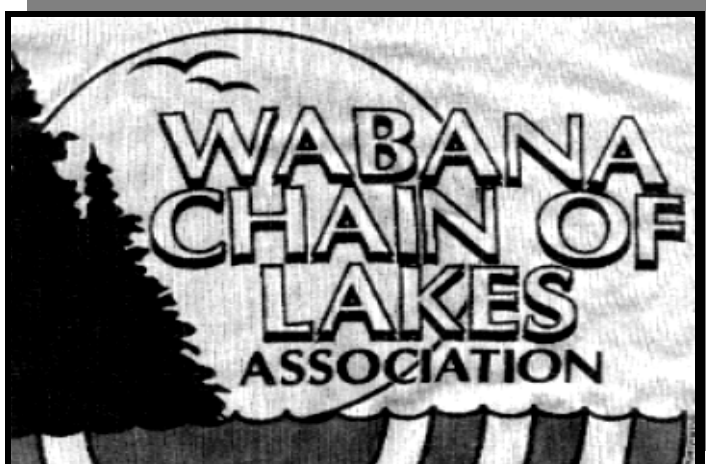


The Chain Letter

of the



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

JULY 2006

Volume 10, Number 3

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Officers:

President: Dick Chambers 326-2809
Vice President: Bud Sage 326-4535
Treasurer: Jean Koewler 326-4302
Secretary: Susan Lick 326-6837

Advisory Committee.

All the above, plus:

Lloyd Adams 326-2130
Steve Bryant 326-5473
Nancy Ellsworth 326-8056
David Lick 326-6837
Roger Linder 326-2266
Sherry Miner 326-0589
Cathy Rudolph 327-0820
John Zimmerman 326-1020

Visit our web site www.wcola.org

Add your items to it by sending to Mark Miner,
mminer@minergroup.com

To have your Chain Letter sent to you by email,
contact Jean Koewler, koewlerj@lcp2.net

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Our summer has really taken off! Tme sure goes by.

The membership has decided to not have a regular Saturday morning meeting in July, because our annual July picnic comes in the evening of that same day¹ Therefore our next monthly meeting will be on August 19th. During that meeting we will vote for President and Vice President. If you are interested in serving in one of those offices, or are interested in recommending a candidate, please contact one of our Nominating Committee members. Members are:

George Klacan, 326-5436,
Lloyd Adams, 326-6173
Mary Lou Sage, 326-4535.

Also during our August meeting we will discuss our by-laws, with a possible vote that day².

When out on the lakes remember to be safe³

See you at the picnic on July 15th.

Thanks, Dick

The deadline for copy for the August 2006 Chain Letter is August 5. Please send by email if possible.

¹ Saturday, July 15, 2006. Most members felt that the summer weather was too nice to spend in two meetings on the same day. -- Editor.

² There is more about the By-Laws. Please see page 5 --Editor

³ There is more about safety on the lakes. Please see John Downing letter on page 4 --Editor

MINUTES OF THE MEETING JUNE 17, 2006

Wabana Chain of Lakes Association

Program: Don Boese, author, local historian and ICC professor, provided an interesting history of the city of Grand Rapids from its beginning.

President Dick Chambers called the **meeting to order** with 31 members in attendance.

Minutes of the May 20, 2006 meeting were approved as written in the newsletter.

Treasurer's report, as read by Jean Koewler, was approved.

Balance as of May 19, 2006	\$6081.94
Receipts:	
Dues	\$1740.00
Contributions	\$ 335.00
T-Shirt sales	\$ 40.00
Coffee mug sales	\$ 5.50
Total Receipts	\$2120.50

Disbursements:

Bachman's (floral arrangement)	\$ 63.85
Cub (Clean-up picnic)	\$ 47.22
Treasure Bay Printing (12pg&2pg)	\$271.12
Stamps (June newsletter)	\$117.00
Fanfare Promotions (denim shirts)	\$461.98
Treasure Bay (June 8pg)	\$177.78
Total Disbursements:	\$1138.95
Balance as of June 16, 2006	\$7063.49

Total paid households: 109

Deadline for next newsletter is July 2nd. Bill and Betsy Downing sent their thanks for the cards and flowers.

