

Wabana Chain of Lakes Association

Water Quality Plan

May 14, 2018

Objective: Maintain and improve the environment of the lakes and lakeshores in the Wabana Chain of Lakes and surrounding area of the watershed by promoting environmentally sound practices through education, monitoring, testing and inspection processes. Cooperation and coordination with appropriate governmental agencies and lake and water oriented associations in the interest of maintaining excellent water quality and managing the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species.

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Shore land affects

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Measure Water Quality-establish a baseline and periodically track conditions

Accumulate all the data from previous readings and samplings, get the data into a useable data base and perform analysis to determine meaningful in-sight as to lake improvement. All the extensive data taken on the lakes has been assembled and delivered to RMB Labs to format for inclusion into the MPCA data base. Analysis of the data and reporting including trend analysis via a grant to RMB Labs is in process. Compare this data to other lakes and the MPCA data base.

Continue Secchi Disk readings to measure water clarity weekly or biweekly on at least 10 sites on the chain of lakes during the summer months.

Implement chemical sampling to correlate with and compliment MPCA sampling. Sampling protocol will be based upon MPCA guidelines for timing, water depth, sample handling, etc. WCOLA will sample the same 5 sites as MPCA and at least 2 additional sites; one on Little Wabana and one on Little Trout. We will sample two years in a row at the midpoint of the 10 year MPCA cycle (2020 and 2021), sample five times from ice out through September, use a certified lab for analysis and ensure data is entered into the MPCA data base. While the MPCA samples for a series of chemicals, the most critical for lake quality have been judged to be Chlorophyll-a, and total Phosphorus which is what WCOLA will sample for. Make adjustments as warranted to the sampling plan based upon data analysis including the MPCA data.

Mercury Investigate levels found in the chain of lakes. Determine what levels are dangerous or harmful and disseminate any warnings necessary. Communicate to lake community appropriate information.

Sulfides Investigate levels found in the chain of lakes. Determine what is harmful and disseminate any warnings necessary. Investigate alternatives and work with local government.

Address Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)-communicate/educate lake community, focus on prevention. The five species that are of most concern in our area are: Zebra Mussels and Spiny Water flea, Starry Stonewort, Eurasian Water milfoil, and Curly-leaf Pondweed. Maintain strong partnership with organizations such as Itasca Waters, DNR, U of M Extension, and ICOLA, and Soil and Water who are experts in the AIS area. Develop an AIS Rapid Response Plan.

Educate and communicate by holding training programs and providing materials which identify AIS elements. Communicate AIS information using newsletters and special mailings. Encourage attendance at various conferences on AIS. Provide information to resorts located on the chain of lakes for use with their guests on the laws, concerns and what actions they should take.

Focus on prevention through inspections of boats and trailers entering and exiting the boat landings. Continue to support the inspection program with annual funding and promote continued funding by the township. Encourage near shore inspections at the boat landings and possibly host a physical inspection day with the members. Support establishing additional decontaminating stations.

Detection/identification- Encourage Lake People to be on the lookout for items of concern, and to notify key identified contacts. Use the AIS Risk Assessment Reports and mailings as a guide to aid identification. Maintain reference books. Identify contact points for anyone seeing something of concern and what steps to take. Specifically, take a photo if possible and note the location then contact:

DNR Specialist Rich Rezenka at 218 328-8821 or Richardrezanka@state.mn.us

Itasca County AIS Coordinator Bill Grantges at 218 256-4243 or coordinator@itascaais.info

WCOLA member/AIS trained detector Jean Panchyshyn at 952 250-6690 or tsp.jmp@gmail.com

WCOLA has identified possible high risk AIS introduction areas such as boat landings and provided the data the Itasca AIS Coordinator.

Treatment may be needed as decided by the DNR upon investigation of possible AIS infestations. Quick response is sometimes critical and limited actions could be taken by WCOLA. For more serious treatment, a permit is required. WCOLA will investigate the requirements of the permit process and possibly submit one or more in anticipation of an event. In addition, some immediate action may be necessary such as hiring divers to determine

the scope of the problem or some other treatment option. This would require quick access to funds for emergency situations, thus WCOLA has established an emergency fund of \$5000.

Shore lands affect the water both directly and indirectly- WCOLA plans to address shoreline issues over the next several months and we expect to adopt much of the material developed by Itasca Waters as they prepare it and roll it out. Additional information of particular interest will be provided via mailings to include:

Septic Systems

Run-off

Buffer zones

Shore land initiatives

Permit variances

Fish Management Review the DNR produced Lake Management Plans for Bluewater, Trout and Wabana. Communicate with DNR Fisheries officials to understand their plans. Communicate those plans and other DNR comments with all chain of lakes property owners and for feedback. Influence DNR decisions based upon the desires of the chain of lakes property owners