

IMPORTANT NEWS from Otter Tail County Coalition of Lake Associations

E-Newsletter June 2026



[SUBSCRIBE](#)

Someone forward this Newsletter to you?

Go to the link above to subscribe to the monthly E-Newsletter

[View as Webpage](#)

In This Issue:

- **OTC COLA Upcoming Events**
 - **From The President**
 - **Lake Stewardship Symposium- Survey Results**
 - **Water Sampling Dates Announced**
 - **Why Monitor Lakes?**
 - **OTC COLA Water Quality Analysis Reports**
 - **Water Monitoring Tools Available**
 - **OTC COLA Speaker Team**
 - **WRAP Recycle Drop-Off Map**
 - **MN COLA-**
 - **DNR- Hydraulic Jet Best Practices**
 - **DNR- Prioritize Safety for Recreational Boating**
 - **DNR- Volunteers Needed For Loon Survey**
 - **Watercraft Rinse Station in Erhard**
 - **Find A Decontamination Unit**
 - **OTC Commissioner Meetings on YouTube**
 - **OTC AIS Snapshot Of Accomplishments**
 - **AIS Handbooks - Still Available**
 - **OTC Board Of Commissioners Minutes**
 - **www.lakeadmin.org - Featured Posts**
 - **Instant Access Links-**
 - **[Newsletter Article Index](#)**
 - **[Water Quality Analysis Reports \(2025 Samples\)](#)**
-

UPCOMING EVENTS!

OTC COLA Upcoming Events

Note the Date Change!
June Lake Property Owner Meeting
Tuesday, June 16, 2026

For many years OTC COLA has been fortunate to sponsor lake property owner meetings on the third Thursdays in June, July and August. For June 2026, the Ottertail Community Center has become unavailable for us to use on Thursday, June 18, 2026.

The OTC COLA June 2026 lake property owner meeting has been rescheduled to Tuesday, June 16, 7:00 p.m., at the Ottertail Community Center in the city of Ottertail.



Tracy Borash

The Featured Speaker will be Tracy Borash of RMB Laboratories (RMB), Detroit Lakes Minnesota. RMB has partnered with OTC COLA doing the water quality analysis for its Water Monitoring Program since 1992.

July 16, 2026- Lake Property Owner Meeting, Ottertail Community Center
Pete Guck, Riparian Conservation Specialist at East Otter Tail Soil Conservation District (EOT SWCD) will talk on the services available from EOT SWCD for lake property owners.

August 20, 2026- Lake Property Owner Annual Meeting, Ottertail Community Center.
Spencer McGrew, Otter Tail County Aquatic Invasive Specialist will review activities of the Otter Tail County Watercraft Inspection program. Assisting Spencer will be Deputy Derek Tollefson.

OTC COLA events and meetings are always opportunities for lake property owners to learn how to be better stewards of their lakes and for networking and socializing with other lake property owners.

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

From The President - Sylvia Soeth

What do you know about the COLA water sampling program? There are 61 lakes in the county who have a person dedicated to taking a sample five times during the lake season to deliver to Detroit Lakes. This has been happening since 1992!

Are you that person who goes out on your lake once a month with a tube and secchi disc? Or the person who drives samples to RMB Labs? Come to the COLA meeting on Tuesday, June 16th, so we can recognize you and for you to meet Tracy Borash who has the facts about the sampling program.

For three decades COLA has worked with Bob Borash - Robert M. Borash - of RMB Labs as the Lab has grown and expanded, now even to Puerto Rico. June 16 is an opportunity to meet and learn from Bob's wife, Tracy, what makes each bottle of water important for your lake.

See you the 3rd Tuesday of this month! **Not our usual 3rd Thursday!** "Those who are flexible will not get bent out of shape" when the Community Center is not available

[Sylvia Soeth](#), OTC COLA President



Logo photo courtesy whittenaerials@gmail.com www.vernwhittenphotography.com



Lake Property Owner Symposium 2026 A Great Success!

The beautiful summer morning in May did not dissuade people from attending the Lake Stewardship Symposium at the Thumper Pond Resort on May 16, 2026. Included in attendance were lake property owners from Otter Tail County as well as from several other counties in the region. Represented were numerous lake associations and government county and state agencies. Most of the attendees were conscientious citizens interested in preserving and protecting Minnesota lakes.



