



Newsletter of the Minnesota Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

Year 2007 No. 2
Summer Issue

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President's Message

By Mike Duval, President

The Legislative session ended on time, but what was accomplished on behalf of Minnesota's natural resources? A large freshman class took their seats early in the session and successfully passed legislation on renewable energy standards and natural resource funding including continuation funding for Clean Water Legacy. Renewed funding



for CWL is good news and perhaps sets the stage for a future long-term commitment. But the legislature failed to conclude a dedicated funding deal that would send a ballot question to the electorate in 2008. Last minute success in moving a dedicated funding package to conference committee was scuttled for lack of time in the final session finish. The Governor's veto of the tax bill theoretically could open the door for a special session. That could create an opportunity to finish up conference committee work and send a dedicated funding bill to the Governor who has said previously that he would sign it, but as of this writing the Governor doesn't sound inclined to call legislators back and particularly uninclined to do so without a tightly structured agenda. Lacking opportunity to get this done this year, the Chapter and other natural resource stakeholders must push for early passage of this initiative at the beginning of the 2009 Legislative Session. The compromise bill is ready to go for a floor vote, so let's get this done!

To make rules or not to make rules? That is the quandary delivered from the Legislature. The Legislature gave the DNR a million dollars split over the biennium to initiate statewide shoreland rule making. A reluctant DNR had been under pressure from the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy and from Minnesota Waters to immediately begin rulemaking procedures to modernize the state's minimum shoreland development standards. The Chapter passed a resolution at the annual meeting similarly urging DNR to immediately proceed to rule making in the model of the broad stakeholder process used in the North Central Lakes area. Presumably in the coming months the DNR will announce plans on how it will proceed with rule making now that funding constraints are somewhat alleviated. The Chapter will seek an active participant role in any advisory or stakeholder input committee

RYBA editor: Jeff Reed

The Chapter publishes **RYBA** four times yearly (Late Winter, Summer, Fall and Early Winter). Past issues can be found at the Chapter website: www.mnafs.org.

Please direct comments or submissions to:

Jeff.reed@dnr.state.mn.us

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

that may evolve as we did on the North Central Lakes Alternative Shoreland Standards advisory committee back in 2005. In a strange twist on their passion to improve lakeshore protections, the Legislature included a measure in the natural resources funding bill that relaxed a portion of the shoreland rules pertaining to resorts. Resort interests masqueraded this corrupted provision of the Alternative Shoreland Standards that



relaxed rules for non-compliant structure replacement and expansion but avoided incorporating the tandem performance standards intended to increase shoreline vegetation buffers and reduce impervious surface coverage that were critical quid pro quo details built into the Alt. Standards recommendations. While the final conference committee bill restored the capability for local governments to impose such performance standards, this new law preempts local ordinances that are inconsistent (i.e., local governments must allow replacement and expansion as allowed in the statute) and is much less overt in linking continuation of resort non-conformities to lake protection measures.

In an odd contrast, a willing DNR has been attempting to move forward with revised Aquatic Plant Management rules to strengthen aquatic habitat protection and clarify treatment rules for invasive species. The Chapter also passed a resolution encouraging the DNR to develop stricter rules and developed a fact sheet for legislators. But lawmakers in this instance legislated instead to prevent DNR from making rules before April 2008 and not without first reporting to the Legislature. Minnesotans for Healthy Lakes effectively lobbied legislators during the early hours of the session and succeeded in holding back rule making at least another year. The Chapter will need to reflect on this session and adapt our communications and issue education for the 2008 session where we can expect APM rule making roadblocks to return.

The Legislature has requested a report from DNR by January of next year regarding policy recommendations for aquaculture. The DNR has been working with technical and stakeholder groups on a number of aquaculture issues over the past few years. Chapter members including Ira Adelman and Kyle Zimmer have provided their expertise in developing a key technical paper on aquaculture use of wetlands. Information in that report as well as other sources will no doubt feature prominently in the January 2008 report.



So this freshman class has delivered a mixed bag of results. The Chapter has continued its financial contributions to the Fish and Wildlife Legislative Alliance and the Minnesota Conservation Federation to help us track and respond to legislative issues. We will, as we did last year, coordinate our priorities with these groups and our sister professional societies this coming fall. And we will continue to promote the Chapter's web forum as a medium for gathering membership input and discussing important policy and budget issues. Thanks to all of you that contributed to Chapter position papers, provided perspectives on the web forum, helped identify important evolving issues, or contacted your legislators on behalf of aquatic resources and conservation in the state.

Secretary/Treasurer Report

Calub Shavlik

Not much has happen on the secretary side of the combined title except that the minutes from the annual chapter business meeting and EXCOM meeting have been sent to Donna Dustin for posting on the MN AFS website (<http://www.mnafs.org>).

