



RYBA

Newsletter of the Minnesota Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

Year 2003 No. 2
May Issue

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President's Message
by John Hiebert

I would like to take a moment to thank everyone who made our annual meeting in Chaska a big success. First of all, I would like to thank our recently replaced president Brian Borkholder. Besides all of Brian's hard work as president, he also worked tirelessly at selling raffle tickets, which helped reduce the costs of the meeting (and made my budget look a lot better). I would like to also acknowledge the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa for helping sponsor our evening social and a meeting break. In addition, I would also like to express my thanks to the Oak Ridge Convention Center for all their help in putting together the event. They voluntarily reduced the cost of the meeting, allowed us to bring in the popular outside

refreshments from Lake Superior Brewing Company at no extra cost and let us stay an extra hour sampling refreshments in the social room. I received a number of positive comments about the facility and the friendliness of the staff. I would also like to personally thank Eric Altena for all of the work he did organizing all of the PowerPoint talks, getting the computers networked and set up in all of the meeting rooms. I had a million things on my mind at the meeting and with Eric's efforts I knew I did not have to worry about the computers not running. Finally, a special thanks to everyone who took the time to volunteer at the annual meeting, especially Donna Dustin, Dave Anderson, Julie Zimmerman, Mark Nemeth, Angela Hammers, Tom Burri and Missy Drake for all of their hard work.

We had a total of 132 people attend the meeting; down from 163+ last year, but with the current financial times I was very pleased with the turnout. One of our goals for this meeting was to increase the number of pre-registered attendees by offering reduced meeting rates for early registration. This appeared to be a success. A total of 75 people pre-registered along with 13 students. In addition, through e-mails and phone calls, another 52 members confirmed they were attending, leaving only 5 people that were not on our conformation list that also attended the meeting. This made registration go very quickly since folders, name tags and receipts could be pre-printed. From the comments I heard, I think people appreciated not having to wait in line for registration as they did in the past. I want to thank everyone who took the time to pre-register for the meeting, it made planning the meeting much easier; for Loren's sake please plan on doing it again next year!!

A second goal for this meeting was to increase the number of students attending. Julie Zimmerman, Student Committee Chair, polled the students and found that meeting cost and lack of interaction with members were the main reasons for not attending. To alleviate these concerns, we instituted two programs. First, we offered free registration, lodging and banquet for Minnesota students who were presenting at the meeting and the scholarship winners and provided one hotel room and offered a reduced rate for other Minnesota students who attended. Second, we began a mentor program. This program identified students and new chapter members with blue stripes on their name badges while Chapter mentors had red stripes. Mentors were encouraged to talk with students at socials and breaks, and students were seated with mentors at the banquet. Feedback from students showed this was somewhat successful. While some students felt that they had more interactions, one student commented that members were more interested in socializing than talking to students about their research.

RYBA editor: David Anderson
 The Chapter publishes **RYBA** four times yearly (January, May, September, and November). Please direct comments or submissions to: david.anderson@dnr.state.mn.us

The views and opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Minnesota Chapter.

On behalf of the chapter I would like to thank several people who are stepping down from positions and the new ones filling in. First, Brad Parsons has finished his three-year term as president elect/president/past president. His role will be hard to fill, and this was shown by our refusal to exclude him from the EXCOM e-mail list, until he reminded us he wasn't on the committee anymore. I guess we found it hard to believe that he didn't have a direct role in the EXCOM anymore, as active as he has been with the chapter. But he shouldn't worry; I have many plans for how we can use his skills. I also would like to congratulate Loren Miller on his stunning victory as president, narrowly defeating the same competitive challenger I faced, "None of the Above". In addition, we had two other changes in the EXCOM, with Don Cloutman stepping down as Academic representative and Joe Ostazeski as the DNR Representative. I want to thank them both for their hard work and willingness to serve. David Fulton agreed to serve as the Academic representative and David Anderson was elected as the DNR representative. We had two changes in our standing committees. First, Shannon Fisher stepped down as Nominations Chair to concentrate on the Science Fair committee. We will miss his diligent efforts at coercing people to run for the various chapter positions. Greg Busaker volunteered at the Annual Meeting to take over his position - thanks for your help, Greg. In addition, Henry Van Offelen stepped down as Long Range Planning Chair. The role that this committee has in the Chapter was discussed at the Annual Meeting and further discussion is planned at the next EXCOM committee meeting, with former committee chair Tracy Close. After that meeting, we will be soliciting nominations for this position. Under the special committee category, we had one change and filled an open position. With Loren Miller ascending to the presidency, we needed a new RYBA Editor. Dave Anderson, already Webmaster, added Newsletter editor to his ever-growing list of titles. Mike McNerny, who recently stepped down as Centrarchid Committee Chair and given a special recognition award for his efforts, was quickly tapped to fill the procedures manual opening. Three changes occurred in the NCD Committee Representatives. First, Cindy Tomcko replaced Mike McNerny in the Centrarchid Committee, Karl Koller replaced Tom Groshans for the Rivers And Streams Committee and finally Dennis Topp replaced Kevin Martini as Ictalurid Committee representative.