Nick Phelps UMN

Responses from the survey sent to all attendees were extremely complimentary. The free hot breakfast was a popular attraction as well as the lineup of knowledgeable speakers that covered a host of relevant subjects and issues. Comments reported were "continue serving breakfast", "good centralized location", "speakers did a good job and were very enthusiastic", "I was glad I went", "excellent symposium", "well organized", "congratulations to the organizers" A big THANK YOU goes out to all who contributed to the success of the event!

Water Sampling Dates Announced

The sampling dates for 2026 have been announced

These are Mondays:

- May 18
- June 22
- July 20
- August 17
- September 21

Samples should be collected Sunday evenings or Monday mornings. It is important that RMB Labs receives the samples within 48 hours of the collection time. Samples can be delivered to RMB between 8am and 5pm, or dropped off at the following locations on Monday morning.

Perham Area

Mark Murdock

218-371-1357

43620 Round Lake Dr

Ottertail, MN

Clitherall / Battle Lake Area

KC Lawn

21443 380th Ave.

Battle Lake, MN 56515

Why Monitor Lakes?

Minnesota is the “Land of 10,000 Lakes” and we are proud to be your partner in preserving these lakes for future generations. Our lakes are an extremely valuable resource. Monitoring water quality allows us to assess current conditions and monitor changes over time. Awareness of current and historical water quality enables and guides lake protection efforts.

Data is a powerful tool. After 8-10 years of consecutive data collection, we can determine:

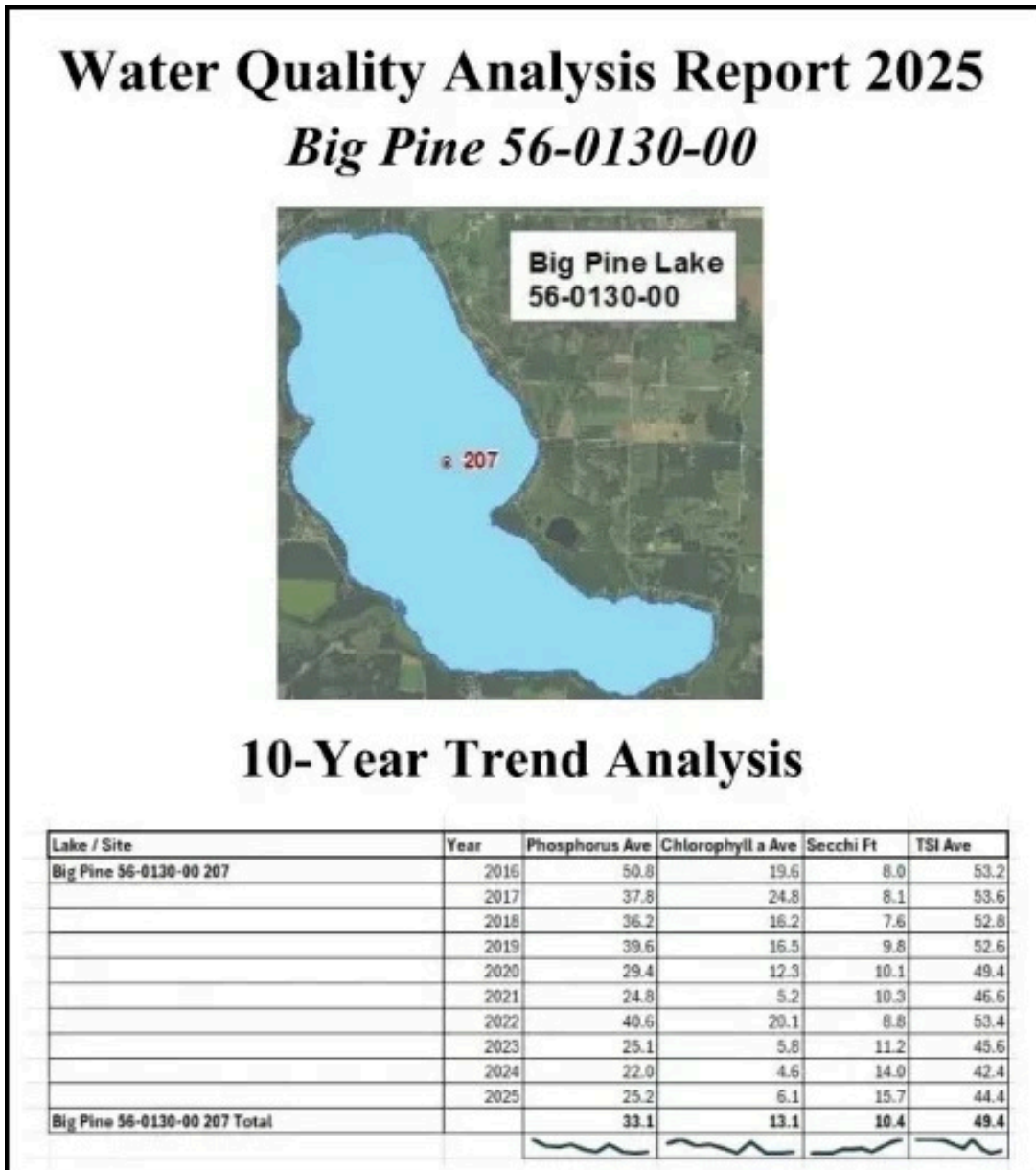
- If water quality is improving or declining in your lake.
- Sources of pollution and the annual pollution load in your lake.
- Which types of clean water projects could benefit your lake and the steps that would be necessary to see significant water quality improvement.

