



WICOLA NEWS

White Iron Chain of
Lakes Association, Inc.

Volume XVII Book II
SUMMER 2010

President's Message

As I write this, the middle of summer has arrived—I can tell not only because of the weather and the warmer days, but because the boat traffic in front of our place has turned from people fishing to people going through to some other part of the lake on errands unknown; because I hear the sounds of the woods with our windows open all day; and because we are in the season of entertaining family and friends.

WICOLA is also in the middle of its normal summer routines: an Annual Meeting; a glorious boat parade in an area where we have not “paraded” before; taking Secchi disk readings and water samples to be analyzed for water quality. In this newsletter, you will find the annual report of the President as well as draft minutes for this year’s Annual Meeting, giving you a better understanding of the year-around work of your lake association.

The Board continues to seek grant funding for the Clean Water Project for the Kawishiwi Watershed. While it seems as if the project has been all talk and no action so far, rest assured that sooner or later we will have A PROJECT—one which will provide data and information about the historical and current water quality and stressors and one which will also look forward to an implementation plan to maintain and possibly improve the water

quality in the watershed. In the meantime, your Board is working hard to make the project happen—writing grant proposals, creating a publicity plan, developing a fundraising strategy, and continuing to wait for the latest word on developments with grants already submitted.

With the help of the Mining Issues Team members, WICOLA is moving ahead to form an Environmental Issues Committee to investigate and report on various environmental topics of interest to WICOLA. With a charge this broad, the **Committee is seeking new members. You don’t have to be an expert** on a subject to be a committee member, as we are all learning all the time about environmental issues, including best practices for shore land use; care of septic systems; awareness of aquatic and terrestrial invasive species, growing native plants, having a rain garden and learning about sulfide mining. **You may contact me or any other member of the Board if you are interested in helping WICOLA get the word out about these important issues.**

I want to thank **Jo Kovach** for agreeing to become WICOLA’s president and **Rob Erickson** for becoming one of the two White Iron Lake representatives, both of whom start their terms on January 1, 2011. Also **Dolores Delaney** is your new Treasurer; she will fill out

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CHECK YOUR LABEL!

If it doesn’t have 2010 in the upper right, you missed paying your dues this year. Please send a check to P O Box 493. 20 bucks dues (and an additional tax deductible donation, if you can) is a bargain to help keep our lakes clean and property values up.

If you think “it can’t happen here”, don’t you suppose that people on polluted lakes thought the same thing? **Let’s protect what we have!**



an unexpired term and run for this office at our Annual Meeting in 2011. From the current Board, **Teresa Sagen** will become Vice President and I will be the Garden Lake representative.

Your Board also voted to give an honorary membership to WICOLA, the second in its history, to Don Ortley who has been a stalwart member of the Board for 17 years, serving as secretary, treasurer, and a person we could always turn to.

The trivia piece for this newsletter: Did you know that the Kawishiwi Watershed covers 1373 square miles and comprises over 12% of the US portion of the Rainy River Basin? It includes a small portion of Cook County; almost all of Stony River Township and over half of Fall Lake Township in Lake County; and a portion of Morse Township in St. Louis County.

Have a great summer,
Charlene Mason

New Name, Broader Mission, Same Dedication

At the 2010 Annual meeting the WICOLA membership voted to reaffirm their 2008 resolution that launched the Mining Issues Team (MIT). **For the past 1-1/2 years MIT members Brad Sagan, Dwight McConnell, Clint Jurgens, MaryAnn Jurgens and Roger Powell led by chair Carla Arneson** diligently immersed themselves in data and methods concerning acid rock mining. Their work culminated in a suggested response to Polymet's Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) regarding their proposed mine in our area. The board then distributed portions of the response letter to the WICOLA membership urging individual responses.

PolyMet has been directed to redraft their unsatisfactory DEIS in cooperation with the US Forest Service and the MN Department of Natu-

ral Resources. This additional work is likely to take another year. Given that delay and the emergence of new mining proposals that will affect the Kawishiwi Watershed MIT felt their responsibilities had not been fully completed.

The WICOLA board has asked this dedicated and productive committee to continue their work, broaden their focus and rename themselves to reflect their broader scope. Their new mission is to investigate and report to the WICOLA Board, and thru them to the membership on the various environmental topics of interest to WICOLA.

