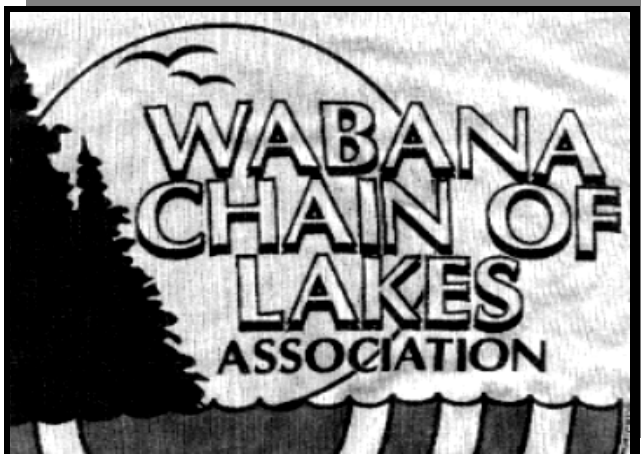


The Chain Letter

of the



Dedicated to the care and preservation of our lakes, for the enjoyment and safety of all.

July 2005

Volume 9, Number 3

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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:
- John Adams 326-2206
 - Steve Bryant 326-5473
 - Nancy Ellsworth 326-8056
 - David Lick 326-6837
 - John Zimmerman 326-1020

**Visit our web site www.wcola.org
Add your items to it by sending to Mark Miner,
mminer@minergroup.com**

Several people have inquired if they could receive the Chain Letter by email. Of course you can! As a matter of fact, it could save us some money if you would ask to have yours sent only by email. Please contact

Jean Koewler, koewlerj@lcp2.net
and tell her what you want done.

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FROM PRESIDENT CHAMBERS

The 4th of July has returned and our summer months are already getting shorter. We sure haven't had much in the way of great weather so far. But let's think positive!! I hope everyone has a chance to get out on the area lakes and enjoy them. Remember to use caution.

We are having our annual WCOLA picnic on July 16th. It is always enjoyed by all. It's a time to get together with friends and neighbors. In the morning we will have our regular WCOLA meeting to discuss any changes in our by-laws and Lake Management plan.

Hope to see you all there.

Dick

Minutes of June 25, 2005
Wabana Chain of Lakes Association
Program. County Commissioner Catherine McLynn and Jack Velzen, Midwest GIS, presented a program on the Governor's Clean Water Initiative, North Central Lakes Pilot Project for 5 counties. Jack's educational power point program showed the group why water quality is important and provided steps for homeowners to take to get and maintain a high quality lake environment. Catherine entertained questions and comments from the floor¹.

¹ Ms McLynn mentioned that the County Commissioners would be discussing zoning ordinance at its meeting on July 12 at 3:00 p.m., and members might like to attend it.

WCOLA mugs were given to both for the informative program².

Business Meeting. President Dick Chambers called the meeting to order with 35 members present.

Minutes of the meeting of May 21, 2005 were approved as written in the newsletter.

Treasurer's report, read by Jean Koewler for the Treasurer, Cathy Rudolph.

Total as of 5-21-05 **\$ 7,308.27**

Received:

Dues \$ 300.00

Memorials for Bob Sage \$ 100.00

Contributions \$ 30.00

Mugs \$ 20.00

Shirts \$ 22.00

Total Received **\$ 472.00**

Paid out:

Office Supplies \$ 16.65

Stamps \$ 125.00

Printing \$ 88.52

Water testing \$ 510.00

Total paid out **\$ 740.17**

Total as of 6-25-05 **\$ 7,040.10**

Paid Households 2004-2005 169

Paid Households 2005-2006 32

Water testing. A second vote was taken on Bill Downing's motion "that WCOLA take a full four sets of lake water samples that will cost in excess of \$2000." Motion approved.

Township zoning. A Township meeting will be held on July 6, 2005, to discuss the takeover of zoning by the Township. All members were urged to attend the meeting.

Dock signs. Bill Berg will report at a later date.

By-Laws. Further changes were proposed:

² Some discussion was held on WCOLA producing a power point presentation concerning water quality and shoreland use in the lakes of Wabana Township. No action was taken.

1. Elect the President and Vice President on alternating years.
2. Advisory member would not be elected, but would be volunteers.

Advisory Committee member George Wilbert has asked to be replaced, due to his health.