At the annual business meeting we discussed our financial status. While the 27,000+ dollars in the bank looks good, a large proportion of this is tied up to support our Chapter Scholarships (\$20,000). Our hopes were with interest rates at 4%, we could make the \$800 necessary for awarding the scholarship, without touching any of our principal. However with interest rates dipping below 1%, we are taking in less than \$200 in interest. With the additional costs of providing hotel room and meeting expenses for the scholarships winners, we need to budget annually \$800 for the awards and \$500 for meeting expenses. This leads us to a deficit of at least \$1100 a year for the scholarship program. While our current budget allows us to handle these deficits, we have also increased spending in other areas such as providing \$600 to the Science Fair, \$300 to the Hutton Program and \$100 each to the Joan Duffy and the Equal Opportunities Section. While increasing spending, our income has dropped recently, by the loss of the receipts from our T-shirt sales. Minn Aqua is out of T-shirts to sell and thus we will no longer receive the \$1,000-3,000 a year in profits. While the diligent efforts of Brian and Tom at the raffle go along way to helping us keep the budget deficit low, my question to the membership is how would you like to deal with this issue in the long term? I proposed a membership fee increase as a hedge against reduced income in the current difficult financial times and to ensure our continued ability to support our education and outreach programs. An increase in membership fee from \$7 to \$10 dollars would generate approximately \$500, and with the existing interest rate, this would allow us to cover our scholarship expenses and let the raffle money cover the other outreach programs we support. Another option is to spend down some of our reserve funds and not change membership rates. I would like to hear your thoughts on this - please e-mail or call me with your thoughts.

I have listed below my action agenda items for 2003. Included are a variety of projects where chapter members can get involved. From judging a science fair to becoming a mentor to a Hutton Scholarship student, there are always opportunities to become more active in the chapter. One simple way to help the chapter is to join the parent society. Besides all of the benefits of being a parent society member, there is a challenge from the North Central Division, which will provide \$5000 to the chapter with the highest percentage of members also being parent society members. The \$5000 could help alleviate some of our recent declines in revenue and continue to support all of the important outreach programs we conduct. So however you do it, get more involved with AFS this year; you won't be sorry you did.

2003 Action Agenda Minnesota Chapter AFS*Member Services – (Increase Membership through Enhancement and Recruitment)*

1. Award 3rd Chapter Scholarship
2. Award Joan Duffy Student Travel Grant to NCD Annual Meeting /Annual Midwest Meeting
3. Conduct Two Continuing Education Workshops - Mike Duval, Ray Valley, & Phil Talmage
4. Work on increasing parent Society Membership through a drawing for a free membership and/or a free journal of the winner's choice.
5. Revive the Past Presidents Committee to increase activity of past-presidents in the Chapter

Information Transfer- (Interact with Public Policy Makers and Enhance Outreach Capabilities)

6. Work with FWLA to improve their financial solvency and relevancy to the Chapter
7. Increase Funding to \$600 for Regional and State Science Fair Awards
8. Student sub-chapter of MNAFS

Aquatic Stewardship: (Enhance Global Role of AFS in Conservation of Fisheries Resources)

9. Donate \$100 to support World Fisheries Congress

Partnerships: (establish partnerships among AFS units and with other Organizations)

10. Work with MNDNR to finish digital image library and put on the web page
11. Apply to Xcel Energy for \$5000 Grant to help stabilize our funds for education projects
12. Work with MNDNR Minn Aqua program to again purchase T-shirts to sell at State Fair
13. Work with Iowa and Wisconsin to plan a Tri-Chapter meeting in 2003/04

Officer and Excom Reports**President Elect****By Loren Miller**

2004 Meeting Planning - Planning for next year's meeting is underway. We are strongly considering St. Cloud as our site and we will probably shoot for some time in February. Joint meetings with neighboring states fell through so we are contacting the Wildlife Society and the Foresters. If anyone has strong feelings about location, time, or partners, contact me soon because I would like to firm up plans.

Past President

By Brian Borkholder

Request for photos - Fred Harris (Parent Society President) is seeking photos from AFS-related events from last year (annual meeting, any of the continuing education stream courses, any of the science fairs, etc.). If members can get to me any photos I will forward copies to Fred for use at the annual meeting in Quebec. Then, I will either return the originals, or forward them on to the Historian for archival.

Excom - Open

By Andy Edwards

Fond du Lac Band has been monitoring spring netting and spearing of walleyes at Mille Lacs and other lakes in the 1837 Ceded Territory. They also finished up their participation in the multi-agency mark and recapture project for Mille Lacs walleyes on April 28th. Fond du Lac has now moved north to join the 1854 Authority in conducting spring walleye electrofishing work in the 1854 Ceded Territory. Ice out is progressing slowly, so we hope to get to 3 or 4 lakes yet this year.

Grand Portage band is in the planning phase for a small-scale fish hatchery. They are hoping to develop a hatchery that will be designed to produce walleye, brook trout, and perhaps sturgeon. All three of these species are of prime concern to the Band and they would like to continue restoration efforts in the Pigeon River and several on-reservation lakes. In the past they have had several in situ fish rearing hatchery designs to hatch and raise walleye fingerlings, steelhead, salmon and brook trout. The new hatchery facility would be an extension of those efforts. Commercial assessments of lake trout and whitefish will begin in early May and are planned to continue until the end of October. An upper Pigeon River population assessment is planned for mid-summer. Personnel are also examining options to stock panfish into an on-reservation lake to complement the newly created walleye fishery. Finally, the lower Pigeon River will be surveyed several times this summer to look for lake sturgeon following several anecdotal reports of large sturgeon from fishermen the last few years.

