

THE CHAIN LETTER

July 2001
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Officers:

President: Dick Chambers 326-2809
Vice President: Bud Sage 326-4535
Treasurer: Cathy Rudolph 327-0820
Secretary: Susan Lick 326-6837

Advisory Committee:

All the above, plus:

Nancy Ellsworth 326-8056
Roger Pierce 327-2142
David Lick 326-6837
Joel Soloman 326-5177
Steve Bryant 326-5473
John Adams 326-2206

One member needed from Trout Lake

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER.

Our summer is moving along and we are in an exciting time for our association. We will soon start our training on the Lake Management Planning Group. Turtle Lake, Sissebakwet, Swan Lake, and Shallow, Sand, Soumi area Trout Lake and upper Prairie associations will all participate. I think it will be very interesting.

We have found replacements on the advisory committee. Steve Bryant 326-5473 of Bluewater Lake and John Adams 326-2206 of Little Wabana. We are also looking for a replacement for Harold Unger of Trout Lake. When we find someone, we will have someone from all five lakes.

Our next WCOLA meeting will be June 21st at 9:00 A.M. We will have Joe Waleski, who was the caretaker at Joyce Estate for many years. I'm sure it will be a very interesting program for our area residents.

Our picnic will be on the 28th of July at 6:00. Hope to see you all there.

Dick

MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 16TH, 2001 The Wabana Chain of Lakes Association

The meeting was opened at 9am by president Dick Chambers with the introduction of Art Norton from the Itasca County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Art thanked the members for their initiatives in lake stewardship. An explanation of the Itasca County Lakes management Planning Coalition grant and volunteer opportunity were discussed including the implementation and governing merit to these new plans, the relationship to the existing Itasca County Comprehensive Water Plan and county commissioners role.

Art explained diatoms as microscopic organisms, which have value as ecological indicators in our northern lakes. A handout was distributed on diatoms. Art explained how diatoms would be one of the essential indicators in the proposed boring sample of the Wabana Chain of Lakes. A review of the testing process included cost sharing, overall goals, possible outcomes and 1 year of lake sampling

(three events) included in the fee. Art will need a commitment by each lake association by the end of July.

President Dick Chambers opened the regular business meeting at 9:45am with introductions, with 19 members present.

Minutes of May 19th. A motion was made by Bud Sage to forgo the reading of the minutes, as they will be mailed in the forthcoming June newsletter. Joel Solomon seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurers Report: Cathy Rudolph read the treasurers Report.

Balance as of 5-19-01	\$3,111.56
Received	
Dues	\$ 480.00
contributions	\$ 155.00
contributions – memorials	\$ <u>20.00</u>
Total Received:	\$ 655.00

Paid Out:	
Printing	\$ 237.50
Stamps	\$ <u>45.01</u>
Total Paid Out:	\$ 282.51

Balance as of 6-16-01	\$ 3484.05
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Paid Households for 2000	106
Paid Households for 2001	27

Annual Picnic for the Wabana Chain of Lakes Association families will be July 28th at 6pm at the Wabana Township Hall. Chair Pat Chambers and Nancy Ellsworth explained the association will provide brats and hot dogs, bring a dish to share. Volunteers are much appreciated call Pat at 326-2809.

Highway 38 construction was updated by Bud Sage. The public is invited to an open meeting on June 26th at 6:30pm at the Wabana Town Hall to review the Hwy38 plans, sketches, questions and answers from the architects.

Advisory Committee representation was reported on by Chair Dick Chambers. Harold Unger will be stepping down as soon as a replacement can be found, hopefully from The Big Trout Lake area. The membership thanked Harold for his years of

service. Steve Bryant has agreed to serve from Bluewater Lake and John Adams, Little Wabana.

Itasca County Lake Management Planning Coalition grant and volunteer opportunity was reviewed by Dick Chambers:

- Fiscal and administrative management will be provided by the Itasca County Soil and Water Conservation District.
- Leadership and goal setting training will be offered to eight lake associations. Six to eight members from each lake association are invited.
- Training dates: Friday, July 20th and Friday, August 3rd, 4pm to 9pm at Itasca Campus.
- A cash payment of \$1,200. will be made to each lake association as part of this grant to aid in developing the plan.
- Each of the eight lake associations will develop a lake/watershed management plan containing specific implementation items.
- A second payment of \$1,200. will be made to the lake association on completion of the plan, for development and distribution of the plan.
- ICOLA - Itasca Coalition of Lake Associations will develop an internet web page.