Joyce Estate. Recent vandalism³ of the property was discussed. Bill Berg has placed new posts at the north and south gates. Susan Hawkinson will try to arrange for a question and answer session with a Chippewa Forest Service official at the July 16th business meeting⁴.

Family Picnic July 16. Please call Nancy Ellsworth if you would like to help.

ICOLA – Itasca Coalition of Lake Associations. Meetings of this group are held on the third Wednesday of each month, at 7:00 p.m., in the Commissioners room of the Itasca County Courthouse. David Lick represents WCOLA at the Coalition, and an additional person is needed to attend. Contact Dick Chambers if interested.

Shoreland Stewardship Award. The deadline for submission of nominations has been changed from July 1 to August 1, 2005, and an application blank may be found at our web site, wcola.org. (See last month's newsletter for more information.)

Adopt a Wabana Township Highway. Catherine McLynn and Jean Koewler will research signage costs and dump fees. (See letter from Catherine in this newsletter for more information.)

Those willing to help pick up trash can sign up at the picnic, or at the July meeting, where a sign-up sheet will be provided. Ken Zimmer will organize future pickup dates.

Lake Management Plan 2003. The Committee will give an update on Focus Area 1: Aquatic envi-

³ For more information, please see *The Chain Letter* for June 2005, letter from Bill Berg, page 4; and also see the continuing topic on page 3 of this newsletter.

⁴ At the May 2005 meeting the members had decided not to have a program at the July meeting, but this matter seemed so urgent that that decision was changed; and Program Co-Chair Susan Hawkinson was asked to arrange for a speaker from the Forest Service.

ronment below the water surface. See September 2002 Newsletter (available on wcola.org) for the complete Lake Management Plan.

Water Quality. Dick Chambers will contact the DNR about purple loosestrife in the streams from Trout to Wabana. The second set of water samples will be taken on July 26, for testing.

Newsletter deadlines. July 2, August 6, September 3. All persons are encouraged to send historical articles and pictures for the newsletter.

Township matters. At the next meeting, Dick Chambers will address the hanging of the picture of former town hall, and the grant for a walking trail on the property.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Zimmer for Susan Lick, Secretary.

VANDALISM AT JOYCE ESTATE

On June 19, 2005, Bill Berg sent the following information, beyond his letter in the June Chain Letter, and beyond the discussion at the June meeting:

From Bill Berg:

By now, many folks know of the vandalism done to the Joyce Estate campground, grounds, trails, and lodge over Memorial weekend. It has been reported to the US Forest Service, but apparently they can do nothing to the vandals (their identities are known) unless caught in the act. Parts of the pristine walking trails and the campground are rutted by the ATV's, and the lodge shutters burned in the inside fireplace are irreplaceable. I am unsure if the litter has been removed.

The US Forest Service, at my request, delivered some barrier posts to our place, and this last Sunday morning my wife Terry and I placed them at the south gate (where entry was made) and also put more posts at the north gate (where most party vehicles were parked). More posts are needed, especially at the south gate. We also put the first posts at

the north gate 4 years ago after another ATV intrusion.

We were home little that week-end (as our nephew Matt Lourey died when his helicopter was shot down in Iraq) but had we been, the vandals would have been caught. Normally, we watch the north Joyce gate closely. The lesson is that we all need to be more vigilant to keep this type of thing from happening again. On three day week-ends, both campgrounds on Trout Lake are kid's party spots, where responsible adults have sometimes been forced to move their camps elsewhere because of the noise.

What would our lakes that border the Joyce Tract be without the Joyce family legacy? It is ours to protect for the responsible enjoyment of others.

thanks----Bill Berg-----

Since receiving this letter I have talked with several people who have visited the site of the tragedy, and they report that quite a lot of the mess has been cleaned up, probably by the Forest Service. People who are concerned with this violation are urged to attend the WCOLA meeting on July 16, to hear further discussion and ask questions.

From Susan Hawkinson:

Kent Ledermann, Forest Service Level IV Law Enforcement, is planning to speak at our Wabana meeting about the damage at the Joyce Estate.

Susan Hawkinson

HIGHWAY CLEANUP

There is further information on this.

From Catherine McLynn:

A sign [announcing that a group has adopted a highway] costs \$50. You may do it anytime, but if you wish to do it with help from the county, sign up and pick up the vests and bags from the highway engineer's office.

