

E-Newsletter

June 2016



[OTC COLA WEBSITE](#)

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2016 CALENDAR of OTC COLA Member Meetings

Third Thursday of the month

7:00 p.m. Otter Tail Community Center, Fergus Falls MN.

- **Jun 16 (1) David Dollinger- MN Pollution Control Agency**
 - **Jun 16 (2) John James- MN Lakes n Rivers**
 - **Jul 21 Barry Stratton Fergus Falls DNR**
 - **Aug 18 Annual Meeting & Lake Awards**
 - **Sep 15 Pelican Lake AIS Education Boat Tour**
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From the OTC COLA President- David Majkrzak

With Memorial Day behind us, and the 4th of July quickly approaching, it must be summer. Our first OTC COLA general meeting went very well, with great information and questions for our Land and Resource department.

Our meeting this Month has two very interesting speakers. David Dollinger, Biologist, from the MPCA will be talking about a new water quality monitoring project on the Otter Tail River Watershed.

Also, John James, Board Member, from MN Lakes and Rivers will be there to talk about how MLR is working for lake property owners, the MN Legislative Session, and where they are going with future plans to better represent MN lake property owners on issues like water quality, taxes, shoreland issues, muskie stocking and AIS issues statewide.

Minnesota Lakes and Rivers is a non-profit organization focused on helping to solve our lake property owner issues. They work with state agencies and legislative members all year long for us. This is a great opportunity for you to listen, and ask questions of a board member of MLR, and potentially affect change at the state level.

Please attend this very important meeting, I know we are all busy and summer is short, but many days I feel our biggest enemy in protecting our lakes is the apathy of our people who care the most; lake property owners. Make your voice be heard, attend this meeting, and support MLR at the lake association and personal level.

[David Majkrzak](#)

MAY 2016 GENERAL MEETING

The featured speaker at the May 19, 2016 OTC COLA General Meeting was Bill Kalar, Administrator, Land & Resource Management, Otter Tail County. His presentation focused on the new Shoreland Management Ordinances and Dock and Riparian Use Ordinances that became effective April 8, 2016.

Included in the new ordinances were re-definitions of terms. Formerly "Clustered Developments" are now "Planned Unit Developments" (PUD). Re -clarifications of "Single Family Residence", "Boardwalk" and "Interim Use" are also included.



The Dock and Riparian Use Ordinance affects all docks, piers, wharfs or boatlifts in public waters in Otter Tail County. It provides for a setback of five feet on each side, essentially creating a navigation zone of ten feet between riparian zones. Non-compliance with the new ordinance is a misdemeanor and will be enforced by the sheriff. The ordinance is intended to provide a mechanism to resolve disputes between property owners and will be addressed on a complaint response basis.

Otter Tail County sanitation codes for septic systems have been revised to be consistent with Minnesota statutes. Infractions demonstrating an eminent danger status will be dealt with immediately where less critical situations may be triggered by new building or ownership transfer.

Complete information on the new ordinances and regulations can be found on the Otter Tail County website:

NEW OTTERTAIL COUNTY SHORELAND REGULATIONS

Otter Tail County Shoreland Management Ordinance Revisions

There are many changes and revisions to the Otter Tail County Shoreland Management Ordinance regulations that have only recently been published. Go [HERE](#) for a link to the Otter Tail County website page.

Otter Tail County Dock Riparian Use Ordinance

The dock setback from an adjacent riparian zone was previously proposed at ten feet. The new regulation was ultimately adjusted to five feet (II Regulations, D). Go [HERE](#) to see the OTC Dock Ordinance regulation.

Coalition of Lake Associations/COLA Awards Volunteer of the Year Award and Lake Association of the Year Award *Presented on August 18, 2016 at the COLA Meeting*

As we approach the **August 1, 2016 deadline** for acceptance of Nominations for Volunteer and Lake Association of the year, we ask that you honor your volunteers who tirelessly share their time and talent, either individually or as a group.

The OTCCOLA's **Volunteer of the Year and Lake Association of the Year** is about inspiring, recognizing and encouraging volunteers to assist in protecting and preserving the lakes they love. Self-nominations are accepted.

Do not pass up this opportunity to inspire, recognize, encourage and engage your volunteers who have demonstrated that they have the fortitude to meet challenges and accomplish goals.

The Volunteer of the Year nominee criteria:

- Can be a past or present volunteer; and
- Has made a significant investment of their time and talent to protect and preserve their lake; or
- Has demonstrated an ability to bring people together and engage them in activities that protect and preserve the lake; or
- Has demonstrated an ability to bring about positive change.

The Lake Association of the Year nominee criteria:

- Must be a present member of the OTC COLA; and
- Successfully implemented a lake improvement project; or
- Successfully implemented an educational or outreach program; or
- Has substantially increased membership or participation of members; or
- Has successfully partnered with the local/county/state or federal government or agencies.

