

E-Newsletter

July 2021

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From The President- Sylvia Soeth

August is around the corner! It will be time for the COLA Annual Meeting we've been eagerly anticipating! We hope you meet with us on Thursday, August 19, at 7:00 p.m. at the Ottertail Community Center. If you like to visit and network come early for coffee, water and ever-popular brownies. With one meeting this year, it needs to be a great one!

We will welcome Land Resource Director Chris LeClair to explain changes in Shoreland Management Regulations for the county; a hot topic for COLA members. Do you have a Vacation Home Rental on your shore? Learn how the

rules affect them too.

Since we have been COVID conscious for 16 months now, we will continue to follow advice. If you aren't vaccinated, wear a mask. It is real joy to gather with others who "LOVE OUR LAKES".

[Sylvia Soeth, OTC COLA President](#)

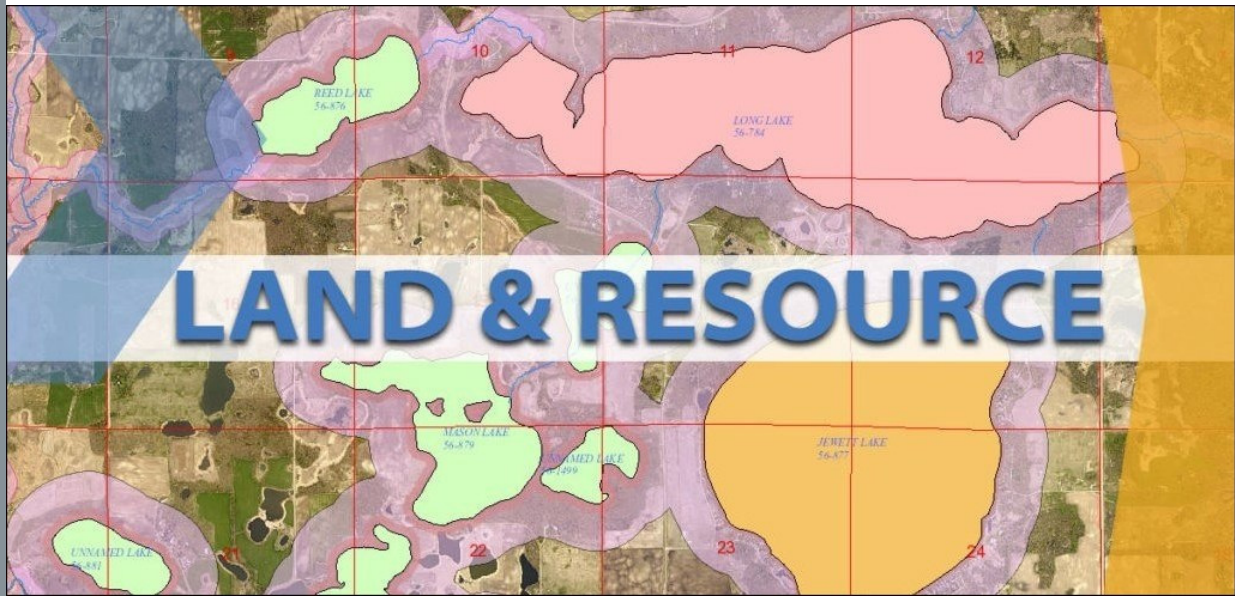


Chris LeClair To Speak At The OTC COLA Annual Meeting August 19

Chris LeClair will be the featured speaker at the Annual Meeting of the Otter Tail County Coalition Of Lake Associations. The meeting will be held at 7:00 pm on August 19, 2021 at the Ottertail Community Center in Ottertail Minnesota. Chris will describe the new Shoreland Ordinance Revisions adopted by the OTC Board of Commissioners, effective July 1, 2021.

All OTC lake property owners are invited to come. Social and networking time will precede the meeting with brownies and refreshments.

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



OTC Shoreland Ordinance Revisions Effective July 1, 2021

The new Ottertail County Shoreland Ordinance Revisions were made effective July 1, 2021. Chris LeClair, Director of Land and Resource Management, has prepared a series of videos explaining the Revisions.

