

FISH HOOK LAKE AND RIVER ASSN NEWSLETTER Spring 2018

EMAIL: FISHHOOKLAKEANDRIVER@GMAIL.COM

Website: <http://minnesotawaters.org/>



President's Letter by Bill McLean: **What we do today makes a difference in our lake and river tomorrow.** I am including four points to emphasize this statement.

1) **Curly Leaf Pondweed:** A year ago, Hubbard County was the only county in the state that did not have an AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) issue. Throughout the course of the summer that changed, with numerous lakes throughout the county becoming affected with various types of AIS. Unfortunately, CLPW (Curly Leaf Pondweed) was found on approximately 10 water acres on the west end of Fish Hook Lake near where the creek comes out of Portage Lake. Efforts were made last summer/fall to manually eradicate the weed, but with little success. Your board was in discussions with the DNR (Dept of Natural Resources) and other AIS experts. They recommended several treatment firms. The Board selected PLM of Brainerd to address the Curly Leaf Pondweed issue and we signed a contract early this year. They gave us a list of "to-do's", prior to application. We are working with the DNR for compliance with established procedures. The Park Rapids Enterprise will publish a notice so our residents are officially notified of the plan and we are sending this newsletter to all property owners. Every effort will be made to communicate. PLM's plan is to treat the affected area this spring, when the water temperatures are appropriate, which will likely be later April to early June, weather dictating the exact timeframe. Denny Ulmer presented our plan to the Hubbard County COLA in February.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- July 7th– 11:00 am FHL&R Annual Meeting/potluck, entrée provided - Heartland Park Shelter
- July 4th – Boat Parade @ 11:00 Red Bridge Park
- Sep 8– 5:30 pm Fall Dinner Y-Steakhouse (rsvp by 9/5/18)



2) **AIS Workshop:** I attended a statewide AIS workshop on February 15, in Park Rapids. It was designed to get people sharing ideas on what they have been doing or what we might want to consider going forward. Approximately 20 individuals were present, including lake association members, DNR staff, soil and water division employees, county representatives, and others. It was a very good dialogue. The following are examples of what some have done and suggestions of things to consider:

- Consider first that - The State of MN is cutting DNR funding. We need water users to do their part-financially and through good citizenship
- One association bought a new power washer for cleaning
- One association has a colored booklet showing various weeds
- COLA offers AIS classes and does inspections 3 times per year
- Some have put up big signs by the accesses explaining AIS and what people can do about it.
- Hubbard County got \$265,000 from the state last year. How the county spends their

dollars is up to them

- Hubbard pays ½ of one person's salary; the rest is spent on inspections, education and awareness
- Hubbard County inspectors did 22,000 boat inspections last year and hopes to do the same in 2018
- The Hubbard lake associations got \$110,000 for inspection hours last year
- Some counties use some of their funds to treat AIS in the water, most do not
- Hubbard COLA is doing an "Eyes on the Water" campaign to promote resident awareness
- It was suggested that we get companies to donate a dumpster for boat accesses and put a sign on the dumpster on how to use it for AIS disposal, then give credit to the companies on sign

3) The DNR said the primary cause of AIS introduction to the lakes and rivers is through boat launches. **We are looking for volunteers to assist in boat launch inspections**, especially at times when the regular inspectors aren't

scheduled. This will require coordination with the county and some training. If you are interested send an email to fishhooklakeandriver@gmail.com

4) The regularly scheduled FHL&R Board meetings will be on the first Saturday of the month at 9:00am in the meeting room of the Clack and Dennis Realty. There may be occasions that we will need to move that time, but we will try to stick close to that schedule. You are welcome to attend. Remember, what we do today makes a difference in our lake and river tomorrow.

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

Annual Meeting: Last year we held our annual meeting at Heartland Park. It was combined with a potluck lunch. We are going to follow the same format this year. The meeting will be held on **Saturday July 7th @11:00 am at the Heartland Park main shelter**. A potluck picnic will follow the meeting. The Board will provide hamburgers & hotdogs, coffee & juice, 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.

