

IMPORTANT NEWS from Otter Tail County Coalition of Lake Associations

E-Newsletter July 2022



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From The President- Sylvia Soeth

We're on a roll! OTC COLA is moving along this summer when we can enjoy freedom to gather together. In addition to successful and educational member meetings, COLA has cooperated with the OTC AIS Task Force on the Starry Stonewort bus tour and the research update from MAISRC in June. We have great working relationships with Becker and Hubbard counties. Not only do we organize, we publicize and we're really good at serving lunch!

There are always so many letters of the alphabet to decipher. If you read the COLA newsletter, it will be clearer. In August our Annual Meeting will be August 18 at the Ottertail Community Center at 7:00 p.m., Betty's brownies

included. That is also the opening day for “We Are Water MN” at the Fergus Library. Volunteer guides, or docents, from COLA will be available at the exhibit until September 10. That is what COLA is all about - water! Check it out at the Fergus Library! Join us!

[Sylvia Soeth](#), President OTC COLA



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.

- August 18, 2022- OTC COLA Member Annual Meeting
 - Spencer McGrew, Otter Tail County Aquatic Invasive Species Specialist
- August 18, 2022 to October 10, 2022 We Are Water Exhibit

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



Starry Stonewort Bus Tour

The threat that starry stonewort poses to Minnesota lakes was made clear to attendees of the starry stonewort Bus Tour to Lake Koronis. The event was held on July 11, 2022. Nearly 40 lake property owners, legislators and other lake stakeholders traveled from Fergus Falls Minnesota to Lake Koronis near Wilmer Minnesota. Kevin Farnum, a Lake Koronis resident and starry stonewort control advocate provided valuable information on the noxious matting algae and gave a history of the efforts Lake Koronis have made to combat this aquatic invasive specie. James Wooton, Minnesota Aquatic



Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC) Starry Trek Detector was on board the bus to talk about the MAISRC Starry Trek program and to answer questions. The event was sponsored by the Otter Tail County Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force and the Otter Tail County Coalition Of Lake Associations.

[OTC County Starry Stonewort Press Release](#)

[NYS Starry Stonewort Fact Sheet](#)

[MNDNR What is Starry Stonewort](#)

[USGS Starry Stonewort](#)

[Stop Starry Stonewort](#)



**New RMB Laboratories Lakes Program Coordinator
Emelia Thielman**

LAKES PROGRAM COORDINATOR

lakes@rmbel.info

218-846-1465

Emelia Thielman is the Lakes Program Coordinator at RMB Environmental Laboratories. She is passionate about understanding and protecting Minnesota's lakes, and specializes in...

- Water quality data analysis and interpretation
- Report compilation and lake management plans
- Coordination with lake associations and volunteers
- EQuIS data submittal
- Aquatic plant identification

In her free time, Emelia enjoys hiking, fly fishing, and spending time outdoors (especially at the lake). She loves learning and strives to gain a better understanding of our lakes every day.

Emelia can be contacted by email at lakes@rmbel.info or by phone at 218-846-1465.

Emelia Thielman
lakes@rmbel.info
218-846-1465

[July Newsletter](#)



MINNESOTA AQUATIC INVASIVE
SPECIES RESEARCH CENTER

Volunteers Needed For Starry Trek 2022

Lake-loving volunteers are needed across the state of Minnesota on Saturday, August 20, 2022 to participate in a search for [starry stonewort](#)—an aggressive, aquatic invasive algae that can spread easily and grows into dense mats at and below the lake's surface.

[MORE](#)

[Starry Trek 2022 Poster](#)

Otter Tail River 1W1P Update

At the May 24, 2022 Otter Tail County Board of Commissioners meeting Land and Resource Director Chris LeClair gave an update from the Otter Tail River One Watershed One Plan (1W1P) Committee. The committee outlined ten priority goals: phosphorus reduction, sediment reduction, increase protection, groundwork protection, soil health enhancement, Aquatic Invasive Species

(AIS) prevention and management, aquatic connectivity enhancement, water retention, stream stabilization and E. coli reduction. With 1600 lakes in the Otter Tail River Watershed, they prioritize lakes; those selected in Otter Tail County are: Paul Lake, Pickerel Lake, Walker Lake, Big Pine Lake, Little Pine Lake, Long Lake in Vergas, Otter Tail Lake, Pelican Lake, Rose Lake, North and South Lizzie, Sybil Lake, West Battle Lake, Little McDonald Lake, North and South Lida Lake, Star Lake, and Dead Lake. LeClair is focused on protecting Otter Tail County's high quality surface water and is focused on obtaining grants for campgrounds and resorts for septic system replacement. The 1W1P Committee will now begin to form a plan of action.

[OTC One Watershed, One Plan](#)

[BWSR One Watershed, One Plan](#)

OTC COLA Annual Meeting

The 2022 OTC COLA Annual Meeting will be held at the Ottetail Community Center in Ottetail Minnesota, 7:00 p.m. August 18, 2022.

The evening will include a short business agenda, and a featured lake association segment on Round Lake 56-0214. The featured speaker will be Spencer McGrew, Aquatic Invasive Species Specialist, Otter Tail County AIS Task Force.

COLA Members as well as other Otter Tail County lake property owners are welcome to attend. Refreshments will be provided prior to the meeting. You are welcome to come early and enjoy the fellowship and networking with other lake property owners.

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



OTTER TAIL COUNTY – MINNESOTA
AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES PREVENTION

AIS Task Force July Update

Summer is here in Otter Tail County. Memorial Day, Father's Day, the 4th of July all have come and gone. It is hot. It is humid. And the lakes are busy. As of July 6th Otter Tail County's Watercraft Inspection Team have inspected over 6,000 watercraft. Compliance with the law has been excellent, with the main issues involving proper bait handling (remember to keep extra water in the vehicle for your minnows and leeches) and dead Zebra mussels attached to self-lifting pontoon legs coming out of winter storage.

2021 PROGRAM SUMMARY

[OTC COLA AIS Prevention 2021 Report](#)



Sign Up To Be We Are Water Docent

**Sign up as a volunteer docent for the We Are Water MN exhibit
@ Fergus Falls Public Library!**

Are you passionate about water, want to learn more, or enjoy sparking curiosity in others? Otter Tail County is looking for volunteers to serve as docents at the We Are Water MN exhibit at Fergus Falls Public Library. Volunteers will select time slots that work with their schedule. Sign up here and learn about our 1-hour docent training event: <https://forms.gle/FwbF8LBMQgdYPJ1o6>

We Are Water MN, a traveling exhibit that explores our relationships with and responsibilities to water, will be visiting Otter Tail County from August 18 - October 10 at the Fergus Falls Public Library. A partnership among state agencies and host sites, We Are Water MN supports communities to collect and tell local water stories, rediscover the many reasons they care about clean water, and practice community-identified ways to protect water. It's not just about water science; it's about history, economy, health, and community identity around water. Learn more: <https://ottertailcountymn.us/project/we-are-water-mn/>

[MORE](#)



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

Featured Posts - July 2022

- [COLA LA Newsletters](#)
- [Postcard Campaigns](#)
- [Powers Of Attorney](#)

www.lakeadmin.org

OTC Board Of Commissioner Minutes

- [June 14, 2022](#)
- [June 28, 2022](#)

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