

# E-Newsletter November 2017



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## From the OTC COLA President- Sylvia Soeth

We're making ice! From white caps one day to ice the next it doesn't make it a smooth ice.

When we were bouncing across on snowmobiles my uncle used to say Big Pine froze with white caps and it's pretty close to that this year.

OTC COLA water testing is finished for the year and RMB Lab is organizing the results. In her email of a project proposal for 2018, Aquatic Ecologist Moriya Rufer states: "It is a well-known fact that million dollar decisions regarding water quality and protection are being made throughout MN, which utilize the data that such programs like COLA provide. The value of these datasets is extremely valuable both within as well as far beyond the boundaries of Otter Tail County." Even as we wrap up this year's projects it's necessary to plan ahead for the oh-so-short summer of opportunity and hit the ground running when the ice goes off next spring.

When you read this newsletter be sure to check out the MN COLA President's Letter. Under Muskie Fishing News he compliments our OTC COLA newsletter editor, John Kruse. John includes educational and informative articles to update you, the COLA member. If you are reading this newsletter, kudos to you, too, for your interest! "Before you can care, first you have to know."

You'll see in that Letter that Dave Majkrzak reported on action by the County Commissioners about Muskie fishing.

OTC COLA Board member Jeff Stabnow is an active Board member of MN COLA. Both he and David Majkrzak are Past Presidents of OTC COLA. Through COLA and the Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force, OTC is proactive in the state and that's an important benefit to our lakes.

Be safe! Don't be the one that goes through the ice - there's always that one that can't wait!

**[Sylvia Soeth, President](#)**

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## **Artistic Expression, Government Regulation Collide**

Artistic vision clashed with the cold, hard realities of government regulation when Otter Tail County officials denied a permit for an immense loon sculpture overlooking Pelican Lake.

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## **Minnesota Carbon Monoxide Law Receives National Recognition**

Fueled by the tragic loss of a young girl's life, Minnesota now sets new standards when it comes to carbon monoxide safety while boating. Sophia's Law requires marine carbon monoxide detectors

and warning stickers to be on motorboats with specific features, while boating on Minnesota waters. The Minnesota law, passed last year, has been receiving national attention for its innovation and multi-agency craftsmanship.

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## First Ice Bite Is Good, But Not Worth Foolish Risks

There is no safe ice now! Stay off the ice. You will have a longer ice season this year than we have had for a number of years now. I know that first ice bite can be very good, but wait until it is safe. No fish is worth risking your life or health and creating grief for those that love you. Don't let the pride of being one of the first on the ice cloud good judgment. Err on the side of caution.

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## Red River Improves, But State's Impaired Waters List Grows

Another 618 waterways in Minnesota - both lakes and segments of streams - are being added to the state list of officially impaired waters for specific problems, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency said Wednesday, Oct. 12. The list now totals 5,101 impairments on 2,669 waterways, with some lakes and rivers listed as impaired for more than one reason.

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## Minnesota Call Center Answers Questions From The Field

Following a pilot program last fall, the DNR's information center has extended and weekend hours this year from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. weekdays and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday.

More than 12,000 calls came in last year during the extra hours, so the DNR decided to make the change permanent, spending about \$190,000 in additional staff costs annually to expand hours Minnesotans could call in.

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## **Zebra Mussels Confirmed In Serpent Lake**

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources announced Monday it has confirmed zebra mussels are present in Serpent Lake in Crow Wing County and in Dora Lake and connected waters in Itasca County.

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## **ZM Sniffing Canine Called In To Inspect Northern Minnesota Lakes**

DNR Conservation Officer Larry Hanson and his dog, Reggie, arrived from Marshall, Minn., on Wednesday, Oct. 25. Reggie, a 6-year-old black Labrador, was slated for extermination at a dog pound when he was rescued.

"Now he's got a job," Hanson said. "It is very fascinating. I mean, it's unreal as to the noses on these dogs. They're really fantastic."

Dogs can detect some odors in parts per trillion. They possess up to 300 million olfactory receptors in their noses, compared to about 6 million in humans.

The DNR's dogs are trained to detect zebra mussels, both adults and larvae.