AIS team report - Don Sells: We continue our concerns with the infestation of curly leaf pondweed in several areas of Fish Hook Lake. Once again, the Hubbard County AIS Prevention and Management Plan has been designed for the summer season. Hubbard County's share of the state funding is \$249,244 for prevention and education efforts. 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 which includes the boat inspection program. Fish Hook Lake and River will receive 720 hours of state funded inspections. Our Association has paid for approximately 260 additional hours. The 2017 statistics (by example: where boats are coming from and violations) on boat inspections are available on the web site. Additionally, Fish Hook will be conducting veliger (zebra mussels) sampling with the costs paid with County AIS funds. Don and Jan Rumpza have volunteered to do this sampling as well as Secchi Disc readings for water clarity. The AIS Team will be testing dissolved oxygen and temperature at the deepest part of the lake (75 feet). The analysis, combined with vegetation sampling, has been done for the past seven years. This endeavor provides an indicator of the health of our lake.



The significant news on this front is the FHLRA Board's decision to manage the areas of curly leaf pondweed near the Portage River inlet. (Please refer to the **notice** in this newsletter.)

As a reminder, a watercraft decontamination facility is available to everyone at **no cost**. It is located at the north side of the road as you enter the Park Rapids waste disposal facility off of Henrietta Ave.

Special thanks to our AIS team members: Bob Stelter,

Dave Mohn, Denny Diedrich, Don Rumpza and Don Sells. They could use some help. If you are interested reply to our email.

C.O.L.A. news: The mission of COLA (Coalition of Lake Associations) – Protect and enhance the quality of our lakes and rivers, preserve the economic, recreational and natural environmental values of our shorelands and promote the responsible use of our waters and related habitats. Hubbard county has some of the cleanest healthiest waters in our state.

HC COLA's Website Loaded with Information their 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.

NOTICE

Fish Hook Lake and River Association
1508 East Otanka Trail
Sioux Falls, SD 57103

The Fish Hook Lake and River Association has contracted to treat Curly Leaf Pondweed, an Aquatic Invasive Species in Fish Hook Lake in 2018.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has granted to the Fish Hook Lake and River Association a waiver of the requirement that the association obtain the signatures of approval of owners of lakeshore property. Instead, the Fish Hook Lake and River Association will notify property owners of the treatment through alternate forms. This notice is one form that the Fish Hook Lake and River Association is using to notify property owners. Other forms may include but are not limited to notification through member email lists, website and or annual meeting.

With regard to the treatment for this year, 2018:

1. The proposed date for treatment: April 1 through June 1, 2018
2. The target species for the treatment: Curly Leaf Pondweed
3. The method of control or product being used: EPA and MDA registered aquatic herbicide
4. How landowners may request that control not occur adjacent to the landowner's property: If you desire that the treatment of Curly Leaf Pondweed not occur adjacent to your property, please notify the Fish Hook Lake and River Association immediately at the following address or email address below:

1508 East Otanka Trail Sioux Falls, SD 57103 / bill.mclean@sio.midco.net

Update on Line-3 Pipeline: March 19, 2018: The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission has approved the environmental review for Enbridge Energy's planned Line 3 oil pipeline replacement across northern Minnesota, Kallanish Energy reports.

The state agency on Thursday ruled the submitted environmental impact statement was adequate. The commission's decision had been widely anticipated. The agency had postponed its decision last December and asked the Minnesota Department of Commerce to provide more information on the project.

A state administrative law judge is expected to make a decision in April on both the social need for the pipeline and the best of several possible routes. The commission will take the judge's decision as advisory. The commission is slated to take its final vote in June on the need and route.

More information is available at Friends of the Headwater's website at www.friendsoftheheadwaters.org and the Facebook page [https:// www.facebook.com/savemississippiheadwaters](https://www.facebook.com/savemississippiheadwaters).

More possible threats to our water quality: The Park Rapids Enterprise article regarding the reclassification of land for a **fertilizer plant** is available at this link. If built, it would be within 2500' of Portage and Fishhook lakes. <http://www.parkrapidsenterprise.com/news/4397761-fertilizer-plant-zoning-request-moves-ahead>

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.* Remember: If our lake has a serious AIS issue it could result in a 15-20% drop in property values.

A special THANK YOU to those individuals that responded to our December plea for support of our proposed Curly Leaf Pondweed treatment. We had \$3,050 donated between Nov. 6 and Dec. 31 2017.

Join the Fish Hook Lake and River Association for 2018 (January 1 – December 31)

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.)

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 56470



Fish Hook Lake and River Association Board of Directors

Bill McLean – President

Nancy Jordheim – Secretary

Stuart Larson – Treasurer

Stuart Larson – COLA Representative

Newsletter Editor – Neil Jordheim

Marvel Haynes, Bill Peterson, Phil Smith, Phil Cline, Jim Spencer, Jim Knox,

Tom Harmon, Boyd McMurchie and Denny Ulmer members at large

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.

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