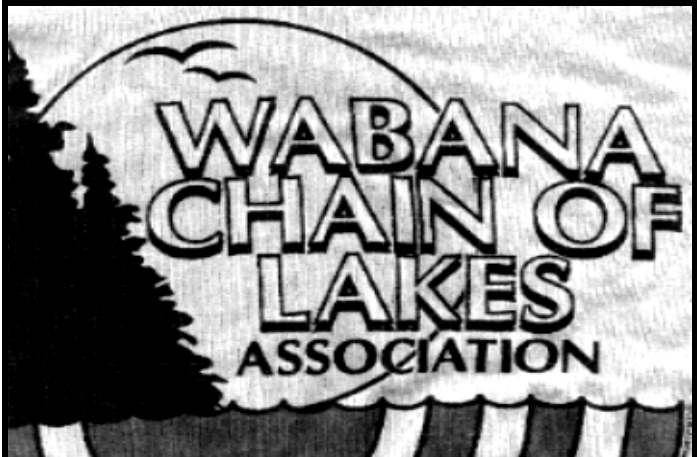


# The Chain Letter

of the



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

# April 2009

Volume 12, Number 1

Editor: Bill Downing 326-4730 [wdowningster@gmail.com](mailto:wdowningster@gmail.com)  
Publisher: Chris Friedlieb 326-8971 [waba4@uslink.net](mailto:waba4@uslink.net)

## OFFICERS

President: Bill Downing, 326-4730 [wdowningster@gmail.com](mailto:wdowningster@gmail.com)  
Vice President: Lloyd Adams 326-2130 [lradsams94@msn.com](mailto:lradsams94@msn.com)  
Treasurer: Jean Koewler 326-4302 [djkoewler@q.com](mailto:djkoewler@q.com)  
Secretary: Gail Olijnek 326-2431 [golijnek@prinet.net](mailto:golijnek@prinet.net)

### Advisory Committee—includes officers above

Bill Berg 326-4253 [terblberg@uslink.net](mailto:terblberg@uslink.net)  
Steve Bryant 326-5473 [bryants@2z.net](mailto:bryants@2z.net)  
Dick Chambers 326-2809 [dicknpat@msn.com](mailto:dicknpat@msn.com)  
Nancy Ellsworth 326-8056 [loonnae@juno.com](mailto:loonnae@juno.com)  
Susan Hawkinson 327-2533 [susanondean@msn.com](mailto:susanondean@msn.com)  
David Lick 326-6837 [wabana@uslink.net](mailto:wabana@uslink.net)  
Susan Lick 326-6837 [SusanLick@msn.com](mailto:SusanLick@msn.com)  
Roger Linder 326-2266 [mlinder@msn.com](mailto:mlinder@msn.com)  
Sherry Miner 326-0589 [siminer@msn.com](mailto:siminer@msn.com)  
Cathy Rudolph 327-0820  
John Zimmerman 326-1020 [czim31@comcast.net](mailto:czim31@comcast.net)

### 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)

## FIRST MEETING OF 2009: May 16, 2009, WABANA TOWN HALL!

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### NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Minutes of the September meeting, printed below, summarize a number of important innovations in the way we operate, which we discussed at that meeting, and which the members present found to be valuable. I urge members to read them carefully, particularly the sections on Standing Committees and timing of our meetings. I'll add some comments after the Minutes.

I have taken on the job of President with some reluctance, at my advanced age. The only way this will work is for the membership to take an active rôle in the Association's work, which includes attending meetings. To encourage that, we decided to limit meetings to one hour.

### WCOLA Meeting Minutes

September 20, 2008

The 29 members in attendance introduced themselves.

The meeting was called to order by our new President, Bill Downing, exactly at 10:00am.

An agenda will be provided to the membership for each meeting. President Downing presented the agenda and asked for any additions. There were three additional topics: Fall Road Clean Up, a Joint Community/Lake Association Picnic, meetings for year 2009.

