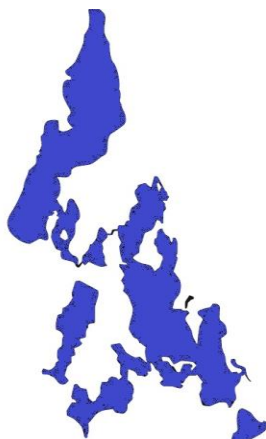


The Chain Letter

of the

**WABANA
CHAIN OF
LAKES
ASSOCIATION**



October 2020

Volume 23, Issue 3

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

WCOLA OFFICERS

President: Louis Gueltzow
999-9217 lgueltzow@gmail.com

Vice President: Steven Melin
steven.melin@juno.com (email only)

Treasurer: Jean Koewler
326-4302 djkoewler@paulbunyan.net

Secretary: Susan Lick
326-6837 susanlick8183@gmail.com

Newsletter Editors: Jean & Steve Melin

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Tom Klatt (Social)

Doug Griffin (Government Liaison)

Mark Conover (Environmental)

Jean Melin (Communications)

Roger Linder (Historical Committee)

Follow us on the [Wabana Chain of Lakes Facebook](#) page

Visit our web site www.wcola.org.

Please notice, for the first time in many years, Jim Olijnek's name does not appear as an Officer or Chair. Jim has retired from his WCOLA Board activities. We all thank Jim for his tireless work and support over many years in making WCOLA what it is today

President's Corner October 2020



The pandemic has caused us to alter our normal schedule of events. The decision was made to cancel our annual meeting and instead to publish summaries in the newsletter. Hopefully this will inform all members of the activities that transpired this year.

Committee chairs have contributed details of their activities to keep members informed. I hope this will serve as a good replacement for our cancelled annual meeting. If you have any questions or issues not contained in this report, please feel free contact a board member.

I hope 2021 will allow us to get back to something of a more normal schedule. We have all missed the fellowship that we have enjoyed in past years.

Calendar of Events

2020

- September 23 - Road Clean-up - Meet at Township Hall 9:00 am

2021 Projected Calendar

- May Second year of water sampling continues
- May 5 - Roadside Spring Clean-up
- June 12 - Kick-off Social
- June 21 - Downing's Summer Solstice Event
- July 4 - Boat Parade
- July 17 - Annual WCOLA Picnic
- July 31 - Wabana Township 100-year Anniversary
- Aug. 14 - Annual WCOLA Meeting
- Sept. 22 - Roadside Fall Clean-up

Covid-19 Impact We are all impacted by Covid-19. Its guidelines, shutdowns, and executive orders are always changing. At the time of this newsletter's publication, the impact on *ALL* of our planned WCOLA activities is not known.

Please watch your emails from Jean Koewler to let you know each event's status one-way or the other as the dates approach.

CELEBRATION – Wabana Township is turning 100 years old

The 100-year anniversary committee continues to work on the Township Celebration which is scheduled **July 31, 2021** (with Aug. 1st being the back-up rain day). The committee is planning a historical display as a part of the celebration. We are requesting your participation to provide artifacts, stories, and photos you may have to share. Hopefully this article prompts you to begin thinking and searching the past to be a part of the celebration. One of the outstanding attributes of our area is its great natural beauty. However, one of the contributors to that beauty are man-made, i.e. dams. The first record of a dam is in 1872 when Con Dinesen, a character of Itasca's early years finished building a dam at the foot of Wabana. Since then dams were built on Little Trout and Bluewater to facilitate logging our chain of lakes. In 1917 a concrete dam was built in conjunction with the building of the Joyce estate. In the late 1930s the DNR began construction on the current dam. The DNR records and photo follow. More information on dams will be on display at next year's 100 anniversary celebration.

Roger Linder, Chair

WABANA LAKE OUTLET DAM



June 11, 1940, upstream view.

Environmental Committee Update

The Goals for 2020 continue to be to:

1. Maintain excellent water quality in our lakes
2. Prevent and manage the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)

Our committee is involved with the following projects in 2020:

1. Comprehensive water sampling and testing
2. County-wide AIS inspector program
3. Assessment of need and location for a boat/trailer decontamination unit
4. Evaluation of our options in the management of our public lake accesses

A big **THANK YOU** goes out to the many WCOLA volunteers who have participated in the water sampling program!

