

The Chain Letter

of the



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

June 2014

Volume 17, Number 1

WCOLA - OFFICERS

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Updates, if any, noted in **Red** – update your address books!

Visit our

web site www.wcola.org

Add your items to it by sending to Mark Miner,

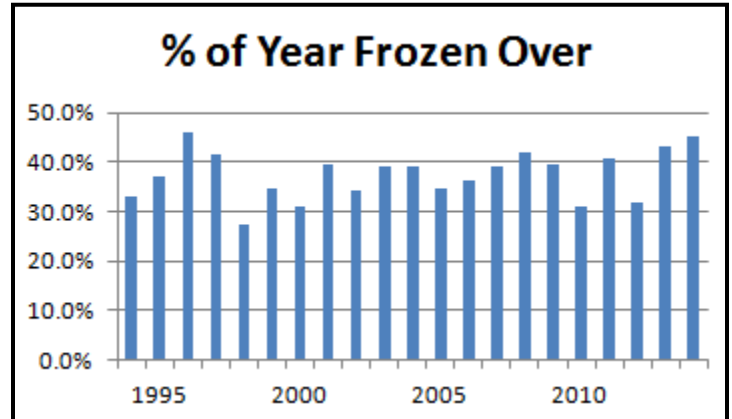
mminer@minergroup.com

LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Hello members and neighbors,

Ice went out on Trout Lake on May 8th...it seemed to take forever but once started it went quickly. From

discussion at the meeting two weeks ago, it seemed Wabana was about the same. We have data on Trout (thanks to Bill & Terry Berg and before them thanks to Bill and Dorothy Barkoff) going back to 1964 for each year - as well as 1960 and 1957. Over those six decades - the earliest ice out date was April 3rd (2012) and the latest ice out date was May 17 (2013).



The same parties have been collecting "freeze up" dates as well - but only since 1993. With both the freeze up and ice out dates - you can see in the chart above what percentage of the year Trout is frozen over. That record belongs to 1995/6 (Nov 28, 1995 - May 14, 1996) at 168 days or 46.0% of the year! Last winter was very close with 45.2%. The shortest freeze was the 1998 - when the lake didn't freeze until after Christmas (Jan 3rd) and was open again by April 13th for a total of only 100 days or 27.4% of the year.

Probably more than you wanted to know about ice but it is interesting to see that it varies greatly - and as a result we spend between a quarter and a half of the year with our lake frozen.

We had good turnout for our first meeting of 2014. Our position of secretary is open currently and so I took notes that will have to pass as minutes and they are presented below for your review and for approval at the next meeting as well as those Art Merrill took in September 2013 - his last meeting as our secretary.

The June meeting will be an important one for all of those living on our four lakes - members or just neighbors. At that meeting I will present (and others who helped in the study can add their comments as well) the proposal for significantly modifying how our organization runs. You may remember last fall - as summarized in the last newsletter from 2013 (available for your review online - just Google WCOLA and go to the newsletter section - thanks Mark Miner!) that Gib Willson proposed looking at other lake associations and learning from them. One successful

model he was familiar with held no Saturday meetings - encouraged membership but communicated more broadly with all those living around the lake, held social events to encourage friendships and community, and when work was needed to be done - the elected board and committee chairs saw to that. In our discussion last year that interested all of us and so we agreed to work over the winter and propose it more formally in the spring - That is what will occur June 21, 2014. **We are sending this newsletter to members, past members, and those who live around our lakes. If you are interested in discussing this model - please make sure you attend the June meeting. If you cannot attend or choose not to but want to provide your thoughts - email me at jwzimmerjr@gmail.com** and I will do my best to summarize that input and share it with those attending the meeting. It is likely a vote will be take - but that will depend on attendance - someone making a motion and putting it to those in attendance.

I look forward to discussing this with you and seeing where it takes us. Much like the picnic last year - I think the broader an audience we attract and the more fun we make this - the better all of us will enjoy WCOLA and thus ensure we remain vital as an association focused on preserving and enjoying these four lakes and the area around them.

Sincerely, John W. Zimmerman Jr.,
President - **Wabana Chain Of Lakes Association**

Upcoming Meeting Dates for 2014

Saturday, June 21 (coffee, treats, at 8:30 a.m.)
9 - 11a.m. **Business meeting to discuss the Reorganization of WCOLA**...there will be no program scheduled this session to allow us extra time for the discussion

All Meetings will be at the Wabana Town Hall

MINUTES - WCOLA MEETING MAY 17, 2014

The meeting of the Association was called to order by President John W. Zimmerman, Jr. at 9:00 am.

