

# Board Meeting

### Wednesday, February 7, 2024

### 6:30 PM – 7:45 PM

Via Zoom: [hyperlink](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87924597220?pwd=VmVMUGZJa1ZaZy91YnJwOFBtOTZodz09) to join meeting

## AGENDA



1. Opening & Consider Agenda (10 min.)

* Approve 12/6/23 Meeting Minutes
* Treasurer’s Report [Monthly Financial Report](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1u3Od1VXx0JvamoN6bCNmLkTWDYx37C3c) and [Bank Statements](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1MOPGplZ0rMIst2UfC3W4FvwmPBJ1Gp6E)

1. Updates (25 min.)

* 2024 Sherburne SWCD and MN DNR AIS Grant Programs
* Sherburne County AIS Fall Task Force Meeting Results/Next Steps
* MN COLA December Meeting [Minutes](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1zRl0xbaxRHfIOhmRE1IsI44CYM6T52xS/view) and January [Newsletter](https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Current-Waters-newsletter---January-2024.html?soid=1138734197383&aid=Evtp7YnCvM0)
* [Rum River](https://www.millelacsswcd.org/1w1p/rum-river-one-watershed-one-plan/) & [Mississippi Watershed Comprehensive Plan](https://www.millelacsswcd.org/1w1p/mississippi-river-st-cloud-watershed-plan/) (1W1P)

1. 2024 Business Sponsorship Campaign (10 min.)
2. 2023 – 2024 Initiative Next Steps (25 min.)

* Sherburne County Partnerships
  + County-wide water monitoring program
  + AIS Prevention Tools/Stations ([Aqua Weed Stick](https://aquaweedstick.com/collections), [Meeker](https://www.co.meeker.mn.us/585/AIS-NEWS), [CD3](https://www.cd3systems.com/PRODUCTS/))  
    Links to a [PBS video](https://youtu.be/wx6jMoR60uA?si=d91sb_T0LNI7T5tX), [KAXE article](https://www.kaxe.org/local-news/2023-08-08/association-of-cass-county-lakes-installs-almost-50-self-serve-ais-cleaning-stations) and [PDF](https://drive.google.com/file/d/16nfheuameJWigUHVHUl_tQJKlz6efvCm/view?usp=sharing) file with further information. Developing a strategy will be part of the new 5-year Sherburne County AIS Prevention Plan.
* Additional Special Event and/or Project Planning
  + [Keep It Clean Coalition](https://keepitcleanmn.org/)
  + Steve McComas the “Lake Detective” event to discuss algae blooms, ice out, AIS spraying, etc. on Saturday, April 13, 2024
  + Other event or project that we want to consider pursuing?
* 2024 Legislative Session Monitoring and Advocacy
  + [MN COLA/MLR Legislative Agenda](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1LrI1lvngvtHWmU1Th7ZGtBvzwSHIJIsC/view)

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

SC COLA Board Upcoming Meeting Dates: 3/6, 6/5

MINUTES



Attendees: Shelly Alger-Peyton, Nate Bunce, Dan Cibulka, Mike Donnelly (vote remotely), Cindi Edwards-Plant, Sharon Fischer, Patrick Plant, Scott Ruiter and Chris Weber.

1. Opening & Consider Agenda (10 min.)

* A motion was made by Scott R. and a second from Chris W. to approve the agenda. All were in favor; agenda approved.
* Approve 12/6/23 Meeting Minutes
* A motion was made by Patrick P. and second from Shelly AP. to approve the 12/6/23 board meeting minutes. All were in favor; minutes approved.
* Treasurer’s Report [Monthly Financial Report](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1u3Od1VXx0JvamoN6bCNmLkTWDYx37C3c) and [Bank Statements](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1MOPGplZ0rMIst2UfC3W4FvwmPBJ1Gp6E)
* A motion was made by Sharon F. and second from Patrick P. to approve the Treasurer’s Report. All were in favor; report approved.

1. Updates (25 min.)

* 2024 Sherburne SWCD and MN DNR AIS Grant Programs
* Dan C. – SWCD received 14-15 grants total, will get approved at the March meeting due to several coming in close to the February 1 deadline.
* Typically, more control grants are received, some volunteer/education grants, AIS management courses/tuition grants and vegetation grants.
* MN DNR – Dan C. stated that no Sherburne County groups have received grants so far this year. Angelique, the program coordinator, is waiting to get confirmation of other applicants accepting their grants before releasing the list of grant recipients.
* Orono Lake, Big Lake and Big Elk Lake were all denied and the BLCA upper 3 lakes are unknown at this time.
* Sherburne County AIS Fall Task Force Meeting Results/Next Steps
* Dan C. – Year-end meeting details, Chris Jurek discussed that starry stonewort had a few success stories within Wright County. These were a success because, it was identified early and manual removal using divers was successful.

– Sherburne County is looking at using “Galerucella beetles” that have been found to be predator to

eat/kill purple loosestrife. Sherburne Co. is setting up harvesting ponds using kiddie pools, possibly in Becker, in Spring 2024 to increase the number of beetles prior to releasing them into lakes that have a purple loosestrife problem and volunteer to participate.