In no more than two (2) pages, describe the nominee's specific achievement (s). Please be sure to include the name and contact information for the person submitting the nomination, including e-mail address and phone number; the name of the Lake Association/Volunteer, their contact information, including e-mail addresses and phone numbers.

The letter of nomination should be emailed to: jhorgen@arivg.net and electronically dated by August 1, 2016. It may be mailed to: The COLA Selection Committee, C/O Jerry Horgen,

MUSKIE STOCKING MN LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Closely counts in horseshoes and that's where we ended up with the muskie stocking moratorium.

The House passed a DNR Game and Fish bill that had language to the effect of prohibiting muskie stocking in the six lakes proposed by the DNR. That bill passed 85-42. Later, two attempts to remove that muskie stocking moratorium language from the bill failed by votes of 62 to 63 and on Sunday, May 22 by a vote of 61 to 65. Good news for those of us concerned about muskie stocking.

The Senate had earlier passed an AIS bill that had language to the effect of prohibiting muskie stocking on any new lake in Minnesota for four years. That bill passed 53 - 10 after the muskie stocking moratorium amendment had passed 40 - 23.

But even with these positives, the muskie stocking moratorium did not have a position in either the House or the Senate that matched up with a bill in the other body. To get that match up, a joint DNR bill conference committee was needed to resolve that language. But time ran out on the legislative session (Sunday May 22 midnight) before that committee could meet. That joint, agreed-to language from that joint committee then would have had to be approved by both the House and the Senate before going to the Governor for signature. But, there was not enough time for the legislature to accomplish that. Similar situations occurred for the widely-publicized transportation and bonding bills.

So it will be interesting to see if the DNR listens to the people of Minnesota, given that both the House and the Senate asked for muskie stocking moratoriums, or if they will listen to two special interest muskie fisherman groups. Please stay tuned for updates. We will be continuing to pursue the muskie stocking moratorium through other means/channels.

Uldis Birznieks

Gull Lake Chain of Lakes Association

Pelican Lake AIS Education Boat Tour

The September OTC COLA Member Meeting will be held on the Fair Hills boat on Pelican Lake, September 15, 2016. During the tour Jerry Horgen and Moriya Rufer will conduct the AIS training currently being presented at schools and for organizations in Otter Tail County. More information will be published as it becomes available. For more details on the education session contact **Jerry Horgen** or **Moriya Rufer**. Space is limited to 40 persons. For reservations contact **John Kruse**

Minnesota Loon Monitoring Program



Love loons? We are looking for volunteers to help monitor loons. Minnesota Loon Monitoring Program (MLMP) is a great way to get involved with wildlife, particularly loons, on your lake or a nearby lake. We are looking for volunteers for lakes in Otter Tail County.

The time commitment is minimal: one morning during the survey window (typically late June through early July, exact dates will be provided). Depending on the size of the lake, surveys can take 30 minutes up to 4 hours and surveys need to be completed between 5 am and noon on the survey day. Binoculars or a spotting scope will aid in observation. We will provide instructions, data forms and additional materials including information on how to access the lake. If you are interested in learning more about this survey, please check out our website:

http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/nongame/projects/mlmp_state.html

Want to sign up? Contact Sherry Seado (Sherry.Seado@state.mn.us; 218-308-2620).

[MLMP Brochure](#)

[MLMP Unassigned Map & Table](#)

**Record number of watercraft inspectors on
Minnesota lakes this year**



The 2016 Minnesota boating season will be another record-breaker, with more than 800 watercraft inspectors helping to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species in Minnesota. Counties employ and supervise the vast majority of the inspectors, all trained by the Department of Natural Resources.

“Ninety-five percent of our state’s lakes and rivers are not on the infested waters list. Boaters, watercraft inspectors and enforcement work together to keep it that way,” said Adam Doll, DNR watercraft inspection program coordinator. “We have a record number of inspectors ensuring boaters are following aquatic invasive species laws, because more local governments than ever have signed delegation agreements allowing them to hire and supervise DNR-trained inspectors.”

Doll added, “More watercraft inspectors means more eyes in the field and more education on how boaters can prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species.”

In addition to inspections, watercraft inspectors stationed at public water accesses around the state focus on teaching boaters to:

- **Clean** their watercraft.
- **Drain** all water by removing drain plugs, and keep drain plugs out while transporting watercraft.
- **Dispose** of unwanted bait in the trash.

All watercraft inspectors should be clearly identified by hiring unit. Inspectors all ask the same questions and go through the same watercraft inspection process. People who have any questions about the watercraft inspection process or comments on their experience with a watercraft inspector, should note the date, time and location and send them to wip.dnr@state.mn.us so a DNR staff person can respond.

John Kruse OTC COLA Administrative Assistant

Sent by adiusa@cableone.net in collaboration with



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