

## **Wabamun Watershed Management Council – Issue Prioritization Results**

### **Top 10 Lake Management Recommendations (\*\*\*) Urgent)**

2.1: The implementation of a program designed to prevent further increases in external loading to Lake Wabamun. This would rely on enforcing more stringent guidelines for land-use changes, cottage development, waste disposal and use of fertilizer, as well as public education. (SR) \*\*\*

5.1: Define what a 'healthy' Lake Wabamun watershed is (i.e. what is the desired state of the watershed?)

5.2: Develop the Terms of Reference and overall plan for an Integrated Watershed Management Plan for Lake Wabamun and secure signatory support from all partners directly involved with the implementation of the plan. \*\*\*

3.1: Further investigations need to be made to reveal the source of the coliforms. (SR)\*\*\*

4.8: Commercial fishing be eliminated altogether, and that sport fishing be restricted to catch and release until populations recover to more normal age structures. (SR)

3.2: A review of current programs for monitoring trace metals (AENV, TAU/EPCOR, CASA, others) is in order to ensure that objectives are clearly defined and tractable methods used are comparable and attainable, and redundancy is avoided. (SR)

4.1: The weir at the outlet should be modified to act as a fish passage (in high water years) to ensure that the upper section of Wabamun Creek can be utilized for spawning and rearing activities. (SR)

2.2: The lake-monitoring program for chemistry and plankton that has been carried out for the last 20 years be reviewed and continued in a consistent manner. Consideration should also be given to monitoring of benthos and fish. (SR)

5.3: Reclamation of mined land in the catchment of Lake Wabamun should approximate original land cover as closely as possible. (SR)

4.2: Weed harvesting should be discontinued, and that other prohibited destruction of fish habitat, including weedbeds, be monitored and enforced according to the *Canada Fisheries Act*. (SR)

### **Top 5 WWMC Organizational Objectives**

6.1: A permanent citizens panel, whose objective it is to protect the health of Wabamun Lake, needs to be established and maintained. (SR)

6.7: A parallel scientific panel, consisting largely of independent scientists but including representation from AENV and TAU should be formed to advise the citizens' panel on the scientific value of any proposed studies. (SR)

6.3: Develop a strategy for including important stakeholders that are not at the WWMC table (i.e. on a case-by-case basis). \*\*\*

6.4: Develop a framework of sustainable development to guide objectives and priorities of the WWMC.

6.5: Develop a decision making process for evaluating, prioritizing and acting on current and emerging issues which affect public health and/or ecological integrity of the Lake Wabamun watershed. \*\*\*