Several emails have gone back and forth about this, and the consensus is that this matter should go first

to the Advisory Committee since it involves expenditure of money, and requires a commitment on the part of the organization. Meanwhile, anyone who wants to help clean up on an interim basis can sign a sign-up sheet at the July 16 meeting or picnic. This will probably provide an indication of the amount of interest there is in this project.

LAKE STEWARDSHIP AWARDS

A last-minute item in the June Chain Letter announced this joint venture by the Itasca Coalition of Lake Associations and the Itasca Soil and Water Conservation Service, the aim of which is to reward the re-establishment of natural biota at the edges of lakes. The application form can be copied from our web site, wcola.org , and the deadline has been extended until August 1, 2005. The following was sent for inclusion in our newsletter:

<p>LAKE STEWARDSHIP AWARDS <u>Shoreline Stewardship means vegetating the 50-foot shoreline strip with native plants.</u></p>	
<p>WHY DO THAT?</p>	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Concern for water quality 2. Sharing the land with wildlife 3. Enhancing natural beauty 4. Ensure good fish habitat and fishing
<p>Nominate someone (could be yourself) by calling the Itasca County Soil and Water District Office 218-326-0017 for an application to tell us about your shoreline planting efforts. We will visit the finalist and award a substantial and exciting prize along with recognition by Itasca County & ICOLA. Prize awarded in the fall of 2005. More than one prize will be awarded. Presented by Itasca County Coalition of Lake Associations (ICOLA) Itasca County Water Plan</p>	

FROM CATHERINE MCLYNN

Catherine wears several environmental hats, working in behalf of the County's lakes and other waters; in addition to her title of very hard-working County Commissioner. She sent the following, concerning several things that should be brought to the attention of members:

Sent: Monday, July 04, 2005 11:02 PM

Subject: What's happening on Lakes in July? Lakes 2020 meets this Thurs, July 7 at 2 pm!

Dear Action Team members and other interested citizens:

Besides all the swimming, boating, and fishing on our lakes, there are several important meetings in July that have an impact on our lakes.

Lakes 2020 meets in the courthouse on Thurs, July 7 at 2:00 pm. Agenda includes preparing for the rest of the upcoming important meetings in July.

DNR Shoreland Standards Advisory Committee meets on Mon, July 11 at 9:30 am in Brainerd.

DNR Commissioner Gene Merriam meets with County Board on Tues, July 12 at 3:30 pm. Board meeting starts at 3:00. There might be an opportunity to visit prior to the meeting. Please come to show your appreciation to both Commissioner Merriam and the County Board for initiatives that provide for sustainability of the natural resources of Itasca County especially our forests and lakes. The Board took official action in support of the local IDC Jobs 2020 Lakes Management Action Team goals for 2005 and in support of a grant request (matched by Blandin Foundation) to achieve those goals.

SCICIPB WWIT meets on Wed, July 13 to continue progress on improved wastewater treatment options for six township area including the Mississippi and Prairie Rivers, Pokegama, Bass, Jay Gould and Prairie Lakes. "August Adventures in Sewage" (or Dollars Down the Drain) to be further developed.

Itasca Coalition of Lake Assns meets on Wed evening, July 20, at Cohasset Community Center for potluck dinner and annual meeting with a full agenda of informational and social opportunities.

Catherine McLynn
Lakes 2020 Communications coordinator

BY-LAW CHANGES

The organization has been operating for several years without referring to the lost by-laws, but now that the by-laws have been found, and the subject is before us, there have been several people interested in making some changes. Bill Bottoms chairs a By-Laws Committee, and is collecting ideas sent to him. Roger Linder has been especially active in thinking about the subject, and recently sent the following email. Bill Bottoms wrote that these matters

should be explored, and Roger's note is presented here for members to think about.

From Roger Linder:

The following are some thoughts for you to consider in regards our proposal:

Who is eligible to vote

- WCOLA members
- property owners in wcola area
- one vote per property

Vote required on

- changes in use of land
- changes in use of waters
- requests for enforcement of laws
- election of officers

Passing base on

- simple majority
- 2/3 majority

These are just some things for you to consider, we would be willing to meet to explore further.....