Committee Reports

Awards

by Melissa Drake

For those of you who were unable to attend the Annual Meeting, the Chapter recognized many members for their outstanding contributions to the Chapter and to AFS.

Special Recognition Awards were presented to four Chapter members. Brian Borkholder and Cindy Tomcko received awards for their contribution to the success of the Hutton Junior Fisheries Biologist Program. Shannon Fisher received an award for his involvement with Minnesota State Science Fair. Mike McNerny was recognized for his long-term contributions to the NCD Centrarchid Technical Committee.

The Award of Excellence was given to Warren "Joe" Scidmore. Joe was a career long AFS member, a founding father of the Minnesota chapter, a fisheries research biologist, a warmwater research supervisor, and a research supervisor. During his professional career, he was the AFS presence in the Minnesota DNR.

Best Professional Paper was given to Loren Miller for his presentation entitled "Natural hybridization and its effects on growth rates in black and white crappies". The Best Student Paper was presented to Dan Wilfond for his presentation entitled "Seasonal movements, habitat use, and harvest rates of trophy brown trout in an urban Minnesota stream". The Best Poster Award was given to Matthew Ward for his poster titled "Extent of prey-fish consumption by age-1 and older walleyes stocked in Minnesota wetlands."

It's never too early to start thinking about next year's awards. Do you know someone who has gone above and beyond the call of duty to accomplish the Chapter's goals? Let that person know how much you appreciate their hard work by nominating him or her for a Special Recognition Award. What about someone who has made a life-long commitment to Minnesota's fisheries? Nominate him or her for the prestigious Award of Excellence. Have you or someone you know been a Minnesota Chapter member for at least 25 years? If so, please let us know. Members who have made a long-term commitment to the Chapter deserve recognition. As the above awards demonstrate, there are a lot of people out there working hard to make the world a better place for fish - don't let their efforts go unnoticed! To nominate that special someone for an award, or to let us know who has been a member for at least 25 years please contact Melissa Drake at 651-772-7966 or melissa.drake@dnr.state.mn.us

Continuing Education

By Ray Valley

Geostatistics workshop planned - As more fisheries professionals accumulate coordinate-linked data, they inevitably desire to manipulate these data in a visual format to produce insightful maps and to identify/quantify spatial patterns in variables such as fish abundance and habitat. For many of us, spatial statistics was not a fisheries course offering in our degree programs. As a result, we are challenged in choosing appropriate techniques for manipulating spatial data and knowing when we have crossed important lines of statistical validity. Therefore, MN AFS will be hosting a one-day geostatistics workshop this winter (2004) that explores the basic concepts of geostatistics and interpolation techniques. This will include introduction to some geostatistical software packages as well as a hands-on data analysis component, using fisheries examples. Additional information on this course is soon to follow. In the mean time, interested AFS members are encouraged to contact Continuing Education co-chairs: Mike Duval (michael.duval@dnr.state.mn.us), Ray Valley (ray.valley@dnr.state.mn.us), or Phil Talmage (phil.talmage@dnr.state.mn.us) with input into the types of spatial data they are or will be collecting and what they would like to learn from this workshop.

(Note: A few spaces still available in the upcoming Public Involvement workshop. See Upcoming Events on page 8 for more details.)

Science Fairs

By Shannon Fisher

In 2003, the Minnesota Chapter of the American Fisheries Society extended its science fair outreach program to each of the nine regional fairs. In addition, we again participated in the Minnesota State Science Fair coordinated by the Minnesota Academy of Science. Students presenting projects in any field of aquatic sciences were considered for our awards. Projects were judged by Minnesota Chapter of AFS members utilizing criteria that included originality, ingenuity, methods, visual presentation, oral presentation, and subject knowledge. Where applicable, one senior high and one junior high award was given at each fair; however, judges had the flexibility to provide additional honorable mentions and move awards to different regions and designations when exceptional projects were worthy of recognition.

The regional science fair awards were titled "Minnesota Chapter of the American Fisheries Society Aquatic Sciences Achievement Award" and the state science fair awards were titled "Minnesota Chapter of the American Fisheries Society Aquatic Sciences Excellence Award" – a slightly different designation to indicate the different levels of competition. Each student receiving a regional award was presented with a framed certificate, a Silva Sportsman's tool, and a copy of the book [Fishes of the Central United States](#). The state science fair award winners each received a framed certificate, copy of the book [Wildstream: A Natural History of Free Flowing Water](#), and a rod-reel combo. Many of these students were also provided with information about the Hutton Junior Fisheries Biologist program.

2003 regional recipients:**Western Region:**

Jr. High – Katy Loe, Norman County West
Project: Which fish are most trainable?

