

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

# E-Newsletter

## August 2021



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

It was a real pleasure for me and for the Board to see people at the 2021 Annual Meeting, the first time together in two lake seasons. There were familiar faces and new faces representing many different Lake Associations. Just as it should be.

Some came early to mingle and some stayed after the meeting to visit. Chris LeClair's presentation on Shoreland Management kept the crowd rapt. He was able to answer questions from individuals which are of interest to all of the property owners. You could tell the knowledge in the Members who answered Chris's quiz questions during the presentation. He awarded prizes to several

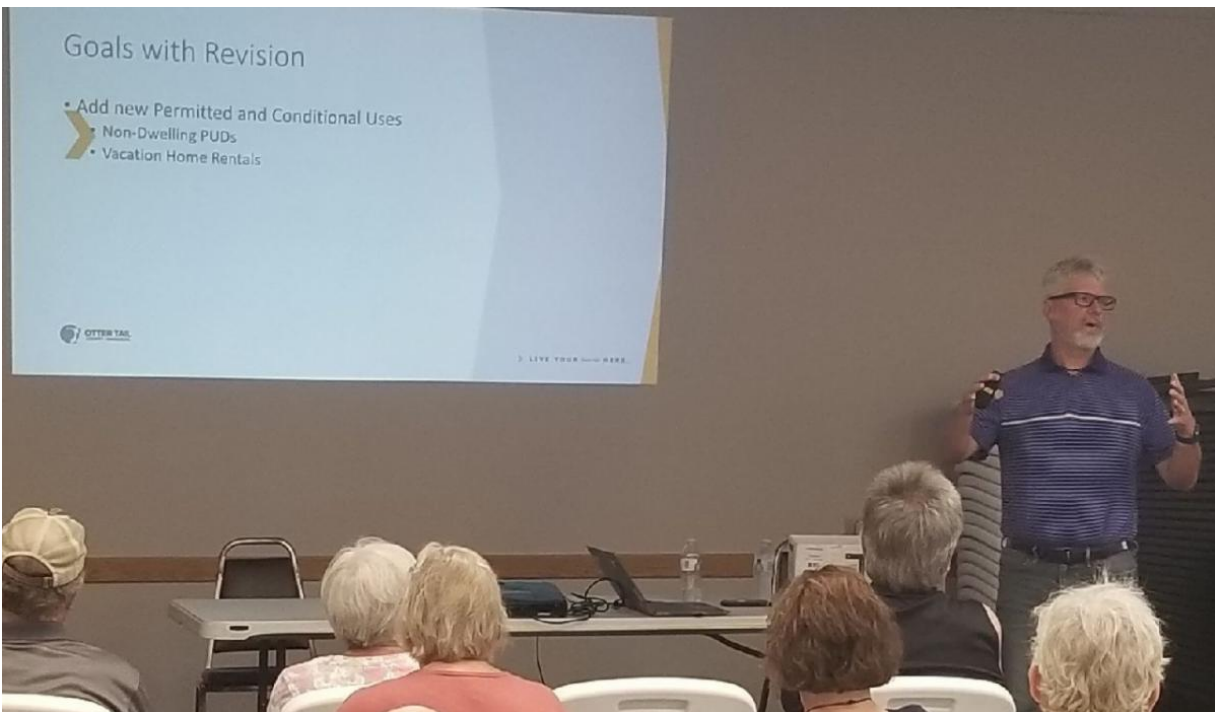
attendeess!

OTC COLA will not plan to have another Member meeting this season. The Board meets monthly when possible. Until 2022 keep in touch by the newsletter. It is full of information for Lake Association members. We can hope for a full schedule next year!

[Sylvia Soeth, OTC COLA President](#)

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# ANNUAL MEETING



## **New OTC Shoreland Ordinance Revisions Discussed at OTC COLA Annual Meeting**

The Annual Meeting for the Otter Tail Coalition of Lake Associations (OTC COLA) was held at the Ottertail Community Center in Ottertail, MN on August 19, 2021. The featured speaker was Chris LeClair, Otter Tail County Director, Land & Resource Management. Chris presented a detailed analysis of the Shoreland Management Ordinance Revisions adopted by the Otter Tail County Commission on June 22, 2021; effective July 1, 2021.

