

IMPORTANT NEWS from Otter Tail County Coalition of Lake Associations

E-Newsletter

May 2021



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From The President- Sylvia Soeth

Things are looking up! OTC COLA hopes to get our members back together this season. The COLA Board has had in person, socially distanced meetings to keep COLA on track. We have arrangements made to hold the Annual Meeting with members in August and if possible we could meet in July. Meanwhile, this newsletter keeps you on top of important issues.

COLA relies on volunteers. There is the Board itself that continues meeting year round even when there is a pandemic changing our lifestyles.

There is a group of volunteers so vital to our most important mission, water quality testing. In April water coolers, including equipment, were distributed in Ottertail by RMB Labs out of Detroit Lakes for 55 lakes to be sampled monthly from May to September. The number of lakes has grown by a few new

Lake Association Members each year. The Lake Associations pay the cost of testing each site and that money is passed along to RMB. Membership dues are kept to a minimum for COLA operations. The Board's Environmental Director Jeff Vansteenburgh, as a volunteer, coordinates with RMB throughout the year.

Volunteers who test their lakes must go to a certain location on specific days and make sure the samples get to RMB in proper condition. Some deliver to DL or there are collection points where groups of coolers are transported to DL, again all volunteer hours.

Results are reported to the State of Minnesota and are available there and on the RMB website for all to see. Data is used by many state agencies. COLA Administrative Assistant John Kruse includes links to results for member lakes in each newsletter, updated in the fall when the season's results are available.

This cycle has been repeated by COLA volunteers for so many seasons. Volunteer of the Year honored at the 2017 Annual Meeting for 20 years of sampling was Bryan Zepper for Big Pine Lake. Bryan now has 24 years! Some are new to the sampling game. It is comforting to know that in the forgettable year of 2020 water testing could still continue.

COLA, Lake Associations and property owners say "THANK YOU!"

[Sylvia Soeth, OTC COLA President](#)



OTC COLA Annual Meeting August 19, 2021

The Annual Meeting of the Otter Tail County Coalition Of Lake Associations is currently scheduled to be held at 7:00 pm on August 19, 2021 at the Ottertail Community Center in Ottertail Minnesota.

Besides a short business meeting and election of Board Members and Officers the featured speaker for the event will be Chris LeClair, Director of Otter Tail County Land and Resource Management, who will discuss revisions to the existing OTC Shoreland Ordinance.



2021 Minnesota Governor's Fishing Opener Highlights Otter Tail County- RECAP

May 24, 2021–Otter Tail County, MN-The 73rd Governor's Fishing Opener helped kick-off the summer tourism season in Minnesota by celebrating Otter Tail County's many diverse outdoor recreation opportunities, welcoming communities and numerous lakes. Guests from all over Minnesota supported local lodging, restaurants, local businesses and fished the numerous lakes. The event has earned significant media attention to area communities, businesses, and outdoor recreation offerings.

Communication Committee Members:

- Caleb Wurth, DNR
- Jenna Baker, Arvig
- Erik Osberg, OTC
- John Kruse, OTC COLA
- Caitlin Hannah, EMT
- Nicole Lalum EMT
- Jeff Ledermann, DNR
- Alyssa Hayes, EMT
- Dena Johnson , DNR
- Kristi Coughlon , DNR
- Shannon Terry, OTC

[**MORE**](#)

Otter Tail County

Land & Resource Management

Contact Info | Department Staff



Otter Tail County is revising its Shoreland Management Ordinance which will affect many lake property owners throughout the county. Pelican Press
Photo by Tom Hintgen

[Pelican Rapids Press](#)