Sr. High – Zeke Hess, Norman County West
Project: The effect of 2-4D and dye on the growth rate of *Myriophyllum Spicatum*

Northern Region:

Jr. High – Gus Beckel, Lake of the Woods School
Project: Under Pressure – goldfish recovery speed from pressurized tanks at different temperatures

Sr. High – Hillary Fultz, Bagley High School
Project: An analysis of river dynamics and their effect on larval Trichoptera in the Clearwater River

Southeast Region:

Jr. High – Darcy Mundahl, Winona Middle School
Project: Effects of atrazine on the food-seeking behavior of crayfish

Sr. High – Erik Mundahl, Winona Senior High School
Project: Suspended sediments in Burns Valley Creek Phase III: effects on trout habitats and diets

Twin Cities Region:

Jr. High – Ellen Thoennes Keller, Annunciation School
Project: Somethin's fishy: relationship between food quantity and goldfish health

Sr. High – Vikash Kanodia, Breck Academy
Project: Food preferences and growth rates of mussels

Central Region:

Jr. High – Anna Hudson, Moore Middle School
Project: What color are fish most attracted to?

Sr. High – Shannon Moore, Champlin Park High School
Project: Effects of reduced oxygen levels on zooplankton

Southern Region:

Jr. High – Jordan Balbach, New Ulm Area Catholic Schools
Project: Keep your phosphorous off my lawn

Jr. High – Jeff Kalow, New Ulm Area Catholic Schools
Project: Effect of different fishing line manufacturer on fishing line strength when wet and dry

Sr. High – Meghan Travaille, Lake Crystal Welcomme Memorial
Project: Effect of temperature on oxygen and phosphates in the Minnesota River

Southwest Region:

Jr. High – Hannah Horecka, Benson High School
Project: Water clarity and its effect on plant growth

Rochester Region:

Jr. High – Ryan Moertel, Kellogg Middle School
Project: Where do brine shrimp grow best?

Sr. High – Nicole Ward, Century High School

Project: Controlling zebra mussels

Northeast Region:

Jr. High – Emily Moeller, Ordean Middle School

Project: Effects of runoff on *Hirudo medicinalis*

Sr. High – Elizabeth Welsh, Proctor High School

Project: Effect of aerated barley straw liquor on *Selenastrum capricornutum*

2003 State Science Fair Award Recipients:

Jr. High – Marcy Mundahl, Winona Middle School

Project: Effects of atrazine on the food-seeking behavior of crayfish

Sr. High – Rebecca Krystosek, Bagley High School

Project: Rises and falls of a great river: an intensive bioassessment of the Mississippi's first 382 miles

Congratulations to all of our recipients and good luck in your future endeavors!

The science fair committee consists of Donna Dustin, Jeff Weiss, Brian Nerbonne, Ginny Snarski, Joe Ostazeski, Heather Baird, Gerry Grant, Edie Evarts, and Shannon Fisher (chair). On behalf of the Minnesota Chapter, I would like to thank all of the regional science fair committee representatives and others who assisted with judging, finances, and award coordination. This has been an important step forward in our support of education leading to the development of future aquatic scientists. Please contact Shannon Fisher if you have any questions regarding this program (Shannon.fisher@dnr.state.mn.us).

Rivers and Streams

By Karl Koller

North Central Division's 2003 River's and Stream's Technical Committee Meeting - This year's NCD RSTC meeting scheduled for the end of March was cancelled this year. Too few representatives from participating state chapters would have been able to attend due to moratoriums on out-of-state travel because of budget shortfalls made the meeting impractical.

Minnesota Stream and River Committee - The ad hoc Stream and River Committee of the Minnesota Chapter is in the process of re-forming. Attendance at an exploratory session during the March AFS meeting was good, and various functions of such a committee were suggested. The committee could facilitate various stream-related training, generate ideas for needed research, collaborate on funding opportunities, and facilitate data sharing and access. The committee could also generate Minnesota AFS position papers on topics including riparian timber harvest, stormwater management, impaired waters and TMDLs, trails and crossings, culvert sizing and placement, and any other upcoming issues. Those who signed up in March will be contacted as the re-formation progresses; let us know if you missed signing up in March!

Contact Karl Koller (e-mail Karl.Koller@dnr.state.mn.us, phone 218-327-4124) or Eric Merten (e-mail Eric.Merten@dnr.state.mn.us, phone 651-345-3365) with your name, e-mail address, phone number, affiliation and area of interest (ie. trout streams, large rivers, geomorphology, etc.) if you want to be part of the committee or have questions.

RYBA Newsletter
By David Anderson

This issue of RYBA may look a little different from previous issues. Since most (if not all) members now receive the newsletter electronically, I felt a single-column layout would be easier to read on a computer screen. I chose to keep the pdf format for those who still choose to print their copy. This is my first attempt as editor, so I kept things simple. I'll try to liven up future editions with photos and other visuals. I'd welcome any favorable comments, and grudgingly accept any unfavorable ones (david.anderson@dnr.state.mn.us).

If you crave more online reading, check out MAINSTREAM, the North Central Division's newsletter. It's also available electronically, at <http://www.fw.umn.edu/ncdafs/mainstream.html>.

(Note: See the Annual Meeting and Executive Committee Minutes on pages 11-16 for more committee news.)

Upcoming Events**Minnesota Chapter Of The American Fisheries Society
Public Involvement Techniques Workshop**
Camp Ripley
21 May 2003

This Continuing Education course, facilitated by Dr. David Fulton of the University of MN Coop Unit, will explore various techniques of identifying stakeholder groups, engaging the public in natural resource issues, and managing/resolving conflict. This course will be valuable for those who are involved in setting natural resource policy, management planning, and resource advocacy. This offering should be timely for fisheries managers submitting regulation packages for this fall as well as for those seeking public input on revised management plans.