Your data is more than a set of numbers. Your data is used to prioritize Minnesota lakes for protection and restoration efforts, effecting decisions at the local, county, and state level. Millions of dollars of Clean Water Legacy funding are being directed across Minnesota based on volunteer collected data.

Participating in the RMB Lake Monitoring Program is an excellent strategy for understanding and protecting your lake. Thank you for your efforts in preserving Minnesota's lakes!

[RMB Laboratories](#)

218-846-1465



OTC COLA Water Quality Analysis Reports

OTC COLA has published Water Quality Analysis Reports for its participating Members since 2016. The Reports feature a ten-year trend table of phosphorus, chlorophyll-a and secchi disk readings for each sample site, for each lake. The Reports also contain informational click-direct-to links to the DNR Lake Finder, MPCA Lake Dashboard,

UMN Lake Browser, and the DNR Lake Assessment website. They also include directories to state and county lake oriented agencies.

[Water Quality Analysis Reports \(2025 Samples\)](#)

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

Water Sampling Tools Available

OTC COLA has several 2-liter testing tubes and a secchi disk available, free, on a first-come, first-get basis to COLA members. Contact Jeff Vansteenburgh if interested.

Jeff Vansteenburgh

641-420-0928

jeffrey.vansteenburgh@gmail.com



OTC COLA Board Members To Speak At Your Meeting

Lake Associations are in the process of planning their annual meetings for 2026. The OTC COLA Board Members on the Speaker Team are looking forward to invitations to speak at any lake property owner event. Topics are being explored and presentations prepared that are of high interest to lake property owners.

The Team is currently responding to Lake Association requests to schedule speaking dates. Coordinating Team Members with desired meeting dates and times is sometimes a challenge but we will do the best we can to accommodate requests.

There is no cost. Early submissions are the best way to help secure a desired place on the schedule.

To request an OTC COLA speaker at your meeting email John Kruse, OTC COLA Administrative Assistant, at otccola2@gmail.com.



Find Your Drop-Off Spot in a Snap Meet Our Interactive Map

Boat season has its rhythm—unwrap, launch, enjoy, wrap, store, repeat. And when it's time to give that boat wrap a second life, we want to make the recycling part just as smooth as the rest. That's exactly why we built the [Wrap Recycle Right Interactive Map!](#)

Here's the best part: You don't have to live in that specific county to use its public drop-off site. As long as you're a Minnesota resident, any collection site on the map is fair game—so wherever you

[Wrap Recycle Email View In Browser](#)



Go [HERE](#) for a review of the benefits of joining MN COLA

[MNCOLA.ORG](#)

[Subscribe to the MN COLA E-Newsletter](#)

[David Helgersen](#), OTC COLA Director Liaison with MN COLA



Hydraulic Jet Best Practices

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources frequently receives questions about devices that generate water current to blast muck and aquatic plants away from equipment. The DNR refers to these devices generically as hydraulic jets. A person may legally operate a hydraulic jet if it is placed at the surface of the water in such a way that it does not disturb the bottom of the waterbody or destroy rooted aquatic plants.