Arlene Wheaton was introduced as the new editor for the township newsletter, **The Warbler**.

Highway Cleanup: The May 31st clean up of Wabana Township roadsides was a success – see June newsletter. Anyone who wants to help in the fall, contact Barbara Zimmer.

Association Dock Signs: John Zimmerman made a motion for the Association to buy 100 signs. Motion

approved. Bud Sage and Gary Burkholder will explore options for background colors.

Area Burglaries: Break-ins have occurred on area lakes. Anyone seeing a blue pickup with a canoe on top is asked to call the sheriff.

Campground Meeting: June 9th Bud Sage, Bill Berg, Dick Chambers and Bob Moore met with Samantha Hunter about the lake campgrounds. Bill, Bud and Ken Zimmer will check camp sites on their respective lakes. Report any questionable activities to Bob Moore. Write down boat numbers if possible.

Picnic: July 15, 6 PM, Town Hall. Everyone is welcome. Bring a dish to share. Brats, hot dogs, beverages, plates, cups and utensils will be provided. Lynette Bryant is chairman. Members helping are: Jean Koewler, Sherry Miner, Nancy Ellsworth, Pat Chambers, Carol & Gary Burkholder, Steve & Lynette Bryant, Bud & Mary Lou Sage, Cathy Rudolph. Bud Sage moved to eliminate the business meeting on July 15th. Motion carried.

Election of officers: The offices of President and Vice President will be voted upon at the August meeting. The nominating committee is George Klacan, Lloyd Adams, and Mary Lou Sage.

Newsletter discussion: Many ideas were expressed about the cost of sending the WCOLA newsletter to all residences in the township. More discussion will follow at the August meeting.

Lake Management Plan: Focus Area 1 deals with aquatic environments and topics such as zebra mussels and Eurasian milfoil. The committee will meet and bring concerns to the August meeting.

Help Needed: Someone is needed to file the exempt organization status application for WCOLA. Doug Skelton will talk to the Deer Lake Association for suggestions. Anyone interested please call Dick Chambers.

Historical Committee: A new committee was formed. Members are: Sherry Miner, John Zimmerman, Bill Berg, Bill & Betsy Downing, Roger Linder, Barbara Zimmer, and Nancy Ellsworth.

WCOLA information pamphlets are being distributed to all resorts on the chain. Quantities are limited. Any suggestions for additions to the pamphlet are welcomed.

A motion for **adjournment** was made by Mary Klacan. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 10:55 AM

Barbara Zimmer, acting secretary

FROM CATHERINE MCLYNN

Here is Catherine, acting not as County Commissioner, but as an interested Member of the Association: She notes that the Association spends quite a lot of money in sending the Chain Letter, not only to all the owners around the Chain of Lakes, but also to all households in Wabana Township, as part of our commitment to education. She suggests:

Newsletter by E-mail

We can all do our part to improve communications at the least expense.

Please reply to Jean Koewler⁴ to receive Wabana Newsletter by email and save volunteer time and Association money. She can click and send.

If you would like to receive the newsletter but are not yet a member, I am sure Jean will accommodate you so that you might become more familiar with the wonderful work the Lake Association does.

Disregard this if you already get the newsletter from Jean. I just offered to contact a few Wabana and interested folks who might like to get it by email whether or not they are getting it in the snail mail as a member already.

Catherine

⁴ Please see the box on page 1 for Jean's address.

FROM KEN ZIMMER

GET THE LEAD OUT

Lead is a toxic metal that, in sufficient quantities, has adverse effects on the nervous and reproductive systems of animals. Found in most fishing jigs and sinkers, this metal is poisoning wildlife such as loons and eagles.

When lead sinkers and jigs are lost through broken line or other means, birds can inadvertently eat them. Water birds like loons and swans can swallow lead when they scoop up pebbles from the bottom of a lake or river to help grind their food. They can also ingest lead by eating fish which have themselves swallowed lead tackle.

