

WICOLA NEWS

White Iron Chain of
Lakes Association, Inc.

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SUMMER 2009

President's Message

For those of you who are snow-birds, as I am, coming back to your place "up north", even if it is up north from Arizona or Florida, and not Minnesota, always brings surprises. The place needs more cleaning than you thought; or there is a repair job that developed over the winter; or more yard work than you remembered from last year. And sometimes, there are good surprises—your neighbor brought over firewood to get you started for the year; there is a new baby fawn or other animal in the neighborhood to watch; your dock was in early; or the lake didn't flood this year, for once.

The same is true this year of WICOLA. Coming back in the spring of this year, in particular, was full of surprises. I knew that your Board had appointed a group, which came to be known as the "Core Committee" to work with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) on a **Clean Water Project Proposal**. Over the winter the Core Committee developed goals and objectives for this plan, fleshed out a budget and duties for a coordinator for the project, and did preliminary work on grants to help support the project.

The outline of the project itself was first presented to you in the Spring 2009 WICOLA Newsletter. In this Newsletter you will find additional information bringing you up to date

about funding for the project, most of which is unknown at the time of this writing. But we have a new web site at <http://www.wicola.org> where you will be able to see the latest information about this project, including funding updates.

The project is dependent upon three legs of funding and resources: resources received from the MPCA; dollars and in-kind resources from supporting agencies and foundations, with the third leg the contributions of dollars and in-kind support from members of WICOLA. At some point this summer, we will be asking you to contribute to this project.

Even though the dollars contributed by WICOLA members will not cover the entire project, they are very important, as they demonstrate to funding agencies the commitment WICOLA and its members have to this project. We can leverage the dollars you contribute many times with grants and other support.

The other way you can help with this project is through **in-kind support**. **"In-kind" support is the volunteer hours and expenses** you make to the project for which you are not reimbursed. An example of in-kind support is the volunteer time and expenses that are required for the Secchi disk water quality monitoring on our lakes.

In-kind support is as important for

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this project as direct dollar giving, as we will use your time, talents and resources to make the required match for state and other grants. As the project moves along we will be making lists of jobs volunteers can do to help us and we hope that you will respond.

This is a big project covering a large watershed—but with your help and support, it can be managed. And the final result will not only be data, which is important, but not in and of itself, but also information and a **watershed management plan to ensure healthy waters into the future for the White Iron Chain of Lakes.**

Charlene Mason

THINK NEXT SPRING!

Next Spring? We're barely past last spring! But – If you would like to plant some trees next year, now is the time to be giving it some serious thought. There are many species available to suit various soils and exposures, some especially suited to wildlife, some less so – it's your choice! Deer love the pines, so maybe you should think about White Spruce instead – less attractive to them!

Northern St. Louis County Soil and Water are already taking orders – go to <http://nslswcd.org/resources/tree09form.doc>. They also have a great little "MN SWCD Tree Handbook" for only a buck, and a "Backyard Woods Guide" for 3.00. Stop in at their office in the Northland Office Bldg, Suite 114, 307 First St. So., Virginia.

The State Nurseries will not be taking orders until sometime in August, so keep track at <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/nurseries/ordering.html>. You do need to order 500 trees, but the seedlings in particular are easy to plant – maybe a neighbor or two would join with you – have a tree planting get together next spring!

Another resource:

Check out the Quetico Superior Foundation White Pine Initiative at:

<http://www.queticosuperior.org/whitepine/>

There is everything you need to know about planting seeds or seedlings plus more sources.

"Become a Master Angler"

Let the big one go, and you could earn the distinction of Master Angler, thanks to a program operated by the Minnesota Fishing Hall of Fame and sponsored in part by the Department of Natural Resources.

The Master Angler Program encourages catch and release by recognizing anglers for their trophy catches. Since its inception in 2003, the program has awarded thousands of anglers with Master Angler certificates for measuring, photographing, and releasing trophy fish, says program director Jim Gerchy. Master Anglers who catch qualifying fish also receive a posting of their achievement at the Minnesota Fishing Hall of Fame in Brainerd as well as a listing in the Master Angler Annual, an online publication produced by the hall.

All licensed Minnesota anglers and residents under age 16 may participate. For program rules go to: [http://www.minnesotafishinghall of fame.com](http://www.minnesotafishinghallof fame.com)

WICOLA Mining Issues Team

As part of the response to the Mining Issue resolution at the 2008 Annual Meeting, the membership, upon a mail ballot, voted to endorse a 5 part plan. Two of the parts were:

- **Review the upcoming Environmental Impact Statement of Polymet**
- **Continue to gather and present more in-**



formation regarding area mining

To help the Board implement this portion of the plan, it has formed a **WICOLA Mining Issues Team**. Carla Arneson has agreed to convene this group which is in the process of formation. It is anticipated that the Team will draw upon other expertise as necessary and will work with groups or persons with similar interests as identified by neighboring lake associations.