MIT has proposed and the Board accepted a new name: Environmental Issues Committee (EIC). The committee will now prioritize the many environmental issues relevant to the Kawishiwi Watershed. Among the issues EIC is considering are: aquatic invasive species, non-native plant species, landscaping with native plants, septic systems, fertilizer run off, shore clearing practices and joint efforts with other lakeshore associations. **They are also examining WICOLA's role and responsibility in informing and educating the membership.** EIC meets again in August and will prioritize the issues selected.

WICOLA members are invited to share their suggestions of relevant issues with either Clint Jurgens, 365-0884, or email clintjurgens@mac.com or Roger Powell, 218-235-8808, email newf@ncsu.edu
Clint and Roger are the current co-chairs.

With the new and broader mission the EIC is seeking WICOLA members to join their efforts: there are plenty of issues to go around.

Please volunteer to join and/or assist this important committee.



What is TSI, and why should we care?

The overall **trophic state index** (TSI) of a lake is the average of the TSI for phosphorus, the TSI for chlorophyll-a and the TSI for secchi depth; **therefore, it can be thought of as the lake condition** taking into account phosphorus, chlorophyll-a and secchi depth. The TSI ranges from 0-100. 0-30 is Oligotrophic, where water is very clear, phosphorus is low, and algae is sparse. 30-50 is an in-between stage where the number of aquatic plants algae increase due to more available phosphorus. A TSI of over 50 describes a lake that is eutrophic, with a high density of plants and algae that could be unpleasant for swimming at certain times in the summer. Below is a chart showing the mean TSI for each location and year since WICOLA volunteers have been sampling. As you can see, our chain is just below the low end of the eutrophic state. For more detailed information, including analysis of each sample sent in, visit the RMB Environmental Lab's web site at rmbel.info/

TROPIC STATE INDEX ANNUAL MEAN - 2005 to June 2010							
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010 (2 MOS.)	Average
FARM		48	47	48	47	44	46.8
GARDEN	50	49	48	48	48	45	48
N.KAWISHIWI		44	45	45	45	41	44
S.KAWISHIWI		48	48	49	47	48	48
WHITE IRON		50	48	50	47	47	48.4

Note that the average TSI for the North Kawishiwi site is lower than elsewhere in the chain. Phosphorus, Chlorophyll-a (algae concentration) and Secchi depth are related. When phosphorus decreases that means there is less food available for algae, so algal concentrations decrease. When algal concentrations decrease, the water becomes more transparent and the Secchi depth increases. The lower phosphorus readings in the north Kawishiwi is probably due to the lack of development through that area.

Again, there is a multitude of information available on TSI — for detailed information visit the following site: <http://dipin.kent.edu/tsi.htm>

ACRONYMS — Ever wonder what some of them meant?

WICOLA – White Iron Chain of Lakes Association
WICOL – White Iron Chain of Lakes
EIC – Environmental Issues Committee
KW – Kawishiwi Watershed
MPCA - Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
DNR - Department of Natural Resources
USFS - U.S. Forest Service
USGS - U.S. Geological Survey
USF&WS - U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
EPA - Environmental Protection Agency

BWSR - MN Board of Water and Soil Resources
Lake SWCD - Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District
NRRI - National Resources Research Institute (UMD)
SLICE - Sustaining Lakes in a Changing Environment (a cooperative long-term monitoring program led by DNR Fisheries)
BWCAW - Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness
CWLLA - Clean Water Land and Legacy Amendment
CWP - Clean Water Partnership
AIS - Aquatic Invasive Species
SSTS - Subsurface Sewage Treatment System



GIS - Geological Information System
TMDL - Total Maximum Daily Load (a calculation of maximum amount of a pollutant that a water body can receive and still meet water quality standards)

STORET - Program for STOring and RETrieving MPCA water quality data

TSI - Trophic State Index

DO - Dissolved Oxygen

pH - Is the scale used to determine if a substance is acid or basic. A pH of 7 is neutral.

ug/L - Micrograms per liter

TP - Total Phosphorus

ChIA - Chlorophyl-A content in water is considered to be the best indicator of trophic state

WICOLA 2010 ANNUAL MEETING

JUNE 12, 2010

SILVER RAPIDS LODGE

Draft Minutes

Present: 49 persons from 32 memberships signed in. Attendees also included three guests: Joel Peterson, MPCA Project Manager, Doug Jensen, Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Program Coordinator, Minnesota Sea Grant and Mallory Anderson, Minnesota Sea Grant Intern.