The agenda as presented was adopted. The Treasurer's Report of May 17, 2014 (shown below) was received by motion, seconded and passed.

Barbara Zimmer mentioned the upcoming date for roadside cleanup (which was very well attended - record number and Barbara will share details at our next meeting)

Ken Zimmer reported for Environment - he brought along a feathered friend - Martha - the last of the Passenger Pigeons and shared the story of the impact of humans on this now extinct species. Details can be found at :



http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Passenger_pigeon

John Zimmerman presented 4 proposals for water testing from the ICC Water Quality Testing Lab - reminding the members that we had agreed to doing testing last year and had set aside money for this purpose. It was moved, seconded and approved that the proposal to do 9 sites on our four lakes be done once a month in June, July and August for a total of \$3,697. During the discussion - it was also considered that if, with additional information, it made more sense to do it 4 times - we could modify the approval at a later meeting.

Jack Velzen brought samples of the maps, similar to the ones he prepared about 10 years earlier. On three maps - our four lakes shoreline is shown. Along the shore - using the publicly available county tax map information (you can review it online at the counties web site) Jack has updated the property ownership - and the number of changes was significant over this brief lapse since the last maps were done. By a show of hands - almost everyone attending the meeting wanted at least the map of their lake - many wanted all three. Jack is preparing a proposal to bring to the June meeting for us to discuss.

John Zimmerman spent the rest of the meeting leading a discussion about the proposed Organization Revamp Draft that was handed out to those in attendance and which is summarized later in this newsletter.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 am.
Respectfully submitted - John W. Zimmerman, Jr.
(President in the absence of a Secretary)

MINUTES - WCOLA MEETING SEPTEMBER 21, 2013

Meeting The meeting was preceded by a presentation on the Itasca Community College Water Lab, with Eric Ahlstrom as the coordinator.

The meeting of the Association was called to order by President John W. Zimmerman, Jr. at 10:10 am.

The agenda as presented was adopted. The Minutes of the Aug 17, 2013 meeting were accepted by motion, seconded and passed. The Treasurer's Report of Sept. 21, 2013 was received by motion, seconded and passed.

Ken Zimmer reported for the Environmental Committee on the issues of noise and light pollution. He suggested two books: *The End of Night* by Paul Bogard, and *One Square Inch of Silence* by Gordon Hempton.

Sherry Miner asked that Secchi disk reading be submitted to her as soon as possible.

The Hunter's Supper will be on Nov. 2 at the Town Hall. The Children's Christmas party will be Dec. 7 at the Town Hall.

Thanks were extended to Jack Velzen for all his work on the WCOLA T-shirts. The net income for the shirts was reported as \$1044.

Lloyd Adams reported that he had reserved the Town Hall for next year's meetings. The dates are May 17, 2014, June 21, July 19, Aug 16 and Sept 20, 2014. It was noted that not all these dates may be needed if the reorganization of the Association goes through.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am.
Respectfully submitted - Arthur L. Merrill, Secretary

**WABANA CHAIN OF LAKES TREASURER'S
REPORT
MAY17, 2014**

Balance – September 19, 2013 \$13,622.87

Receipts:

Dues	\$ 120.00
Contributions	\$ 40.00
T-Shirt/ Sweatshirt Sales	<u>\$ 2,305.00</u>

Total Receipts \$ 2,465.00

Disbursements:

Midwest GIS,LLC (T-Shirt/Sweatshirt Sales)	\$ 1,223.00
Itasca Water Legacy Partnership (Access	

Inspections on Wabana Chain	<u>\$ 1,500.00</u>
Total Disbursements	\$ 2,723.00

Checkbook Balance-May 16, 2014 \$13,364.87

Total Paid Households: 8

Designated Funds:

2014 Water Testing	- \$3,068.00
Historical Committee	- \$48.56
Membership Committee	- \$50.42

**FIREWISE PROGRAM KICKOFF - 2014
A NOTE FROM BUD SAGE:**

Chipper days pickup is scheduled for August 4th, 2014. In addition to the pickup, a new service is available for senior citizens. A crew of young workers is available to clean up around the house area, including some trim work, etc.

A tracking form that is a summary of work you have done will be required to report to Itasca County for in-kind matching dollars. Call Bud Sage at 326-4535 for details and to get the required tracking form.

BE FIREWISE Make your home a survivor of approaching wildfire.

