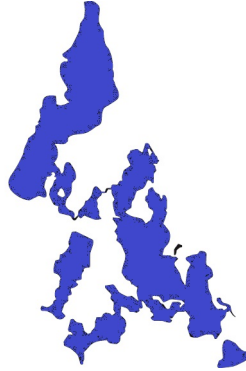


The Chain Letter

of the

**WABANA
CHAIN OF
LAKES
ASSOCIATION**



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

January 2018

Volume 21, Issue 1

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Visit our web site www.wcola.org. Add your items to it by sending to Mark Miner mminer@minergroup.com

Here we are in January already with a really New Year. These last few weeks of sub-zero stuff is getting really old. Summer will return eventually. It is kind of a quiet season for your board of directors with only some limited committee work going on.

The association had a good year with as high a membership as we have had in a long time. The membership dues along with some donations and memorials have allowed us to put some funds aside to prepare for a rainy day. We also had a few social events which were reasonably well attended and fun for all. The plan for 2018 includes again a social mixer in June, a picnic in July and annual meeting in August (see the calendar later in the newsletter).

Our focus continues to be on water quality. We are updating the Water Quality Management Plan to expand our focus on Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). The plan will be ready for approval early this spring. We are also developing an "AIS Rapid Response Plan" to allow us to quickly react to any issues uncovered. In addition, an AIS Risk Assessment has been completed which includes the Chain of Lakes (see articles in this newsletter). Our speaker on septic systems at our annual meeting sparked a lot of interest and we have included an article on septic systems in a previous newsletter. Itasca Waters, formerly Itasca Water Legacy Partnership is focusing heavily on septic and shoreline issues and we intend to follow their activities closely. We did include a DNR brochure on shoreline management in our January membership mailing.

Itasca Waters is again hosting a "Youth Summit" for all 5th grade students. This event has been going on for 7 years now and represents a wonderful experience for the students to learn about many different aspects of what affects our waters. Several WCOLA members volunteer for the event. The next Youth Summit will be held on May 22nd at the Itasca County Fair Grounds.

WCOLA members have been attending meetings and/or communicating with both the Itasca wide lake association (ICOLA) and specific government agencies. The primary purpose of attending the ICOLA meetings is to see what other lake associations are doing that may benefit our association. So far, we have gotten many helpful ideas and materials including ideas for a welcome package, reactions to AIS concerns, etc.. Remember the Zebra Mussel ALERT we sent out? The government agency connections are to understand actions they are considering which might be helpful as well as those we might want to oppose and include the MPCA, Soil and Water, the Forest Service, and the DNR.

Let's all look forward to another wonderful lake season and I wish you all well.

**Wabana Chain of Lakes Treasurer's Report
January 01, 2017 to December 31, 2017**

Balance – January 1, 2017 \$ 10,654.00

Receipts:

Dues \$ 5065.00
Contributions \$ 1030.00
Donations-Agnes Blackmore \$ 645.00
Map Sales \$ 50.00

Total Receipts \$ 6,790.00

Disbursements:

Stamps \$ 382.79
Treasure Bay Printing \$ 496.01
Treasure Bay Printing - 72 Mugs \$ 591.92
Supplies-Picnic and Spring Social \$ 48.07
ICOLA Membership \$ 62.00
Itasca Soil and Water-AIS testing \$ 1500.00
Misc. Supplies \$ 14.24
Wabana Community Fund \$ 32.49
Ice Cream Social ½ cost
Itasca Water Legacy Partnership \$ 100.00

Total Disbursements \$ 3,677.52

Transfers to Savings Accounts

Transfer to Water Testing \$ 1500.00
Transfer to AIS \$ 5000.00

Total Transfers \$ 6500.00

Checkbook Balance-December 31, 2017 \$ 7,266.48

Savings Account – Water Testing \$ 6,504.13

Savings Account – AIS \$ 5,000.25

Total Paid Households: 148

AIS Risk Assessment

RMB Labs has conducted an AIS risk assessment on a variety of lakes in Itasca County including the lakes of the Wabana chain. The entire report can be viewed at www.itascacola.org. Click on Itasca Cola then on Aquatic Invasive Species and finally on Itasca_AIS Risk Assessment. The Wabana Chain of Lakes studied are found on:

Bluewater page 21, Trout page 22, Little Wabana page 44, Wabana page 64.

