

# FISH HOOK LAKE AND RIVER ASSN NEWSLETTER

## Spring 2016



WWW.MINNESOTAWATERS.ORG/GROUP/FHLARA/WWEWELWELCOME

EMAIL: FISHHOOKLAKEAND RIVER@GMAIL.COM

### *President's Letter by Neil Jordheim:*

*Lots of activity has taken place since our last newsletter. This publication brings you up to date.*

- We identified curly leaf pond weed (CLPW) in our lake last year. Our AIS team is taking steps to control it. Thanks goes out to the AIS team that is doing the hands on work. Thank you to those who provided financial support for AIS work this past year.
- The proposed Sandpiper and Line 3 oil pipeline projects that could cross the Headwaters of the Mississippi and our watershed leading to our lake have been delayed, but not stopped. Much work and fund raising has been done to fight this battle.
- COLA continues to work to protect the water quality of our lake and river. We are thankful for their work in preserving this beautiful resource.

We have a great Board of Directors, but need to find more people (like you) that will fill vacancies and provide energy, ideas & future leadership.

We ask that you [join our Association for 2016](#) and make additional contributions to the AIS fund. Our membership dues continue to be a REAL BARGAIN. The small investment you make each year is very inexpensive insurance to protect the present and future value of your lake property.

**Have a fun and safe summer at the lake and river this year.**

**Annual Meeting:** The Board of Directors is trying to encourage a larger turnout for our Annual Meeting this year. The meeting will be held in conjunction with a neighborhood potluck picnic on **Saturday July 9<sup>th</sup> @11:00 am at the Heartland Park main shelter**. The Board is going to provide hamburgers & hotdogs, coffee & juice and paper plates and utensils. We are asking you to bring a salad or dessert. You may also choose to bring your own beverage. We promise to keep the meeting portion short. Lots of parking is available at the park.

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**AIS TEAM REPORT - Don Sells:** This year continues to be a concern regarding aquatic invasive species. Last year the DNR sampled over 500 sites in the littoral zone completely around the lake (refer to the map on the website) and found only three small areas of infestation. Following this vegetation sampling, the board and the AIS team have been evaluating and pursuing appropriate responses. We are consistently pulling CLPW where we see it. The decision was made to explore chemical treatment to manage the spread of this invasive. The herbicide, Endothall, is the recommended application. Although the studies have suggested that Endothall is relatively safe, any use of chemicals has to be very carefully evaluated as there may be negative consequences to other plants and wildlife. Following an AIS Team meeting with the DNR Dept. of Water and Ecological Services, it was determined that the amount of growth of curly leaf pondweed in 2015 was not significant enough to warrant treatment this year. We will continue to monitor and pull weeds as

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 11 - Tails on the Trail @ Heartland Park

June 16-17 – COLA Sports Sale – Fairgrounds

June 17 – “Our Watersheds” 4:30-8:30 Northwoods Bank

June 24 – Lady’s Lunch, 1:30 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Market (men are welcome) rsvp by 6/22/16

July 4<sup>th</sup> – Boat Parade @ 11:00 Red Bridge Park

July 9<sup>th</sup> – 11:00 am FHL&R Annual Meeting/potluck, entrée provided - Heartland Park Shelter

Aug 6 – 11:30 FHL&R Potluck picnic at Red Bridge Park

Sep 17 – 5:30 pm Fall Dinner Y-Steakhouse (rsvp by 9/15/16)

possible. So far in 2016 no CLPW has been found at the three sites where it was visible last year. Perhaps our lake has the right vegetation and clarity to resist its spread, we hope this is the case.



The Hubbard County AIS Prevention and Management Plan is in full operation for the summer season. Hubbard County's share of the state funding is \$249,244 for the prevention and education efforts. The county has now assumed full administration for the Boat Inspection Program. Components of the plan are: public awareness, prevention, early detection, a rapid response team and mitigation and management. The most effort and dollars are in the prevention area. This includes the boat inspection program. Fish Hook Lake and River Association will receive 720 hours of paid inspections and has contributed money for 280 additional hours. Todd Township donated \$1000 to this effort. Additionally, Fish Hook will be conducting veliger (zebra mussels) sampling with the costs paid with county AIS funds. Don and Jan Rumpza have again volunteered to take this sampling. For more information on curly leaf pondweed and the county AIS Plan, go to the Fish Hook Lake and River website: [www.http://minnesotawaters.org/fhlara/](http://minnesotawaters.org/fhlara/)

The AIS Team's other effort will be the testing of dissolved oxygen and temperature at the deepest part of the lake (75 feet). The analysis has been done for the past five years. This scientific probe provides an indicator of the health of our lake (refer to results on the FHLRA website). AIS team members: Bob Stelter, Dave Mohn, Denny Diedrich, Don Rumpza and Don Sells

As a reminder, **a watercraft decontamination unit is available**; it is located at the north side of the road as you enter the Park Rapids waste disposal facility off of Henrietta Ave. It is a free service to everyone.