Mark Conover, Chair

Wabana Chain of Lakes Treasurer's Report

January 01, 2020 to August 31, 2020

Balance – January 1, 2020	\$ 7,995.04
Receipts:	
Dues	\$ 4490.00
Contributions	\$ 1440.00
Map Sales	\$ 939.00
Medtronic Foundation	\$ 500.00
Margaret A. Cargill Foundation	\$ 1,250.00
Total Receipts	\$ 8,919.00
Disbursements:	
Stamps	\$ 213.40
Jean Melin-Newsletter Publisher	\$ 300.00
Treasure Bay Printing	\$ 121.74
Rapids Printing – Maps	\$ 454.00
ICOLA - Membership	\$ 79.00
Itasca Waters – Membership	\$ 100.00
MN Lakes & Rivers -Membership	\$ 100.00
Itasca Soil and Water-AIS testing & Summit	\$ 2,500.00
West Bend Mutual Insurance Co.	\$ 450.00
U of M Foundation – Wake study	\$ 250.00
Mn Aquatic Invasive Species - Research	\$ 100.00
unTapped – Township Comp. Plan	\$ 500.00
Jack Velzen - Revise Maps	\$ 157.70
MN Secretary of State – Notice of Change	\$ 35.00
Misc. Supplies	\$ 10.47
Total Disbursements	\$ 5,371.31
Transfer to AIS Savings Account	\$ 2,640.00
Checkbook Balance-August 31, 2020	\$ 8,902.73
Savings Account – Water Testing	\$ 6,565.08
Interest	\$ 3.61
Water Testing Account Balance	\$ 6,568.69
Savings Account – AIS	\$ 7,182.83
Transfer	\$ 2,640.00
Interest	\$ 3.97
AIS Account Balance	\$ 9,826.80
Total Paid Households: 158	

Jean Koewler, Treasurer

2020 WCOLA Board Election Results

An election was held for the Secretary & Treasurer of the WCOLA Board of Directors. The results were:

Secretary (2 year term)	Susan Lick
Treasurer (2 year term)	Jean Koewler

Congratulations to Jean & Susan and **thank you** for all your work for WCOLA.



Thank you to Pete Friedlieb for use of this picture

GTLO! (Get the Lead Out!)

Lead poisoning, resulting from ingestion of lead fishing tackle is recognized as one of the leading causes of death in breeding common loons, and ingestion of lead fishing tackle has been found to be the cause of death in 10 to 20% of MN loons. Studies indicate that replacing lead fishing sinkers and jigs with non-toxic alternatives provide immediate benefits to loon populations.

This spring, Minnesota Lakes and Rivers, which WCOLA is a member of, hosted a webinar on the topic. A recording is available to view on MLR's website at www.mnlakesandrivers.org

AIS Decontamination Unit

The fund-raising for the AIS Decontamination Station continues, to date we have raised approximately \$4,000 towards our goal. WCOLA is undertaking this effort in collaboration with Wabana Township and Itasca County Soil & Water AIS department.

The AIS decontamination unit will be housed at the township hall, which is centrally located between both Wabana landings, and could be used by anyone requesting or needing the service before or after visiting another body of water.

Your contribution will help fund another tool in preventing AIS from entering our pristine chain of lakes. Please consider a donation to WCOLA, which is a registered 501c3 non-profit organization. If your employer offers matching funds, please consider this funding source too. Make checks payable to WCOLA and write "AIS Decon. Unit" on the memo line, and mail to:

Jean Koewler, WCOLA Treasurer
32040 Wakeman Bay Road
Grand Rapids, MN 55744



WCOLA Social Committee Report

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 virus we were unable to plan both the Spring Social held at Camp Bluewater in early June and the annual picnic held at Wabana Town Hall the later part of July. The hope is this virus will be under control by next year so we will be making arrangements with Camp Bluewater for next June and will plan for the picnic in July.

