

**IMPORTANT NEWS** from Otter Tail County Coalition of Lake Associations

# E-Newsletter October 2020



## [OTC COLA WEBSITE](#)

Someone forward this Newsletter to you?

Go to the Website link above to sign up for the monthly newsletter.

---

## In This Issue:

- **Perham Resource Recovery Facility**
  - **Otter Tail County Solid Waste Master Plan**
  - **OTC COLA 2020 Water Testing**
  - **OTC COLA BOD Director Positions Open**
  - **Battle Against Flowering Rush**
  - **OTC AIS Task Force Update**
  - **Dock & Lift Removal- Check for AIS**
  - **Hunters Avoid Spreading AIS**
  - **MPCA Lakes Protection Workshop**
  - **UMISC AIS Conference**
  - **One Watershed Prompts Collaboration**
  - **[www.lakeadmin.org](http://www.lakeadmin.org) -October posts**
  - **AIS Task Force Minutes**
  - **OTC Board Of Commissioner Minutes**
  - **Instant Access Links -**
    - **[Newsletter Article Index](#)**
    - **[Water Quality Analysis Reports \(2019 samples\)](#)**
    - **[Lake Property Owner Directories](#)**
    - **[Interactive Access to OTC GIS maps](#)**
    - **[Lawmaker Hotline](#)**
-



## **Perham Resource Recovery Facility**

The Perham Resource Recovery Facility is a Waste to Energy facility in Perham, MN. Waste to Energy (WTE) facilities burn Municipal Solid Waste (MSW), also called garbage, and use it to generate steam. The steam can either be used directly as a heating source, or it can turn a turbine to produce electricity.

The estimated 17,000 lake and river property owners in Otter Tail County will have an impact on the total success to achieve the "Towards Zero Landfill" objective adopted by the County.

[MORE](#)

[VIDEO](#)

---

## **Otter Tail County Solid Waste Master Plan**

The Otter Tail County Board of Commissioners is interested in implementing a "Towards Zero Landfill" initiative in Otter Tail County. To achieve this goal a Committee to create a County Solid Waste Master Plan has been created. The Committee will help to articulate these initiatives and assist the County in understanding the financial obligations of needed improvements.

[MORE](#)

---

## **OTC COLA 2020 Water Testing Program**

In spite of complications imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 the OTC COLA Water Testing Program has been successfully completed for all participating Members. Nearly all were able to overcome challenges to submit samples for all of the 5 months of sampling.

These statistics prove the dedication of the Lake Associations and volunteers

- COLA Members participating- 45
- Lakes sampled- 55
- Sites sampled - 75

- Volunteer samplers- 116
- Samples analyzed- 341

**Congratulations** to the Lake Associations for persevering in the face of adversity to manage and administer the program.

**Thank you** volunteers for your dedication in doing the sampling and preserving the consistency of the all-important water quality trend analysis for your lakes.

**Thank you** to Ellie Kriese of RMB Laboratories for partnering with OTC COLA to achieve a successful program.

**Thank you** to Jeff Vansteenburgh, OTC COLA Environmental Director, for your application of experience, expertise and administrative talents to organize and execute.

The success of the last over 20 years of the OTC COLA water analysis program gives confidence to all to look forward to the near and multi-generational future of all Otter Tail County lakes.

**[John Kruse, OTC COLA Administrative Assistant](#)**

---

### **OTC COLA Board Of Director Positions Open**

The Otter Tail County Coalition Of Lake Associations (OTC COLA) Board of Directors currently has openings and are looking for new candidates. OTC COLA is a private volunteer group working with Lake Associations and lake property owners for the common good of all OTC lakes.

Normal attrition has left openings for a Director of Education as well as for other positions. It is desired to have a diverse Board representing as many regions and lakes as possible in the County.

Interested persons are encouraged to email [otccola2@gmail.com](mailto:otccola2@gmail.com) for more information.

John Kruse, OTC COLA Administrative Assistant  
[otccola2@gmail.com](mailto:otccola2@gmail.com)

---



## Battle Against Flowering Rush

Detroit Lakes Tribune

Spraying herbicides on flowering rush: Researchers later figured that applying the herbicide diquat to the underwater part of the plant, in the right concentration at the right time of the year, would work against flowering rush and not harm native bulrushes

Now, lily pads and sandy lake bottom are again sheltering fish and providing spawning habitat: In fact, flowering rush has now been reduced to the point that it was kind of hard recently to find a sample to send to another state, said Pelican River Watershed District Administrator, Tera Guetter.

[MORE](#)

---

## OTC AIS Task Force Update 2020

Through a collaboration with the Otter Tail County Sheriff's Department the seasonal AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) Deputy concluded his beat checking watercraft on October 1<sup>st</sup>. Meanwhile, 15 I-LID (Internet Landing Installed Device) systems—self-contained motion activated cameras located at various public water accesses in the County greeted late season anglers and lake service providers removing docks and boatlifts for winter storage. The AIS Specialist and the County Highway Department traveled over 200 miles on October 17, collecting the I-LID systems for winter storage. The 2020 AIS Prevention Program is complete.

[Spencer McGrew](#), Aquatic Invasive Species Specialist

[MORE](#)

---

### **Dock And Lift Removal- Check For AIS**

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources reminds lake property owners to check boats and trailers, docks and boat lifts, and all other water-related equipment for invasive species when removing equipment for seasonal storage.