**ORGANIZATION REVAMP
SUMMARY AS PRESENTED MAY 17, 2014**

Committee Members: Jim Olijnek, Mark Zimmerman; Doug Griffin; Jean Koewler; Roger Linder; Sherry Miner; Sue Lick; Bud Sage; Gib Willson; Art Merrill; John Zimmerman.

Process: We met twice as a whole group, divided work, had small group meetings, shared results electronically.

As discussed in 2013 and reviewed in the final newsletter of that season, our executive committee (with additional members) agreed to spend the off season working on a review of how we are organized. This review grew out of looking at other lake associations. The core of the proposal so far is as follows:

Beef up the committee structure and add committees (Roger, Doug & Jim created - all commented)The objectives of reorganizing WCOLA is

to gain expanded involvement from the chain of lakes owners and grow membership. To accomplish the objectives the Association is expanding the Advisory Committee into a larger governing board with additional committees and bylaw changes to include more social elements.

The identification of the responsibilities all the proposed WCOLA standing committees are identified in two parts as described below:

Form a committee of WCOLA members with a chair and vice chair. Represent the committee at Board meetings and bring substantive issues for consideration. Develop a Mission Statement for the committee which defines objectives and timing. Plan, present, execute actions to fulfill developed tasks in support of the WCOLA objectives. Contribute to the newsletter.

Develop and assign tasks within each committee's area of function. Committee tasks encompass areas for consideration as shown below:

Communications

- Secretary is member of committee
- Develop committee annual plan and budget - achieve board approval - then manage
- Develop committee budget - achieve board approval - then manage
- Maintain mailing list and usage. Both member and nonmember lake owners.
- Newsletter (assembly and distribution)
- Mailing/email as appropriate for events, issues, and other info
- Web site updates (face book)
- Voting methodology for substantive issues
- Responsible for maintaining WCOLA's official records (Secretary minutes, Calendar, Treasurers reports, voting outcomes, etc.)

Environmental

- Develop committee annual plan and budget - achieve board approval - then manage
- Water quality testing, analysis, and reporting
- Invasive species knowledge, monitoring and training
- AIS beach walk
- Firewise Program
- Road clean-up
- Loon count

Government Liaison

- Develop committee annual plan and budget - achieve board approval - then manage
- Track DNR management plan for Chain of Lakes
- Track issues that affect the lakeshore & water rules for usage/variances
- Grant development
- Benchmark with other lake associations to establish "Best Practices"
- Interface with ICOLA and other lake associations
- Neighborhood watch event in conjunction with the Police

Critical Issues (entire board) Decides what are and how to handle WCOLA positions on substantive issues.

Historical

- Develop committee annual plan and budget - achieve board approval - then manage
- Develop, maintain, and expand display of Wabana historical items and people
- Encourage members and non members to bring forth historically relevant material for preservation - then either take ownership or more likely make quality copies for archiving
- Formally establish working relationship / partnership with Itasca County Historical Society as the repository for our archives - as we should not maintain them ourselves

Social

- Develop committee annual plan and budget - achieve board approval - then manage
- Arrange for programs for the June and September meetings
- Picnic
- Ice Cream Social with the Wabana Community Fund
- Pot luck
- T shirts, coffee mugs, etc.
- Off season gatherings
- July 4 boat parade, could include a boat-in picnic/camp fire or flotilla

Membership

- Develop committee annual plan and budget - achieve board approval - then manage
- Greeting packages for new lake owners
- Call/visit non members
- Dues collection
- Lake/Property signs for members available thru this committee

Business

- Develop committee annual plan and budget - achieve board approval - then manage
- Bylaw updates and succession planning
- Financial audit
- Budget development
- Definition of officers and committee responsibilities/duties
- Nominate candidates for office, committee chairs and Chair election process
- Responsible for maintaining organizations 501C3 official status

Continue with a strong officer structure (John created, all commented) WCOLA Officers - Proposal covering responsibilities, terms served, selection, skills desired. In general - all officers serve for 2 year assignments, cannot all be from the same lake at any one time & must be paid up members of WCOLA

President

- Runs General Business meetings
- Chairs Business Committee
- Ideally would have served as committee chair or in another officer position prior to becoming President
- Represents WCOLA to outside
- Invited member of all committees - attendance is optional
- turnover in odd years

Vice President

- Acts as President when he/she is unavailable
- Responsible for arranging board meeting place/date implementation
- Can commit funds, sign checks in absence of Treasurer
- Represents WCOLA to outside
- Invited member of all committees - attendance is optional
- Ideally would have served as a committee chair prior to being elected to this position
- turnover in even years