While the Polymet Mining Corporation has not released its final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), it is now anticipated that it will do so by early fall. At that time the Team will review the EIS and present their comments to the Board. Their comments are to reflect the WICOLA membership as a whole. The Board will, on behalf the membership, submit them, as appropriate to the review agency.

The Team will also study other mining issues and report back to the WICOLA Board or WICOLA membership as needed. They may also help the WICOLA Board sponsor educational events regarding mining issues.

The Mining Issues Team will serve until December, 2010 unless their term of service is extended either at their request or if the Board feels it is necessary.

If you wish to volunteer to help the Team, please contact **Carla Arneson** at carne-son@frontiernet.net. If you have questions about the Team and its responsibilities, please contact Charlene Mason (see Officer Directory).

WICOLA has a new web site! Check it out at <http://www.wicola.org>.

Having our own site allows us greater flexibility and we will be changing and updating information in a timely manner, so you'll want to log on often to see what your association is doing.

Something you wanted to check in the last Newsletter? Annual Meeting Minutes? The CWP Project? They're all there!

Are you a whiz at web site design and/or development? We could use some help! Especially a year-round resident.

Email Jim Pinckney at jmp468@frontiernet.net

Paddling Information

The new Minnesota Department of Natural Resources **water trails Web site** features in-depth information on Minnesota's 30 state canoe and kayak routes. Visit <http://www.mndnr.gov/watertrails> to find water levels and trip planning basics and to **download free maps** showing campsites, rest areas, and river miles. Podcasts with descriptions and stories about canoe and kayak trips will be posted regularly.

WICOLA Volunteers Recognized

The lead article in Secchi Reader from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency was "**2008 Award-Winning CLMP Volunteers**". Among those receiving recognition awards this year are:

Gene Behnke for 15 years of monitoring effort on Farm and South Farm Lakes

Sheldon Ajax for 5 years of monitoring effort on White Farm Lake

While all of those who are active in the water monitoring program, including those who do the CLMP+ monthly monitoring, the White Iron Chain of Lakes Association would like to join the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency in thanking these two volunteers for achieving significant milestones in their volunteer efforts.



Find Rare Species

Learn about Minnesota's endangered, threatened, and special-concern species with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' new online Rare Species Guide.

The Guide describes more than 430 plants and animals, where they are found, and threats they face.

Go to <http://www.mndnr.gov/rsg>

WICOLA Needs You!!!

WICOLA is starting to identify **both large and small jobs for willing persons**. Some of these can be done from the comfort of your home, whether at the lake or elsewhere; some need a person who lives here full-time. There are opportunities for seasonal residents; weekend residents; and full-time residents.

Your Board has tried to carry the load, but as the saying goes, "many hands make light work". So here are today's opportunities:

1) **A WICOLA member**, preferably who is not a seasonal resident, willing to serve as the representative of WICOLA non-Board members on the new **WICOLA Clean Water Project Oversight Committee**. The Committee is responsible for managing the Project. Meetings of the Oversight Committee will probably be held monthly initially and then less frequently as the Project gets up to speed. **A full charge and list of responsibilities** is available from any WICOLA Board member (see list at end of Newsletter) or contact Charlene Mason at 218-365-4599 or wandcmason@frontiernet.net.

2) A person or persons who can help with **data entry for the water monitoring** data we are collecting. Requires accuracy with numerical input

BOAT PARADE

The fifth Annual "Not on the 4th of July Boat Parade" was held on Sunday, July 5th. About 19 or 20 boats participated in a relaxed tour around Farm Lake. Most were decorated, had lots of enthusiastic participants (including the canine variety). The big barge had 34 aboard, and featured a water cannon this year!

Farm Lake seems to always have the greatest number of "on-shore" spectators to wave and encourage boat paraders! Thanks to all — it was a fun morning!

DRAFT WICOLA ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 20, 2009 SILVER RAPIDS LODGE

Present: 35 persons from 24 WICOLA memberships signed in. Attendees also included two guests: Don Carlson, MPCA Project Manager and Euan Reavie, Associate Researcher, University of Minnesota

Call to order and outline of meeting:

President Charlene Mason called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Attendees were provided with the following handouts:

- Agenda, 2008 Annual Meeting Minutes, President's 2009 Annual Report
- Financial Report for Fiscal Years January 1 – December 31, 2008
- Kawishiwi Watershed Clean Water Protection Project Proposal
- Kawishiwi Watershed Protection Plan

Clean Water Project Presentation:

Larry Squillace and Jim Pinckney led a discussion of the Kawishiwi Watershed Clean Water Protection Proposal. As in the project proposal and protection plan handouts, the overall goal of the 3-year project is to gather, compile, and analyze data necessary to maintain or improve water quality for the Kawishiwi Watershed.