* Big Sandy Lake, the BLCA and a few other lake associations are interested in participating in this program.
* This program has been studied by the USDA for 10yrs. The beetles were studied to see if they attack any other plant life, trees, corn crops, etc. and it was found that the beetles only feed on purple loosestrife, however the amount of beetles needed has to be in thousands to be effective.
* Scott R. – Hand pulling was done in Rush Lake a couple years ago with divers for EWM and was very successful. 2-3 acres of EWM was removed from Rush Lake.
* Patrick P. – Lake Orono had 8.5 acres of EWM and they were told that that was too large of a project to hand pull w/ divers. Dan C. will determine what the cut-off size of acreage is for future hand pulling/diver projects.
* Dan C. – SWCD is working on updating a new 5yr plan this Spring. A survey will be developed and sent out to get feedback on what people want to see, learn and get more information about.
* MN COLA [December Meeting Minutes](December%20Meeting%20Minutes) and [Legislative Agenda](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1LrI1lvngvtHWmU1Th7ZGtBvzwSHIJIsC/view)
* Next meeting is in March, Patrick and Sharon will attend.
* [Rum River](https://www.millelacsswcd.org/1w1p/rum-river-one-watershed-one-plan/) & [Mississippi Watershed Comprehensive Plan](https://www.millelacsswcd.org/1w1p/mississippi-river-st-cloud-watershed-plan/) (1W1P)
* Dan C. – Rum River hosted an event in Princeton January on a Saturday morning generating some new ideas and questions.
* They are also pulling together all their activity and project data to show the level of progress for their 10yr. goal.
* Mississippi River St. Cloud area advisory committee met in late January. Went through the on the ground actions that were performed and discussed the outcome, as well as discussed supplementary programs, education programs, studies and regulations.
* A plan is being drafted to come out in late April after the policy committee meets in early April. In July, the draft will go to the public for a 60 day review period and then to the state for review and once approved to being implementation in 2025.
* People can contact SWCD with project ideas and/or questions so they can be discussed and are ready when approvals come in.

1. 2024 [Business Sponsorship Campaign](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1PAuxC9qxIeI3Gq-rZ6g5w0-G6ZL16tXg?usp=sharing) (10 min.)

* The sponsorship letter is posted on the COLA website and letters will go out next week and Patrick will make contacts at that time.

1. 2023 – 2024 Initiative Next Steps (25 min.)

* Sherburne County Partnerships
  + County-wide water monitoring program

- Dan C. – Private land programs to improve habitat and ideas to improve private land through prairie restoration is on Sherburne County’s radar, because of its wildlife refuge area.

- A program is being encouraged to the public through SWCD presented by Grayson Smith with the US Fish and Wildlife Service to plant native grasses and pollinator lawns that use less water, no fertilizers, etc.

- SWCD is looking at purchasing rain barrels through Rain Barrels America and purchasing a bulk order to distribute to interested parties.

- Water monitoring committee has a large amount of data from their two meeting and it needs to be organized. Dan, Patrick and Sharon will organize the data for a future presentation.

* + AIS Prevention Tools/Stations ([Aqua Weed Stick](https://aquaweedstick.com/collections), [Meeker](https://www.co.meeker.mn.us/585/AIS-NEWS), [CD3](https://www.cd3systems.com/PRODUCTS/))  
    Links to a [PBS video](https://youtu.be/wx6jMoR60uA?si=d91sb_T0LNI7T5tX), [KAXE article](https://www.kaxe.org/local-news/2023-08-08/association-of-cass-county-lakes-installs-almost-50-self-serve-ais-cleaning-stations) and [PDF](https://drive.google.com/file/d/16nfheuameJWigUHVHUl_tQJKlz6efvCm/view?usp=sharing) file with further information. Developing a strategy will be part of the new 5-year Sherburne County AIS Prevention Plan.
* Additional Special Event and/or Project Planning
  + [Keep It Clean Coalition](https://keepitcleanmn.org/)

- Keep it Clean worked with Star Tribune to develop geo-fencing informational document. Geo-Fencing technology can work through your cell phone provider, WiFi, cable or satellite TV, physical addresses, etc. More information will be discussed if this is a program that Sherburne Co., SWCD and the COLA want to participate in to get geo-fencing in place for lake associations and other entities to participate in to keep lake visitors informed of AIS, DNR law, etc. when around these types of areas.

- Scott R. – The BLCA created signage about the new garbage/debris legislation that began July 1, 2023. They created & purchased 5 signs that were approved by Sherburne County Sheriff’s office and the MN DNR and these are now on display for lake visitors at each of their 4 boat launches and 1 canoe access.

- Chris & Shelly – no ice fishing materials were purchased from KICC due to thin ice conditions and lake of ice fisherman this ice fishing season. We will research Spring/Summer materials and discuss in the future.

* + Steve McComas the “Lake Detective” event to discuss algae blooms, ice out, AIS spraying, etc. on Saturday, April 13, 2024.

- Shelly AP. – Steve McComas is confirmed to attend the BLCA meeting on April 13, 2024 at 10:00am, however he has not confirmed his fee for transportation and/or materials and Shelly will confirm those details prior to the event. Shelly also informed this committee that she was asked to schedule PLM lake management company to present as well and that presentation is now on the same day after Steve’s presentation. Splitting costs will be discussed at the March meeting between the BLCA and SC COLA.

* + Other event or project that we want to consider pursuing? See comments above about Grayson Smith and Rain Barrels as additional ideas.
* 2024 Legislative Session Monitoring and Advocacy

- Wake boat issues discussed with a possible 600-foot minimum shoreline distance and a minimum depth restriction in phase 2.

- Looking at water quality in wetlands, funding research centers, an increase in watercraft surcharges for MAISRC funding, AIS funding and the DNR.

- Discussion about increasing AIS compliance pertaining to violations and fines.

- Discussion about increasing AIS funding from 10M to 20M per year.

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

SC COLA Board Upcoming Meeting Dates: 3/6, 6/5

- 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 Shelly AP.

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