[Video 1 Goals of the Revisions](#)

[Video 2 Administrative Changes](#)

[Video 3 Specific Technical Requirements LESS restrictive than MN State code](#)

[Video 4 Specific Technical Requirements MORE restrictive than MN State code](#)

[Video 5 Specific Technical Requirements MORE restrictive than MN State code](#)

The [Shoreland Management Ordinance](#) effective July 1, 2021 is available on the [Otter Tail County website](#)

[Chris LeClair](#), Director OTC Land & Resource Management



Otter Tail County Addresses Vacation Home Rentals

“One of the driving forces of the recent Shoreland Management Ordinance revision in Otter Tail County is the sudden rise in the ease of finding a vacation home rental (VHR). This is a common issue across the State of Minnesota, as county planning and zoning offices are wrestling with a regulatory framework regarding VHRs.

Here in lakes country, there are anywhere from 200-300 VHR’s advertised on any given day. Knowing this, Otter Tail County decided to be sensible about the regulatory framework, as requiring a conditional use permit (CUP) for each and every VHR would overwhelm the Planning Commission for years to come. We looked to several other counties in Minnesota and used their ordinances as a template, and then adjusted to meet the needs of the county.

[MORE](#)

[Chris LeClair](#), OTC Director Land And Resource Management



COLA Visits Lake Association Annual Meetings

In an effort to engage Lake Associations and lake property owners in Otter Tail County, COLA is visiting 5 OTC COLA Lake Association annual meetings in 2021. So far this year John Kruse, COLA Administrative Assistant, has made presentations at Round Lake Association (Otter Tail), Lake Seven Property Owners Association, Bass Lake Underwood Association and Pelican Lake Property Owners Association. Stuart Lake Association is scheduled for August. The presentations include enhancing awareness of OTC COLA and disseminating information on new County regulations and lake stewardship best practices.

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



Lake Seven (Scalp) Association

The Lake Seven (Scalp) Association annual meeting was held on June 26, 2021 at the Hobart Township Hall in Frazee, MN. John Nordstrom, President, presided. Of the 90 lake property owners 70 are Association Members and 45 attended the annual meeting.

The Association benefits from skilled and dedicated Members who are constantly conscious of preserving and protecting Lake Seven. They have participated in COLA's water quality analysis program for over 20 years. They have relied on analysis of the data to track the trending health of the lake.



Bass Lake Underwood Association

The Annual Meeting for the Bass Lake Underwood Association (BLUA) was held on July 10, 2021 at the home of Curtis and Michelle Jundt on Bass Lake (Underwood). Curtis Jundt, President, presided. 13 Members were in attendance.

One of the newest COLA Members, BLUA enjoys an active and supportive Member group. They are aggressively pursuing events to raise funds for water quality and other projects to benefit the lake. These include serving food at the Underwood Harvest Festival on Memorial Day, September 4 and an annual fund raiser commemorating September 11 Trade Center. Both events will be at



Pelican Lake Property Owners Association

The Pelican Lake Property Owners Association (PLPOA) Annual Meeting was held on July 24, 2021 at the Fair Hills Resort on Pelican Lake. Russ Severson, President, presided. Over 175 Association Members were in attendance.

PLPOA was created in 1933. The Association includes not only Pelican Lake but also adjoining Little Pelican, Fish and Bass Lakes. Affiliated organizations include the Pelican Group Of Lakes Improvement District (PGOLID), Pelican Lakes Community Foundation (PLCF) and the Pelican Lake Yacht Club and Sailing School (PLYC/PLSS).

<https://pelicanlakemn.org/>

OTC AIS Task Force July, 2021 Update

- AIS Inspectors promote AIS prevention at East and West County Fairs
- Work is completed on the Rinse Station Pilot on Little Pine Lake
- Burma Shave signs have found a home!

[**MORE**](#)

[**Spencer McGrew**](#), AIS Specialist

Low Water Levels Bring New Obstacles To Boaters

Currently, there are two main challenges for all watercrafts on Otter Tail County lakes, boat launches and submerged obstructions.

Many of our concrete boat ramps may not extend all the way into the water. All boaters need to be vigilant when backing in trailers and avoid going into a prop-wash hole.