Don Carlson outlined the two main funding sources for the project:

Legacy Fund: straight state grant funded by tax dollars that does not require matching funds. Funding decisions are expected to be communicated within the next few weeks

Clean Water Protection (CWP) Grant: Requires matching funds (percentage of match has yet to be determined). Requests for Proposals (RFP's) are expected to be due in mid-July, with decisions made in September.

The presentation also included details regarding state water quality rules and non-degradation standards. President Mason also mentioned that the project addresses member concerns as outlined in the 2006 survey conducted by WICOLA. Jim Pinckney indicated that WICOLA will begin looking into privately funded grant opportunities once Legacy Fund and CWP grants are finalized.

Business Meeting:

President Mason called the business meeting to order.

Motion: Pat Doran moved and Larry Squillace seconded to approve the 2008 Annual Meeting Minutes. Motion passed.

2008 Fiscal Report:

Treasurer Don Ortley presented the Financial Report for the 2008 Fiscal Year. Income includes funds from a 2007 DNR Grant that WICOLA matched with in-kind work. A DVD of the Sulfide Mining Forum is available for interested members.

Motion: Roger Powell moved and Curt VanDeen seconded to approve the 2008 Fiscal Report. Motion passed.

Nominations and Elections for 2010-2012

Secretary: Shelley Frederickson
Treasurer: Don Ortley

Farm Lake Representative: Larry Squillace
Second White Iron East Representative: Ray Theobald

Motion: Pam Webster moved and Ken Wichman seconded to close nominations. Motion passed.

Motion: Peg Pinckney moved and Roger Powell seconded to accept nominations. Motion passed.

Annual Report of the President

President Mason presented her annual message, reiterating the need for volunteers to review the Environment Impact Statement from Polymet and a committee to keep the membership apprised of mining issues. Also mentioned was the need for the committee dealing with mining issues to coordinate their work with other lake associations. Dollar contributions from WICOLA members will be necessary to help defray expenses related to the Kawishiwi Watershed Clean Water Protection Project.

Kawishiwi Watershed Clean Water Protection Plan Proposal Endorsement

Brad Sagan made a motion for the membership in attendance to accept the following statement:

WICOLA membership endorses the work of the Board in its efforts to collect baseline environmental quality data as outlined in the Kawishiwi Watershed Clean Water Protection Project Proposal

Roger Powell seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Membership Report

Ray Doran indicated that current WICOLA membership count was 199, with 32 outstanding.

WICOLA Website

Jim Pinckney indicated that he has been



working on a new website for WICOLA. [HTTP://www.wicola.org](http://www.wicola.org). Volunteers with website expertise are needed to help with site development.

Adjournment:

Motion: Curt Van Deen made a motion and Jim Pinckney seconded to adjourn the Annual Meeting. Motion passed.

Shelley Frederickson, Secretary

The following paragraphs are excerpts from a Star Tribune article by Doug Smith on 7/14
By permission of the Star Tribune

Thousands of Zebra Mussels

First discovered in Minnesota in the Duluth harbor in 1989, zebra mussels now infest about 30 state lakes and rivers. Their further spread might be inevitable, based on experiences of states to the east, where zebra mussels were first found in the United States in 1988 after being discharged in ballast water by foreign ships on the Great Lakes.

Many are watching Lake Mille Lacs, Minnesota's second biggest and arguably its most popular fishing lake. Not only is it huge, but it also has more than 400,000 boater visits yearly and is in the hub of the state's lakes region. The finger-nail-size adult mussels were found in Mille Lacs in 2005, but the population now is growing exponentially.

"Zebra mussels have just exploded here," said Croatt, the conservation officer. "I've talked to at least a half-dozen anglers who have snagged mussels this spring." Last fall, residents found them on dock posts and boat hulls for the first time.

"It's frightening," said Pendergrass of Ham Lake, who frequently fishes Mille Lacs. "We don't want to lose our lakes."

Minnesota Waters recently issued a report calling the situation an "aquatic epidemic" and suggesting that a much stronger approach is needed. Existing laws, funding and programs are inadequate, and without drastic changes, the number of infested bodies of water will continue to grow, the report charges.