Volunteers are George Klacan, Nancy Ellsworth, Gib Willson, David Lick, Dick Chambers, Cathy Rudolph and George Wilburt.

Core sample testing: Dick Chambers reviewed the proposed core sampling by the Department of Natural Resources. The secretary read the previous motion of May 19, 2001, to participate with other select lake associations in a limnology-boring test at a cost of \$1,000. to the Wabana Chain of Lakes Association. Following discussion Bob Sage made a motion that the membership “move forward based on the previous motion with a letter of request to do two boring samples”. Vote: carried. Bob Sage agreed to write the letter of request for two sampling tests to be read at the July 21st regular chain of lakes association meeting. Following the reading the letter will be sent to Art Norton.

Itasca Lakes and Rivers Festival was announced inviting everyone on Saturday, June 23rd from 9am to 1pm at Itasca Community College. Special at-

tractions will include the U. of M. Raptor Center and many other exhibits and displays.

Milfoil Awareness will be organized for the 4th of July holiday. Bud Sage will organize volunteers for the north Wabana landing and David Lick the south.

Septic System Inspections were updated by David Lick. Volunteers will be listed in the newsletter. Since 1999 about 32 systems on the chain of lakes will have been voluntarily updated. Next summer door to door inspections will be done as part of the project. David explained a consumer awareness point involving contractors utilizing the proper fill in the drain fields. There can only be less than 5% clay content in the fill used for drain field. Another suggestion is to call the county to have it inspected before the contractor covers it up. This information will be printed in the next newsletter and Pollution Control Agency has a web site listing all of the exact specifications needed for septic systems.

Membership and communication among members was discussed, suggestions were to send post cards previous to meetings, public announcements in local newspapers, timing the newsletter to be mailed previous to upcoming meetings. A membership list was suggested to be published in the August newsletter. Joe Stephens suggested an article for the newsletter could be included listing the benefits of membership, Joe and Nancy Ellsworth will submit the article. Bob Sage suggested sending the newsletter to all lake residents in the chain of lakes. Nancy Ellsworth suggested we move to retract the former decision to send only to members. Bob Sage said he would volunteer to computerize the mailing labels to increase the mailings. Following discussion Bob Sage moved "to expand the newsletter to all property owners and residents of the Wabana Chain of Lakes and other Wabana Township lakes". Seconded by David Lick. Motion carried.

Gravel road dust control. David Wooden questioned the chemical used on the Wabana area township roads for dust control. Bob Sage suggested contacting Lee Engstrom at Itasca County for this information.

Memorial ideas were discussed for past members and any ideas can be suggested to Dick Chambers.

The next meeting will host Joe Waleski as the program presenter. Saturday July 21st at the Wabana Township Hall, 8:30am social program 9am and meeting to follow.

Adjournment: Bud Sage moved the meeting be adjourned. David Wooden seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 11:13am

Respectfully submitted, Susan Lick secretary

Wabana Chain of Lakes Association ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES OF JUNE 12, 2001

Members present: Bud Sage, Cathy Rudolph, David Lick, Dick Chambers, Nancy Ellsworth, Harold Unger, Susan Lick. **Absent:** Roger Pierce, Joel Solomon, Bill Downing.

Next Regular Lake Association meeting: July 21st Bud Sage-treats, August 18th Cathy Rudolph & Nancy Ellsworth-treats.

Newsletter: Send articles, history, information to wdowning@uslink.net or 38067 Forest Lane, Grand Rapids 55744.

Membership List: Bill Downing suggested printing a list of members in the newsletter. Cathy Rudolph said there were 27 households to date. Dick Chambers suggested printing the membership list in September. Dick will bring the proposal to the membership.

Itasca County Lake Management Planning Coalition. The call for volunteers will be repeated at the June 16th meeting. To date we have five of the possible eight.

Chain of Lakes Records: Susan Lick has put together archives of minutes, handouts, water test results, etc. Anyone with records before 1998 are asked to get them to Susan.

Programs: Art Norton of the Itasca County Soil and Water Management Department will do the program on June 16th. Susan Hawkinson has talked with Joe Waleski who will do a presentation on the Joyce Estate at the July 21st meeting.

Memorials: David Lick talked with Crystal Rowe about a memorial for Jon. She will get back to us as efforts are being discussed at this time. Cathy Rudolph suggested an educational fund for Jon & Crystal's own daughters.

Advisory Members: Howard Unger requested being replaced. Suggestions for nominees were Bill Berg, Steve Bryant, John and Sheryl Adams.