[MORE](#)

Prioritize Safety for Recreational Boating

While the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources reports that recent years have seen declines in boat-related fatalities (nine in both 2023 and 2024, and seven in 2025), 2026 has already had its first fatalities. It's a reminder that things on the water can turn tragic quickly so safety should be the top priority.

“Our lakes and rivers are second to none and it’s great that for so many people, summer means spending time on the water,” said Capt. Adam Block, DNR boating law administrator. “Our goal is for every boater who leaves the shoreline to make it home safely.”

[MORE](#)

Volunteers Needed for the DNR Loon Survey

Help track Minnesota’s loon population! Now celebrating its 33rd year, the Minnesota Loon Monitoring Program is recruiting volunteers to count the number of adult and juvenile loons on pre-selected lakes one morning between Friday, July 3rd and Monday, July 13th, 2026.

Detailed instructions, training materials, maps, and a data form will be provided. Time commitment is 2-4 hours per lake. Surveys must be done sometime between 5:00 a.m.-12:00 noon. Volunteers must commit to completing assigned lake(s) within the specified time frame and returning completed survey materials.

To see what lakes need a volunteer surveyor or to sign up, go to mndnr.gov/eco/nongame/projects/mlmp_state.html and click on “Volunteer Map”.

For questions or more information, call or e-mail the loon monitoring coordinator:

Contact Amy Westmark, Fergus Falls, 218-849-9689, amy.westmark@state.mn.us



New Watercraft Rinse Station in Erhard

Otter Tail County has added a new self-service watercraft rinse station at Erhard City Park, giving boaters another convenient option to clean their watercraft and help stop the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS). The City of Erhard collaborated to host a new rinse station which is located at the intersection of County Highway 24 and Park Avenue in Erhard. Boaters can use the station to rinse their watercraft, trailers, and equipment before moving to another body of water.

[MORE](#)



Find a Decontamination Unit

Otter Tail County operates a staffed decontamination unit at the Otter Tail Lake Sportsman Public Water Access 1.5 miles south of downtown Ottertail City off of Minnesota State Highway 78. Otter Tail County also has three self service watercraft rinse stations. The rinse stations are located at:

- Lions Park (749 Lakeshore Drive) City of Battle Lake
- Paul Miller Park (45476 County Highway 51) City of Perham
- Erhard City Park (County Highway 24 and Park Ave)

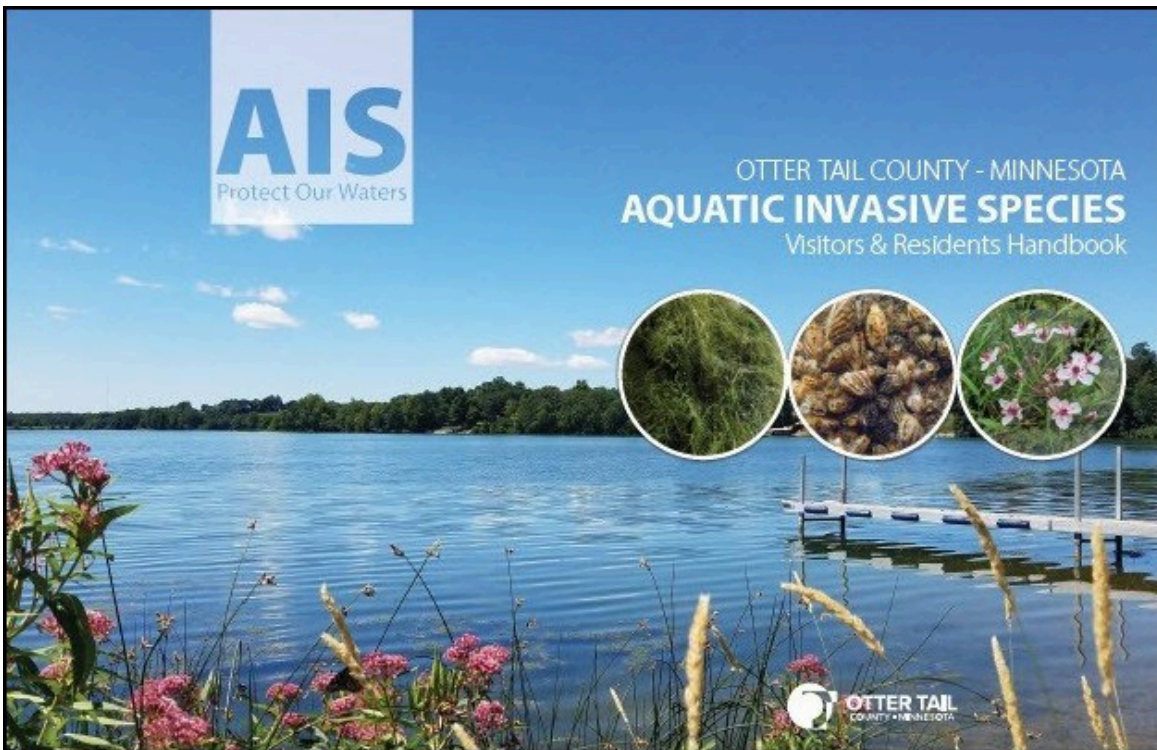
[MORE](#)



