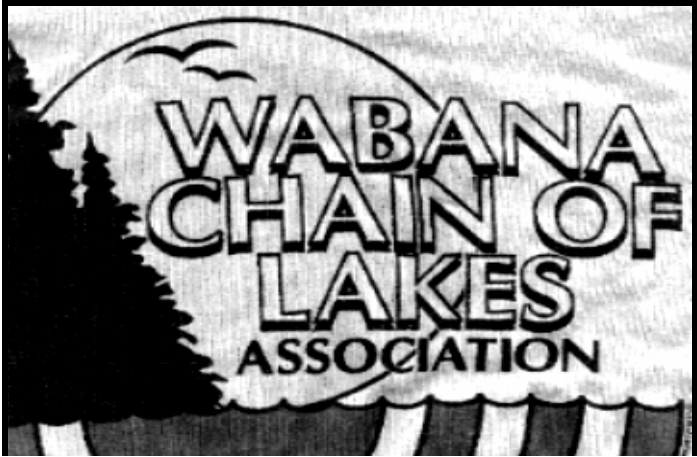


# The Chain Letter of the



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

# July 2007

Volume 11, Number 3

Editor: Bill Downing

**Please note my new email address:**

**wdowningster@gmail.com**

38067 Forest Lane, Grand Rapids, MN 55744 218-326-4730

1834 Simpson St, Falcon Heights, MN 55113 651-644-9625

Cell phone 651-303-2279

**Newsletter deadlines: August 18, September 15**

#### Officers:

President: Dick Chambers 326-2809

Vice President: Bud Sage 326-4535

Treasurer: Jean Koewler 326-4302

Secretary: Susan Lick 326-6837

#### Advisory Committee:

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](http://www.wcola.org)  
Add your items to it by sending to Mark Miner,  
[mminer@minergroup.com](mailto:mminer@minergroup.com)  
To have your Chain Letter sent to you by  
email, contact Jean Koewler,  
[koewlerj@lcp2.net](mailto:koewlerj@lcp2.net)

#### CONTENTS

PRESIDENT'S LETTER	1
MINUTES OF MEETING	2
HISTORICAL COMMITTEE	3
FROM BUD SAGE	3
AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY	3
BACKYARD BURNING	4
<b>PICNIC!</b>	<b>4</b>

Saturday July 21, 6:30 pm

#### PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Hello to all.

Well, the 4th of July has come and gone already. Time sure does fly. There seemed to be a lot of activity on the lakes this year, and it appeared that everyone was having fun. Haven't heard of any accidents, so all were using caution.

Our lake association will be having our annual picnic on the 21st of July. It's a great place to come and meet with your neighbors. So keep that day open and hope to see you all there.

Thanks,  
*Dick*

## MINUTES OF JUNE MEETING

### Wabana Chain of Lakes Association Minutes of the June 16, 2007 Meeting

**Program:** Deborah Gelbach gave a short presentation on property taxes. For additional information contact MSRPO, Minnesota Seasonal Recreational Property Owners Coalition [www.msrepo.org](http://www.msrepo.org).

Bill Berg, representing WCOLA's program committee, announced that Pam Perry, DNR non-game specialist from Brainerd, will speak at the August meeting. In September, Ryan Reed of the DNR Fisheries Department will present an update on lakeshore development in the area.

**Business Meeting:** President Dick Chambers called the meeting to order with 25 in attendance.

**An Ode to Wabana:** was presented by Greg Past, he sang and played guitar, a poem he and Arlene Wheaton had written.

**Minutes:** Minutes of the meeting of May 19, 2007 were approved as printed.

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

**Balance as of May 18, 2007**                   **\$4,130.74**

**Receipts:**

Dues	\$1,780.00
Contributions – Betsy Downing	\$ 351.00
Lake Maps	\$ 400.00
<b>Total Received</b>	<b>\$ 2,531.00</b>

**Disbursements:**

Jack Velzen	\$ 340.00
8 -13 x 19 glossy lake maps	
4- 18 x 24 coated lake maps	

Treasure Bay Printing

325 copies – 6 page May newsletter	\$ 154.48
Stamps (280 June newsletter)	\$ 114.80

**Total Disbursements:**                   **\$ 609.28**

**Balance as of June 15, 2007**           **\$ 6,072.46**

**Total Paid Households: 2007 to date: 91**

**Wabana Township Road Clean up:** on June 7th volunteers met. President Chambers thanked Ken & Barb Zimmer and George and Mary Klacan for

coordinating the efforts. Carol & Gary Burkholder and David Lick supplied a picnic lunch.

**Historical Committee:** Sherry Miner reported on a plan to distribute a questionnaire to the public requesting information about the Wabana Chain of Lakes area. A story telling event was suggested. A motion was made by Mary Klacan to purchase two tape recorders for interviews. Motion approved.

**High reality GPS and aerial photography:** Jack Velzen discussed examples of the work he can produce through his business. Lake map samples were displayed. Jack recently updated the Wabana Township Board on lakeshore ownership.

**Itasca County Coalition of Lake Associations:** Mary Lou Sage and Susan Lick gave a brief update concerning a citizen's petition, requesting the Itasca County Board of Commissioners to place a moratorium, on any new P.U.D. zoning requests until the Itasca County Comprehensive Land Use Plan is updated and in force.

**ICOLA discount cards** were distributed to all lake association members in Itasca County to use at participating vendors.

**WCOLA's Annual Picnic** will be held on July 21<sup>st</sup>. A motion was made by Mary Lou Sage to forgo the regular meeting in July. Motion approved.

**Nominating Committee:** President Chambers discussed the upcoming election of Officers in August. The positions of president and secretary have finished their terms. By request Bud Sage will leave the vice president position as he is now a Wabana Township Officer. *[Please see his letter on page 3]* A one year vice president term will be included on the election ballot.