**2009 WCOLA Meeting Dates**

V. President Adams said he will submit the 2009 meeting dates to the Wabana Township Clerk. We have asked for the third Saturday of each month for the months of May through September.

**Secretary’s Report**

A motion was made, seconded and approved that we accept the Secretary’s minutes as printed in the August WCOLA Newsletter.

**Treasurer’s Report**

An abbreviated version of the Treasurer’s report was read by Barbara Zimmer. The full report is listed below. A motion was made, seconded and approved that we accept the September Treasurer’s Report.

<b>Balance as of August 14, 2008</b>	<b>\$1,931.73</b>
<b>Receipts:</b>	
Dues	\$ 420.00
Contributions	\$ 10.00
Lake sign	\$ 5.00
Denim Shirt	\$ 31.00
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$ 466.00</b>
<b>Disbursements:</b>	
Instrumental Research	\$ 890.00
Report 8-22-08	
Postmaster - 220 -\$0.42 stamps	
September Newsletter	\$ 92.40
Treasure Bay Printing	\$ 185.53
August Newsletter – 8 pages	
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>\$1,167.93</b>
<b>Checkbook Balance –</b>	
<b>September 18, 2008</b>	<b>\$1,229.80</b>
<b>CD – Renewal Date January 22, 2009</b>	
	<b>\$5,114.64</b>

Total Paid Households: 129 (as of meeting)

**Standing Committees**

President Downing talked about standing committees and said that we would try to have more reports in the summer monthly newsletters.

**Fall Road Clean-Up**

Barbara Zimmer stated that every year we do road clean-up in the Spring and Fall. The Zimmers and Klacans have been coordinating this event. Fall Road Clean-Up will be this Wednesday, September 24 at 9:00am starting from the Wabana Town Hall. Coffee, rolls/muffins will be provided for those willing to come help. The county will pick up the trash from the Town Hall after we are finished. We should be done by 10:30-11:00am.

**New Business**

**Length and Frequency of Meetings and Programs**

President Downing introduced this topic with concern for increasing our membership, and also asked for suggestions/ideas from the current membership.

Nancy Ellsworth proposed that we have a picnic at Bluewater Bible Camp. The best time for the Camp is a Sunday at 4pm. The proposed date from the membership is July 19. Some concerns were: we’d not have in attendance all the weekend members; the whole township should be invited, it would be a good way to increase membership; can we boat in as well as drive; would it cancel Bluewater Camp’s June picnic that they host every year. It was decided through discussions with Bluewater Camp the June dinner should still happen and this picnic would be a new get together. It was decided that the whole Township be invited to the July picnic which would be our annual picnic. The Advisory Committee will do some further checking on this event and bring it to the next meeting in May, 2009.

The Advisory Committee discussed at their last meeting that if we hold shorter WCOLA monthly meetings we might get better attendance. Therefore, we will start at 10:00am and end at 11:00am. The only way we would not ad-

journal at 11:00 is if someone suggests we set aside the rules and continue a discussion.

After much discussion about the frequency of meetings and programs for WCOLA, a final motion was made, seconded and approved that we have meetings in May, June, August and September. July's meeting will be our annual picnic. We will have 3 programs set up by the Program Committee the months of June, August and September. May's meeting will be an organizational meeting asking the membership for ideas, concerns, and suggestions for the future. August's meeting is our annual meeting with election of officers.

### **Standing Committees**

President Downing proposed since he doesn't live here year round that we have our standing committees become more active; that they function more independently and report via the newsletter so that meetings can be kept shorter. He mentioned the existing standing committees and asked for any additional committees that needed to be formed. All committees are listed below. The President would normally meet with each committee, but President Downing doesn't believe that he will be able to do that, so V. President Adams said he will meet with the committees as necessary.

#### **Program Committee**

Bill Berg and Susan Hawkinson, Co-Chairs

#### **Historical Committee**

Roger Linder, Chairman;

Sherry Miner, Bill Downing

#### **Environmental Committee (was Water**

Quality...now includes shorelines, docks, water, magnesium chloride, air, etc.)