OTC Shoreland Management Ordinance

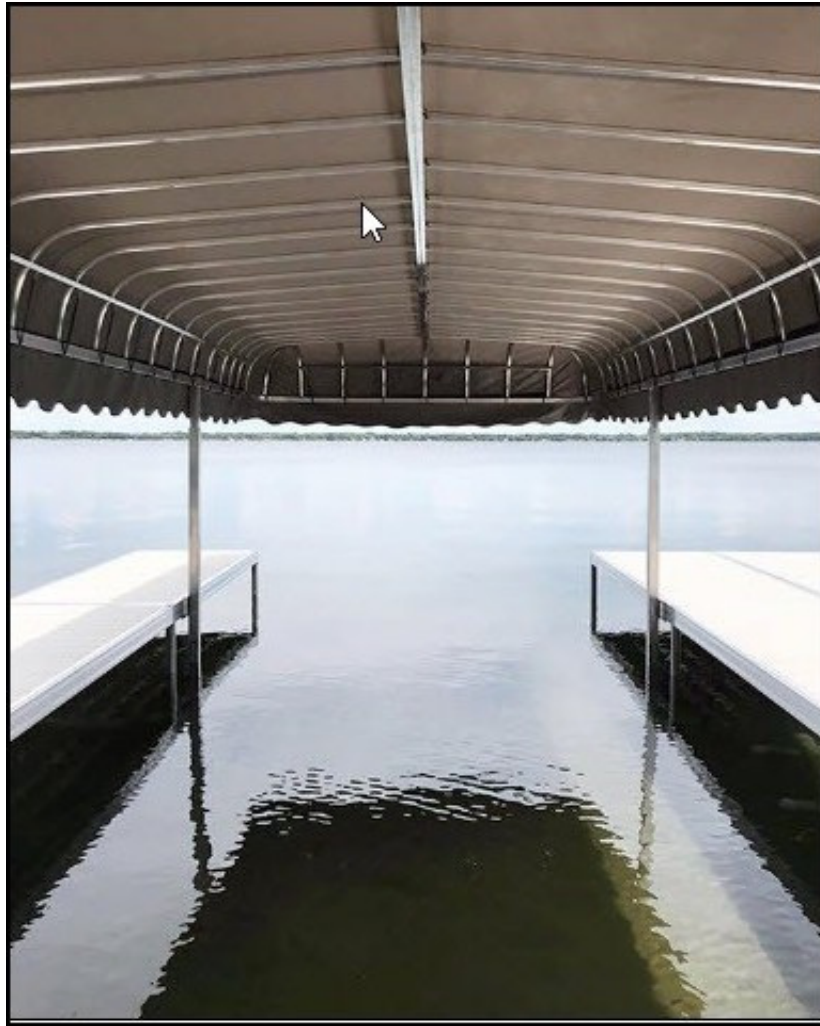
Proposed revisions to the Otter Tail County Shoreland Management Ordinance were addressed during a public meeting of the county board of commissioners on Monday evening, May 10, at the Bigwood Event Center in Fergus Falls.

“Most of the changes are an attempt to bring the county’s shoreland regulations in line with Minnesota rules,” said Otter Tail County Land and Resource Director Chris LeClair. “Proposed revisions will ease some of those standards.”

Vacation home rentals became a hot topic at the May 10 public meeting.

[OTC Shoreland Ordinance Revision video 1](#)

[MORE](#)



Good Time To Review Dock, Platform Regulations

[Pelican Rapids Press](#)

Before installing or investing in a new dock or dock platform, lakeshore owners should check to ensure it will meet state requirements. Lake service provider businesses should also review the regulations, to ensure the equipment they sell or install is in compliance.

Dock and dock platform size are regulated in Minnesota by the Department of Natural Resources to provide a balance between the protection and utilization of public waters. Docks and dock platforms allow riparian landowners to access and enjoy public waters

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OTC AIS Task Force May, 2021 Update

- 49,000 bait bags delivered to 25 bait shops in Otter Tail County
- Train The Teachers returns to the classroom
- I-LIDS cameras installed at 12 high-traffic accesses

- 15 Watercraft Inspectors attend employee orientation
- I-LIDS with night vision are being installed
- The new Rinse Station has been installed at the Paul Miller Park location on Little Pine Lake
- OTC Watercraft Inspectors reported excellent compliance to AIS laws at the Minnesota Governor's Fishing Opener

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[Spencer McGrew, AIS Specialist](#)



Removing Lake Plants Could Require A Permit

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources reminds lakeshore property owners that a permit may be required to remove aquatic plants. Aquatic plants provide food and shelter for fish, ducks and other wildlife. They also stabilize the lake bottom, which helps maintain water clarity, and protect shorelines from erosion by absorbing energy from waves and ice.

