

E-Newsletter

June 2020

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From The President- Sylvia Soeth

Summer is here! It isn't the usual summer in so many ways. We were making plans for COLA meetings with speakers that would have good information for us and we would have had two meetings by now. Who knows what the rest of the season will bring?

That doesn't mean COLA is not in operation! Thanks to Jeff Vansteenburgh and RMB Labs water sampling is underway. We won't lose a season of water quality results. And John Kruse gathers good information that you read in this COLA newsletter. Articles are submitted from many sources committed to preserving the lakes we love. I encourage you to tell others to subscribe to the COLA newsletter.

East Otter Tail County Soil and Water Conservation District Manager Darren Newville sent along two animated videos that John includes in this newsletter. Anoka County Soil and Water Conservation District did a fine job on them. When I watched "Our Lakeshore Connection", I said that's just what we've been trying to get across to lake users all these years! "Our Groundwater Connection" applies to everyone and especially those of us with private wells and septic systems. Only minutes long, take time to click on them, please.

Now that we can be in the great outdoors to reduce the danger of spreading coronavirus, enjoy the summer. Use best management practices for your lake, your shoreline..... and your health!

[Sylvia Soeth, President OTC COLA](#)



2020 Water Sampling Kickoff May 28

Jeff Vansteenburgh, OTC COLA Environment Director, reports that the Water Sampling Kickoff held at the Ottertail Community Center on May 28th was a big success.

[MORE](#)

[Jeff Vansteenburgh](#)



Dams Disappear As DNR Moves Ahead With Free-Flowing Rivers

Aiming to return Minnesota's river systems back to their original, untamed state, the DNR has for several years now been chipping away at older dams and other obstructions and replacing them with rock arch rapids -- or sometimes leaving the dams in place and building rock "ladders" to let fish move around them.

[MORE](#)

Pebble Lake Association Joins OTC COLA

Pebble Lake Association has joined OTC COLA. Attracted by COLA's water testing program Kari Carr, Member, has submitted the Membership Application. Ryan Hanson is the President and Sandy Rufer is Treasurer. Welcome Pebble Lake Association!



Proposal Aims To Safeguard Big Bluegills

**People can provide input online
about lowering bag limits on some lakes**

Anglers can weigh in on whether to keep fewer bluegills from some Minnesota lakes as a way to protect and improve the sizes of one of the state's most prized and frequently caught fish.

[**MORE**](#)



East Otter Tail

Soil & Water Conservation District



Our Lakeshore Connection

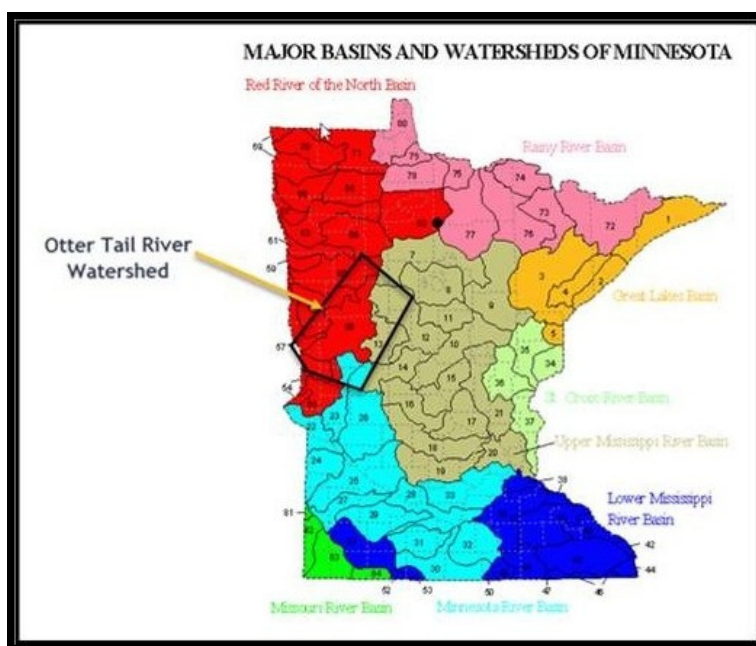
Our Lakeshore/Groundwater Connection Videos

These animated videos about lakeshore restoration and stewardship were created in collaboration with the Anoka County Water Resource Outreach Collaborative and several local Lake Associations. The videos describe lake processes and gives lakeshore owners some steps they can take to restore their shoreline and become lakeshore stewards.