**Board of Commissioners Meetings Now Available on
YouTube**

Board of Commissioners meetings are available to re-watch on YouTube. To access the videos, visit the [Board of Commissioners page](#) and scroll to “Recent Meetings and Events” or visit our [Public Meetings playlist on YouTube](#). The meeting videos are divided into chapters by agenda item so you can click the video timeline to jump directly to the segment you would like to watch. Videos remain available for three months after each meeting.

Otter Tail County AIS Prevention Aid Program
[A Snapshot of Accomplishments in 2025](#)
[Spencer McGrew](#), OTC AIS Specialist



AIS Handbooks Now Available

The enthusiastically acclaimed AIS Handbook sponsored by the Otter Tail County AIS Task Force is now available. The Handbook will be distributed to lake property owners, resort owners, and civic organizations in Otter Tail County. Quantities can be reserved from Otter Tail County Land & Resource 218-998-8095. Besides disseminating AIS prevention best practices in the Handbooks, the AIS prevention information will also be published in area newspapers and included in social media posts.

[AIS Handbook for Visitors and Residents](#)

[AIS Handbook for Visitors and Residents Cover](#)

[Spencer McGrew, Otter Tail County AIS Specialist](#)

OTC Board Of Commissioner Minutes

- [April 28, 2026](#)
- [May 12, 2026](#)



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

June 2026 Featured Posts

- [Lake Stewardship](#)
- [Lakeshore / Groundwater Videos](#)
- [Lakeshore Owners- Loving Their Lakes to Death](#)

www.lakeadmin.org

[Subscribe to the FREE lakeadmin.org BULLETIN](#)
to learn about new and featured posts

Instant Access Links

- [Newsletter Article Index](#)- Visually scan article titles from all OTC COLA E-Newsletters from 2018.
- [Water Quality Analysis Reports \(2025 samples\)](#)
- [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

[Subscribe to the OTC COLA E-Newsletter](#)

OTC COLA Board of Directors

David Helgersen · Jeff Stabnow · Jeff Vansteenburgh
Roger Neitzke · Ronald Christensen · Scott Gaudette · Sylvia Soeth

OTC COLA Members

Bass Lake Underwood Association · Berger Lake Association · Big McDonald LID ·
Boedigheimer Lake Association · Buchanan 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 · Lida Lakes

Improvement District · 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 Lakeshore 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 Owners Association · South Turtle Lake Improvement District · Spitzer Lake Property Owners Association · Stalker Lake Association · Star Lake Property Owners Association · Stuart Lake Association · Swan Lake Association · Sybil Lake Association · Tamarac Lake Association · Ten Mile Preservation Association · Trowbridge-Leek Lake Association · Wall Lake Association · West Battle Lake Association · West McDonald Lake Association · Wymer Lake Association

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

OTCCOLA | 4302 13th Ave S, Ste 4-333 | Fargo, MN 58103 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)