Basically Bluewater, Trout and Little Wabana are all rated as low risk primarily because of limited access, few if any resorts and number of fishing tournaments and the like. Wabana is rated moderate risk due to more resorts, more boat access and the few fishing tournaments held, thus more boat traffic and higher possibility on introducing AIS.



Water Quality Plans

Your Water Quality Management Team has been working on two plans. We are updating the Water Quality Management Plan developed in 2016 to include expanded content on Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) and shoreline management. We expect to have the plan complete by the WCOLA spring Board meeting to obtain approval.

The second plan is called the AIS Rapids Response Plan which was recommended by the Itasca AIS Coordinator and DNR AIS specialist. This plan basically deals with preplanning for the Detection, Verification/Identification, Documentation, Determination of the extent, and Treatment. This plan is in the draft phase currently being reviews by our team members and the Itasca AIS Coordinator. The objective is to have a plan and permit process in place already should some issues be detected so we can immediately get on with whatever actions are needed.

Discussions with Bill Grantges

Bill Grantges is the Itasca AIS Coordinator and manages the AIS boat inspection program as well as a whole host of AIS related activities. Bill is considered one of the most knowledgeable people around with regard to AIS operational issues. Below is a question/response interchange with Bill on AIS concerns for us on the Wabana Chain of Lakes.

B – You ask two very reasonable questions that have no simple single answer.

Q - What type of AIS is most likely to infest the Wabana Chain of Lakes?

B – It does not matter in that each AIS calls for the same preventative measures to keep it out. Every AIS needs to be found very early after its introduction into a new body of water for there to be a chance of eradicating it. The Wabana Chain of Lakes do not have water chemistry that eliminates the risk of any given AIS reproducing and establishing itself. One could argue that the highest risk comes from the most prevalent AIS in the area. That could be Purple loosestrife, Eurasian water milfoil, Curly leaf pondweed, Rusty crayfish or any number of AIS we have not yet discovered.

Q – what is the most likely way lakes are infected?

B - That question is being studied throughout the US. I believe that the most likely means for AIS to enter a lake is by way of the property owners on that lake, from their own properties, not the public access, in part because of the inspection program. The purchase and introduction of used equipment such as docks, boat lifts, and swim platforms pose a very real risk of introduction of AIS. Entire viable mature colonies of AIS can be introduced and left in a lake when infested equipment of installed.

Comment – you can view an article on this subject in the WCOLA October 2017 newsletter via www.WCOLA.org.

B - The best thing that can be done right now is for everyone to go outside and look at their equipment that has ben removed from the lake. Do you see anything that does not belong? If so, call me or the DNR immediately. I would be happy to send people out to inspect equipment on shore if you like. Go out into the shallow water directly in front of your properties and get to know what is there. What is normally there? Pick up sticks and stones from the water and examine them If anything looks suspicious call me immediately. We have people on staff here that are trained and certified to identify AIS. Early detection and rapid response is our second best option. Prevention is the best.

Bill Grantges

Itasca County Aquatic Invasive Species Program Coordinator

218-256-4243

Coordinator@ItascaAIS.Info

Mark Your Calendars

2018 Season Events

May 23 Wednesday

***Roadside Cleanup – Town Hall**

June 9 Saturday

***Kick-off Social – Bluewater Campfire Camp**

June

Summer Solstice Party - Downings

July 4 Tuesday

Boat Parade – Lake Wabana

July 21 Saturday

***Picnic – Wabana Town Hall Pavilion**

August

Firewise Pickup

August 10

Ballot due for elections

August 10 Friday

Ice Cream Social – Wabana Town Hall

August 18 Saturday

***Program – Wabana Town Hall**

August 18 Saturday

***WCOLA Annual Meeting – Wabana Town Hall**

September 26 Wednesday

***Roadside Cleanup – Wabana Town Hall**

November 3 Saturday

Hunter's Supper – Wabana Town Hall

December 16 Sunday

Winter Solstice Party – Zimmerman's

*** WCOLA sponsored**

THE CHAIN LETTER OF THE
WABANA CHAIN OF LAKES ASSOCIATION
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