Limited space was still available as of the RYBA publication deadline. After May 7, registration will be open to non-Chapter members. See the Chapter website (www.fw.umn.edu/mnaf) for more details.

Society for Conservation Biology 2003 Meeting
Duluth, MN
29 June - 2 July 2003

See the SCB website for more details (<http://conbio.net/>)

9th Centrarchid Technical Committee Mid-Year Meeting
Wyalusing State Park, Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin
29-30 July 2003

FIRST CALL FOR PAPERS - This is the first call for papers to be presented at the 2003 mid-year meeting of the North Central Division-Centrarchid Technical Committee. The theme of this year's meeting will be Bluegill Regulations and Management. Anyone working on a bluegill project is encouraged to present his or her work (not necessarily restricted to the North Central Division if you know someone outside the Division working on a bluegill

project that may be of interest to the members). We need about 12 speakers to fill the program. Let's not leave it up to Dave Philipp to fill the program. Please forward Title, author and a short (emphasize short) abstract to Ed Braun at ebraun@dnr.state.in.us. Microsoft Word or WordPerfect formats acceptable.

The meeting will again be held at Wyalusing State Park in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin. It would be hard to beat the price and location. Reservations can be made at one of the numerous motels in Prairie du Chien or bring a sleeping bag and stay in the cabins located adjacent to the pavilion/kitchen where the meeting is being held, free. The meeting will start at 1:00 P.M. on the 29th and adjourn about noon on the 30th. A short business meeting will be held on the morning of the 30th. More information will be forwarded at a later date.

AFS Annual Meeting
Québec City, Canada,
10-14 August 2003

See the parent society website for more details (www.fisheries.org)

Letters

Dear Minnesota Chapter of the American Fisheries Society,

Thank you for the \$500 scholarship. I was recently accepted to the University of Notre Dame and will be doing invasive species work. I will be putting the scholarship toward the moving process and getting started for my first field season of research in June! I also really enjoyed attending the conference.

Thanks again,
Angela Bobeldyk

To the Editor:

Minnesota DNR Fisheries officials recently added 67 more waters to the existing list of about 40 with special regulations restricting the harvest of northern pike. DNR Fisheries officials expect the move to improve the quality (size structure) of the northern pike populations. But there is very little evidence to support their optimism. It is more likely that for many of the listed waters, the special regulations will simply reduce recreational opportunities, without any noticeable benefit.

I have not seen any case histories of waters with special regulations for northern pike that have clearly achieved the improved size structure desired. If there were any, I would expect DNR officials to be showcasing them. Among the 40 some waters previously designated with special regulations, surely there must be some success stories.

In far too many cases, the DNR has poorly designed or carried out evaluations of special regulations, and thus are unable to show any changes. Cass Lake and more recently, Steiger Lake are two examples that come to mind. Why not focus on doing a good job evaluating waters with existing special regulations, rather than adding more?

To fish in Minnesota, you pay for a license and you pay excise taxes on your fishing equipment. Using those dollars to diminish fishing opportunities without any clear benefit is wrong.

Before implementing special regulations that cover such a large number of lakes, the DNR should prepare a document (a written, formal proposal) that can be reviewed and critiqued by the public, various organizations, and other fisheries professionals prior to any public hearings. The proposal should provide background, specific objectives of the special regulations, methods of evaluation, endpoints, how achievement of objectives will be measured, and likelihood of success. Doing so would make for a more informed and involved public and improve the process of developing and implementing special regulations.

Steve Boe
(former Minnesota DNR biologist)
La Grande, Oregon

To the Editor:

Please consider this a response to Steve Boe's comments about the new suite of special regulations for northern pike in Minnesota.

First, it is important to note that many of the regulations were not attempts to improve, but simply to help preserve some quality fish populations in the face of increasing fishing pressure. It is true that some of our previous attempts at northern pike regulations did not make big enough cuts in harvest of large fish to have much success (exceptions have been some populations with one fish over 24 inches, 22-30 inch protected slots, and catch-and-release regulations). Armed with new data about population densities and production rates for large fish, there was an obvious need to implement very severe restrictions on harvest of large fish to have desired effects with the new suite of regulations. The large number of lakes with new regulations, and apriori identification of reference/control lakes should help us evaluate these effects. Furthermore, some DNR area stations have pre-regulation creel or spring sampling data that will be backed up with post-regulation creels and spring sampling.

Most importantly, this regulation initiative was a response to licensed anglers who were interested in more opportunities to catch large northern pike. We were responding to individual anglers, participants at the public meetings for statewide bag limits, and groups like the Fishing Roundtable. Without demand for some places where people could go catch large fish, the DNR would not have embarked on this initiative. And certainly, with northern pike present in every major drainage of the state, there is a large enough resource available to provide different kinds of fishing opportunities for our clientele.