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## **Inforum Letter: How About A School Bond Tax Credit For Seasonal Property Owners?**

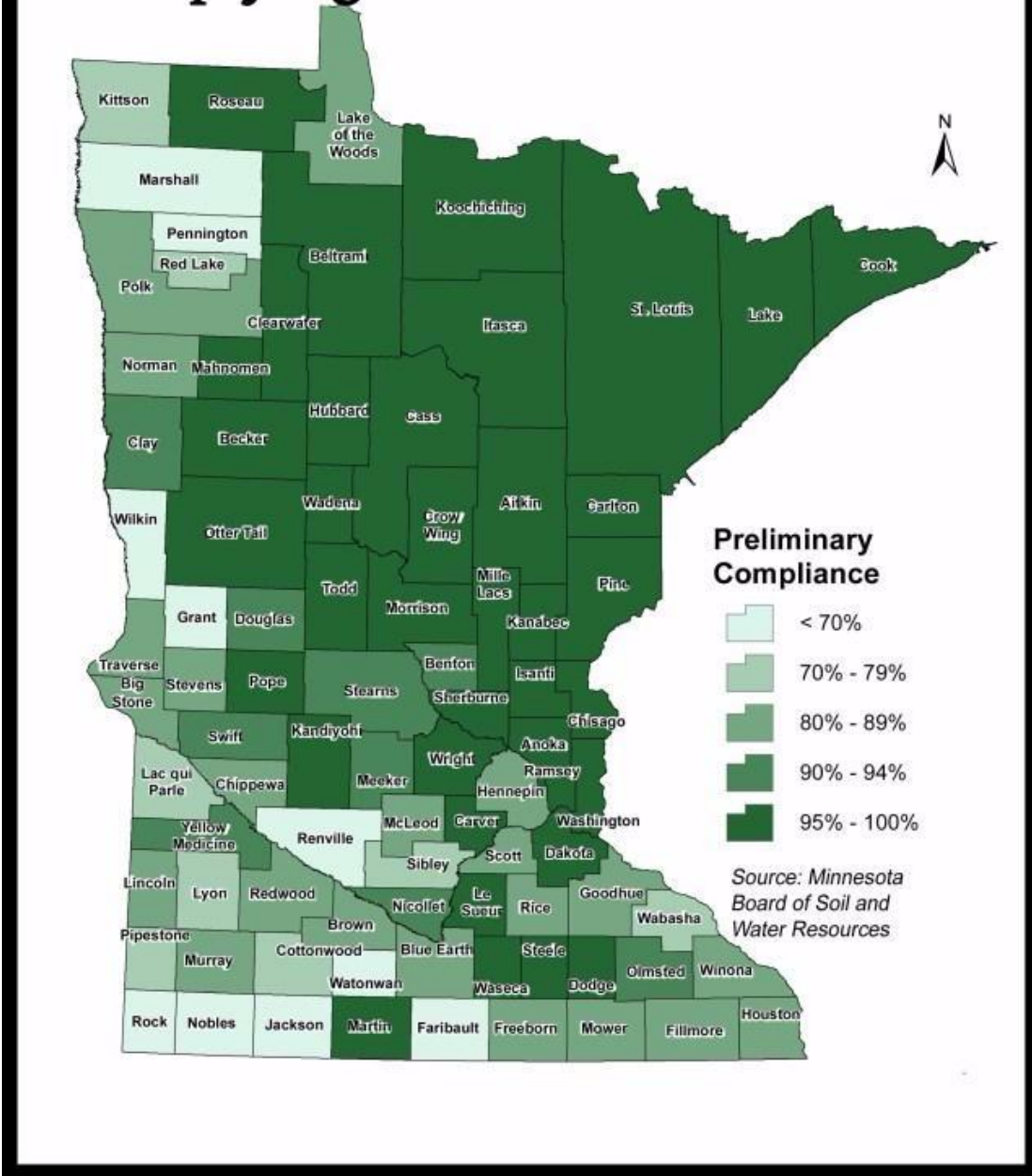
what about the seasonal property owners? That group is largely non-resident, can't vote on school bond proposals, likely never had and never will have children in Minnesota schools, but have to pay for local school construction.