Annual Picnic July 28th: Pat Chambers and Nancy Ellsworth are planning, advisory members are needed to help at the picnic.

Highway 38 Plans: Bud Sage will give an updated report at the June 16th meeting.

Milfoil awareness: Bud Sage will organize North Wabana and David Lick, South.

Septic Program: David Lick reported that Doug and Jon Miner will have their septic inspected, which includes 6 or 7 systems on Birch Bay of Wabana. David also talked about contractor's specifications and consumer awareness to assure a quality replacement job. He will speak to these issues at the June 16th meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Lick, secretary

CORRECTION AND ADDITION

Please add Pamela Whittenbury, on Wabana Lake, to the Honor Roll of inspections completed in 2000. She will be installing a new system.

Please add Pat Adams name to volunteers to the Honor Roll of systems to be inspected in 2001. His system is new but he wants to make sure that it is performing as it is suppose to.

All people in the Township who live on lakes are invited to volunteer for the inspection program as soon as possible. This includes anyone who has had a system installed since 1991. It is permissible to have the county inspect newer systems. That way we will have records going forward.

COMMUNICATIONS

FROM FRED DOTY:

No matter how heartily we in the Association welcome the Linders, the new owners of Balgillow Island in Wabana, we still miss the family of Fred and Kathy Doty, who summered on the Island for years. Fred was the first President of the Association, and both of them were prime movers in forming the group, and vigorously active thereafter. They now live in a beautiful location in Mankato, and this is the first summer they have missed. Fred writes:

I just finished reading the latest issue of the ... Newsletter. I read it with appreciation and joyous-painful memories. Your article was so to the point and so beautifully stated. We are both so grateful to the members of the Lake Association. The wisdom and dedication of the loyal members is having an effect much further than Wabana Township or even Itasca County.

We are going through withdrawal pains which I'm afraid will not go away any time soon... We think of you often with appreciation and love, and hope all is well, knowing full well that the years take their toll.

FROM JACK B. VELZEN

A relatively new member wrote the following, which is so full of ideas and suggestions that I thought the whole membership should see it, and tell me what direction to go with it. There must be good brief publications on some subjects mentioned here, and people we could call on for others, if it seems important to members. What he is suggesting seems highly appropriate, but I would appreciate your comments. Jack says, in part:

Let me introduce myself. I am a year round resident of Wabana. I live just off Zims Lane not too far from Dave Lick. He is a friend and hits me up every year since we moved to Wabana (2 years) to be at the public access on the 4th to remind boaters about weeds on trailers, etc.

At any rate, I was talking with him about some of the issues with the chain of lakes. Since I love to fish, and am a confirmed catch and release fisherman, I asked about what the chain has done regarding education on catch and release to help maintain quality fishing in the chain. He said, in essence, Not much! and suggested that I contact you about

the possibility of doing some sort of education on this through the newsletter. So I am doing that.

What are the possibilities for something like this? Dave said you are always looking for items for the newsletter. Does this seem appropriate? I am not highly knowledgeable about the biology of fish life in lakes, but have done a bit of research. I talked with Rod Pierce at the DNR and learned quite a bit about how the DNR looks at lakes, management plans for lakes, stocking, lake surveys etc. There was a test netting in Wabana last summer. It takes about a year for the DNR to analyze the findings and form a management plan. That has just been completed and is available at the DNR office. Later this summer it should be posted on the Internet, but is not currently. I have not had a chance to pick up a copy and review it, but do plan to do that.

Part of what prompted me to think education about catch and release was a good idea was seeing big fish being kept. I personally keep no walleyes over about 18", and release all northerns and bass (small and largemouth). However, I see a lot of fisherman keeping some pretty nice fish that really should be let go.

At any rate, there would be a number of good educational pieces around catch and release fishing if that seems appropriate - one about the difference in releasing walleyes (not a real viable self sustaining species in the chain) versus bass (very successfully self sustaining in the chain) and why; what has happened to northerns in Wabana, and how vulnerable they are to catch and keep fishing; proper catch and release techniques, etc., etc. Let me know what you think.

If you have any thoughts or interest in talking further or pursuing something along these lines, let me know.

Yes, Jack, I am very interested! Can members help with suggestions on resources, people, etc.?

Sizzle!

*At the June meeting a member thought there should be more **SIZZLE** in the call for new members. Agreed! A small consensus of members interviewed thought that most lakeshore owners were concerned about the following:*

***Clear swimming water!
Quiet!
Good fishing!
Protection of property value!
Good neighbors!***

They would join and support an Association that promotes these values, if it caught their eye when they were writing checks.