Ken Zimmer, Chairman; George Klacan, Jim Olijnek, Bill Berg, Nancy Ellsworth, John Downing, Richard Brasch

**Hospitality Committee** (annual picnic, goodies for our meetings, etc.)

Lynette Bryant, Kathleen Willson, Pat & Dick Chambers, Gary & Carol Burkholder, Gail Olijnek

#### **Membership Committee**

Dick Chambers, Chairman;

Gib Willson, Steve Bryant

**Publication Committee** (newsletter, brochure at public accesses, and other publications)

Susan Lick, Chairman; Roger Linder, Sherry Miner, Alida Zimmerman

Newsletter Editor, Bill Downing (temporarily); Newsletter Publisher, Chris Friedlieb

**Audit Committee** (there should be 3-4 members on this committee and the members should be changed every year; this committee is required by our tax status)

Mary Klacan, Chairman; Barbara Zimmer, John Zimmerman, (member suggested without his approval-Jack Velzen)

**Outreach Committee** (Spring & Fall Road Clean-Up, liaison with community, township, other lake associations)

Chair Lloyd Adams, (members put on the committee without their approval-Bud Sage, Dave Lick)

#### **Management Plan Committee**

This committee will remain with the Advisory Committee.

Each committee was to meet briefly at the end of the meeting and report their chairman to Gail before they leave.

### **Tax Exempt Status**

A motion was made, seconded and approved that we allocate \$180 for updating our Tax Exempt status.

#### **Non-Profit Status**

Gail reported that our Non-Profit status is current.

Gail Olijnek, Secretary  
September 20, 2008

### **MORE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Back in past years the Association had a lot of active Standing Committees, but we have not felt the need for them for several years, because Dick Chambers—and Jon Rowe before him--were able to cover most of the bases themselves. Conditions are different now.

What I am hoping for is for you to volunteer for one of the committees, by coming to the meeting on Saturday and volunteering by giving your committee choice to

our **Secretary Gail Olijnek**, or, call or send an email to Gail, **326-2431**

[golijnek@printernet.com](mailto:golijnek@printernet.com) , and tell her which committee you'd like to serve. Best give her your phone number and email address while you're at it. Of course committee service is not mandatory—it's just the hopeful gleam in my eye—so if you don't want to serve, don't volunteer. Then I'm hoping the Chairs will call a meeting of the willing members and write your proposed responsibilities (a kind of a Constitution) so we can all know what each committee does . Gail has put some suggested activities in the Minutes, and I have a couple of suggestions. The Membership Committee, years ago wrote and published a brochure listing the advantages of a strong Association and owners' membership; and canvassed all the people on the Chain, with a sales talk, signs, etc. The young people, especially, loved having this job! Publication Committee: Once this group published a brochure to put at the public landings, with a map showing what is private and public property, boat-in camp sites, etc. It worked very well.

I am hopeful that Committee Reports can become a regular part of the Newsletter, so we can save time at the meetings, but committees will continue to have a place on the Agenda.

## **WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE**

*Richard Brasch and his helpers worked hard this year, taking samples of water from all over our Chain, analyzing them, and then Richard wrote the following report for us. We had intended to make 2008 an analysis year, but the Spring weather wrecked our plans, so we proceeded this year. I hope you remember that since 1991 we have taken samples from ten sites on the Chain, that we analyze four samples for each site during the summer, and the numbers reported below are means—averages—of the four readings during the summer.*

**Chemical Testing.** In 2008, the Association completed its fourth full year (during the seventeen years since the first satisfactory sampling, in 1991) of chemical water quality sampling for the Chain. Similar water quality testing was completed in 1991, 1999, and 2005 as well, so the Association is beginning to develop a long-term data base of basic water chemistry for the Chain. Nine sites were sampled throughout the Wabana-Bluewater-Trout Lake Chain. The general locations of the sampling sites are shown<sup>1</sup>. As in the three previous efforts, each site was sampled four times during the spring and summer. In 2008, the first sampling excursion was on May 25. After that, samples were taken on June 28, July 31, and August 31..