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

[Shoreland Revision Slideshow](#)

[MORE](#)

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## 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

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## STUART LAKE ASSOCIATION





## Stuart Lake Association Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting for the Stuart Lake Association was held on August 14, 2021 at the Old Town Special Events Center in Clitherall, MN. There were over 55 attendees from Stuart Lake and Baby Stuart Lake.

John Kruse, Otter Tail County Coalition Of Lake Associations (OTC COLA) Administrative Assistant, presented information on COLA and the new OTC Shoreland Ordinance Revisions.

Don Mollerud, President, extolled the many virtues of lake living on Stuart Lake and the activities of its lake property owners. Over 25 participants of the boat parade on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July demonstrated the enthusiasm and excitement that should be a part of every Independence Day celebration. Water quality continues to improve with crystal clarity and Stuart is still free of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) that plague neighboring lakes. The new boat ramp has been useful during the recent low water conditions. The DNR will be stocking fish again in 2022.

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

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## COLA Presentations In 2021

In April 2021 Invitations were sent to all OTC COLA Members for informational presentations to be made at their Annual Meetings. The invitations were sent to available contacts registered with COLA. Six responses

were received with only one late arrival not able to be accommodated because of a scheduling conflict. Presentations were made to Round Lake on June 19, Lake Seven on June 26, Bass Lake Underwood on July 10, Pelican Lakes on July 24 and Stuart Lake on August 14.

The presentations included information about OTC COLA highlighting the numerous benefits of the organization; including sponsorship of the over twenty-year water quality analysis program. Also included in the presentation was information on the new OTC Shoreland Management Ordinance.

Go [HERE](#) for the interactive slideshow used in the presentations

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

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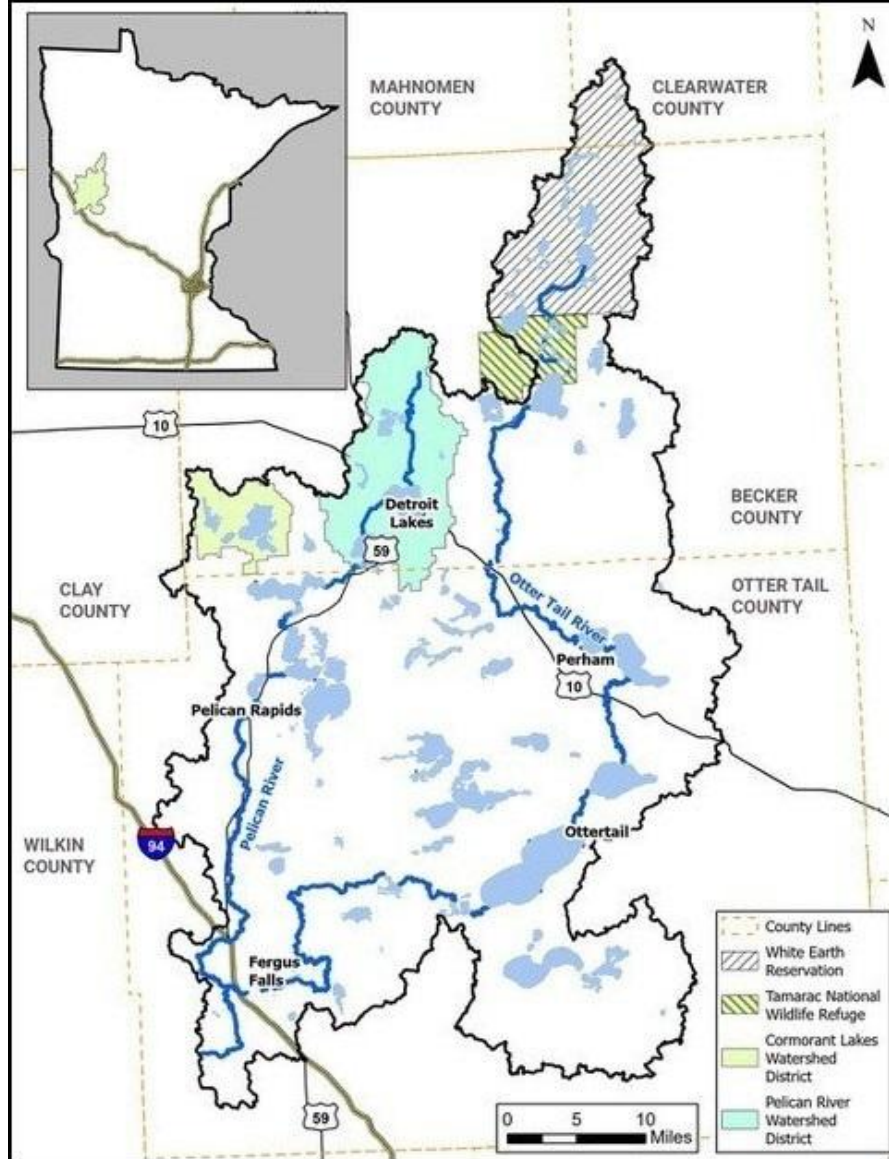
### **Call For Parade Pictures**