Also, many "new" unmarked obstructions are popping up on area lakes. Rocks

and sand bars that typically are not an issue are becoming dangerous obstructions.

Please be aware of these hazards as we continue to manage these low water level issues.

[Otter Tail County Sheriff's Office Water Patrol Division.](#)

“Power loading”, can cause damage to launch ramps that may not be visible from the surface of the water.

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Lack Of Rain Creating Challenges At Boat Launches

The abnormally dry to drought conditions occurring across Minnesota are creating challenging conditions for people trying to get their boats into or out of the water at public boat launches, according to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

When water levels drop during extended dry periods, the concrete ramps at boat launches may no longer reach all the way into the water and hazards such as prop-wash holes can become more problematic.

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“Power loading”, can cause damage to launch ramps that may not be visible from the surface of the water.

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DNR Invites Comment On Proposed Sunfish Regulations

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources encourages the public to weigh in on proposed special fishing regulations that would allow anglers to keep fewer sunfish from 50 lakes. The proposed regulations are part of the ongoing Quality Sunfish Initiative.

Comments on the proposed regulation changes may be submitted multiple ways, including through an online survey that is open through Sunday, Oct. 31, by contacting an area fisheries office, or by attending an in-person meeting this fall. Details about the meetings will be posted and publicized later this summer. More information about comment options, including a link to the survey, is available on the **[DNR website.](#)**

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Minnesota Enters Drought Warning Phase

Lakes, streams, and rivers are dependent on the amount of precipitation an area receives, how much of that moisture is contributed by runoff, how much water is recharged or discharged through groundwater, and how much water evaporates.

“One area in which drought can be very apparent to Minnesotans is the fluctuation of water levels in lakes, rivers and streams,” said Katie Smith, director of DNR’s Ecological and Water Resources division. “What people may not realize is that DNR and other government agencies only manage a relatively small number of lakes and rivers with water control structures, and these operate under specific management plans. So the vast majority of Minnesota’s waters are subject to natural fluctuations.”

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Oak Wilt Spreads Across The State

A disease that kills oak trees continues to spread in Minnesota, and its latest discovery as far north as Crow Wing County is worrying foresters and landowners across the state.

Oak trees are some of the most abundant trees in Minnesota, and they’re valuable for wildlife, lumber, firewood and shade. But the [disease called oak wilt](#) poses a threat to these trees — some of which are stately, longtime landmarks in communities across the state.

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Starry Stonewort Confirmed In Leech Lake

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has confirmed the invasive algae starry stonewort in Leech Lake in Cass County.

A company removing aquatic plants contacted the DNR when its staff suspected finding starry stonewort near Anderson's Cove Resort in Steamboat Bay. A DNR invasive species specialist confirmed starry stonewort throughout the marina, around and under docks and boats.

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Scientists Find A Natural Foe Of Zebra Mussels

Zebra mussels -- the European shellfish clogging up water intakes throughout the Great Lakes in recent years -- have a natural enemy: the common sheepshead.

The humble freshwater drum, better known to anglers here as the sheepshead, eats zebra mussels by the bucketful, a Buffalo State College researcher says.

[MORE](#)

Zebra Mussels Confirmed In Clitherall Lake

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has confirmed zebra mussels in Clitherall Lake, near the city of Clitherall in Otter Tail County; Eagle Lake, near Frazee in Becker County; and Turtle Lake, near Lake Park in Becker County.

DNR invasive species specialists followed up on a report from a lake property owner who found an adult zebra mussel attached to a native mussel in Clitherall Lake. The DNR found three more adult zebra mussels in the lake,

indicating a reproducing population.

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

Featured Posts - July 2021

- [Steps To Write A Lake Management Plan](#)
- [Lakeshore Owners- Loving Their Lakes To Death](#)
- [What's So Bad About AIS?](#)

www.lakeadmin.org

OTC AIS Task Force Minutes

- [July 12, 2021 Draft](#)
-

OTC Board Of Commissioner Minutes

- [June 22, 2021](#)
 - [July 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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[John Kruse](#), OTC COLA Administrative Assistant