The Association analyzes each sample for phosphorus, chlorophyll “a” and nitrogen. As most Association members know, phosphorus and nitrogen are both plant nutrients, and chlorophyll “a” is a measure of the amount of algae suspended in the water column. Phosphorus is especially important because it is the plant nutrient that most directly controls algae growth, especially in relatively clean lakes like the Chain. Even a little more phosphorus in lakes like the Wabana chain often means a lot more algae growth. Scientists have determined that just one additional pound of phosphorus (about the amount generated by one household through its sanitary waste in one year) results in 500 pounds of additional algae! This not only means lower water clarity, but it can reduce oxygen in the water needed by fish and other aquatic organisms. This is because much of the algae dies and decomposes, using up the lake's oxygen in the process. This problem is of particular concern in lakes that support a trout fishery, like Bluewater and Trout lakes, because trout need extremely high levels of oxygen in the water to survive and they often inhabit the deeper, colder parts of the lake where oxygen levels can be most severely affected.

Tables 1 and 2 show the average phosphorus and chlorophyll “a” values, respectively, for the June-September period in 1991, 1999, 2005, and 2008 at each of the stations sampled. Similar data for nitro-

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<sup>1</sup> You can find information on sites and other information about water testing on our web site [WCOLA.org](http://WCOLA.org)—click on newsletter archives and look at the last issue of each year beginning in 1999.

gen is also available and can be viewed on the web site ([www.WCOLA.org](http://www.WCOLA.org), and see the newsletter archives) , as can the individual data values collected for all parameters and at all sites for all four years of sampling. The reason the data are presented this way is that it is the June-September mean values for phosphorus and chlorophyll “a” (along with water clarity as measured by Secchi disk readings) that lake scientists and environmental regulators depend on most to determine a lake’s condition.

At the right hand site of each table are the reference values recently adopted by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MnPCA) for lakes in this part of the state. If the actual values exceed these reference values, it is at least a yellow flag that water quality of the lake in question may be considered threatened for the purposes intended. Reference values for both Bluewater Lake and Trout Lake are lower than those for Wabana, Interlachen, and Little Wabana because the former are designated trout lakes that require cleaner water-including well-oxygenated deep water habitat – to support trout populations. Where the water quality values are well below the reference values, it is essential to work hard to keep that “buffer” intact. This is important for several reasons, including the following:

- Natural fluctuations in lake quality occur because of year-to-year variations in climate factors, especially precipitation (infrequent large rainfall events can wash lots of pollutants into the lakes, as probably happened in 1999). The cleaner the lake is to begin with, the less long-term impact these events will have on water quality.
- It’s a good bet that climate change is a given. We can probably expect longer growing seasons and more large runoff-producing events, resulting in more plant biomass that the lakes have to “digest” each year. Again, if we can reduce the human input into the lakes, they will be better able to handle additional climatically-driven input without showing long-term effects of problem algal blooms, loss of oxygen in deep waters, etc.

- Allowing the lakes to degrade to the 30 ppb threshold would result in a visible change in the overall excellent water quality we have now, with more frequent algae blooms and significant decreases in transparency. We should strive to preserve the mostly excellent water quality we have now rather than letting our lakes go to a merely “average” condition for this region of the state.