Finally, the DNR complied with all of the legal requirements that have been established, and in fact, did much more to collect public feedback. An extensive campaign was put together to let people know about the special regulations, get their opinions, and even more importantly, we relied on that feedback in final decisions about which lakes to include. Area managers from around the state worked hard to contact sportsmen's groups, lake associations, darkhouse associations, and other individuals. In addition to providing information for newspaper, radio, and TV news media, all of the information about the regulation initiative was provided on the DNR website beginning very early in the process. As a result of public feedback, we did not proceed with special regulations for a number of the lakes that were originally considered.

In all, DNR staff worked hard to be responsive to clientele that wanted better quality fishing opportunities for northern pike in Minnesota.

Rod Pierce
Grand Rapids

(Rod is the Chapter's Esocid technical committee representative, and fisheries research biologist for the DNR)

Meeting Minutes

36th Annual Business Meeting of the Minnesota Chapter of the American Fisheries Society March 4, 2003, Oak Ridge Conference Center, Chaska MN

Submitted by Donna Dustin, Treasurer

President Brian Borkholder called the meeting to order at 16:43. Those present included Larry Kallemeyn, Tim Goeman, Daryl Ellison, Jeff Weiss, Doug Dieterman, Greg Busacker, Dennis Topp, Rod Pierce, Jack Wingate, Henry VanOffelen, Rick Nelson, Brad Parsons, Cindy Tomcko, Pam Thiel, Andrew Thompson, Doug Kingsley, Mark Hove, Edie Evarts, Tim Brastrup, Neal Mundahl, Melissa Drake, Deserae Hendrickson, Charles Anderson, Carl Richards, Keith Reeves, Rick Bruesewitz, Tom Jones, Dave Zappetillo, Nicholas Altringer, Tracy Close, Loren Miller, Don Cloutman, Brian Nerbonne, Darryl Bathel, Kevin Stauffer, Shannon Fisher, Tim Cross, Ray Newman, Paul Radomski, Gerold Grant, Kevin Page, David Anderson, Joe Ostazeski, Ray Valley, Eric Altena, Don Schreiner, Michael Duval, Phil Talmage, Bruce Vondracek, Jason Moeckel, Scott Gustafson, Karl Koller, Jeff Sluiter, Donna Dustin.

Note: MSC = “moved, seconded, carried” followed by the names of the members making and seconding the motion.

Agenda. There were no additions to the agenda and the agenda was approved by acclamation.

Minutes. There were no additions or corrections to the minutes from the 35th annual business meeting, MSC to approve minutes (Tim Goeman, Charles Anderson).

Parent Society and NCD Updates - Tim Goeman

Parent Society Update – board members are meeting with legislators in Washington this week on various issues. Online submission of manuscripts has now been adopted.

NCD Division Update – the Hutton Junior Fisheries Biologist program is doing well, the NCD is supporting the program with \$3000. It is time to recruit students for this year, direct any interested students to the AFS web site for application information.

An NCD student conclave is being planned for spring of 2004.

President Chris Guy has a new incentive plan for parent society membership – \$2500 will be awarded to the chapter with highest percentage of parent society members.

Recognition of MN Chapter Past Presidents in attendance.

President's Prerogative – review of 2002 action agenda -Borkholder

We filled the chapter historian position with Jeff Sluiter, who is working on the archives.

Partnerships –RYBA was converted to electronic format without incident. If you are not getting RYBA notifications contact Dave Anderson to get your e-mail address on our list.

TWS minutes – TWS secretary was contacted and sent a copy of our meeting minutes.

Award second chapter scholarship – will be awarded at the banquet.

Joan Duffy Travel Award– was awarded to Jackie Bacigulupi

State Science Fair – gave chapter awards at State Fair last year and added the Regional fairs this year.

Hutton Program – MN chapter gave \$300 and challenged other NCD chapters but no others met the challenge. MN hosted three students.

Professionalism – reward parent society membership, new member drawing won by Tom Hrabek

FWLA – has undergone changes this year but is still active and we are still involved.

Develop slide digital image library – not done

Reprint Chapter brochure – finished new version of brochure in time for the MN State Fair.

Continuing Ed – two stream geomorphology workshops conducted and both went well.

Other News

Outstanding Chapter Award. We won AFS Outstanding Chapter last year. This represents several years of good work by everyone involved.

NCD's "Most Active Chapter" Award. Shared with Missouri Chapter this year, thanks are due to chapter members active in NCD.

Carex Workshop. We supported this workshop with \$200 and feedback on it was excellent.

2002 Hutton Challenge. We challenged other NCD Chapters to meet our \$300 donation to the Hutton program. No other chapters met our challenge.

President's Hook with Fred Harris. Brian thanked Fred Harris for the opportunity to co-author December 2002's President's hook column in *Fisheries* entitled 'Relevancy Through Our Chapters.'

Letters to Legislators. The chapter wrote letters to various legislators on the following issues:

Gross overlimit bill – Support. This bill passed and went into effect March 1, 2003.

Two lines for fishing - Opposed. This was not a unanimous opinion in the EXCOM and Brian expressed appreciation for the dissenting opinions and good discussion we had on this issue. This bill did not pass.

Devil's Lake outlet – Opposed. This issue is still up in the air and we will continue to voice opposition when appropriate.

Treasurer's Report – Donna Dustin.

Donna presented the treasurer's report for the year, including an overview of Brian's budget and spending. The budget year ended approximately \$2700 in the black. The Chapter's assets stand at \$35,749.86. This includes much of the annual meeting income (with expenses yet to come), as well as \$10,000 that is reserved as the endowment for the chapter scholarship. The interest rate on the Money Market account stands at 1.09%.