Welcome and outline of meeting:

President Charlene Mason called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers! Keep 'em Out of Our Neck of Woods" Presentation

In his presentation, Doug Jensen provided the group with an overview of Minnesota Sea Grant and described the main AIS threats to the Kawishiwi Watershed: Quagga and Zebra Mussels, Spiny Waterfleas and Eurasian Watermilfoil. Non-native fish such as the Rusty Crayfish have been seen in local lakes including Shagawa and Burntside. Jensen indicated that, while the Round Goby and Flying Asian Carp have not been seen in this area, they have invaded lakes within Minnesota. He encouraged attendees to access the Minnesota Sea Grant website, drawing attention to a climate change portal that's available at: <http://www.seagrants.umn.edu/climate/>. Information re-

garding the Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers Program was also presented.

Business Meeting:

Attendees were provided with the following handouts:

WICOLA 2010 Meeting Agenda

Draft 2009 Annual Meeting Minutes

Financial Report for Fiscal Years January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009

President's Annual Report dated June 12, 2010

Update on 2008 WICOLA Annual Meeting Resolution Regarding Mining dated June 12, 2010

Mining Interest Team (MIT) Report to the Membership dated June 12, 2010

President Mason called the business meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes from 2009 Meeting

Motion: Nancy Powers moved and Peg Pinckney seconded to approve the 2008 Annual Meeting Minutes. Motion passed.

Approval of Fiscal Report for 2009

Motion: Rich Moschel moved and Ken Wichmann seconded to approve the 2009 Fiscal Report. Motion passed.

Nominations and Elections for 2011-2013:

President: Jo Kovach

Vice-President: Teresa Sagen

Garden Lake Representative: Charlene Mason

White Iron Lake Representative: Rob Erickson

No further nominees were presented at the meeting

Motion: Nancy Powers moved and Ken Wichmann seconded to close nominations. Motion Passed

Current members of the WICOLA Board of Directors were presented:

President: Charlene Mason

Vice President: Peter Davis

Garden Lake Representative: Teresa Sagen

White Iron Lake Representatives: Ray Theobald and Curt VanDeen

Membership: Ray Doran

Farm Lake Representative: Larry Squillace

Newsletter: Jim Pinckney and Roger Sorenson

Treasurer: Dolores Delaney

Publicity: Ken Wichmann



Hospitality: Lisa Squillace

Annual Report of the President:

President Mason encouraged attendees to review the President's Annual Report, bringing attention to the list of activities that have been completed during the year and noting the list of volunteers who have contributed to the success of WICOLA.

Old Business:

Update on Clean Water Project and proposed grant funded by the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment:

Teresa Sagen and Shelley Frederickson provided an update on the Clean Water Legacy Act grant, directing attendees to review the article that appeared in the Spring 2010 WICOLA Newsletter. Joel Peterson, MPCA Project Manager, also provided comments.

Report on resolution from 2009 Annual Meeting regarding mining:

Referring to the WICOLA Annual Meeting Resolution Regarding Mining document that was provided to attendees, President Charlene Mason led a discussion regarding the issue.

After comments from the floor were received and discussed, Jo Kovach made a motion to create a committee to focus on separate environmental issues. The motion was seconded by Carla Arneson.

Brad Sagen then asked members to reject the motion and moved to broaden the scope of the current mission of the Mining Issues to include additional environmental issues.

Two votes were then taken. A motion to accept the substitute motion passed. A vote was then taken on the resolution itself and that motion also passed.

Other:

Don Ortle was presented with an honorary membership in WICOLA

President Mason handed over the gavel to Jo Kovach and was thanked for all her work on behalf of WICOLA.

A nonbinding straw vote was proposed by Nancy Powers, recommending that the Board provide comments from the Mining Issues Team

to the membership when the PolyMet Mining Inc. supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) PolyMet is released. A voice vote was taken and a majority of the persons present voted in favor.

Adjournment:

Ken Wichmann motioned and Dick Boyce seconded to adjourn the Annual Meeting. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Shelley Frederickson, Secretary

What About Terrestrial Invasive Species?

A Program on August 21, 10 to noon

We have heard a lot about aquatic invasive species, but there are also land based invasive species, both plant and animal, which are also threatening Minnesota native species. **The Eagles Nest Lake Association** has invited WICOLA members to a presentation on Saturday August 21, from 10-12 at the Eagles Nest Town Hall, located at 1552 Bear Head State Park Road. Travis Westland, from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, will present information about these invasive species and, if time, also do a "show and tell" on a walk outside.

