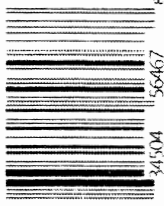




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## COLA to be involved with second university capstone project

By Carrie Hitchcock

Following the success of a master's degree capstone project in the School of Public and Environmental Affairs (SPEA) at Indiana University last spring, with which it was involved, the Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations (COLA) is once again the subject of a capstone project at that university.

The spring 2013 project had focused on improving lake association management, and the fall 2014 project, already in progress, is

entitled "Enhancing the Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Associations' Lake Monitoring Program."

At their Thursday, September 25 meeting, members discussed, via a conference call, the goals of this project with master's student Rob Conover and SPEA Professor Dr. Burney Fischer, a summer resident of Big Mantrap Lake.

Conover explained that the goals included identifying a Minnesota standard for lake wa-

ter quality and COLA lake monitoring efforts, as well as what actions need to be taken to raise those efforts in order to achieve what he referred to as "top-tier status" in lake monitoring, and to outline what payoffs there would be to COLA if they achieved that status.

Conover said one of the major tools they would use in the project would be a stakeholder survey, which they were in the final stages of designing for approval by the university. He said they hoped the broad-scope survey would

help them identify current lake monitoring efforts and help shed light on areas that are successful, as well as those that need improvement.

He said the survey will be sent to 29 lake associations in the county, as well as at least 11 other COLAs throughout the state, by early to mid-October, and that after receiving the surveys back, they plan to run analyses, produce a detailed report with recommendations and

(COLA continued on Page 5)