



**SC COLA** is a Coalition of Lake Associations in Sherburne County, Minnesota formed in 2017.

### **Mission:**

- To protect and enhance the quality of our lakes, rivers, fish and wildlife habitats; preserve the economic, recreational and natural environmental values of our shorelands and waters; and promote their safe and responsible use.

**SC COLA's** mission supports and enhances the work of our members to promote and protect the interests of lakeshore property owners, lake associations, local government, public and private partners, community members and future generations.

### **Vision:**

- Protecting our lakes, rivers and waterways today and tomorrow

### **Strategies to achieve our Mission and Vision:**

- **Efficiencies** – Taking advantage of products and services at a lower group-based price, such as chemical testing, monitoring, signage, restoration, invasive species and aquatic plant management, etc. In addition, knowledge sharing about new funding opportunities.
- **Community Outreach and Education** – Educating the broader public on water quality, shoreland management best practices and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS), with opportunities or materials for all ages. Also provide educational resources to city and county officials.
- **Information Sharing** – Share best practices, AIS management strategies, lake issue related problem solving, funding opportunities, social opportunities and newsletters within and across groups. In addition, provide a directory/reference of lake representative, service provider and government contacts.
- **Capacity Building** – Actively seek to assist members with recruitment, public relations, board development, and other activities.
- **Advocacy and Partnering** – Form a unified voice to garner the support of elected officials and increase their attention to waters related issues, impact local and state policies and funding, build relationships with MN COLA, MN DNR, MPCA, Freshwater Society, MN Lake and River Advocates and others.

## Examples of actions:

- Design and distribution of an “[Annual Healthy Lakes Checklist](#)” magnet to promote lake stewardship and association participation.
- Lake Detective & PLM Aquatic Invasive Species Management event in April, 2024.
- Our AIS Early Detection Rapid Response Task Force developed an [interactive universal action plan](#) to help member lakes be prepared for if/when new Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) challenges occur.
- Assisted in promoting Starry Trek, [water equipment cleaning protocol](#) use and zebra mussel monitoring platform distribution.
- Annual e-distribution of our “Lake Directory & Reference” of lake representative, service provider and government contacts.

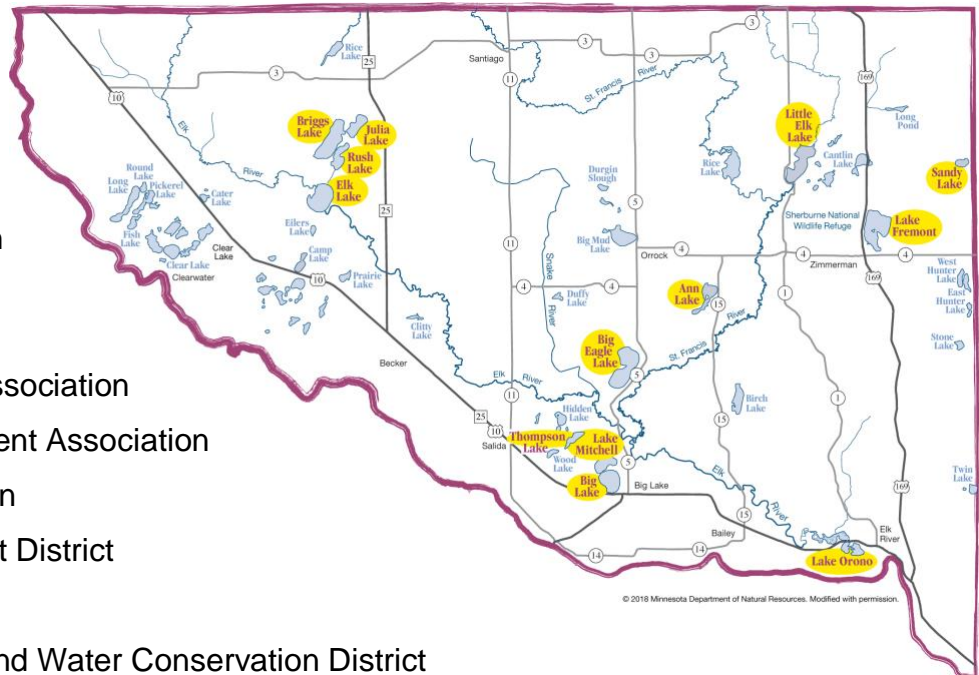
## Activities for the upcoming year:

- Pursue ways to promote lake stewardship and association member participation (e.g., geofencing, education events and promotional items), promote waters-related advocacy and the reduction of water quality impairments and soil erosion.
- Help implement the 2025-2029 AIS Prevention Plan, co-sponsor member lake association participation in the [Keep It Clean](#) program to keep trash off lakes in the winter, help promote a rain barrel water conservation program and purple loosestrife control.

Website: [sherburnecola.org](http://sherburnecola.org)

## SC COLA consists of representatives from:

- Ann Lake Improvement Association
- Big Eagle Lake Improvement Association
- Big Lake Community Lakes Association
- Briggs Chain of Lakes Association
- Lake Fremont Improvement Association
- Little Elk Lake Association
- Orono Lake Improvement District
- Sandy Lake Association
- Sherburne County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Thompson Lake Association



## Membership

Any individual, organization or lake association may join. We have different levels of support. For more information, please email [sherburnecola@gmail.com](mailto:sherburnecola@gmail.com).