

IMPORTANT NEWS from Otter Tail County Coalition of Lake Associations

E-Newsletter January 2022



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UPCOMING EVENTS

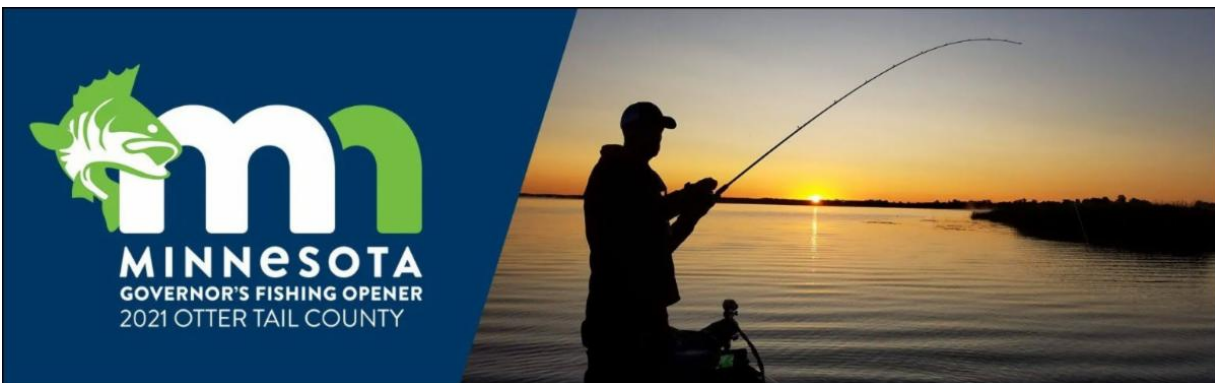
OTC COLA Events Planned for 2022

OTC COLA has several events planned for 2022. Some events will be conducted in collaboration with regional organizations and agencies.

- March 12, 2022, Stewardship cleanup activity at West Battle Lake as a function of the We Are Water Exhibit taking place August 18, 2022 to October 10, 2022.
- June 9, 2022. MN Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC) Conference, MN State, Detroit Lakes, MN.
- July 11, 2022, Starry Stonewort Field Trip to Lake Koronis
- Return to Otter Tail County Lake Property Owner meetings, Otter Tail Community Center, April, May, August (Annual Meeting), September.

Current updates will be published in the future OTC COLA E-Newsletters.

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



Governors Fishing Opener 2021

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.

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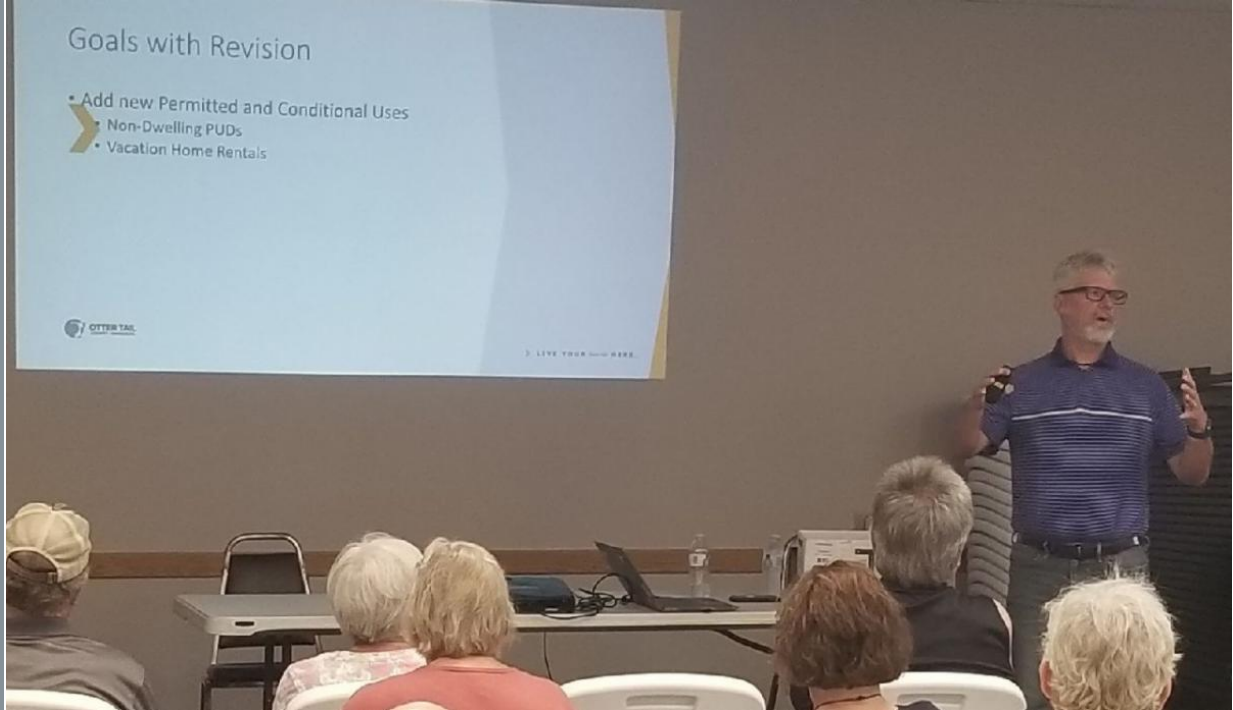


