



Board Meeting
Wednesday, February 1, 2023
6:30 PM – 7:45 PM
Via Zoom: [hyperlink](#) to join meeting

AGENDA



1. Opening & Consider Agenda (10 min.)

- Approve [12/14/22 Meeting Minutes](#)
- Treasurer's Report [Monthly Financial Report](#) and [Bank Statements](#)

2. Updates (25 min.)

- Mississippi Watershed Comprehensive Plan (1W1P)
 - Outcomes from Open House on January 31
- Upcoming SWCD Events and Video Webinars
- 2023 [Sherburne SWCD](#) Grant Applications
- Level 1 AIS Inspections - Additional Hours Opportunity

3. 2022 – 2023 Initiative Next Steps (35 min.)

- 2023 [Business Sponsorship Campaign](#) (January 18 – March 24)
 - Letter, Form, Contact List and Sample Sponsorship Request Email
- [“We Are Water MN”](#) Exhibit and Events (March 2 – April 24)
 - 2023 Special Event Planning Sub-committee
- 2023 Legislative Session Monitoring and Advocacy
- Sherburne County Partnerships
 - [“Adopt-a-Stormdrain”](#) (AAS) Project
 - Sheriff's Office Water Safety Annual Meeting

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

SC COLA Board Upcoming Meeting Dates: 2/1, 4/5*, 6/7

*Note: may be held in conjunction with a “We Are Water MN” event (date TBD) or rescheduled.

MINUTES

Attendees: Shelly Alger-Peyton, Ken Andreen, Nate Bunce, Scot Chapman, Dan Cibulka, Mike Donnelly, Cindi Edwards-Plant, Sharon Fischer, Patrick Plant, Scott Ruitter and Leslie Waterhouse.

1. Opening & Consider Agenda (10 min.)

- A motion was made by Scott R. and a second from Leslie W. to approve the agenda. All were in favor; agenda approved.
- Approve [12/14/22 Meeting Minutes](#)
 - A motion was made by Scott R. and second from Mike D. to approve the 12/14/22 board meeting minutes. All were in favor; minutes approved.
- Treasurer's Report [Monthly Financial Report](#) and [Bank Statements](#)
 - Reimbursement for SWCD for their half of magnet costs received.
 - 7 of 9 memberships fees received. Scot will check on Big Lake/Mitchell Lake on payment status. Karl Krueger from Thompson Lake has indicated that he is checking on theirs.
 - A motion was made by Leslie W. and second from Scot C. to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented by Chris Weber. All were in favor; report approved.

2. Updates (35 min.)

- Mississippi Watershed Comprehensive Plan (1W1P)
 - Outcomes from Open House on January 31.
 - 70 attendee's includes staff.
 - Different stations were available for attendees to see the proposed plans and complete survey responses stating their priorities.
 - Virtual open house w/ interactive survey's is currently live on website. Survey is open until 2/15/23.
 - Dan C. will send out an email w/ link to assoc., townships, cities, etc. so COLA members can send out to their assoc. committee members.
 - Check website for policies, updates, etc.
 - There will be a Spring 2023 1W1P executive meeting scheduled.
- Upcoming SWCD Events and Video Webinars
 - We are Water MN exhibit list of events and activities:
 - 3/2/23 - 4/24/23 - The Elk River History Center hosting the We are Water MN exhibit
 - 4/22/23 - World Water Day and Youth Water Festival
 - May - "Walk the Mississippi River" event in St Cloud
 - May - Ag Conservation Day
 - May - Benton County/Local Foley farmer presentation re: irrigation, cover crops, etc.
 - COLA sponsored Spring/Summer/Fall event(s) TBD
 - Annual tree sale is now on SWCD website

- SWCD creating webinars/podcasts about alternative turf options: different grasses and others options TBD
- Question: Was the Rum River canoe survey completed and/or planned question by (Ken A.) – Dan C. answer - cancelled from 2022 due to unpredictable flow conditions, Dan C. will look into if rescheduling is a possibility.
- 2023 [Sherburne SWCD](#) Grant Applications
 - Grants are due 2/18/23 and a few have been submitted already.
- Level 1 AIS Inspections - Additional Hours Opportunity
 - SWCD contracts with Water guards LLC to get inspectors through the DNR to do level 1 inspections (level 1 speaks to people at boat launches) at boat launches.
 - Contact Dan C. if your association wants to get additional hours at their boat landings, inspectors charges are \$25.60 per hr.
 - Association members can sign-up to complete a DNR volunteer inspectors program and complete 50-100hrs of training individually or as a group, at their boat launches, to get certified and get funding for the hours reimbursed to their association.

3. 2022 – 2023 Initiative Next Steps (25 min.)

- 2023 [Business Sponsorship Campaign](#) (January 18 – March 24)
 - Letter, Form, Contact List and Sample Sponsorship Request Email
 - Members can give businesses that donate a Healthy Check List magnet, if it is decided by COLA member, and Patrick has extras if a member is out.
 - Patrick emailing out sample request letter to send out to businesses.
 - ADD sample member letter about magnets from Sandy Lake and BLCA
 - Patrick will email out the lake association sample letters to COLA members for business donation solicitating.
 - Let Patrick know by 2/10/23 what members are going to take on business list to contact and final list decisions to Cindi by 3/24/23, so she can revise the ads/sponsorship list in the new COLA reference/directory.
- [“We Are Water MN”](#) Exhibit and Events (March 2 – April 24) during normal business hours
 - 2023 Special Event Planning Sub-committee:
 - Replacing April 5, 2023 meeting to coincide with the We are Waters MN event
 - Have COLA board members sponsor an event to draw in attendee’s
 - speaker on blue green algae, which is a topic many people ask about, with an activity and/or exhibit
 - a person (Steve McComas) called “The Lake Detective” to lead or speak at the event
 - Suggested a minimal budget (not to exceed \$500) for a guest speaker (includes time, travel expenses, food, etc.), COLA board has previously had Mike O’Connell from LMI
 - Scott R. suggested - James Johnson a speaker from “Fresh Water Scientific”
 - A motion was made by Sharon F. and a second from Scot C. to allow smaller group/committee to discuss event details, speakers and costs not to exceed \$500. All were in favor; motion approved.

- Discussed having an event on our individual lakes - TBD
- Scott R. and Scot C. volunteered to help with event planning committee
- 2023 Legislative Session Monitoring and Advocacy
 - DNR may possibly get funds for various projects, of \$287.4 million per One MN Budget and Governor Walz.
 - If bills weren't passed in 2022 they will need to be resubmitted for 2023, one is permanent funding for SWCD's.
 - SWCD funding is up for legislative discuss every 2 years, this bill (HF 735) will make the funding permanent.
- Sherburne County Partnerships
 - Tabled for next COLA meeting:
 - Dan and Patrick will work with Cole P. to determine when the Sheriff's Office annual water safety meeting is scheduled for.
 - "Adopt-a-Stormdrain" (AAS) 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 7:55p.m. with a motion to adjourn by Shelly A.P.

Meeting minutes submitted by Shelly Alger-Peyton, SC COLA Secretary.