



## Board Meeting

Wednesday, December 8, 2021

6:30 PM – 7:45 PM

Hybrid: Zoom & Sherburne SWCD Office  
425 Jackson Ave NW, Elk River, MN

## AGENDA



### 1. Opening & Consider Agenda (10 min.)

- Approve [10/13/21 Meeting Minutes](#)
- Treasurer's Report [Monthly Financial Report](#) and [Bank Statements](#)

### 2. Updates (35 min.)

- Inspect and Clean Equipment Campaign Outcomes (Fall 2021)
- Sherburne County AIS Semi-Annual Task Force Open Meeting
- 2022 Sherburne SWCD and/or MN DNR AIS Grant Applications
- [Minnesota's Impaired Waters List \(draft 2022\)](#)
- Lake Stewardship: Strategies to Improve Water Quality
- Rum River Watershed Comprehensive Plan (public review & comment)

### 3. 2021 – 2022 Initiative Next Steps (25 min.)

- AIS Early Detection and Rapid Response Task Force
- [Business Sponsorship Campaign](#) and Project Fund Use (e.g., AIS prevention, education, soil erosion, well sealing, agricultural projects)
- Educational Tchotchkes/Swag (e.g., coasters, placemats, key chains)
- Sherburne County "Adopt-a-Stormdrain" (AAS) Project

### 4. Meeting Follow-up Recap and Closure (5 min.)

SC COLA Board Upcoming Meeting Dates: 2/9, 4/13, 6/8

# MINUTES

Attendees: Shelly Alger-Peyton, Ken Andreen, Scot Chapman, Dan Cibulka, Mike Donnelly, Cindi Edwards-Plant, Sharon Fischer, Karna Lundquist, Dean McDevitt, Steve Mockenhaupt, Patrick Plant, and Scott Ruiter.

## 1. Opening & Consider Agenda (10 min.)

- Introductions

A motion was made by Scott R. and a second from Scot C. to approve the agenda. All were in favor; agenda approved.

- Approve [10/13/21 Meeting Minutes](#)

A motion was made by Ken A. and second from Dean M. to approve the 8/11/21 meeting minutes. All were in favor; minutes approved.

- Treasurer's Report [Monthly Financial Report](#) and [Bank Statements](#)

Since Chris W. was out of town, Patrick gave a brief summary of the Treasurers Report. Our balance is up slightly from the last statement. Expenses are minimal due to the COVID pandemic and few events held, so our fund balance has increased.

A motion was made by Scott R. and second from Ken A. to approve the Treasurer's Report. All were in favor; minutes approved.

## 2. Updates (25 min.)

- Inspect and Clean Equipment Campaign Outcomes (Fall 2021)

Patrick shared a summary of the water equipment educational handout that had been circulated this fall, to educate riparian users on the importance of looking for AIS on equipment that is removed. Sharon shared a finding that she had with some small insects/snails, Dan had taken a look and concluded it was not a zebra mussel, was likely a small immature snail.

- Sherburne County AIS Semi-Annual Task Force Open Meeting

The date has been set for this meeting – December 20<sup>th</sup>, 5:30-pm-7:30pm at the Elk River Library. Dan discussed the topics that would be discussed at the meeting, which will have a virtual option. Patrick will share several updates on behalf of the COLA at the meeting.

- 2022 Sherburne SWCD and/or MN DNR AIS Grant Applications

Dan provided an update on the county grant program. The RFP is now open and the deadline to apply is February 18<sup>th</sup>. The program will offer the same sub-categories as in years past. Also, groups are able to apply to both the county and DNR grant programs as in the past. If two grants are awarded, one will need to be chosen over the other. Executive Committee had a discussion about how to increase grant proposals from Sherburne County to the DNR grant program. Patrick and Scott would be able to lead a discussion over navigating the two grant programs. The goal is to increase the capacity of local lake groups to write grants to the DNR.

- [Minnesota's Impaired Waters List \(draft 2022\)](#)

Dan shared a summary of the impaired waters listing and updates. Eagle Lake has been added to the impaired waters list for excessive nutrients. At the same time, Birch Lake and "Unnamed Stream" have been delisted as they are now meeting water quality standards. For more information on the impaired waters list and process, contact Dan Cibulka.

- Lake Stewardship: Strategies to Improve Water Quality

Dean M. shared an effort that the Little Elk Lake Improvement Association has been working on. They developed a Lake Stewardship list to help educate the current and new residents on the lake. The list includes Strong Interventions and Medium Interventions, in an order the group felt was important to Little Elk Lake. The list includes best practices for shoreline buffers, AIS monitoring, promoting bow fishing of carp, awareness of fertilizers and lawn chemicals, keeping trash/debris out of the lake, being involved in the lake association, ordinances, pet waste management, and other items. Some supporting documents were provided for more information. The LELIA would like to make this document available to others to use for their lake groups. Patrick discussed several ideas for how the materials could be shared and integrated into COLA messaging in coordination with the AIS EDRR template. Mike and Shelly asked how the LELIA shares the document and supported the idea of sharing the document with other lake residents and lake users. Patrick will work with Dean to put together an email communication and also post the information on our website.

- Rum River Watershed Comprehensive Plan (public review & comment)

The Rum River Watershed Plan is soon entering a public review phase. An hour long workshop will be held to provide a high-level overview of the plan and guide stakeholders on how they can provide comments or be involved on the plan. The meeting will be held virtually on December 16<sup>th</sup>. Dan will send the meeting link out to the group.

### 3. 2021 – 2022 Initiative Next Steps (35 min.)

- AIS Early Detection and Rapid Response Task Force

Patrick provided a history of how the AIS EDRR template came about, and the direction it is going. It has moved from a static plan to an interactive plan, with different levels of engagement and information. The handouts have been uploaded to the SC COLA Google Drive account, and links available live on the staging website. The interactive version of the handouts now have links to contact information, identification websites, and local case studies.

Discussion was had regarding sharing the results of this project with neighboring lake associations / COLAs who had provided information. Further discussion over SC COLA's liaison to MN COLA. This will be a topic for the next Executive Committee meeting.

- [Business Sponsorship Campaign](#) and Project Fund Use (e.g., AIS prevention, education, soil erosion, well sealing, agricultural projects)

Patrick discussed preparations for the 2022 campaign and went over the materials created to track outreach and contributions. He will email an update to board members after the holidays.

- Educational Tchotchkes/Swag (e.g., coasters, placemats, key chains)

This has been identified as a potential outreach project for 2022. Patrick suggested that this be moved to a primary discussion point at the February 2022 meeting. Discussion occurred on the types of materials and messaging. The Lake Stewardship list might be a good starting point for content.

- Sherburne County “Adopt-a-Stormdrain” (AAS) Project

More information to come as local governmental units sign up for the project.

### 4. Meeting Follow-up Recap and Closure (5 min.)

Please see meeting follow-up action items underlined above within the minutes.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m. with a motion to adjourn by Scot C.

Meeting minutes submitted by Dan Cibulka, Sherburne SWCD ex-officio representative.