Many COLA Members have boat parades to celebrate America's Independence Day. It is a great way to join together to express patriotism for our country. This is an opportunity to share your lake's national enthusiasm. Pick your favorite lake parade pictures and send them in a .jpg format to COLA. Selected pictures will be published in future issues of the OTC COLA E-Newsletter. Email pictures identified by Lake Association to:

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

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## One Watershed, One Plan Survey

One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P) is a program sponsored by the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) for locals to write a water plan on a watershed boundary. Traditionally, these plans have been written based on county boundaries but we are moving away from that model to ones based on watersheds. These are beneficial changes that should help plans be more cohesive and impactful. We'll look at all the issues and protection needs in a watershed and prioritize them. We'll create goals to restore and protect the most important water bodies. Local governments, counties; Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs); and watershed districts, will adopt these plans after the BWSR and other state agencies review the plans.

Please use this link to take the survey: <https://forms.gle/gK9erBtgNf5cPUDSA>  
 There is a QR code we are using for those that want to do the survey on their phone. I've attached it here, The link is also available on our website here: <https://www.eotswcd.org/one/OT1W1P/>

### **Ben Underhill**

East Otter Tail and Wadena SWCDs  
 Water Planner/Watershed Coordinator



MINNESOTA AQUATIC INVASIVE  
SPECIES RESEARCH CENTER

## **2021 Showcase Agenda Announced!**

We are thrilled to release the 2021 [MAISRC Research and Management Showcase agenda](#). As a reminder, the Showcase will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 22, 2021 on the University of Minnesota's St. Paul campus at the Center for Continuing Education and Conference Center. Full session descriptions will be uploaded to the Showcase website as they become available.

This year's line-up will have you pondering eDNA monitoring and genetic biocontrol as the AIS surveillance and management tools of the future. We also have some project updates you won't want to miss! The research team studying low-dose copper for zebra mussel suppression was at Pelican Lake this year. Find out what they were working on and what's next. Also new this year, we will be hosting a common carp management panel with four of our researchers. How can we integrate and build off of their research to protect and restore Minnesota's beloved waters? Join us to find out.

Have you ever wondered where we do our research? Lab tour space is still available for in-person attendees. When registering, select a ticket with the 'lab tour' option. Lab tours are free, but you must pre-register.

This year, we will also be live-streaming a select number of breakout sessions throughout the day. Online participants will be able to watch the morning introduction and then choose between two talks per session. To attend virtually, select the 'online streaming only' option for your ticket.