Are you writing checks now?

Because here are some of the ways that the member felt the Association was working toward those goals we all want:

WHAT \$20.00 A YEAR WILL GET YOU! ALL OF THE BELOW!

WATER QUALITY TESTING.

- All ten water basins in the chain.
- Four time a year.
- By professionals.
- Reports and comparisons provided.
- Far ahead of other lake associations!

SEPTIC SYSTEMS UPDATES.

- Old systems pollute.
- Volunteer program with County.
- Free inspection.
- 3% money available.
- Dozens in process.
- Thirty-some already done.
- Still room for more!

CORE TESTING.

- Newest technology.
- Long-term lake history.
- One or two projected.
- Leadership role of Association!

MONITORING BOAT ACCESS SITES.

- At boat launch sites on holidays.
- To prevent the spread of Eurasian water milfoil, zebra mussels, and other exotic species into these pure public waters.

PROGRAMS.

- Once a month.
- Speakers give important information on:
 - Fish populations and stocking.
 - Wildlife population.
 - Lake shore erosion.
 - Lake shore landscaping.
 - Septic systems.
 - Local history.

ANNUAL PICNIC!

- Members and prospective members.
- A great time!
- Door prizes!
- Reserve July 28, 2001!

PUBLICATION, *The Chain Letter*.

- Monthly to all members.
- Free!
- Information, reports, Minutes, history.

A GREAT "OPEN AIR FORUM".

- During coffee and meetings.
- Letters to *The Chain Letter*.
- Get to know your neighbors.

LISTENING TO YOU.

- Your concerns are Association concerns.
- The County listens to the Association.

Won't you join us?

The Trout Lake Association near Coleraine developed the following summary, which they have kindly allowed us to copy. With all the building and shore modification going on in our Chain of Lakes, members may want to keep this summary handy to give to new owners, to help them in their work. Additionally, the Itasca Soil and Water District is available for valuable advise and assistance. even though they have no regulatory authority. Their phone number is 326-0017 and address is 1889 East Hwy 2, Grand Rapids, MN 55744.

SUMMARY OF LAKESHORE DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS

It is highly recommended that you contact the Department of Natural Resources and/or Itasca County Zoning before beginning a project involving public waters or shoreland alteration. Fines of up to \$700 and/or a 90 day jail term can be imposed for violations of regulations. The Itasca County Zoning officer may issue an order of restoration for violations of these regulations. The fee is \$100. Any permits obtained after -the-fact, i.e. after the project begins, will generally cost double the usual fee.

The DNR has jurisdiction over public waters up to the Ordinary High Water mark (OHW). The Itasca County Zoning has jurisdiction over all shoreland up to 1000 feet from the OHW mark. OHW is the highest water level which has been maintained for a sufficient period of time to leave evidence upon the landscape. It is commonly the transition point between aquatic and terrestrial vegetation.

Department of Natural Resources

Division of Waters 327 - 4416 Fisheries 327-4322
The following may be done without a permit, under DNR jurisdiction, provided certain conditions are met:

Sand or Gravel Blanket - a clean inorganic sand or gravel blanket of up to 50 feet wide or 1/2 the lot width, whichever is less, and a maximum of 10 feet from the OHW mark toward the water and a maximum of 6 inches thick. Itasca County Zoning must be notified at least 7 days before beginning the project.

Riprap - rock riprap may be placed using only natural rock of various sizes with an average of about 12 inches in diameter, a maximum of 5 feet waterward from the OHW mark and a maximum slope of 3:1. The rock may be placed on top of geotextile fabric.

Docks and Swimming Rafts - seasonal docks and swimming rafts may be installed provided they are removed seasonally by non-mechanical means and they are not a hazard to water navigation. Permanent docks may be installed provided they are no more than 6 feet wide, no longer than 50 feet nor extend into water deeper than 4 feet and must be constructed on pilings. Swimming rafts may require licensing by the Sheriff's Office.

Boat Ramps - boat ramps may be installed provided they are a maximum of 12 feet wide, no more than 6 inches thick and no more than 10 feet waterward of the OHW mark. The site must be able to support the ramp without dredging, pilings or

other special site preparation. The ramp must be made of inorganic material such as concrete, gravel, natural rock or steel matting.

Vegetation - submerged vegetation may be cut or pulled from an area no larger than 2500 square feet. The cleared area may extend no more than 50 feet along the shoreline or 1/2 the length of your shoreline, whichever is less. In addition, clearing may not be done in water depths greater than 4 feet. Beyond 50 feet from the OHW mark submerged vegetation may be cleared to make a boat channel but to a maximum of 15 feet wide. The cutting or pulling of vegetation may be done by hand or with hand-operated power equipment that does not disturb the lake bottom. The cut or pulled vegetation must be removed from the lake.