A bird with lead poisoning will have physical and behavioral changes, including loss of balance, gasping, tremors, and impaired ability to fly, mate and nest. Loons die within two to three weeks after swallowing a lead sinker or jig.

Research on loons from six New England states between 1987-2002 has shown where dead adult breeding loons were found, about 26% of these loons died from lead poisoning. In Michigan, a 15 year survey examined 186 dead loons revealing that lead poisoning was the number one cause of death at 24%.

While there is no ban on lead jigs and sinkers in Minnesota, New Hampshire has banned the use of lead sinkers that weigh less than an ounce, Maine and New York have banned the sale of lead sinkers weighing a half-ounce or less, Great Britain banned the use of lead sinkers in 1987, and since 1997, in Canadian national parks and national wildlife areas, it is illegal to use lead fishing sinkers and jigs weighing less than 50 grams. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has already banned lead sinkers in three wildlife refuges.

Minnesota anglers can get **free samples of nonlead sinkers and jigs** again this summer. The new products are made from tungsten, tin, bismuth and other materials that are nontoxic.

- Friday, July 21, noon to 5:00 p. m. at **God's Country Outfitters**, north of Grand Rapids on Hwy 38

- Rice Lake National Wildlife Refuge near McGregor, samples through August

For more information:

www.moea.state.mn.us/reduce/sinkers.cfm

This is very important information for all of us concerned about the wellbeing of our total lake ecosystem, and I feel grateful to Ken for obtaining it and explaining it so clearly.

FROM JOHN DOWNING

Let's Build a VHF Radio Safety Community

Thank you for the important information on PFDs in the last *Chain Letter*. I am sure that many in the Chain of Lakes Community will take these safety issues to heart and I hope we will see more and more boaters actually wearing their PFDs. I kept tally over Independence Day weekend and saw less than half the boaters wearing flotation devices. People should always wear these while on the water since they are pretty hard to find during any boating mishap! The autoinflate PFDs are a great solution.

Every summer, I send a fair number of people out to do field work on lakes so am very aware of safety issues. The No. 1 safety equipment that should be carried in a boat is a communication device in case trouble develops. The US Coast Guard has expressed concern recently that people are counting on cell phones while on the water instead of using approved marine VHF transceivers (also called marine radiotelephones). The problem is that cell phones work only from phone to tower so if a tower is out of range you are out of luck. Marine VHF radios form a network that works from boat-to-boat so everyone who is boating is part of the safety community. Another boater is likely to be a lot closer to you than the person you might call on the cell phone.

Everyone who operates a marine VHF radio simply monitors channel 16. This is the "calling" channel where you can reach anyone on the water and around the shore at any time. When you reach the party you are calling, you move to another channel to talk. In the case of distress, the closest person on the water can offer assistance. This is a radio network that is probably the best assurance of general safety on the water. This is a radio community where neighbors help neighbors and

everyone can have high quality communication on the waterways. All of our boats are radio equipped and we now have several handheld units. We have never heard anyone else use them on our chain of lakes but would like to encourage others to join this community effort.

Marine radios are quite inexpensive. You can buy good units on e-bay or marine suppliers for \$50 for a small 5 watt handheld. Fixed-mount units are 25 watts and are even better and cost from \$100-\$300 or so. All of these radios come with weather radios and can turn on automatically to provide important weather alerts.

For more information please look at the US Coast Guard site:

<http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/marcomms/boater.htm>

Happy boating! John Downing

ITASCA COUNTY WATER PLAN

Catherine McLynn wrote to suggest attendance at a meeting that (by this publication time) is in the past. But it contains a lot of information that is important for us to know, so I have paraphrased it and publish the gist:

The Itasca Soil and Water District is the agency responsible for updating and implementing the Water Plan for Itasca County, and that water plan is in the process of being modified right now. . Citizen input is important to setting priority concerns for management of our water resources in the county. We need to be sure that the concerns of lakeshore owners are heard during this process of change.