Darryl Bathel reported that he and Ted Sledge audited the chapter's books and all appears to be in order. MSC to approve the treasurer's report (Brad Parsons, John Hiebert).

Committee Reports-

Membership – Brian Healy. The winner of the free membership to the parent society, for chapter members who joined AFS last year, is Tom Hrabik.

Nominations – Shannon Fisher. Our President elect is Loren Miller, Secretary Treasurer is Donna Dustin, academic ExCom member is Dave Fulton, DNR ExCom member is Dave Anderson, and Open ExCom member is Andy Edwards. Congratulations to all.

Awards – Melissa Drake. Five awards will be given this year. John will present four special recognition awards later in this meeting and the award of excellence at the banquet.

Public Education – Eric Altena. There was a request to put the chapter brochure on the website and this will be done.

Issues – Brad Parsons. Most of this year's issues were handled by the President and others. We worked with TWS and the Audubon Society on the proposed Hwy 169 relocation around Mille Lacs. The outcome of this project is still anyone's guess.

Resolutions – Jeff Weiss. Fishkill investigations – Jeff did a survey last fall of area fisheries managers and got poor response. Most interest in this issue is limited to the southeast, rather than statewide. Suggestions were made for improving communications between those involved in fishkill investigations. While researching this issue, Jeff found a copy of an MOU between PCA and various DNR Divisions that was written but never signed. Jeff will attempt to resurrect this MOU and get it signed and implemented, rather than proceeding with a resolution.

Devil's Lake Outlet. It is difficult to tell where this will go. ACOE is adding another \$50 million to the cost estimate (from 97 mil) and the State of ND wants to proceed even without Federal Funding. Henry VanOffelen asked if the parent society has been informed or gotten involved in this issue. He noted that the project has been exempted from benefit-cost requirements and this would have far reaching impacts as a precedent for many other projects nationwide. Henry would be willing to work with Brian on getting input to parent society on this issue.

Clean Water Act changes – could have huge effect on isolated wetlands. Parent society has already been working on this issue and we will watch for state impacts.

CREP - considering a resolution in support of this important soil conservation program. A motion was made to Greg B moved that EXCOM write a letter to , second from Bruce Vondracek. Henry added there is a RRV CREP that should be included. Also there will be no perpetual easements in the new program and we may want to comment on that. Motion carried

Long Range Planning – Henry VanOffelen. This has not been a very active committee. If anyone would like to get it going again they might check with Tracy for ideas, as he did a good job in the past.

AD HOC and Technical Committee Reports

FWLA – Don Pereira and Bruce Vondracek. (Bruce)

Legislative agenda – priorities for this year are insuring that Natural Resources funding is maintained. It is important that dedicated and heritage funds are secured. We will support a referendum for a constitutional amendment that would use some fraction of the sales tax to fund Natural Resources. There are three proposals out there now, don't know which one, if any, will emerge but we will work with whatever has the best chance. We also support legislation that would allocate 22 million per year for 10 years to acquire WMA 's statewide, but this probably won't pass.

Lobbyist – FWLA was in bad shape last year when some members dropped out. Lance Ness has gotten some members back and FWLA is in much better shape now. Gary Botzek has been re-hired as our lobbyist and he will also run the management end.

Money – There are, however, still money problems. FWLA is soliciting contributions from individuals (not tax deductible), and especially groups. For those who are members of other conservation organizations, FWLA would encourage you to approach your group about contributing. Lance Ness will gladly talk to your group about this if anyone wants more information.

Scholarship - Bruce Vondracek. This year we have one \$500 winner, one \$300 winner, and a runner-up who got a free trip this meeting. They will all be introduced at the banquet.

Fund Raising – Tom Burri. Keep in mind that the beer at the social is free so you should feel obligated to spend any money you save on raffle tickets.

Continuing Ed – Mike Duval, Ray Valley, Phil Talmage. (Mike) – Thanks to co-chairs. Currently working on a spring workshop on public involvement techniques. Topics covered will include how to engage the public and get their input and skills for managing conflict. The committee is also planning a fall course, possibly on geostatistics. There is still interest on doing more stream training and we will look into continuing our relationship with DNR and at including some more advanced training in stream geomorphology.

Minnesota Science Fair – Shannon Fisher. The 2002 winners' names and project titles were read. The Science Fair Coordinators said our awards were a big hit with the kids. We have expanded this year to the 9 regional fairs in addition to giving awards again at the State Fair. A different award will be offered at State Fair in case that person won our award at a Regional Fair too. All students judged for our award will be provided with information about the Hutton program.

RYBA Editor – Loren Miller. RYBA is primarily electronic now. If you are not getting an e-mailed notice announcing newsletters send Dave Anderson an e-mail so he can add you to our list. This year the newsletter will be taken over by Dave Anderson and who will update the style to one more easily viewed on the computer.

Webmaster – Dave Anderson. If you want something added to the web site or see any problems that need fixing, let Dave know.

Historian – Jeff Sluiter. Progress has been slow, but he is getting going on the chapter archives. Send him any information if you have it.

