



January 20, 2026

Dear Business Leader:

We are contacting you as a highly-regarded and trusted provider that serves Sherburne County lake associations and their property owner members to seek your support in expanding our efforts as lake and waterway stewards.

SC COLA's vision statement is: "**Protecting our lakes, rivers and waterways today and tomorrow.**" Its primary mission is to enhance the work of our member lake associations in their efforts to preserve fish and wildlife habitats; the economic, recreational and natural environmental values of our shorelands and waters; and promote their safe and responsible use.

Examples of actions that have already enhanced the work of members are:

- Farmer's Market AIS education and "Annual Healthy Lakes Checklist" magnets to promote lake stewardship and association participation.
- MN Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC) [Lab Tour](#) on 4/7/25.
- AIS Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR) Task Force published our [interactive action plan](#) and [print friendly handouts](#).
- Assisted in promoting partner news and events, Starry Trek, [water equipment cleaning protocol](#) use and Zebra Mussel monitoring platform distribution.
- The annual e-distribution of our "Lake Directory & Reference" of lake representative, service provider and government contacts.

Here is a list of planned activities for the upcoming year:

- Work with MN COLA, MN DNR and MN Lakes & Rivers to get statewide County AIS Aid funding fully restored, maintain a reasonable date for Curly-leaf pondweed treatments and clarify new AIS grant funding.
- Pursue further ways to promote lake stewardship and association member participation (e.g., education events, AIS geofencing and promotion items).
- Help implement [Rum River & Mississippi](#) Watershed Comprehensive Plan (1W1P) and the [Sherburne County AIS Prevention Plan \(2025-2030\)](#).

Enclosed you will find the 2025 SC COLA Business Sponsorship Form, which outlines the benefits associated with each of the business sponsor levels. Please complete the sponsor form and submit it with your payment **no later than March 23, 2026** to be highlighted on our website and directory.

Sincerely,

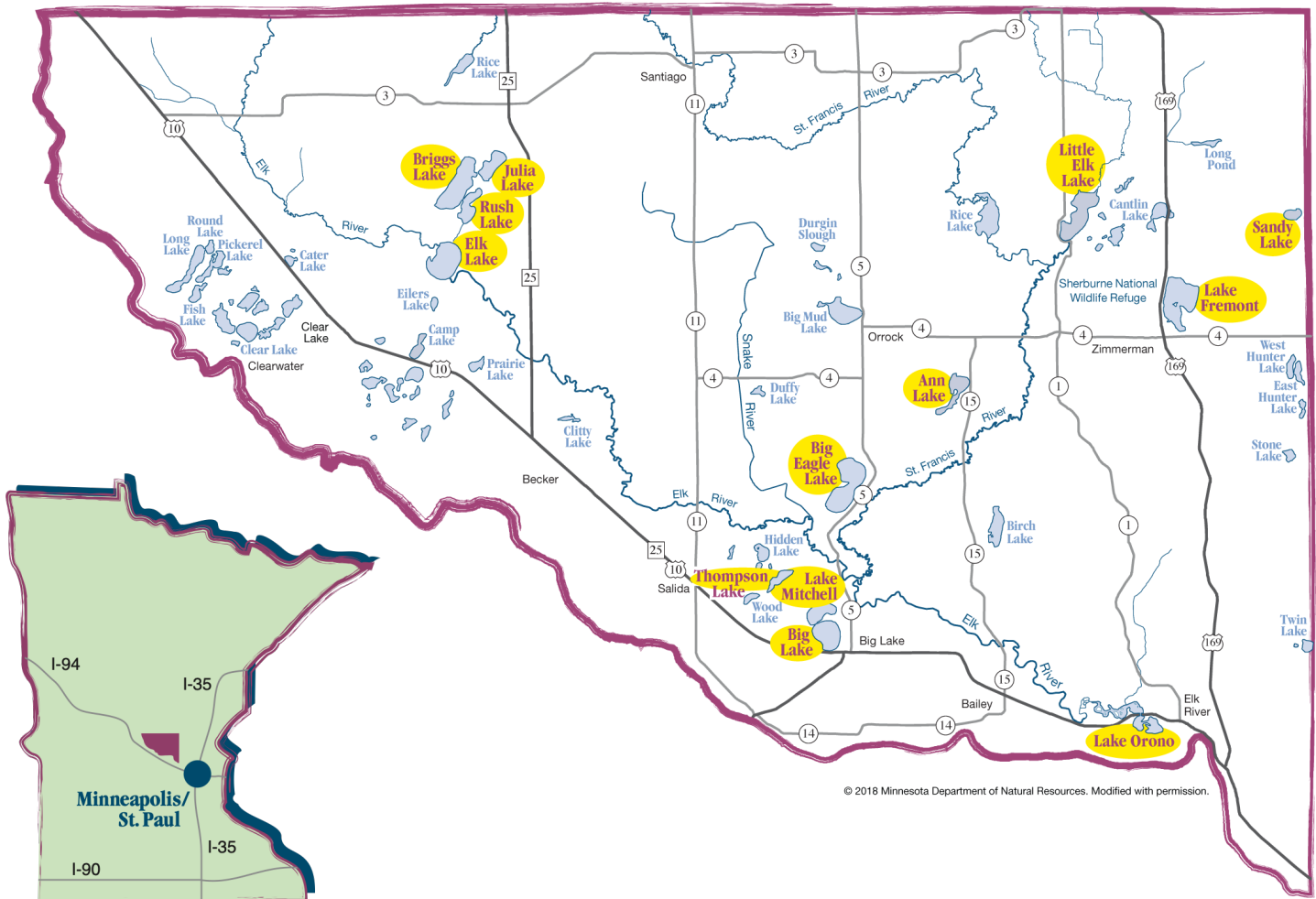


Patrick Plant, *Chair*

SC COLA

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<https://sherburnecola.org/>



The 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