

HC COLA Committee Reports 7-26-18

AIS Operating Team – Dan Kittilson

“Eyes on the Water”, July 26, 2018

Opportunistic Searches

By Dan Kittilson



In an effort to continue to expand our lake monitoring efforts for early detection of AIS, Hubbard COLA encourages lake associations to engage their lake residents in Opportunistic Searches for aquatic invasive species. Opportunistic searches for AIS are casual, non-structured efforts to look for AIS. Opportunities can arise by any citizen living or recreating on your lake. AIS can be discovered at any time by anyone on the lake.

Why are these Opportunistic Searches important? Research suggests that frequent, ongoing visual inspections are needed to truly find an early introduction of an invasive species. In other words.....the more frequently and more intensely AIS monitoring occurs, the more likely a new AIS infestation will be detected.

We urge our lake associations to help expand lake monitoring on our Hubbard County lakes! Engage your residents to watch for AIS while they are on the water. Opportunistic monitoring will help increase our “eyes on the water” and help keep our clean lakes healthy for present and future generations.

Lakes Water Quality Team – Peter Tumisto

Two Water Quality Monitoring Dates to go for the season. Reminder announcement placed in paper & emailed.

Education Team – Sharon Natzel

- Comment Period ends 8-15-18 and 7/26/18 9 AM – 3 PM: Public Hearing on MN Dept of Agriculture: Proposed Groundwater Protection Rule at the American Legion, 900 1st St. E, Park Rapids, MN

Notice of Hearing and detailed information:

<https://minnesotaoah.granicusideas.com/discussions/minnesota-department-of-agriculture-notice-of-hearing>

Please note: The Administrative Law Judge will conclude the hearings after everyone present has had the opportunity to provide comments. Therefore, the hearings may end sooner than the ending time listed.

The initial comment period closes on August 15th at 4:30 PM.

Relevant Documents at <http://www.mda.state.mn.us/nfr>

- Fri 7/27/18 from 4 – 7:30 PM is the AIS Early Detection Course sponsored by Hubbard County Extension & HC COLA at Northwoods Bank Community Room. You will learn through hands-on experience how to identify aquatic vegetation that are non-native invasives & also native look-alikes. There is No Fee. Includes a light supper. Pre-registration is required; Email hccolamn@gmail.com or call Sharon at 763-355-7908
- Sat 8/18/18 at 8:30 AM – 1 PM - the Starry Trek across MN takes place when an extensive search for Starry Stonewort is conducted. No experience necessary. Training is provided that morning. Hubbard County COLA needs your help to survey 10 lakes' public accesses in North Hubbard County that are close in proximity to Starry Stonewort infestations in neighboring counties. This in turn protects your lake too. Register for Farris Park location in Cass Lake, MN to help HC COLA www.starrytrek.org or email SharonMNNatzel@gmail.com
- See handouts at the meeting for how to monitor your own lake accesses for starry stonewort
- Register for the Community Education Class (218-237-6600) on 8/16/18 from 1 to 2:30 PM "Protecting Our Lakes & Rivers". Have you thought about your yard as part of a watershed? Whether you live in the city, country or on the lake or river, you matter. Discover ways you can make a difference to protect our area lakes and rivers in your own yard and also as you play in water activities. Help keep this important area resource pristine for future generations. There is no fee for this HC COLA course. If questions, call Sharon 763-355-7908.