COLA Presentations In 2021

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



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](#)



OTC COLA And OTC AIS Task Force Co-Host Lake Service Provider Appreciation Event

On October 27, 2021 lake service providers in our region were recognized for their contribution to helping combat the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). The event was led by Spencer McGrew, Aquatic Invasive Species Specialist with Otter Tail County's AIS Task Force. The guest speaker was Meg Duhr, Outreach Specialist with the Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center,

University of Minnesota. Her topic was sharing exciting developments and systems that help lake users do the right thing to prevent the spread of AIS.

Lake / Site	Year	Phosphorus Ave	Chlorophyll a Ave	Secchi Ft	TSI Ave
First Silver 56-0302-01 201	2012	21.6	6.2	10.3	46.4
	2013	19.0	5.4	10.9	45.2
	2014	17.3	4.0	10.5	44.3
	2015	20.6	5.2	12.2	44.8
	2016	23.0	4.5	9.7	45.8
	2017	17.4	4.2	11.4	42.8
	2018	13.8	3.4	10.8	41.8
	2019	15.0	4.2	12.9	42.0
	2020	17.6	7.1	10.4	45.4
	2021	14.2	3.4	12.9	41.4
First Silver 56-0302-01 201 Total		18.0	4.8	11.2	44.0

2021 Water Quality Analysis E-Reports Are Published!

The 2021 OTC COLA water quality sampling and analysis program has provided valuable data to lake property owners for over 20 years. 49 OTC COLA Members participated in the program. 60 Otter Tail County lakes were included in the program covering over 70% of Otter Tail County lake acreage. 136 volunteers from the lakes were an important component of the program collecting samples from 68 sites and ensuring that the samples were delivered to RMB Laboratories (RMB) in Detroit Lakes, MN. New report features were added in the 2021 reports. The 2021 program was administered and coordinated by Jeff Vansteenburgh, OTC COLA Environment Director,

[**MORE**](#)

[**Water Quality Analysis Reports 2021**](#)

Top 10 2021 OTC COLA E-Newsletter Click-Throughs

Click-Throughs occur when readers click on the MORE or other links to read more about an article. It is often an indication of what is interesting to readers.

Here are the Top Ten for 2021

1. Water Quality Analysis Reports for 2020 and 2021 (Links in every issue)
 2. Property Owner Directories (Links in every issue)
 3. OTC Shoreland Ordinance Revisions produced by Chris LeClair
 4. Sheephead fish eat Zebra Mussels (Jul 2021)
 5. Power Loading Boats (Apr 2021)
 6. OTC Vacation Home Rentals (Jul 2021)
 7. Ice Fishing Onslaught (Jan 2021)
 8. OTC COLA E-Newsletter Index (Links in every issue)
 9. Governors Fishing Opener boat raffle
 10. West Battle Lake Pontoon Loading (Sep 2021)
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‘We Are Water’ Of Otter Tail County Would Like To Hear Your Connection To H2O

[Author: Pelican Rapids Press](#)

Otter Tail County is hosting a project called We Are Water MN. The traveling exhibit is presented in collaboration with the Minnesota Humanities Center. The goal of the community engagement initiative is to work together to connect, engage and educate each other about Minnesotans’ relationships to water by sharing multiple perspectives.