NCD Tech Committees:

Rivers and Streams – Karl Koller

Esocid – Rod Pierce. Meeting in July in Wisconsin, February NAJFM will have papers from last meeting.

Centrarchid – Mike McInerny. Meeting in July at Wyalusing State Park will focus on bluegills.

Ictalurid – Dennis Topp - Early summer meeting planned. Anyone interested in ridesharing, let Dennis know.

Unfinished Business

Procedures Manual Updates. A change in the bylaws to have the term lengths for secretary/treasurer changed to 2 years from 1 year. ExCom terms will also change to 2 years and will be staggered so that two ExCom members are elected each year. MSC to accept this change to the Chapter ByLaws (Tim Goeman, Shannon Fisher).

Installation of new officers. Brian handed over the Esocid to John Hiebert who took over the meeting. He thanked Brian for his efforts and awarded him the Outgoing President's plaque. Special Recognition awards were given to Brian Borkholder and Cindy Tomcko for mentoring Hutton Students in 2002 and to Shannon Fisher for his work initiating and coordinating the chapter's involvement in the Minnesota Science Fairs. Another Special Recognition award went to Mike McInerny for his service as the Minnesota representative to the NCD Centrarchid committee for many years.

Committee assignments

Centrarchid - Cindy Tomcko
 Rivers and Streams – Karl Koller
 Ictalurid – Dennis Topp
 Students – Julie Zimmerman
 RYBA – Dave Anderson
 Procedures Manual – Mike McInerny

2003 Action Agenda

(Note: The action agenda appears within the President's Message, on page 3).

MSC, with some cheap shots but no discussion, to support John's action agenda (Brad Parsons, Bruce Vondracek).

New Business

Student sub-chapter. Proposed by Mark Hove. The Minnesota Chapter has a long history of involving students and Mark Hove and George Spangler would like to form a student sub unit at the University. Questions on this please contact Mark

MNAFS Membership Fee Increase. John would like to explore the possibility of raising the membership fee to \$10 to augment chapter income. It has been at \$7 for a long time. John will do an e-mail survey on this to get comments and will proceed or not based on the feedback he receives.

Budget John presented his 2003 Budget, which projects a \$3,045 deficit. Meeting costs were high due to the Metro location and we subsidized student attendance at a higher rate than in the past. The T-shirt sales program may be ending, or will at least require re-stocking this year and interest income is also down. Newsletter costs have dropped with the switch to an e-mail newsletter.

Brian suggested that we increase President–ExCom Initiatives to \$500 since things come up and we should have some flexibility. MSC to accept budget as amended (Henry VanOffelen, Tim Goeman).

Other new business. None

MSC to adjourn at 18:06 (Larry Kallemeyn, Jeff Sluiter).

Executive Committee Meeting of the Minnesota Chapter of the American Fisheries Society March 3, 2003, Oak Ridge Conference Center, Chaska MN

Submitted by Donna Dustin, Treasurer

President Brian Borkholder called the meeting to order. Those present included Loren Miller, Karl Koller, Pat Rivers, Julie Zimmerman, Bruce Vondracek, Darryl Bathel, Eric Altena, Brad Parsons, Melissa Drake, Ray Valley, Phil Talmage, Don Cloutman, Mike Duval, Joe Ostazeski, Jeff Weiss, Jeff Sluiter, John Hiebert, Donna Dustin.

Note: MSC = “moved, seconded, carried” followed by the names of the members making and seconding the motion.

Agenda. There were no additions to the agenda and the agenda was approved by acclamation.

Discuss 2003 Annual Meeting – John Hiebert

We had a goal to increase student participation at this year’s meeting. To that end, we paid for three rooms and meeting registration for student presenters and scholarship winners. We have 20 to 25 students attending the meeting at a reduced rate of \$20 for the meeting and \$10 for the banquet. We began a mentoring program, where volunteer Chapter members and students were given special nametags to help them identify each other and encourage interaction and discussion. Thanks to Julie Zimmerman for her help in determining what students were willing to pay to attend the meeting.

We will be giving a special award to Dennis Anderson at tomorrow’s plenary session.

Review of Agenda for Business Meeting.

Conducted free membership drawing: winner is Tom Hrabik.

Presidents Report – Brian Borkholder

NCD membership challenge

Devils Lake – still an issue

Mike North (TWS) lobbying – we are not funding lobbying.

Treasurer’s Report – Donna Dustin.

Went over treasurer’s report for Business Meeting, recruited auditors.

Committee Reports-

Summary of committee reports to be made at Business Meeting.

Fundraising – Julie will help get students involved in selling raffle tickets at the meeting

Old Business

Changing terms of office. This requires revision of the by-laws. Proposed that Secretary-Treasurer will be 2-year term and ExCom positions will be 2 year terms, which will be staggered such that 2 ExCom members will be elected each year. MSC to put the above changes to the membership for a vote (Brad Parsons, John Hiebert).

World Fisheries Congress, John has put item in his budget to support the meeting.

New Business

Student chapter – Mark Hove is moving forward to form a student sub-unit.

Karl Koller will resurrect the River & Streams Tech Committee.

Past-presidents committee – may also be resurrected. Some discussion of role of committee and how it will function. Already laid out in procedural manual, but has been inactive.

No other business and motion to adjourn at 19:12 MSC (John Hiebert, Jeff Weiss).