From the treasurer side, bills from the annual meeting and other reimbursement have been sent to the correct people. Additionally, I filed the IRS Tax forms for the 2006 fiscal year by the due date without the use of an professional accountant.



Resolutions Committee

Jeff Weiss

The chapter finalized two resolutions that were presented to the membership during the business meeting session at the annual meeting in March. The first resolution, regarding **aquatic plant management** was written by **Ray Valley**. The state legislature is reviewing MN rule 6820 during the current session. The resolution calls for more conservative vegetation removal policies to protect aquatic habitat along with increasing protection of sensitive areas.

The second resolution is in regards to **off-highway vehicle use on state lands**. The chapter recommends that off-highway vehicle use on state lands be restricted to designated trails which are appropriately sited and designed to minimize impacts. Funding for OHV enforcement should be increased and dedicated for this purpose. OHV trails that fall within the riparian zone should be eliminated.

Both resolutions were approved by the membership at the annual meeting and are available on the chapter website.

Its never to early to start thinking about new resolutions and positions for the chapter to take on environmental issues. Have an idea? Contact Jeff jeffrey.weiss@dnr.state.mn.us

Continuing Education Committee

Ray Valley, Edie Evarts, Phil Talmage

The Continuing Education Committee is hosting a 4-day watershed processes and shoreline restoration workshop August 20—23rd, 2007 at Cabelas in Owatonna. This will be the first of two workshops on this topic. In 2007, the workshop will focus on watershed-related issues in agricultural landscapes. In 2008, a similar workshop will be geared towards forest and urban landscapes. The workshops will be a mix of basic instruction in basic hydrology, identifying priority areas for protection or restoration, building partnerships, touring restoration sites, and finally getting down and dirty restoring a shoreline. **Partial Enrollment is now available!** If you would like to attend either the watershed restoration or the lakeshore restoration alone, this is now an option. Please refer the workshop flier on the chapter website for more information or contact either Phil or Ray.



Website

Donna Dustin

In an effort to reduce SPAM and other annoyances, a priority password has been added to the web forum.. When registering you'll need to enter "walleye" in the VIP codes section. If anyone is having trouble getting started on the **Angling for Issues** web forum, we have added an instruction page to help you.

www.mnafs.org



Newsletter

Since this is my first "go" at the Chapter newsletter, you won't see much new in this first issue (it's been fun trying to reacquaint myself with Microsoft Publisher). I've got a few ideas for future editions and if there is something you'd like to see (or see disappear) let me know. This is an excellent format to get your ideas out to the membership, so if you're so compelled, a guest editorial is always welcomed. See something AFS, the Division, Chapter could do better? Let's hear it!

Finally, a big "Thank You" to Donna Dustin for handing over the newsletter in very seamless manner and for the years of service she's given the Chapter. Great Job Donna!

Jeff Reed

Students

The Student Committee is going through exciting changes. Robert Dodd has been appointed as the new Student Committee Chair. Rob replaces Anne Cooper who deserves thanks for the excellent job she did during her tenure. Rob is a graduate student in the University of Minnesota's Conservation Biology Program. He has chosen the Fisheries/Aquatic Biology Track, and has been selected for the DNR Assisted Master's Option. This guarantees him a job as a Natural Resource Specialist in the Fisheries Division of the MN DNR, as long as he performs admirably during his extended internship. Robert is very grateful for this opportunity.

At the May 4th EXCOM meeting Rob presented a proposal designed to increase student involvement in the chapter and parent society. This proposal outlined a plan to create Institution Representatives (I-Reps) that will serve on the Student Committee. This plan's primary goal is establishing one I-Rep at each college or university in Minnesota that offers fisheries, or other aquatic science, classes or curriculum. Undergrads majoring in fisheries, or other aquatic science, will be given preference. Those taking related classes and social science majors who have an interest in fisheries will also be considered. To identify candidates, faculty contacts at each institution will be established. These professors will announce the newly created positions and interested students will be selected through an established process.

Once I-Reps are selected the SCC will update them regularly concerning issues being addressed by the MN

Chapter. I-Reps will then distribute that information to other students at their respective institution. This will spark more interest in fisheries related issues all across Minnesota. Increasing student interest will lead to more undergrad involvement. This will have numerous benefits. Increasing annual meeting attendance and additional student presentations as well as posters will improve the quality of our annual meeting. More chapter memberships plus increased activity in the Student Committee will further strengthen our chapter's competitiveness for Most Active Chapter Awards. Student scholarships and travel awards will also become more competitive. Long term goals of this proposal center around recruiting promising undergrads into careers in fisheries and other aquatic sciences.