[MORE](#)

[We Are Water Press Release](#)

1W1P Update

One Watershed, One Plan is a program sponsored by 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. This is a 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; SWCDs; and watershed districts, will adopt these plans after the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) and other state agencies review the plans.

[MORE](#)

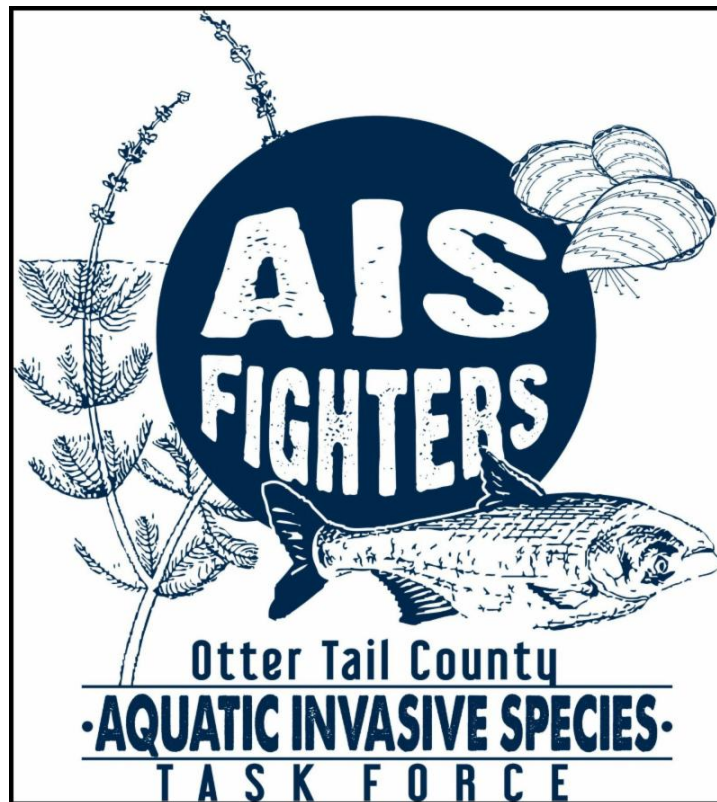
[Ben Underhill](#)

Otter Tail River Watershed Generally Good Water Quality

Author: Pelican Rapids Press

Among numerous impaired waters in the Red River Basin, the Otter Tail River Watershed stands out for its generally good water quality. Pollutant levels are low due to geography, significant amounts of undeveloped land, and actions taken by landowners and local partners.

[MORE](#)



OTC AIS Task Force Update January 2022

- Hiring watercraft inspectors begins in February
- MAISRC event, Detroit Lakes, MN, June 9, 2022
- Watercraft self-service rinse stations program expanded

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Handouts for your Lake Association Meetings

OTC COLA has received requests from Lake Associations for materials to be handed out at Association meetings or other events this summer. OTC COLA and the OTC AIS Task Force have numerous items of 4-color glossy handouts available at no cost. We will be assembling packages of updated and new materials. Lake Associations are invited to submit requests for these packages for distribution. Please send an email to otccola2@gmail.com including the name and email address of the Association contact person and the estimated quantity of handouts being requested. Below are samples of items to be included. More items are being produced at this time.

[Aquatic Invasive Species Identification Card](#)

[OTC COLA Membership Brochure](#)

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



2022 AIS Control Grant Program Update

An update regarding the 2022 AIS Control Grant program has been released by Jake Walsh, DNR AIS Research & Grants Coordinator. The purpose of the update is for notification of changes to the program and to provide my contact information for any questions applicants may have as plans are formed for AIS control projects for 2022. More information has been posted to the [AIS Control Grant Program Webpage](#).

[MORE](#)



Featured Posts - January 2022

- [MN Organizations and Agencies](#)
- [OTC Organizations and Agencies](#)
- [Tax Time - Good Time For Other Filings](#)

www.lakeadmin.org

OTC Board Of Commissioner Minutes

- [December 14, 2021](#)
 - [December 21, 2021](#)
 - [January 4, 2022](#)
 - [January 11, 2022](#)
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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 \(2021 samples\)](#) - Individual reports for 60 OTC 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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Battle Lake Association · West McDonald Lake Association

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