The following may be done with a permit, under DNR jurisdiction, provided certain conditions are met:

Herbicides may be used on vegetation.

In some cases emerged vegetation may be removed for boat access channels.

Place fill into protected waters.

Excavate protected waters bottom content.

Construct, remodel, repair or relocate a structure on or in protected waters.

Build retaining walls.

Itasca County Zoning 327 - 2857

The following may be done without a permit, under Itasca County Zoning jurisdiction, provided certain conditions are met:

Clearing of Vegetation - up to 1/3 of the trees and 1/3 of the brush, in a 50 foot wide by a 50 foot deep viewing corridor, may be cut. The cutting must be done so it is thinning rather than clearing. Beyond a 50 foot depth 1/3 of the trees and 1/3 of the brush in the remaining property may be cut. In addition to these provisions, trees or branches that are dead, diseased or pose safety hazards may also be removed. The screening of structures, vehicles and other facilities, as viewed from the water, assuming summer leaf-on conditions, must not be substantially reduced by this removal. Intensive vegetation clearing within the shore and bluff impact zones and on steep slopes is not allowed.

Structures - An area for a house, garage, driveway and septic system may be clear cut. However, a zoning sanitation permit must be obtained for this alteration. All structures must

must be set back a minimum of 75 feet from the OHW mark.

The following may be done with a permit, under Itasca County Zoning jurisdiction, provided certain conditions are met:

A lake access road must be cut at an angle, not perpendicular, to the water to minimize visibility. It must be no wider than 12 feet and the clearing at the waters edge must be no wider than 12 feet.

A maximum of 12 feet of ice ridge may be removed.

A clean inorganic sand blanket may be installed. It must be no more than 30 feet along the shoreline, no more than 15 feet back from the OHW mark and must be located within the viewing corridor.

A retaining wall, no more than 2 feet high, may be constructed.

Riprap may be allowed for erosion control.

Movement of more than 10 cubic yards of material on steep slopes or within shore or bluff impact zones and movement of more than 50 cubic yards of material outside of steep slopes and shore and bluff impact zones.

Stairways and lifts must be no wider than 4 feet. Landings for stairways and lifts must not exceed 32 square feet in area.

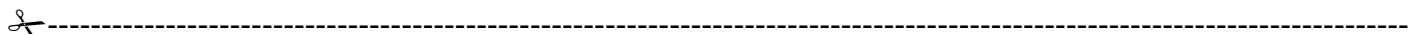
Canopies or roofs are not allowed on stairways, lifts or landings.

Water related accessory structures must be at least 10 feet from the OHW mark, no higher than 10 feet and an area no greater than 250 square feet. The roof shall not be used for a deck, storage or any other purpose. It must be screened by trees or shrubs as viewed from the water.

Ground level patio platforms must be no higher than 3 feet above ground level at its highest point, at least 10 feet from the OHW mark, not to exceed 10 feet by 16 feet or 160 square feet in area. It must not be enclosed by screens, walls, windows or roofs. The total combined area of a water related accessory structure and a ground level patio platform must not exceed 250 square feet.

Caution :

All other shoreland or water alterations may require a permit or may be prohibited. One jurisdictional agency may be more restrictive than the other. The most restrictive conditions will always prevail.



PAYMENT AND CONTRIBUTION COUPON

Regular 2001-02 Dues \$20.00 (Unchanged since 1988) Contribution \$ _____ (Testing, etc.)

Name(s) as you want to be listed _____

Permanent Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code: _____

Which months of the year for mailing? _____

Seasonal Address _____

City _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Which months of the year for mailing? _____

Mail this form and your \$20.00 check for 2001-2 dues, made out to the Wabana Chain of Lakes Association, to: Wabana Chain of Lakes Association, Cathy Rudolph, Treasurer, 36542 Havenwood Drive, Grand Rapids, MN 55744

CHAIN OF LAKES PICNIC!

**ANNUAL FUN EVENT
FOR MEMBERS, GUESTS AND PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS
At the Wabana Township Hall
6:00 p. m., Saturday, July 28**

Association will provide brats and hot dogs!

A valuable door prize will be awarded, but *only members paid up for the 2001-2002 year will be eligible. Please pay dues now!*

Please call Pat Chambers, 326-2809, to volunteer help!

Please bring a dish to share.