**Table 1--Summer (June-September) Mean Values for Total Phosphorus (Values in parts per billion)**

Lake/Station	1991	1999	2005	2008	MnPCA
					Standard
BN Bluewater North	6.0	20.1	8.7	10.0	12.0
BS Bluewater South	3.7	11.5	10.0	10.0	12.0
IN Interlachen	11.3	10.5	13.3	10.3	30.0
TN Trout Lake North	9.3	11.3	14.0	10.3	12.0
TS Trout Lake South	7.0	8.8	17.0	10.0	12.0
WN Wabana North	10.3	14.2	10.2	10.3	30.0
WC Wabana Central	10.3	12.1	12.7	10.0	30.0
WS Wabana South	8.7	11.9	13.0	10.0	30.0
WW Wabana Wakeman	23.0	17.6	15.7	13.0	30.0
LW Little Wabana	9.3	13.9	12.0	~	30.0

**Table 2--Summer (June-September) Mean Values for Chlorophyll a (Values in parts per billion)**

Lake/Station	1991	1999	2005	2008	MnPCA
					Standard
BN Bluewater North	1.9	2.3	0.5	0.7	3.0
BS Bluewater South	2.1	2.3	0.8	0.7	3.0
IN Interlachen	2.3	4.6	0.8	0.9	9.0
TN Trout Lake North	2.9	2.3	0.9	0.8	3.0
TS Trout Lake South	2.7	1.9	0.7	0.8	3.0
WN Wabana North	3.0	2.8	1.1	1.7	9.0
WS Wabana Central	2.7	3.1	1.4	1.7	9.0
WS Wabana South	3.3	3.0	1.1	1.6	9.0
WW Wabana Wakeman	6.1	5.5	1.8	2.6	9.0
LW Little Wabana	2.6	3.2	1.1	~	9.0

Four data points is not much when one is looking for year-to-year trends, which underlines the need for continuing the effort to build the long-term wa-



ter quality data base. However, in looking over the data for the four years of sampling, there are several items that appear particularly worthy of note:

- **Precipitation for the May –September growing season, and probably runoff as well, was well below normal in 2008 and the lowest for any of the four sampling years.** According to the Grand Rapids station, the area received just under 14.5 inches of rain during this period, compared with a normal depth of 18.9 inches. Rainfall amounts for the same period in previous sampling years have been 15.8 inches for 1991, 27.37 inches for 1999, and 17.9 inches for 2005. Lack of rainfall and runoff often means less pollution reaching the lakes from their watersheds.
- **The 2008 phosphorus values for both Trout Lake stations appear to have returned to below the MnPCA threshold for designated trout lakes.** In addition, the chlorophyll “a” data remains well below the MnPCA threshold. This is good news and may reflect additional care that folks around this end of the lake are taking of their land or it may reflect natural variation due to climatic or other factors.
- **Wabana Wakeman has shown a sustained improvement in water quality based on both the phosphorus and chlorophyll “a” values.** This could suggest that the efforts at cleaning up septic systems are already having a positive impact on water quality in this part of the lake.

## LETTER FROM DOUG BLACKMORE

On Feb 23, 2009 4:18pm, "Doug Blackmore; Amity Creek Landscaping" <[amity@cpinternet.com](mailto:amity@cpinternet.com)> wrote:

Bill:

My name is Doug Blackmore and I have a cabin on Wabana Lake. It is on the little point near the dam and public access. We are second cabin from the end of the point. Over the last several years we have had some serious damage to the shoreline from ice push. This has hurt some trees that we like and caused the damaged bank to wash into the lake dur-

ing the summer. We want to do something to protect the bank and I have been talking to Andy Arens at the SWCD in Grand Rapids and he explained to us how we should rip-rap the shore in a gentle slope to at least reduce the ice damage. We want to do a short section, 50', and extending about 6' into the lake to see if it works and it's not too ugly. We intend to do this work yet this winter and I have contacted Wes Trout to see if he can do it.

I wanted the lake association to know what we were doing and assure you that we will do as much as we can to protect the lake and keep it as natural looking as possible. Please let me know if you have any questions or other concerns about this work. I look forward to hearing from you. If you like I can email some pictures of the bank and what we do to it.

Doug Blackmore

*This was my response:*

Dear Doug:

This sounds as though it would be a good project for you. I look forward to the Spring when I can see it myself, since I am not at the lake in the winter. Would it be all right if I included your letter in the Newsletter, which will be coming out pretty soon, in time to remind people of the May meeting? You have explained it very well.