**[REGISTER FOR THE SHOWCASE TODAY](#)**

[MAISRC](#)

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## **Rinse Station Is Operational**

The Rinse Station Pilot at Miller Park in Perham is operational! Otter Tail County Highway Department workers installed the sign for the Station on Monday August 23. We also received the lab test results for the filtered rinse water—no zebra mussel veligers were detected! Already we have received positive feedback on the Station, a Watercraft Inspector recalls “I had someone come off the lake and they had gotten weeds on their boat so they went over there and washed it off. Really nice!” The Rinse station will stay in operation through September before being winterized for the season. A well-deserved thank you goes out to the City of Perham, Otter Tail Power, Heltemes Electric, and Matt Thorson with Evergreen Lawns for making the project a reality!

[Spencer McGrew](#), AIS Specialist

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## **Persistent Low Water Conditions Continue To Affect Boaters**

**People urged to consider removing watercraft early**



## where water conditions are low

As water levels continue to drop due in many areas to drought, boaters are experiencing significant issues with launching and retrieving boats, according to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

DNR crews are repairing and extending many boat launch ramps to provide boating opportunities in these low-water conditions. However, little can be done to fix boat ramps on naturally shallow lakes or in places where power loading has caused holes that are too deep to fix with equipment.

“Boat ramps that were damaged by power loading provide not only a challenge to launching, but can also result in damage to boats, motors and trailers,” said Nancy Stewart, DNR’s statewide water recreation program lead. “Boaters should always use caution and check the ramp and water levels before launching.”

Visit the [DNR website](#) for boat launching maps and information about power loading.

[MORE](#)

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## Sunfish Central To Proposed Special Fishing Regulations

Anglers can weigh in on proposed special fishing regulations that, if adopted, would become effective next year. Most of the changes proposed by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources are aimed at protecting and improving sunfish sizes by lowering daily limits on 52 lakes.

The DNR made an [online presentation and comment opportunity](#) available for the proposed changes in June. Thus far, the DNR has received nearly 450 comments through the online survey. The online survey is open through Sunday, Oct. 31.

to submit input, contact the [area fisheries office](#), attend the [in-person public meeting](#), or complete the [online survey](#).

[MORE](#)

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## Do You Care For An Aquarium Or Water Garden Pond?

The DNR is conducting [a survey of aquarium and water garden pond owners](#) in the state. We need your advice, to help us prevent the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive plants and animals to Minnesota's waters. Invasive species are non-native species that present risks to Minnesota’s fish, wildlife, plants, water quality, recreation and human health.

Many invasive species have been introduced through global shipping, but hobbies that involve live organisms, such as aquariums and ponds, have also led to the introduction and spread of some invasive species. Some examples of invasive species that have unfortunately been found in the wild in the Great

Lakes region through these pathways include goldfish, red-eared sliders, flowering rush and Brazilian waterweed.

[MORE](#)

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## Northern Pike Zone Regulations

[\*Pelican Rapids Press\*](#)

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources reminds anglers who might want to keep northern pike to familiarize themselves with the regulations and be prepared to measure the fish.

Minnesota has three northern pike zones that apply to inland waters and reflect the differing characteristics of pike populations across the state:

North-central: Limit of 10 northern pike, but not more than two pike longer than 26 inches; all fish 22 to 26 inches must be released.

Northeast: Two northern pike; anglers must release all fish 30 to 40 inches, with only one fish over 40 inches allowed in possession.

South: Two northern pike; minimum size 24 inches.

Throughout the state, special regulations that cover individual lakes, rivers and streams remain in effect and take precedence over the zone regulations. The northern pike zone regulations do not apply to border waters. More information about northern pike zones, including a zone map, is available on the DNR's northern pike page.

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

### Featured Posts - August 2021

- [Power Loading Boats](#)
- [Our Ground Water Connection Videos](#)
- [12 Ways To Protect Your Lake](#)

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## OTC AIS Task Force Minutes

- [August 9, 2021 Draft](#)

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## OTC Board Of Commissioner Minutes

- [July 27, 2021](#)
- [August 10, 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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[John Kruse](#), OTC COLA Administrative Assistant