For those who do not know: The SWCD Board is made up of five elected Supervisors (elected on a county-wide basis) who work with citizens appointed by the county board in cooperation with other government entities including the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the United States Forest Service and Itasca County.

The SWCD has been implementing these on the ground for many years, and this updated plan will continue to give guidance to the County Board.

SWCD Board members want citizens comments anytime, but comments are especially

important during meetings that are held for that purpose. Such a meeting was held on Wednesday July 5 at 6:00 pm at Wabana Town Hall Another meeting was held during the previous week at Marcell Town Hall and was well-attended. There will be two more meetings held within the next few weeks in other locations. You are urged to attend these meetings and provide your input.

If you are interested in the dates/locations of future meetings, please contact Catherine McLynn at cat@mclynn.net and she will try to get them to you in time.

BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

The By-Laws Committee has been working very hard this Spring, to get the changes written down that we need, to update the By-Laws, so what we do corresponds with what we say we do. The members

*Dick Chambers:
Roger Linder
Sherry Miner
Mary Uradnik*

have kept the email lines busy with opinions, suggestions, and solutions.

They sent me the complete current version, well before the deadline for this issue of the newsletter, which had been checked carefully by Kathy Uradnik, a lawyer who knows about this kind of thing. The idea was to print that version in this newsletter, and you members would have it in hand well before the August meeting, at which meeting the members would be voting to adopt the amended version. Or amend it further, or whatever.

I am supposed to be a member of the Committee, but had had no input into this version. I thought it was a magnificent piece of work! But there were a few questions I thought it would be worthwhile to consider, as long as we were working "for the ages." I also felt that the Newsletter might be the wrong place for the By-Laws to be printed, since only the members need concern themselves with this matter, and The Chain Letter goes to the whole Township. No need to bore a lot of people with strictly in-house business.

So I sent an email about these things to the Committee members and of course sent copies to the officers as well. Responses from members of

the Committee seemed to lean toward taking more time before sending a document out. President Chambers responded as follows:

You presented a lot of questions that need to be talked about. I think it would be better if we wait and discuss these issues [in Committee] before presenting to membership for a vote. I will call a meeting with our committee, and the Advisory Committee after the Fourth of July. We can send out the document to our members in a special mailing before our August meeting, as you suggested. The by-law committee has done a wonderful job preparing this document. Let's not move too fast. Lets get it right. So waiting is the best way to go.

Thanks again, Dick

You members can expect to receive a special mailing sometime soon, if all goes as currently planned. Or—who knows?—maybe we'll decide to send it out with the August newsletter! After all, the deadline for copy for that issue is August 5

The Association fiscal year ended June 30, 2006, and we are now into a new year. This means that if you have not renewed your membership for the 2006-07 year, you are no longer a paid member of the Association. There will be considerable voting at the August meeting, and if you are not a member, you will be asked to forego voting. That would be annoying for you, and embarrassing for everybody. Please send your \$20 2006-07 dues to Jean Koewler, to the address you find on the other side of this page.

***This is the
Chain Letter
of the
Wabana
Chain of
Lakes
Association.***

***There will be no meeting in
the morning of July 15, but
there will be the Annual
Picnic in the afternoon!***

THE CHAIN LETTER OF THE
WABANA CHAIN OF LAKES ASSOCIATION
Jean Koewler, Treasurer
32040 Wakeman Bay Trail
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

WCOLA ANNUAL PICNIC

The annual Wabana Chain of Lakes Association Picnic will be held, Saturday, July 15 at Wabana Town Hall, Hwys 49 & 60,,,,,starting at 6 PM.... Brats, Hotdogs and beverage will be supplied,,,, PLEASE BRING A DISH TO SHARE..... THANKS Mary Lou Sage...

This is the best fun time of the year. If you haven't been there, you've missed a lot. Please give it a try! WCOLA people are the best anywhere, of course, and you will be glad to get to know them!