

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

# E-Newsletter

## June 2021



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### **From The President- Sylvia Soeth**

The summer certainly came on with a bang! Temperatures have been hot and lake water is warmer than usual. Most lake levels are low for this time of year. I love sunny days, but we do need it to rain. It's wonderful that it can still look green around the lakes because grass is brown not far away.

For the last 16 months our world has not been "usual" so we should be used to unusual. COLA Member meetings have been missing since last May. August 19 should bring us back together at the usual meeting site in the city of Ottertail. It is our mission to educate, educate, educate so Land and Resource Director Chris LeClair will be there to tell you about the newly revised Shoreland Ordinance and answer your questions. It seems to be a common sense

approach, and since it affects what you will do on your lake property, you should want to be there! Excellent opportunity to get acquainted with Chris, too.

Of course, we will have the usual social time with treats to start the evening. Business will be brief. Meanwhile this newsletter has so much information!

Have a safe and happy 4th of July! Stay safe on the water and on the roads. Stay up to date on burning bans and be cautious with fireworks in these dry conditions. Celebrate!

[Sylvia Soeth, OTC COLA President](#)

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### **OTC COLA Annual Meeting August 19, 2021**

The Annual Meeting of the Otter Tail County Coalition Of Lake Associations is 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.

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

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# Otter Tail County

## Land & Resource Management

Contact Info | Department Staff

### **OTC Shoreland Management Ordinance Revisions**

The Otter Tail County Board of Commissioners approved the revisions to the Otter Tail County Shoreland Management Ordinance on Tuesday, June 22, 2021

In future OTC COLA E-Newsletter issues, Land & Resource Management Director Chris LeClair will be providing articles highlighting the changes, and other topics as it relates to the Shoreland Management Ordinance. For more information, contact Chris LeClair [cleclair@co.ottertail.mn.us](mailto:cleclair@co.ottertail.mn.us) 218-998-8105

[MORE](#)

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### **Outlet Hearing For Nelson Lake**

Fergus Falls Journal

PARKERS PRAIRIE — A large crowd of lake homeowners, property owners and business people from Otter Tail and Douglas counties met at the Prairie Events Center in Parkers Prairie on Wednesday to discuss a proposed new county drainage system outlet that would potentially lower the water level of Lake Nelson. The outlet would drain the excess water into Fish Lake, which currently has an outlet of its own, and further down the line.

After a general summary of the issues, officials gave a more in-depth picture of the situation, with the pro's and con's for an outlet of this nature.

[MORE](#)

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## Round Lake 56-214 Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting for the Round Lake 56-214 Association was held on June 19. President Scott Gaudette presided. A large number of property owners were in attendance. The group elected Board officials and ratified programs and activities benefitting the lake. Among them were continued Membership in OTC COLA and the OTC COLA water monitoring program. Scott Gaudette is the newest member of the OTC COLA Board of Directors.

A presentation was made at the meeting by John Kruse, OTC COLA Administrative Assistant, informing attendees of the benefits and opportunities of being aligned with OTC COLA. The presentation included information on Otter Tail County lakes, what OTC COLA does and updates on the proposed Shoreland Ordinance revisions. Also covered was education and information offered by the website [www.lakeadmin.org](http://www.lakeadmin.org). The website addresses "Everything Lake Organization Administration". John will be presenting at five Lake Association meetings this summer.



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



## **OTC County Park Survey**

Otter Tail County is preparing a draft master plan for a new County Park. The County is working with a private land owner to develop 165 acres on Fish Lake and the Pelican River in the northeast corner of the County. With this survey we are looking for your input on what amenities and activities should be considered for the new County Park Master Plan.

The property's owner granted the Minnesota Land Trust a conservation easement to protect the property's natural features; its habitat for fish, wildlife, and plants; and its open and natural character. Park plans are being developed to be in harmony with the conservation easement and the property owner's vision for the property.

Please let us know your thoughts! [Take the Survey](#)

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## **OTC Property Valuation, Sales Data Upgraded To New Web Application**

Shannon Terry, Otter Tail County

Otter Tail County continues to innovate services with a new website application for property valuation and sales. The public can find how property is valued, and realtors, abstractors, attorneys, and surveyors will appreciate the regular real-time updates to the information.

“We are happy to be able to provide valuation and sales information to the public that is updated on a more regular basis while providing it in a more usable format,” said Kevin Scheidecker, deputy assessor. “The new website is going to allow us to provide better service to our customers.”

[MORE](#)

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## **OTC AIS Task Force June, 2021 Update**

- The Watercraft Inspection Program is fully up to speed
- Work continues on the Rinse Station Pilot at Miller Park in Perham
- The bait handling campaign is promoted by a billboard on Interstate 94

[MORE](#)

[Spencer McGrew, AIS Specialist](#)

**m** DEPARTMENT OF  
NATURAL RESOURCES



### **DNR Stresses Safety After Deadly Weeks On The Water**

It's been a deadly start to the open-water season in Minnesota.

A higher-than-average number of people have drowned at places like beaches and swimming pools.

"There are too many families who won't be seeing their loved ones again," said Lt. Adam Block, boating law administrator for the DNR Enforcement Division. "It's up to everyone who heads for the water to double-down on safety and prevent what should be a fun experience from turning tragic."

[DNR Boat and Water Safety Program](#)

[MORE](#)

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## **Volunteers Needed For DNR Loon Survey**

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is seeking volunteers to help monitor the loon population in Otter Tail and Becker counties. Volunteers can choose one (or more) lakes to count the number of adult and juvenile loons seen and report these observations to the DNR for data analysis. The survey will take place from July 2 through July 12, 2021. Volunteers need to monitor their lake(s) for one day during this survey period.

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## **Assessing Otter Tail, Pelican waters**

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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MINNESOTA AQUATIC INVASIVE  
SPECIES RESEARCH CENTER

## Zebra Mussels Impact Experience

With zebra mussels continuing to spread and awareness growing, MAISRC gets a substantial amount of inquiries from lake associations about: what to expect, how fast the populations will grow, what they can do about it, what the research is showing, etc. Last year, MAISRC decided to take the time to put together a formal package of resources to help meet this growing need. Rather than focus on the biology and ecosystem impacts of zebra mussels (which has been pretty well covered already), MAISRC wanted to create scientifically sound materials that were more focused on how zebra mussels impact a lake resident or lake user's experience and what people can and can't do about it.

[MORE](#)

[Meg Duhr](#), MAISRC Research Outreach Specialist

[Zebra Mussels? Now what? fact sheet](#)

[Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center](#)

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

### Featured Posts - June 2021

- [Dock Regulations Balance Water Use And Protection](#)
- [Algae Bloom](#)
- [Starry Stonewort Video](#)



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

- [June 14, 2021 Draft](#)
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### **OTC Board Of Commissioner Minutes**

- [May 11, 2021](#)
  - [May 25, 2021](#)
  - [June 8, 2021](#)
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### **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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#### **OTC COLA Board of Directors**

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#### **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  
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Property Owners Association · Stalker Lake Association · Star Lake Property  
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Association · Trowbridge-Leek Lake Association · Wall Lake Association · West  
Battle Lake Association · West McDonald Lake Association

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