While it's always important to look for invasive species on boats, docks and other equipment, it is especially important at this time of year. Several new zebra mussel confirmations in recent years were initially reported by people removing docks, boats and boat lifts.

[MORE](#)

---

### **Waterfowl Hunters Reminded To Avoid Spreading AIS**

With the Minnesota hunting season underway, it is important for waterfowl hunters to help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species.

Invasive species such as purple loosestrife, zebra mussels, Eurasian watermilfoil and faucet snails can be transported in waterfowl hunters' boats, decoys or blind material and other equipment without the proper precautions.

[MORE](#)

---



This year we are holding our protection workshop virtually due to COVID-19. Our presenters have turned their presentations into videos that we have posted to YouTube (see the list below). Please watch the videos when it is convenient, and make note of any questions you have as you view them, indicating which video(s) your question or questions refer to.

You can share your questions anytime by sending an email to Elizabeth.Nebgen@state.mn.us (please indicate if it's OK to share your name or if you'd like to share your questions anonymously).

Questions will be answered/discussed during a Question and Answer Webex online meeting we are planning for later in October (Watch for the invitation!).

The Q & A Webex will also afford participants the opportunity to ask questions in realtime and presenters will be online to respond. Should be interesting!

Please let me know if you have any questions, and thank you for participating.  
Betsy Nebgen, MPCA, Detroit Lakes Regional Office  
Elizabeth.nebgen@state.mn.us, 218-846-8107

[MORE](#)

A promotional poster for the 2020 Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference (UMISC). The background is a scenic photograph of a lake surrounded by pine trees and rocks. On the left, the text 'UMISC' is written in large green letters, with 'Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference' in smaller orange text below it. Below that, '2020 ONLINE' is written in large blue letters. Underneath, the subtitle 'Pathways to Success: Partnership and Purpose' is written in a cursive font. On the right side, the text 'Join us for the largest INVASIVE SPECIES CONFERENCE in North America!' is written in orange and white, followed by 'NOVEMBER 2-6, 2020' in white. At the bottom right, 'Registration Opens June 1st' is written in white. At the bottom left, there is small text: 'Boundary Waters Canoe Area (BWCA), Minnesota Photo by Chris J. Benson'. At the very bottom, a green banner contains the text 'A week of learning & networking for under \$100 - details to follow www.umisc.net | cryan@umisc.net'.

## **2020 Upper Midwest Invasive Species (UMISC) Conference**

The Minnesota Invasive Species Advisory Council is a multi-organization partnership working to control invasive species under the guidelines of the [\*Minnesota State Management Plan for Invasive Species\*](#).

MISAC has hosted conferences across the state with the goal of

comprehensively addressing invasive species research, prevention, and management challenges.

[MORE](#)

---

### **‘One Watershed’ Prompts Collaboration**

County commissioners in Otter Tail County, on Sept. 22, approved the final draft of the Buffalo-Red River Watershed and recommended that the plan be submitted to the Board of Water and Soil Resources for their approval.

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.

[MORE](#)

---



### **New Posts - October 2020**

- [Shoreline Living Booklet](#)

[www.lakeadmin.org](http://www.lakeadmin.org)

---

### **OTC AIS Task Force Minutes**

- [September 14, 2020](#)
  - [October 12, 2020](#) draft
- 

### **OTC Board Of Commissioner Minutes**

- [September 1, 2020](#)
  - [September 22, 2020](#)
  - [September 29, 2020](#)
  - [October 6, 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](#) (2019 samples) - 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

### [Subscribe to the OTC COLA E-Newsletter](#)

---

#### **OTC COLA Board of Directors**

David Helgerson · Jeff Stabnow · Jeff Vansteenburgh ·  
Roger Neitzke · Ronald Christensen · Sylvia Soeth

#### **OTC COLA Members**

Bass Lake Underwood Association · Berger Lake Association · Big McDonald LID · Boedigheimer Lake Association · Clitherall Lake Association · Dead Lake Association · Devils Lake Association · Eagle Lake Lakeshore Association · East Battle Lake WS Association · Elbow Lake Association · Franklin Lake Association · Hoffman Lake Association · Jewett Lake Association · Lake Lida Property Owners Association · Lake Lizzie Lakeshore Association · Lake Seven Association · Lake Six Association · Leaf Lakes Association · Little McDonald Kerbs and Paul Lakes LID · Long Lake at Vergas Association · Loon Lake Association · Marion Lake Association · McDonald Lake Improvement Association · North Long Lake Association · North Turtle Lake Association · Otter Tail Lakes Property Owners Association · Pebble Lake Association · Pelican Lake Property Owners Association · Pickerel Lake Improvement Association · Pine Lakes LID · Prairie Lake Lakeshore Association · Round Lake 56-214 · Rush Lake Association · Silent Lakes Association · Silver Lake Property Owners Association · South Turtle Lake Improvement District · Spitzer Lake Property Owners Association · Stalker Lake Association · Star Lake Property Owners Association · Stuart Lake Association · Swan Lake Association · Sybil Lake Association · Tamarac Lake Association · Ten Mile Preservation Association · Trowbridge-Leek Lake Association · Wall Lake Association · West Battle Lake Association · West McDonald Lake Association

---

[John Kruse](#), OTC COLA Administrative Assistant