Best regards, Bill

### FREE AD

*It's our policy to run free ads from members in the newsletter as space permits. Send a email to Chris Friedlieb, our Publisher, with information you want included.*

For Sale  
1994 Premier Sunsation 20ft, seats 12 w/40 hp mercury outboard, depth finder/fish locator full snap cover/ and sun canopy and stored inside during off season. \$5,000 or BO.

Jack Hartung at 952-322-5751

**2008 SECCHI DISK READINGS**

Month	Week	BN	BS	IN	LW	TN	TC	TS	TW	WC	WN	WS	WW	IS
May	1													
	2					15.5		11	12	12.5	12.5			
	3	13		17						14	14			
	4									16	16	17		
Jun	1	17			28	14		14	13.5	13	13		15	
	2	17.5		21	28		14	15	19		19	15	18	
	3	18	17		29.5	20	16	17	23	19	21	18	20	18.5
	4	20.5	20	22	27	26	18			21		16.5	20	
Jul	1	26	24	21.5		20	13	16	20.5	18.5	18.5	17.5		20
	2	17.5	17	22		22	15	18		20	20	16.5	18	
	3	20	18		17	26	17	25	20.5	19	19	17.5	19	19
	4	24	20	19		19	16	16	21	17	17		18	21
Aug	1		22	21.5		18	14	19			16.5	17	18	
	2	21	21			19	17	21.5	19.5	19.5	17	17.5	17	19
	3	21	22	22							17	19		
	4	21.5	18	5		15	16	17	19.5	19.5	18	18	15	19.5
Sep	1	15	18			14.5	14.5	21				15	15	
	2	13	15			14	14.5	22		20.5	17.5			
	3		13	21					20.5					20
	4													
Readers==>	George Klacan	Nancy Ellsworth	Paul Oberg	Cheryl Adams	Bill Berg and John Zimmerman					Sherry Miner	Ken Zimmer	Susan Lick	Dennis Koewler	Sherry Miner

**SECCHI DISK READINGS**

The chemical testing, reported in a previous section, is essential for us to have a base-line to see if change is taking place on the long term. The Secchi disk readings, on the other hand, are our daily scorecard, as well as long-term record of water clarity. The readers shown above go out about noon on a sunny day when there isn't a lot of wind, about once a week, and lower a disk on a line into the water, then checking to see how far down they can still see the disk. This is a time-honored way to keep a constant check on the clarity or transparency of the water, invented by an aide to the then Pope, to keep track of the clarity of the Bay of Naples. The man's name was, of course, Msgr. Secchi.

**EDITOR'S LAST WORD**

*I can't keep the job of Editor of the Chain Letter and President of the Association, much as I love the power that gives me. Chris Friedlieb would like not to be Editor, but has volunteered to be the Publisher. I guess that means that I will pass things along to her for publication and she will get it all in order and put out the newsletter. Please send your publishable things to her—phone number and email address given on the front of this Chain Letter—including committee reports, Minutes, ads, corrections, etc. But please send me suggestions about what should be on the Agenda for meetings.*

*Particular blessings go to Treasurer Jean Koewler, who keeps mailing the newsletter fast, even when I am dreadfully late in getting it to the printer.*

*The Chain Letter of the  
Wabana Chain of Lakes  
Association.*

*April 2009.*

*There is a lot of pretty  
good stuff inside, about  
Standing Committees,  
Water Quality, Water  
Clarity.*

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

The first meeting of the year will be

**May 16, 2009**

at the Wabana Town Hall. Last September we decided to make it an open meeting to discuss matters of importance to members. Please email me your ideas of what should be on the Agenda, and there is the time to add to the Agenda at the first of the meeting. The meeting will last one hour, unless there is a motion to suspend the rules and continue the meeting.

**Treats at 8:30,  
No scheduled Program,  
Business Meeting 9:00-10:00**