Secretary

- Chairs Communications Committee or at least serves on same
- Acts as backup to Treasurer when he/she is not available
- Keeps minutes of official meetings
- Serves as organization record steward - ensuring all business records are collected and preserved
- Represents WCOLA to outside
- Invited member of all committees - attendance is optional

- Ideally would have served as a committee chair prior to being elected to this position
- turnover in odd years

Treasurer

- Co Chairs Business Committee or at least serves on same
- Acts as backup to Secretary when he/she is not available
- Represents WCOLA to outside
- Lead financial responsibility for organization - signs checks, ensures financial records are kept, ensures secretary has all necessary records at year end to preserve organization business archive
- Invited member of all committees - attendance is optional
- Ideally would have served as a committee chair prior to being elected to this position
- turnover in even years

Together the officers & committee chairs would be 10-12 people - maybe more - and would be the WCOLA board and would do all routine WCOLA business. Significant items that would require all members / community members input would be handled with a special set of communications and meetings as required (Group effort)

Full Board would be made up of:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Business Committee Chair
- Communications Chair
- Social Chair
- Government Relations Chair
- Membership Chair
- Environmental Chair
- Historical Chair

Proposed WCOLA Calendar

Have the board do all the business meetings - as many as necessary to do the organizations business - 4-6 meetings a year all year long (with electronic participation to allow non year round members to play active roles on the committees / officer roles)

Eliminate the Saturday business meetings / replaced with annual member business meeting and others called if/as required (Roger, Doug & Jim created, all commented)

January

Jan 1 Begin new Fiscal Year

Jan-Apr Dues collection campaign

February - Consider some kind of off season outing for example: dinner somewhere, a snowmobile outing (Social Committee)

1st Wed Board meetings (maybe electronic)

May

1st Wed Board meeting-Plan the season

3rd Wed road cleanup

June

1st Wed Board Meeting

1st wk Newsletter

1st Sat Pot luck, or appetizers maybe at

WaGaThaKa -

3rd Sat Entire organization meeting inc program, business etc

6/21 Summer Solstice party-Bill Downing

July

2nd Wed Board meeting

7/4 or there about, boat parade or boat flotilla (Soc Com)

3rd Sat Picnic (Soc Com)

3rd Wed Beach walk for AIS (Envir Com)

August

1st Wed Board meeting and activate Nominating Committee

3rd Sat Ice Cream social-sponsored by WCOLA and Wabana Community Fund (Soc Com)

Neighborhood watch night out with GR Police (Soc Com)

4th Wed Boat-in picnic/camp fire (Soc Com)

September

1st Wed Board meeting

1st wk Newsletter

3rd Sat Entire organization meeting inc program, business, election of officers, etc

3rd Wed Road clean-up (Envir Com)

October

1st Wed Board meeting

2nd wk Conduct financial audit

November

2nd Sat Hunter's supper- sponsored by WCOLA and Wabana Community Fund

December

Consider a Christmas party or extension of the children's party held last year (Soc Com)

- Focusing the general **membership activity** around social events / programs (learning relevant content like we have always had - though perhaps in a different format)
- Have our **newsletter expanded** from 4-6 pages to a dozen - 2 or 3 times a year - mail hardcopy to members as well as community members. It becomes the primary way WCOLA ensures good communication vs the prior Saturday business meetings. This is also a way, in response to the newsletter, to seek member and community member input for our board.
- **Beef up the other communications** - web, email blasts, personal visits to new members etc.
- Have a **major** spring/early summer and an end of summer/early fall **social event** - still discussing members only / all community involvement but at least one will likely be open to all similar to how our picnic was done this summer.
- Have **3-5 additional smaller social events** - scattered thru the year...thoughts discussed so far include continuing the solstice event if the Downing's are willing, a boat in meet / picnic, something having to do with snowmobiles, meeting at a restaurant during the winter, etc.
- WCOLA will need at least one time each year to have a **business meeting** where all members are invited - officers will need to be elected and there are other things which will require the attention of all voting members from time to time (501c3 status, bylaw changes are both examples) as well as this gives all members an open forum.

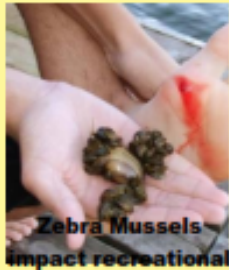
The officers, committee chairs and members working on this project are all doing good work and I wanted to say thank again or taking personal time to work on this project. I know that the 3 pages above covered a lot of ground - but it is important to share some of the details so we can get everyone's input. Please send me your thoughts if you are unable to attend the June 21st meeting - otherwise, read this over and come prepared to discuss. I hope that you will also consider joining a committee and helping make this work and finding time to get to know your neighbors on these lakes better. Looking forward to a great summer/fall season when the lakes are not frozen over...