[Our Lakeshore Connection](#)

[Our Groundwater Connection](#)

[Darren Newville](#), District Manager, EOT SWCD



WRAPS Update

In 2016 the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and other state agencies started monitoring the Otter Tail River Watershed for water quality and aquatic life. Monitoring was completed in 2018 and review of the all the information started shortly after. Based on some of the review, assessed waters were classified as impaired or meeting state standards. Finally, in 2020, we are nearing the end of that process. All the reports and data have been reviewed,

the suspected causes have been identified, and final reports have been developed. These final reports are called the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) and Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS).

[MORE](#)

[Ben Underhill](#)

Free Nitrate Water-Testing Clinics In Otter Tail County

Homeowners who rely on private wells for their drinking water supply should test for nitrates on a regular basis. Private well owners are encouraged to participate at a free nitrate testing clinic that will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the West Otter Tail SWCD office in Fergus Falls on July 21st, 2020 or 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Ottertail Community Center in Ottertail on July 24th, 2020. This year's nitrate testing clinics will be run slightly different because of the Coronavirus. We will be following Department of Health and CDC guidelines to reduce the risk of spreading the virus. Participants must stay in their car for the duration of the test; staff will retrieve your sample, test it, and return to you with results. Look for designated parking spots at water testing locations.

[MORE](#)

Lakeshore Owners Loving Their Lakes to Death Blog by Darren Newville

I get it, we want our lake homes or cabins larger enough to accommodate all our family and friends. We want to have patios and decks that allow us to enjoy an unobstructed view of the lake. We want perfect, golf course like, manicured lawns with sandy beaches that allow the kids or grandkids access to the lake for swimming. We want the lake in front of our lots to be weed free so the kids can swim without anything touching their feet or legs. We want a perfectly clear lake free of any aquatic invasive species, and we need to have a garage or shed conveniently placed and large enough to store all the toys we use on the water. We want the lake to be abundant with desirable fish so that we can catch one on almost every cast. We want to live the perfect **#Lake Life** experience. Sounds great, but is it great for the lake?

[MORE](#)

[Darren Newville](#)

“One Watershed, One Plan”

In 2017 Otter Tail County and area counties adopted the philosophy of “One Watershed, One Plan.” Three years later, this philosophy is working well.

This plan is intended to utilize the existing structures of county government, soil and water conservation districts and watershed districts while increasing collaboration across county lines.



REMINDER- Dock And Riparian Use Ordinance

Pursuant to the Use Ordinance the public is reminded to comply with the Otter Tail County Dock and Riparian Use Ordinance, a dock, pier, wharf, or boatlift must be registered with the Otter Tail County Land & Resource Management Office before being moved from one body of water to another. Registration is free and easy. Call Otter Tail County at: 218-998-8113

“At the May 11, 2020 AIS Task Force Meeting members discussed the development of an Electronic Dock and Lift Registry. The Electronic Registry will be faster, more reliable, and easier to use. Members of the public will be able to register their equipment online from the comfort of their own home. Registrations will continue to be confirmed by the AIS Specialist.”

For more information visit the Otter Tail County [webpage](#) or view the ordinance directly [at Dock and Riparian Use Ordinance.](#)

[**Dock and Lift Registration post card**](#)

OTC AIS Task Force Minutes

- [**March 9, 2020**](#)
 - [**May 11, 2020**](#)
-

OTC Board Of Commissioner Minutes

- [**May 5, 2020**](#)

- [May 12, 2020](#)
 - [May 19, 2020](#)
 - [June 2, 2020](#)
-

Instant Access Links

- [Newsletter Article Index](#)- Visually scan article titles from all 2018 and 2019 OTC COLA E-Newsletters. Click to access the entire issue.
- [Water Quality Analysis](#)- Individual reports for 168 OTC Lakes
- [Lake Property Owner Directories](#)- Directories by Street and Name for 100 OTC Lakes
- [Interactive Access to OTC GIS](#)- Find addresses, navigate the OTC County map
- [Lawmaker Hotline](#)- Comprehensive contact information for OTC Board of Commissioners to the MN Governor
- [OTC COLA Brochure](#)- View and/or download the OTC COLA Brochure
- **We want to hear from you!** - Go [HERE](#) to give OTC COLA your comments and suggestions

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