes. COLA members can help by contacting their legislature in support of retaining the current program.