President Chambers called for a volunteer election committee. Lloyd Adams, George Klacan and Greg Past volunteered. Bill Downing suggested non WCOLA members be sought out for Advisory Committee representation as well. President Chambers stated the advisory committee is always open.

**Newsletter Deadline: July 12<sup>th</sup> is the newsletter deadline.** Articles and news may be mailed to

**wdowningster@gmail.com** . Bill requested information from all members.

**Proposed donation to Minnesota Seasonal Recreational Property Owners Coalition:** Warren Chapman moved WCOLA donate \$500. to MSRPO. Following discussion, Bill Downing proposed an amendment to table the donation discussion until the August regular meeting. Amendment approved. Deb Gelbach suggested members read more about the organization and its work [www.msrepo.org](http://www.msrepo.org).

**Water Quality Committee:** Bill Downing reported for chairman Richard Brasch, that this summer is slated to be scheduled for a complete water assessment of the chain of lakes. Due to unforeseen circumstances Richard was not able to complete the ice out water test, one of the four needed. Jack Velzen and Bill Berg suggested postponing testing for a year until all four tests can be met. Jack Velzen volunteered to assist in testing. Jean Koewler reported testing was completed last in October of 2005 at a cost to WCOLA of \$510. Bill Downing stated WCOLA has twelve years worth of tests for the Wabana Chain.

**Mesaba Excelsior Coal Fired Power Plant update:** Bill Berg reported that the Balsam Township area and the Wabana Chain of Lakes would be one of the most affected areas of this proposed project. The plant is not currently being required to sequester the carbon dioxide produced by the plant thus an estimated 60 pounds of mercury could fall annually on our area. Jack Velzen stated maps of the proposed disposition due to wind, are available on the CAMP web site. Bill asked members to please use the power of letters to authorities. Complete information can be found on the CAMP web site.

**Next Meeting:** August 18, 2007.

**Meeting Adjourned.** A motion was made to adjourn. Approved.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Lick

## **HISTORICAL COMMITTEE FROM ROGER LINDER**

Included with this months news letter is a form requesting your help in gathering historical information, pictures etc. that will be the beginning of what the committee hopes will a historical display and collection for our area. The letter goes to all Wabana Township residents, whether or not they are members of WCOLA, and we hope that everyone will join in this project. In addition, if you know of past residents who are no longer in the area but are an important part of our history, please help us in locating them and getting their input. additional forms are available for that purpose. Contact Roger Linder at 326-2266 Again thanks to everyone for your help in what the committee feels is both a fun and worthwhile project.  
Roger

## **FROM BUD SAGE**

*We know that Bud declined to run for Vice President's position, and the Minutes above give one reason.*

My resignation is not because of my position with the Wabana Township Board or any possible conflict of interest. I have resigned because I have no intention to move up the chairs and was blocking that progress.

I will remain active with the Assn. and continue to support in any way possible.  
Bud Sage

## **AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY \Prints Now Available!!!**

The Wabana Chain of Lakes Association is now making available to you an attractive, full color aerial photography print of the Chain in a number of different sizes. These are display quality prints suitable for your cabin or home.

The prints use 2003, fully color corrected aerial photography. They are geographically referenced, so prints include a scale that allows you to measure distances, a north arrow, and labeling of lakes, bays and roads. Also visible on the print are some of the sand bars, sunken islands and other features visible from the air in the area lakes.

Interested? If you would like to see a sample, they will be on display at each month's Association meeting, and you can order your copy there. If you are unable to attend an Association meeting, but would like to see and/or order a copy, you can view a copy at Frame Up in Grand Rapids, and you can order a copy through the Association by calling or emailing Jean Koewler (218-326-4302 / koewlerj@lcp2.net). Options for types and sizes include:

13" x 19" on Glossy Photo Paper - \$30.00

18" x 24" (1 ½' x 2') on Heavyweight Coated Bond Paper - \$40.00

24" x 36" (2' x 3') on Heavyweight Coated Bond Paper - \$50.00

## **BACKYARD BURNING**

*From DNR—important information.*

**Don't Burn Your Garbage—It's Illegal!**

It's illegal, it pollutes, it's dangerous, and it wastes resources. Backyard burning of garbage has been illegal in Minnesota since 1969. Burning materials such as plastics, asphalt, rubber and other man-made materials generates hazardous air pollutants that are unhealthy for wildlife and people. Burn barrels often emit acid vapors, carcinogenic tars, and heavy metals such as lead, cadmium and chromium, as well as unhealthy levels of carbon monoxide. The closer you stand to the burn barrel, the more of these harmful chemicals you inhale.

The pollutants not only damage air quality, they also damage soil and water. Open burning is the cause of many grass, brush, forest and structure fires. Many of the items commonly burned could be reused, recycled or composted, such as: newspaper, yard waste, used oil, bottles, magazines, cardboard, food scraps, office papers, cans, lumber scraps. A 1994 study done for the USEPA showed that garbage burned in a burn barrel emits twice as much furans (possible carcinogenic toxins), 20 times more dioxin (an endocrine disrupter) and 40 times more particulate than if that same pound of garbage were burned in an incinerator with air pollution controls.

*Right on! Recycling and disposal work, are legal, and don't stink.*

## **PICNIC!**

*From Nancy Ellsworth*

*Come One, Come All!!!  
Our annual WCOL Picnic  
will be on July 21, 2007, at  
6:00. Lynette Bryant is the  
chairman and is doing a  
great job. Bring a dish to  
share and spend an  
evening with good friends  
and neighbors. Surprise  
door-prizes are included!!!  
See you there!*

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