Sincerely, John W. Zimmerman Jr.,
President - **Wabana Chain Of Lakes Association**

That covers the organization of officers and committees as well as a suggested calendar. General thoughts of the working team included:

Our lake association belongs to the Itasca County and Minnesota Waters lake associations - and as a service - they develop and share materials. Following is their recent poster on Aquatic Invasives and what each of us can do to halt their spread:

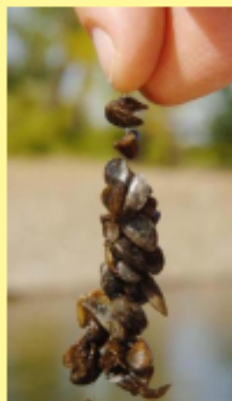
What Can YOU do to Halt the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)?



Zebra Mussels impact recreational use of lakes



Zebra Mussels attach to plants



Juvenile Zebra Mussels are small



Zebra Mussels on a native clam - Zebra Mussels deplete food supply for native fish

✓ **Hire dock/boat lift installers who are DNR trained Lake Service Providers (LSP).**

It's the law! Anyone installing, removing, renting, or leasing water-related equipment in state waters must be DNR trained. The business needs a permit and the worker needs DNR certification. (DNR website: www.dnr.state.mn.us, search **LSP**)



Ask to see the DNR issued certificate of the LSP dock and lift worker. Businesses and workers that are properly trained will be happy to show you their credentials.

✓ **Know that watercraft and all water-related equipment can spread AIS.** This includes fishing boats, jet skis, wakeboard boats, pontoons, sailboats, scuba gear, float planes, canoes, kayaks, all fishing gear, waders, docks, boat lifts, tools, trailers, and waterfowl hunting gear.

✓ **Learn to identify each aquatic invasive** (zebra mussels, Eurasian watermilfoil, spiny water fleas, rusty crayfish, etc.) Watch for any new AIS infestations that may allow quicker and more effective treatment options. Be aware of AIS not currently in MN but considered a threat such as hydrilla or northern snakehead. (DNR website, search **aquatic invasive identification**)

✓ **Know which waters are designated "infested waters"** in Minnesota and other states. And recognize that other lakes and rivers may also be infested and not yet designated. In all cases, take precautions when moving watercraft from lake to lake. (DNR website, search **infested waters**)

✓ **Educate your guests!** Make sure watercraft and water-related equipment of guests arriving from other lakes/ivers (including out-of-state) are free of zebra mussels and other Aquatic Invasive Species like Eurasian watermilfoil, spiny water fleas, and Flowering Rush.

Watercraft coming from other waters should follow recommended dry times or decontamination. The best: **140° water for 10 seconds to kill all AIS.** (100thmeridian.org, search **dry time estimator**)

✓ **Encourage resorts/campsites/hotels to train marina employees** on AIS and to use precautionary measures when working with water-related equipment arriving from other lakes and rivers. All arriving watercraft and water-related equipment needs to be free of AIS - **Cleaned and Drained** before entering the water. Water-related equipment that is **Dry** is less likely to spread AIS.

✓ **Public access inspection program** is available for public accesses - contact the DNR for training. Be "**Eyes and Ears of the Lake**". (DNR website, search **watercraft inspection**)

✓ **Promote good AIS relationships** among your lake neighbors, the DNR AIS Specialist and law enforcement by including DNR and law enforcement as speakers during your lake association meeting. (DNR website, search **aquatic invasive species contacts**)

✓ **Report suspected new AIS sightings to the DNR.** It's the law!

✓ **Know current laws and follow them.** Before leaving public accesses, water must be drained from all water-related equipment. All bait containers with lake water must be drained and watercraft must be transported with the plug out. (DNR website, search **invasive species laws**)



Minnesota DNR www.dnr.state.mn.us

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As of 05.13.2014

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

June 2014

*The next event is a very important meeting - where we will discuss changing how WCOLA is organized and run. Please read over the points in the newsletter and send input or better yet - attend the meeting at the Wabana Town Hall on **Saturday, Sept 21st**. There will be coffee and treats at 8:30am and the meeting starts at 9:00 this time so we have plenty of time for the discussion. See you there!*

THE CHAIN LETTER OF THE
WABANA CHAIN OF LAKES ASSOCIATION
Jean Koewler, Treasurer
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