This invitation is one of the first in what we hope will be a continuing cooperative effort among neighboring lake associations to share programming and educational events.

Our thanks go to Eagles Nest Lake Association for inviting us.

White Iron Chain of Lakes Association President's Annual Report June 12, 2010

During 2009, the work of WICOLA can be divided into three categories: on-going work of the Association; mining issues; and the Clean Water Project. Your Board and volunteers from the Association have had significant activity



in all three of these areas over the year.

On-going Activities

Secchi disk data gathering and reporting to monitor water transparency; usually 10 or more readings per summer at each site (Citizen Lake Monitoring Program or CLMP)

More intense water monitoring (CLMP+) on a monthly basis; sent water samples for laboratory testing for chemicals and other indications of water quality

An Annual Meeting in June with a program focusing on the proposed WICOLA Clean Water Project

The Never-on-July-4th Boat Parade on July 5; toured Farm Lake

Three Newsletters (Spring, Summer, Winter) distributed to the members of WICOLA and extensive list of partners and others interested in the activities of WICOLA

WICOLA website moved to a stand-alone site (<http://www.wicola.org>) [hosted by JustHost] and updated; now registered with 200 search engines

Partnership meetings with representatives of agencies with which WICOLA works closely, including the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Forest Service, Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District, township supervisors, county commissioners, Minnesota Power

A new Secretary elected, Shelley Frederickson, to replace Paul Haraldson who resigned

Policies, procedures and practices from minutes of previous Board meetings compiled; clarification of policies concerning the legal depository of the Association; the role of non-WICOLA members on committees; and payment for refreshments

Minnesota Power Winton Annual Meeting participation

Clean Water Project (see also [Newsletter](#) articles on this subject)

Two Partnership meetings held in the March and April 2009 to introduce Clean Water Project and solicit support. The meetings included representatives of the mining and timber industries as well as the regularly invited WICOLA partners.

The 2009 WICOLA Annual Meeting used as an opportunity for members to learn about and discuss the Clean Water Project

Oversight Committee for the Clean Water Project created; its membership consists of four Board members. A member of one of the affected townships, representative(s) of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and a representative of the Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District serve ex-officio. In addition, until grant funds allow WICOLA to hire a project coordinator for the project, the [Newsletter](#) editor and the Publicity chair are included in the Oversight Committee meetings.

Grant Station purchased to be used as a basis for

seeking funds for the project or parts of it
Jeff Hrubes of the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources meeting to learn about possible funding sources for the project

In response to the Clean Water Partnership Request for Proposals from the MPCA, writing of a grant proposal for partial funding of the Clean Water Project. Only after it was submitted and the deadline passed did the WICOLA Board learn that it was rejected because our fiscal agent was not eligible to serve in this capacity for this particular grant.

Meeting with the Lake County Commissioners, representatives of the three affected townships (Morse, Fall Lake, and Stony River) to present the overall plan and need for a fiscal agent to support the project

Preliminary work on a MPCA grant proposal to be funded by the Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment (CWLLA) sales tax proceeds. Shelley Frederickson was hired as a consultant to help with the work to prepare this grant proposal. This grant does not require matching funding, but will only fund about half of the Clean Water Project needs, if approved.

Receipt of a significant anonymous gift which will be used for matching gifts to WICOLA for this project when needed; because the CWLLA proposal does not require matching funds, all fund-raising has been deferred until a future grant proposal requires it

Establishment of a special account for funds received for the Clean Water Project

White Iron Lake selected as part of the Sentinel Lakes Project of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

Mining

See separate report on the actions of WICOLA and the Board regarding the resolution on mining issues adopted at the 2008 Annual Meeting.

White Iron Chain of Lakes Association President's Half Year Report for 2010 June 12, 2010

Normally only an annual report for the previous year is presented by the President at the Annual Meeting. However, since I will be leaving this office at the end of 2010, I thought I would provide a half-year report covering activities of WICOLA through the beginning of June, leaving it to my successor to finish the report at the next Annual Meeting.

