SC COLA
Sherburne County
Coalition Of
Lake Associations

August 18, 2026

Dear Lake Association Member:

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 enhance the work of members are:

- SC COLA 4th of July Weekend Fishing Tournament (July 2–6, 2026).
- James Johnson, Aquatic Ecologist speaking event on July 11, 2026.
- "Annual Healthy Lakes Checklist" magnets and "AIS Prevention Chip Clips" to promote lake stewardship and lake association participation.
- 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:

- Explore new ways to use our funds to support member lake organizations, grow membership and lake owner participation, and promote stewardship.
- With 501(c)(3) tax exempt status in place, consider supporting lake association organizations by acting as a host for receiving donor funds.
- Work with MN COLA, MN DNR and MN Lakes & Rivers to get statewide County AIS Aid funding fully restored. Also, assist member organizations in securing new Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Community Grant Program (ENRTF) funding.
- Help implement the Rum River & Mississippi Watershed Comprehensive Plan (1W1P) and the Sherburne County 2025-2030 AIS Prevention Plan.

Enclosed you will find the 2026-2027 SC COLA Membership Form.

Please complete the membership form and submit it with your dues no later than **September 18, 2026**. Together, the SC COLA member organizations can continue making a positive impact that is greater than one lake organization can accomplish alone.

Sincerely,

Patrick Plant, *Chair*
SC COLA
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