WATER QUALITY TESTING

Two of the projected four sets of 2005 water samples have now been taken; Committee Chair Richard Brasch and a cohort took the latest set on June 26, and the samples went immediately to the laboratory. It has been said often before, but repetition can't hurt: we take samples from ten sites on the Chain of Lakes, four times a year, for three important constituents—total nitrogen, total phosphorus, and chlorophyll A. Most of our samples are "mixed epilimnetic samples"—that is, we lower a 10-meter tube (about 30 feet) straight down to let it fill, plug it, dump its contents into a clean bucket, mix it, and take our samples from that bucket. We have data going back many years, analyzed by recognized lake laboratories, and we can therefore watch for any changes and take corrective action if necessary and possible. We are far ahead of other lakes in this respect!

Wakeman Bay and Little Wabana are exceptions to the sampling method described above. There is no place in Wakeman Bay as deep as ten meters, so the samples are for a shorter column of water. Residents of Little Wabana may want to take notice of this: For the past several years we have had nobody on that lake interested enough to join the sampling committee, so the samples are just surface grabs from the Wa-Ga-Tha-Ka dock. All the

other nine sites can be reached without transferring equipment from boat to boat, but with Little Wabana it means loading up the equipment into a vehicle, going to a site on Little Wabana, finding and borrowing a boat, loading it up, going out to the deepest part, taking the sample, back to shore, and loading up again. Volunteers do not have that kind of time, and we should not expect it! What is needed is a person or people on Little Wabana with a boat with a depth finder on it, willing to learn how to take the sample, get the equipment on sampling day, sample quickly on rather short notice, and get the cold sample to the rest of the team for delivery to the lab. So far nobody has volunteered to join, and thus we take the rather imperfect surface grab, which is better than nothing. If you are willing to do this, please contact Richard Brasch at his email address rbrasch@bonestrow.com.

I might add that it would be excellent if we could have similar samples from Clearwater and Hanson Lakes, since we are all a part of the same sub-watershed, and we thus need volunteers for those lakes, as described above for Little Wabana. I believe the membership would vote to include those samples in the expense of our sampling in the future.

WHAT "ENCLOSED ENVELOPE"?

A problem with working by volunteers is that sometimes communication breaks down, as it did when last month's Chain Letter confidently said that "we are continuing that inclusion [of a dues-paying envelope] this year." You were not alone when you looked in vain for your envelope, and decided that nobody loved you any more. The fact is, nobody received one, because the boxes of envelopes are lost in the basement of one of the volunteers. We hope that by next year they will have reappeared, or we will have bought new ones, but meanwhile you will kindly have to provide your own envelope for the dues you are going to pay.

When you do, please note on your check that it is for payment of 2005-06 WCOLA dues, and if your check doesn't have it already printed, please tell us (if you don't think we already know it) what lake is your interest, and where you want your Chain Letter mailed to and when.

Mail your dues to our Treasurer, Cathy Rudolph, at the address you'll find on the opposite side of this sheet (of course provided that the printing works out as predicted).

*This is the Chain Letter for July 2005 of the
Wabana Chain of Lakes Association*

15th Annual WCOLA Picnic

Saturday, July 16, 2005

6:00 P. M. at the Wabana Town Hall

Hot Dogs, Brats, and Orange Drink

will be provided

POTLUCK – Please bring a dish or
two to share

Everyone is welcome!

The Old Mill Stream?

*There will probably be an old-fashioned Community
Sing-along at the picnic, led by one of our members.*

*If you have a song, or a list of old time-honored songs that
you'd particularly like to sing,, please email the title(s) to
me, the Editor, and I'll quickly send them to the people choos-
ing the songs. If you have the words to any you think we need
to read, please send those, too. Some members are trying to
put together some sheets containing the words to old songs.*

Want to hear more about the
Vandalism at the Joyce Estate?
Come to the Association
meeting on

July 16, 2005

Coffee at 8:30 a.m.

At 9:00 a. m. we will have the busi-
ness meeting:

Kent Ledermann, Forest Service Level
IV Law Enforcement, is planning to
speak at our WCOLA meeting about
the damage at the Joyce Estate.

Because of the afternoon picnic, the membership
had decided to have NO program on July 16, but the
vandalism at the Joyce Estate was so urgent that in
June the members decided to ask a Forest Service
officer to come and discuss it.

Ms Cathy Rudolph, Treasurer
Wabana Chain of Lakes Association
36542 Havenwood Lane
Grand Rapids, MN 55744