

The Chain Letter

of the



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

October 2010

Special Mailing

WCOLA - OFFICERS

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SPECIAL WCOLA MEETING HELD

As published in the prior (September) WCOLA special mailing – we did hold a meeting on October 5th to better understand the USFS / DNR Wabana Lake Dam – Fish Passage proposal. The meeting was also advertised to citizens living in Wabana Township. The first part was an open meeting – of both WCOLA members as well as non-members. Eric Raitanen (USFS) and Jeff Tillma (DNR) presented to the attendees using PowerPoint slides – they took questions as they went. This lasted about an hour and was both interesting and thorough. There were many questions raised as well as concerns discussed. We invited Itasca Community Television to tape this meeting which can be viewed at:

<http://www.watchictv.net/?q=node/1060>

(Select “Other Boards and Commissions” from the drop down list and then select the “Wabana Fish Passage Public Meeting”).

Please watch the video for detailed understanding of the meeting. Here is my high level summary.

The proposal is to leave the dam in place, build rock “weirs” (think of these as rows of rocks from shore to shore that form pools behind them) in roughly 6 inch progressively lower levels just below the dam. This will not change the level of water in the lakes. It will allow for fish to move upstream into our lakes from the watershed – in today’s design without the weirs – fish can only leave our lakes. This puts it back to as close to as it was prior to the dam being built – without removing the dam.

There was interesting conversation around the benefits of being connected to the watershed for the plant and animal life in our lakes (both presenters are biologists). Other points discussed included the impact to property owners where construction of the weirs will take place, invasive species potentially having better access, and will our lakes see increased fishing impact if successful migration of Walleye occurs. Questions were answered until the audience had no further topics to discuss.

After the presentation – we held a closed WCOLA meeting. There had been good turnout and so we had a quorum as our bylaws require. A motion was made and seconded to sponsor this project – there was then another 45 minutes of discussion amongst members and a vote was taken – 88% of those in attendance agreed to adopt the motion making it official that WCOLA will sponsor this project. Additionally – Wabana Township held a meeting the following night – and have decided to co-sponsor with us. Meetings with the DNR and USFS will take place over the fall and by December the application for this competitive grant will be completed and made to the Forest Service to decide if this project merits funding.

Letters of support or concern can be sent by any of us as individuals regarding this project – they should be sent to: ericraitanen@fs.fed.us I hope that you will take the time to view the video and to become informed regarding the project prior to writing either in support or with concerns. Good information on our lakes was provided and should be of interest to all of us who live on or near the chain of lakes or who visit here to enjoy this special place.

Thank you – John Zimmerman, President WCOLA

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*Special mailing – Meeting
Announcement*

WCOLA held a special meeting to consider sponsoring the USFS and DNR Wabana Lake Dam / Fish Passage. Results communicated inside.

THE CHAIN LETTER OF THE
WABANA CHAIN OF LAKES ASSOCIATION
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