On-going Activities



Secchi disk data gathering and reporting (CLMP)
 Water monitoring (CLMP+)
 Annual Meeting in June' program on Aquatic Invasive
 Species presented by Doug Jensen of the Sea
 Grant Program at the University of Minnesota,
 Duluth
 Never-on-July 4th Boat Parade, to be held on July 3
 Spring Newsletter published
 Acceptance of Don Ortley's resignation as Treasurer
 and appointment of Dolores Delaney as Treasurer
 WICOLA books for 2009 audited

Clean Water Project

Lake County Supervisors have agreed to be fiscal
 agent for WICOLA Clean Water Project for the
 next five years
 Project Coordinator job description review in anticipa-
 tion of search
 Memorandum of Agreement between WICOLA and
 the Lake County Soil and Water Conservation Di-
 vision for management of grants for the Clean
 Water Project approved by Board
 Submittal of the proposal for funding from the funds
 provided to the Minnesota Pollution Control
 Agency (MPCA) under the Clean Water, Land and
 Legacy Amendment sales tax receipts. A first re-
 view has been done by the MPCA staff, but the
 final review has not been done nor the contracting
 process initiated.
 Doug Jensen about the "Stop Aquatic Hitchhiker's"
 Program, after which the WICOLA Board a)
 agreed to join the program and b) developed a
 plan of action

Mining

See separate report on the Mining Resolution pre-
 sented at the 2008 Annual Meeting
 All of the items in the plan responding to the resolu-
 tion, except for on-going education and informa-
 tion gathering, have or are being addressed. It is
 proposed that a group be established, using mem-
 bers of the Mining Issues Team as they are will-
 ing, to look at an expanded list of environmental
 concerns, including but not limited to septic sys-
 tems, air quality, land development. This group
 will inform both the members and the Board as
 appropriate.

CKMason

TIDBITS OF INTEREST

From Northland College. Loonwatch. Tremolo (summer
 2010) (modified)
 Page 2: **Rewriting the Book on Loon Behavior and
 Calls**

For those interested in loon behavior, an article by
 Charles Walcott, professor of neurobiology and behavior
 at Cornell University, was recently published in Birdwatch
 Canada. The research project reported upon spans four-
 teen years on a color-marked common loon population
 near Rhinelander, WI and has included territorial and
 breeding habits and insights into loon vocalizations. Some
 of the unique findings include: loons are monogamous,
 but do not necessarily mate for life; male territorial fights
 can sometimes be fatal; and a loon's yodel tells a lot about
 the individual loon such as body mass. The researchers
 also found that if a male loon is evicted from his territory
 and returns to a different lake to breed, his yodel changes.
 The article in full may be found at:

<http://www.bsc-eoc.org/download/BWCwi10.pdf>

In addition to this article, Walcott has created
 companion videos that describe the study at:
<http://cybertower.cornell.edu/lodetails.cfm?id=163>
 There are six videos: introduction; banding loons; loon
 conservation; human aspects of the study; loon territorial-
 ity; and loon vocalizations. These findings greatly contrib-
 ute to our understanding of loon behavior and calls.

From Minnesota Waters. Newsletter 5(1) Spring 2010
 (greatly modified)

Page 5: Spread of Eurasian Water Milfoil

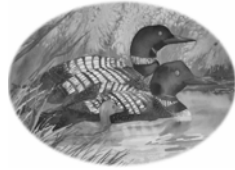
A study by Sara Roley and Ray Newman pub-
 lished in the North American Lake Management Society's
Lake and Reservoir Management in 2008 titled: *Predict-
 ing Spread of Eurasian watermilfoil in Minnesota* found
 that the models predict milfoil to spread to an additional
 2,100 to 4,700 lakes.

Regarding at least one plant, according to the Roley/
 Newman study, compared to uninvaded lakes, those in-
 vaded by Eurasian water milfoil were closer to the nearest
 invasion, and the nearest invasion had occurred for a
 longer period of time. Invaded lakes also tended to be
 deeper and larger and had low-to-moderate Secchi depths
 and high-to-moderate alkalinity. In greater Minnesota in-
 vaded lakes generally had a shallower Secchi depth. In-
 vaded lakes had significantly more boat accesses than
 uninvaded lakes.

Currently more than 300 lakes have Eurasian wa-
 ter milfoil. There is time to do prevention!
 Some have the view that if a lake is clean, free of storm-
 water or other nutrient rich pollution,
 that it is less likely to get AIS. There is no known deterrent
 to the animals & viruses that pose
 environmental risk to Minnesota's lakes.

Roley's and Newman's article reporting their work
 may be found at: [http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/
 content~db=all~content=a909199925](http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/content~db=all~content=a909199925)

WICOLA NEWS



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We're on the Web!
wicola.org

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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.