Tom Klatt, Social Chair

WCOLA 2021 Annual Budget

The annual budget projection of expenses for Fiscal Year 2021 is:

Committee	Element / Budget
Communications	\$850
Newsletters	450
Copying/printing/postage	400
Environmental	\$6,600
AIS Inspections	3,000
AIS Actions	300
Contributions	200
Water testing/analysis	3,100
Business	\$2,200
Recognitions/insurance	1,600
Historical	100
100-Year Anniversary	500
Govt Liaison	\$1,275
ICOLA membership	75
Itasca waters membership	100
MN Rivers & Lakes member.	100
Wabana Twp. Comp. Plan	500
Misc. Funding Requests	500
Social	\$450
Advertising/mailings	215
Kick-off mixer	50
Picnic	100
Ice Cream Social	35
Program/annual mtg	50
Total	\$11,375



Communications Committee Update

The WCOLA Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/wcola.org/>) continues to grow with 126 people now following it. We continue to update the page with interesting information, photos, and posts. The WCOLA website (<https://wcola.org/>) includes detailed information and report-links on water quality testing, AIS information, and past newsletters.

We send out three newsletters per year and an annual membership letter in January.

Wabana Township has a new website (<http://wabanatownship.com/>). Please check this website for updates on the 100-year anniversary celebration and other township news.

Thank you to Mark Miner for all his volunteer work maintaining both the WCOLA Facebook page and our web-site.

Jean Melin, Chair



Government Liaison Committee Update

My work with WCOLA is enjoyable. When your board of directors sees a problem in which a government agency can assist, I get to work with a representative of that agency in order to reach a solution beneficial to WCOLA and that agency. Getting action may be slow, but persistence and presenting evidence that WCOLA is willing to participate in the solution can pay off in the end.

WCOLA has helped finance boat inspections at our two launch ramps for years. Since we can't afford to have both ramps covered at full time, we are looking to how to best manage the ramps for better AIS coverage. Some ideas include: 1) reduce hours / days that one of the ramps is open, 2) manage one ramp for carry-in watercraft (canoes, kayaks), and enlarge the other ramp for powerboats so that we have the same capacity but only need one inspector present, 3) other ideas to consider. I know that any solution would be inconvenient for some people, however, boat inspections are at this time the only defense we have for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). Management of the boat landings is being addressed as part of the Wabana Township Comprehensive Plan that is currently being developed.

I was talking with the Itasca County AIS Coordinator just last week and he mentioned that up to the first of September his inspectors had done almost 600 more boat inspections at our ramps than at that time last year with a total of 2899 inspections to Sept 1, 2020. Be aware that boats are inspected both when they enter and when they leave the lake.

Another situation that we are currently working on are unregulated Vacation Rentals By Owners (VRBO). We have received many complaints about over-crowding, excessive noise, more than one family rented to at a time, a house on a back lot being allowed to use a dock, etc. VRBO Regulation appears to be needed.

The problems that we work on are not solved in a short time. WCOLA has established, over many years, a reputation of good stewardship which makes it easier to work with government agencies. It is through maintaining and growing membership and maintaining our dedication to the quality of our lakes that we are able to continue to positively influence our environment and to enjoy our chain of lakes. Thank you for your support.

Doug Griffin - Chair

Wabana Township Comprehensive Plan

The Township Advisory Committee continues to work on the Comprehensive Plan. In May, we conducted a Community Survey that had 224 responses from Wabana residents. A summary of the survey results was provided with the Summer 2020 edition of the Warbler.

A public meeting was held on August 19th, via Zoom, to solicit inputs. The meeting's outcome finalized four supporting goals & objectives and defined implementation strategies and action plans to meet the intent of the Comprehensive Plan.

The draft of the plan should be complete in the next couple of months and will be presented at another public meeting. Please look for updates on the Township's website, in the Warbler, and an invite to the meeting in the mail.

Last Page Photo Contest

OK, either the last photo was too hard or nobody wanted to enter.

The May 2020 photo was of the remains of the "Caution Poison Ivy" sign at the Wakeman Bay western campsite.

Hopefully, this photo is a little easier.



For the above photo contest picture, provide details (lake, trail, location, direction) where the photo was taken. E-mail your entry, with your address, to: steven.melin@juno.com. Earliest correct entry will receive \$10.00 in Grand Rapids Chamber Bucks. Winner to be identified in the next newsletter.

Fine Print Rules: Winners must be a WCOLA member. WCOLA Board members / spouses and Bob Moore are not eligible. Decision of the judge is final.

**THE CHAIN LETTER OF THE
WABANA CHAIN OF LAKES ASSOCIATION**

Jean Koewler, Treasurer
32040 Wakeman Bay Trail
Grand Rapids, MN 55744