Perhaps it's thought by the elected officials that it is not an unfair tax burden for the seasonal property owners and they are just collateral damage when it comes to Minnesota tax policy.

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# Estimated number land parcels complying with 2017 buffer rules



## Many Farmers Comply With Controversial Buffer Law

Most Minnesota farmers will meet the first deadline to put buffers between cropland and water.

Even if landowners cannot meet the Nov. 1 deadline, if they can show they have a plan to comply with the buffer law they can be granted an extension until July 1.

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## Winterize Your Boat And Trailer-- Not Just The Motor

The easiest way to take care of your winterization is to make an appointment with one of the many marine mechanics in our area. If you do it yourself, make sure you take care of preparing the boat and trailer and not just your marine motor for the winter.

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A promotional banner for MN Lakes &amp; Rivers Advocates. The top section features a photograph of a person standing on a wooden dock with their arms raised in a celebratory gesture, overlooking a large body of water under a cloudy sky. To the left of the photo is a small inset map of Minnesota with a silhouette of a person and trees. The text "MN Lakes &amp; Rivers Advocates" is overlaid on the photo in a blue serif font. Below the photo, the text "Protect Our Lake Legacy" is on the left and "www.mnlakesandrivers.org" is on the right. The bottom section of the banner contains three small images: a large clump of green aquatic plants, a close-up of several dark, textured shells, and a close-up of bright green, feathery aquatic plants. Below these images, the text "Aquatic Invaders Summit III" is written in a large, bold, pink serif font. Underneath that, in a smaller white serif font, is "An Exploration of Local Collaboration, Innovation and Opportunity". At the very bottom, in a small white sans-serif font, is "Feb 28-Mar 1, 2018 | Earle Brown Heritage Center | 6155 Earle Brown Dr. | Minneapolis, MN".

## Aquatic Invaders Summit III

The Aquatic Invaders Summit III, **scheduled Feb 28-Mar 1, 2018 at the** Earle Brown Heritage Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota, is an important Best Management Practice towards preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species in Minnesota's waters.

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[\*\*Jeff Forester, Executive Director MLR  
Minnesota Lakes and Rivers\*\*](#)

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## **MN COLA PRESIDENT'S LETTER September 28, 2017 Board Meeting**

The regular meeting of MN Coalition of Lake Associations (MN COLA) Board of Directors was held in Little Falls, MN on September 28, 2017. In attendance were representatives of County COLAs and lake associations from across Minnesota.

The issues discussed at the meeting are summarized by President Tom Nelson in this President's letter.

Issues discussed:

- AIS messaging from MAISRC
- Changing boater behavior with inspection-less Clean-Drain-Dry opportunity
- Geo-fencing: Targeted messages for boaters with digital advertising strategies
- MPCA/BWSR/SWCD: One watershed, one plan

- Regional AIS Inspection Initiative
- Legislative update
- Lake Association Survey by MLR and Concordia College
- Muskie stocking news
- Various AIS control reports
- Final announcements
  - ◦ Annual Aquatic Invaders Summit next February
  - ◦ Shoreland Homeowner's Guide to Lake Stewardship published by Stearns County

### [Tom Nelson- MN COLA's President's Letter](#)

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## **We Love Our Lakes (WLOL)**

OTC COLA has completed the WLOL campaign of reaching out to Otter Tail County lake associations and lake property owners with three mailings starting in early 2017. The purpose of the campaign was to increase awareness of and benefits available from involvement in OTC COLA. The mailings asked for registration in the WLOL database. Registrants will receive a ranking analysis of the COLA water testing program results as well as a lake property owner directory for their lake. Go [HERE](#) to register in the WLOL database.

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## **Lake Association Issue Updates**

OTC COLA will be advocates for lake associations on issues and provide information and education to COLA members without necessarily endorsing the positions of individual lake associations on specific issues. If your lake association is currently involved in an issue or project, OTC COLA would like to help by including it here. Send items to [OTC COLA](#)

## **Star Lake Casino Project Update**

The Minnesota DNR, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and a host of other agencies/stakeholders are playing a waiting game while the developers decide whether to go forward or not.

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[John Kruse](#) OTC COLA Administrative Assistant

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