To read the complete article, go to : startribune.com

Search on "**Thousands of Zebra Mussels—One Big Issue**" by Doug Smith, 7/14.

While there, also check out "**Taking Steps to Ward Off Invaders**" by Dennis Anderson, 7/15

WICOLA Clean Water Project Oversight Committee

The White Iron Chain of Lakes Association Clean Water Project Oversight Committee (WICOLA CWP Oversight Committee) has the overall responsibility to administer the WICOLA Clean Water Project for the Kawishiwi Watershed. This includes the responsibility for:

- Overall project plan
- Budget and funding
- Process
- Deadlines
- Staff oversight
- Publicity for and about the project
- Communication with affected persons
- Education of persons in the watershed
- Working with Technical Advisors to the project

Liaison with the WICOLA Board and, through the Board, to WICOLA members

The WICOLA CWP Oversight Committee reports to the WICOLA Board.

The WICOLA CWP Oversight Committee may organize itself and its work as it deems fit, in-



cluding creating sub-committees to help with its work; contacting and working with volunteers; contracting for services; and/or making assignments to WICOLA CWP staff.

Until it has its own funding, expenses will be funded by the White Iron Chain of Lakes Association and the Committee will use the WICOLA Board policies and procedures for reimbursement. Once the fund management responsibility has moved to Lake County, the Committee will use Lake County policies and procedures for expenditures.

The composition of the WICOLA CWP Oversight Committee will be:

- President of WICOLA—Chair (currently Charlene Mason)
- Vice-President of WICOLA—Alternate Chair (currently Peter Davis)
- WICOLA Board Members (2): Teresa Sagen, Larry Squillace
- WICOLA non-Board Member: to be recruited
- Lake County Representative: Wayne Seidel
- Minnesota Pollution Control Representative: Don Carlson

The staff person hired by the WICOLA CWP will serve as staff to the Committee and is not considered a voting member of the Committee. In addition, two persons have been asked to serve, on an interim basis, as Advisory Staff on call, to help with publicity (WICOLA Publicity Chair, Ken Wichmann) and web support (WICOLA Web Master, Jim Pinckney).

The charge and the membership of the Team may be changed by the WICOLA Board, either upon request of the Committee or by action of the Board.

Editorial

Why the Clean Water Project?

The project is both time consuming and expensive – and our watershed is not impaired! Why do this?

Do you suppose that owners of lakeshore on impaired lakes have asked “how did this happen?” “Why didn’t someone warn us that this was coming”?

We need accurate data on what was here years ago and what exists now so we can see what changes have already occurred and, hopefully, what were the causes. Add to this mix any new data we collect in future and maybe we will be able to sound a warning and correct things quickly.

The other option is to stick our head in the sand! It won’t ever happen here! Why go to all this trouble and expense? NO NEED!

Have you read the preceding excerpts from Doug Smiths’ article on Zebra Mussels? Read on!

Here is a comment (verbatim) a reader emailed to the Star Tribune following that article-

*“No Problem !
Just like Global Warming,, Zebra Mussels are a fictitious problem created by people at the DNR (Do Nothing Right)to justify there jobs. They have created walleye stamps, firewood stamps. Now they want mandatory boat inspections. Yes, you will have to buy a stamp for that too! You could eliminate half of Minnesota,s DNR staff and nothing would change.”*

posted by grigio on Jul. 14, 09 at 4:20 AM

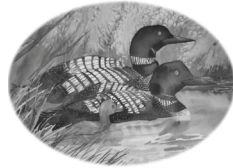
A great example of refusing to believe a potential problem!

Jim Pinckney

Check out your mailing label!

The date shown above your name will tell if your membership is up to date. Any date prior to 2009 is a reminder that you need to get your dues in. Mail a check for 20.00 to P O Box 493 and we’ll keep the Newsletter coming. Thanks!

WICOLA NEWS



P O Box 493, Ely, MN 55731

We're on the Web!
wicola.org

To contact a **White Iron Chain of Lakes Association board member:**

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Feel free to contact any board member at the addresses above or at the Association address. We welcome (and encourage) your comments and suggestions. Our Association is dedicated to continuing and improving the quality environment of our chain of lakes. Please join us in this endeavor VOLUNTEER!

WICOLA NEWS is published three times a year and mailed to members of WHITE IRON CHAIN of LAKES ASSOCIATION, INC.

If you are interested in improving the water quality, fishing, and recreational opportunities on White Iron, Farm, Garden and South Farm Lakes, **JOIN WICOLA TODAY**. Annual Membership is still just 20.00 per year. Send a check to our address above for all the benefits of membership.