***AIS Update:** The list of invasive species attacking MN lakes and rivers continues to grow. Last summer a new and very destructive aquatic invasive species was discovered around the DNR boat ramp in Lake Koronis, **starry stonewort**. Researchers in Michigan have labeled starry stonewort as the most destructive AIS in that state, so this infestation is serious and serious action should be taken to stop its spread to other lakes.*

**We need your contributions to the AIS fund** to pay for more inspection time. \$20.00 or more can be included with your Lake Association annual fee, or, if you prefer to make a tax-deductible contribution it can be mailed to: *City of Park Rapids, Treasurer, Angela Brumbaugh, 212 W 2nd St. Park Rapids, MN 56470. Reference Fish Hook Lake & River AIS Fund on the Memo Line.*

**Update on Sandpiper and Line-3 Pipelines:** *(note: This is very complex situation. The following explanation is given to try to summarize the actions taken to date. The FHL&River Assn is attempting to provide an update, not take a legal stand on this issue.)*

The application for the Sandpiper pipeline was filed by Enbridge with the Public Utilities Commission in Nov. 2013. Public meetings were held, there were evidentiary hearings before an Administrative Law Judge and an Administrative Law Judge report recommending a negative response to the PUC: However, the PUC still approved the Certificate of Need with limitations on the routes to be considered.

The PUC did not require Enbridge to conduct the required Environmental Impact Analysis. This resulted in a protest and the Court of Appeals ruling in Sept 2014 stating the law requires an Environmental Impact Statement before any decision can be made on a Certificate of Need. The COA set aside prior decisions of the Public Utilities Commission granting the Certificate of Need and the proposed routes to be followed.

The Court of Appeals ruling means the entire PUC process starts all over again. An Environmental Impact Assessment must be conducted. The current fight is over how detailed the new Environmental Impact Analysis must be. Enbridge wants to minimize the scope of the study and eliminate the study of alternatives. The new timetable seeks to complete a new Environmental Impact Study by the spring of 2017.



**POSSIBLE IMPACT ON FISHHOOK** - The proposed route would cross Hay Creek which feeds Island, Eagle, Potato and Fishhook lakes. A pipeline spill could damage the lakes and could limit lake use resulting in reduced property values. The pipeline would also cross the Mississippi twice and would go through wetlands areas. Enbridge's preferred pipeline route goes through the area of highest susceptibility for ground water contamination in Hubbard County which creates a threat for our aquifer that provides municipal water and irrigation water. The stated benefits from the pipeline include some rents paid to landowners and some new jobs during the construction period. (note: some jobs would not be filled by local residents). More information is available at Friends of the Headwater's website at [www.friendsoftheheadwaters.org](http://www.friendsoftheheadwaters.org) and the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/savemississippiheadwaters>.

**COLA UPDATE:** Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations is a coalition of 29 lake associations and their approximate 2,100 members that represent 37 lakes in Hubbard County. Their 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. HC COLA's mission enhances, promotes and protects the interests of lake shore property owners, lake associations, local government, the general public and future generations. FHL&R Assn. (your association) is a member of HC COLA. A portion of every FHL&R member's dues is forwarded to them each year.

HC COLA's Website Loaded with Information Our website is continuously updated with the latest "good to know" information. Check it out here: <http://hubbardcolamn.org/index.html> you will see news, announcements, events and our meeting schedule. **The HC COLA meets on the last Thursday each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Northwoods Bank Community Room.** You are invited to attend.

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In 2015 there 85 were members of the Fish Hook Lake and River Association that carried the financial and volunteer time burden for our lake and river. There are approximately 325 other properties that are not represented in our membership. If you are not a member, please consider joining. If you aren't willing to join, please consider supporting the Association with your financial contribution.

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**Join the Fish Hook Lake and River Association** for 2016 (January 1 – December 31) today.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check here if you are a current member and your information is current.

Telephone: (lake) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (cell) : \_\_\_\_\_

Lake Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Other Add: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ NOTE: Please provide your email address and save us postage. We do not share your information.)

**Please send this registration and \$30.00 for your annual membership. Please include an additional \$20.00 or more for the environmental fund. Mail to: FHLRA PO, Box 225, Park Rapids, MN 5647**

## Fish Hook Lake and River Association Board of Directors

Neil Jordheim – President & Newsletter Editor

Nancy Jordheim – Secretary

Maggie Jorgenson – Treasurer

Janice Rumpza – COLA Representative

Kay Smythe - Webmaster

Marvel Haynes, Jim Tronsgard, Bill Peterson, Phil Smith, Phil Cline & Stuart Larson members at large



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*MISSION STATEMENT: The Fish Hook Lake & River Association shall be an advocate of the environment of our lake/river systems. We shall be a partner with other lake associations and agencies which have an impact on water quality. We shall act as an educator in community understanding of the issues and goals of our association. The objectives of our efforts are better water quality and property values for everyone. As a group, we have a stronger voice than as separate individuals.*

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*FISH HOOK LAKE AND RIVER ASSOCIATION  
PO Box 225 Park Rapids, MN 56470*

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