Additionally, the DNR frequently receives questions about devices that generate water current to wash muck and plants away. They have various trade names, but the DNR refers to these devices generically as hydraulic jets. Even though you can buy one in Minnesota, they cannot be used in any way that disturbs the bottom of the lake or uproots plants.

Specific regulations govern what situations require permits for aquatic plant removal. Regulations and a guide to aquatic plants can be found on the DNR website.

For more information go to:

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/permits/water/needpermit.html>

Minnesota Fishing Facts

- There are about 1.4 million licensed anglers in Minnesota
- Average annual expenditure per angler in Minnesota is about \$1,500
- Fishing contributes \$2.4 billion to the state's economy in direct retail sales, ranking Minnesota third in the nation for angler expenditures

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The Red River of the North

Evaluating the health of the river

• From Breckenridge, Minnesota, to the Canadian border

Despite being a popular recreation river, worries about water quality are growing.

Otter Tail River Watershed Reports Highlight Water Quality Issues And Efforts By Local Partners To Address Problems

Among numerous impaired waters in the Red River Basin, the Otter Tail River Watershed stands out for its generally good water quality, according to new draft reports by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). A majority of its streams and lakes support fish and aquatic insect communities, and recreation. While phosphorus and sediment levels are [consistently high in the Red River](#) and in other watersheds in the Red River Basin, the Otter Tail River Watershed has lower pollutant levels due to geography, significant amounts of undeveloped land, and actions taken by landowners and local partners.

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FRESHWATER



History Repeats Itself?

Archeologists have speculated about why the Mayan civilization collapsed and thought climate change might have caused the reservoirs to dry up. However, recent discoveries show that the filters were contaminated with mercury.

It is hard to imagine how a highly technological civilization crashed because they polluted their own water.....Or is it?

[MORE](#)

Freshwater.org



MINNESOTA AQUATIC INVASIVE
SPECIES RESEARCH CENTER

Become An AIS Detector

In 2020, the AIS Detectors program team made the decision to cancel all spring in-person workshops due to COVID-19. The cancellation of the workshops provided our program team the time needed to redirect our efforts of making online-only programs available to our audience and followers. We are thrilled to announce that we succeeded and the AIS Detectors Core Course is BACK for 2021 in a fully online version. [Registration is now open!](#) If the \$150 registration fee presents a barrier to your ability to participate in the AIS Detectors Core Course and Volunteer Program, we have some options available to you. Learn more about our [scholarship options](#).



[AIS](#) * [Water Quality](#) * [Administration](#) * [Regulation](#)

Featured Posts - May 2021

- [Steps to Start A New Lake Association](#)
- [Total Phosphorus](#)
- [Powers Of Attorney](#)

www.lakeadmin.org

OTC AIS Task Force Minutes

- [May 10, 2021 Draft](#)

OTC Board Of Commissioner Minutes

- [April 13, 2021](#)

Instant Access Links

- [Newsletter Article Index](#) - Visually scan article titles from all OTC COLA E-Newsletters from 2018.
- [Water Quality Analysis Reports \(2020 samples\)](#) (includes 2020 samples) - Individual reports for 64 OTC COLA Lakes
- [Water Quality Analysis Reports \(2019 samples\)](#) (includes 2019 samples) - Includes available data for 102 OTC non-COLA Lakes
- [Lake Property Owner Directories \(2018\)](#) - Directories by Street and Name for 100 OTC Lakes
- [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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David Helgerson · Jeff Stabnow · Jeff Vansteenburgh
Roger Neitzke · Ronald Christensen · Scott Gaudette · 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