The Student Subunit at the University of Minnesota has also made improvements. Under the guidance of Luke Kusilek the Fisheries Wildlife and Conservation Biology Club has created two new officer positions: AFS President and TWS President. They will ensure issues relating to these fields are addressed. Jonathan Hess, an undergrad majoring in Fisheries and Wildlife, has been elected as the AFS President. He will be responsible for updating the FWCB Club as to what issues the MN Chapter is working to address.

EXCOM NOTES

From Steve Quinn

As a long-time member of the Conservation Committee of the FishAmerica Foundation (FAF), I've been truly gratified by its growth over the last decade. The FishAmerica Foundation is the conservation and grant-providing arm of the American Sportfishing Association (ASA), which has provided over \$7 million in funds to provide matching dollars to accomplish thousands of local aquatic conservation and restoration projects.

ASA member companies donate money, which is then open for grant applications from diverse groups including state and federal fishery management agencies, Trout Unlimited chapters, watershed councils, parks associations, county commissions, and more. Since a partnership with NOAA in 2002, FAF projects have included restoration of marine ecosystems and removal of dams in estuaries, as well as in freshwater systems.

For 2007, grants from FAF exceed \$800,000. Major projects this year include \$60,000 to eliminate a fish barrier in the Lake Superior watershed in Wisconsin, \$60,000 for removal of stream blockages in a Tennessee creek, and \$55,250 for four Trout Unlimited projects to restore forested riparian buffers, stabilize stream banks, and exclude livestock along West Virginia streams. Over the years, these cooperative projects have involved more than 60,000 volunteers who have gained an understanding of the workings of aquatic systems through hands-on work under supervision of biologists and habitat experts. Partnerships with tournament organizations also have led major donations for habitat projects and fish stocking.

The FAF also has a program to provide grants for school physical education programs to incorporate fishing into their curriculums. For more on these programs, see www.fishamerica.org.

NORTH CENTRAL DIVISION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE NEWS

Centrarchid

From Cindy Tomcko

The Centrarchid Technical Committee summer meeting is July 24-25, 2007 at Wyalusing State Park, Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin.

Esocid

From Rod Pierce

The summer meeting is scheduled for August 8-10 at the Kemp Biological Station, Woodruff, Wisconsin. Wednesday evening is a cookout, with the meeting starting Thursday morning and concluding mid-day on Friday. Contact Rod Pierce (rod.pierce@dnr.state.mn.us) about travel arrangements and meeting information.

Walleye

From Tom Heinrich

The Walleye Tech summer meeting will be held at the University of Minnesota's Cloquet Forestry Center. Dates are July 24th to July 26th. Registration, including meals and lodging is \$125. For more information contact Tom. The Walleye Tech Committee is offering the following to students:

Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference Student Travel Grant

Purpose: To financially assist a student conducting research of interest to the Walleye Technical Committee (WTC).

Description: A grant of \$100 from the WTC of the North Central Division of the American Fisheries Society.

Eligibility Criteria: The recipient of this award must be a student who is currently enrolled in a college or university for a degree program. Preference will be given to those involved in research of interest to the WTC.

Documentation required: An application letter from the student that includes: student's name, address, telephone number, educational institution, department, degree level, a short description of current research, reasons for wishing to attend the meeting (paper or poster presentation, pertinent paper session, sub-unit business and/or technical meetings), and reasons why financial assistance is needed.

Selection Criteria: The Operations Subcommittee of the WTC will evaluate applicants based on the following criteria:

- a. AFS involvement (reasons for attending the meeting).
- b. Relevance of research to the goals of the WTC.

Frequency of Award: The WTC will select one recipient each year.

Deadline: The deadline for receipt of completed applications by the Chair of the WTC is August 31.

*The Chair of the WTC will request matching funds from the student's AFS Chapter, however there is no formal arrangement that guarantees matching funds.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Henry Van Offlen

A number of "Issues" remain on the Chapter's radar as things to watch, prepare comments on, and/or engage members in action. These current issues are listed below along with some thoughts on their status and future actions.

Shoreland rules: The 2007 legislature directed DNR to commence a statewide rulemaking for shorelands by January 15, 2008. Unfortunately, no "end date" was specified. MN AFS will track the progress of these efforts and should engage in the rulemaking process as we did in the North Central Lakes Pilot Project. DNR was allocated \$1 million for the process.

Aquatic plant management rules: DNR is in the process of preparing a final draft of proposed rules for APM. Efforts to remove DNR's authority to make rules were stopped during the 2007 session; however, the interest in this topic by the legislature remains high. DNR is going to convene a group of interested parties to review the draft rules before they are published. MN AFS has requested to be involved in the review process. Stay tuned.

Drainage work group: The drainage work group was formed last year to resolve the ditch buffer issues. The Board of Water and Soil Resources was allocated some money in the legislative session for the group to continue to work on a variety of issues. These include the DNR's proposed "con-con land" rules and ditch abandonment procedure. MN AFS is not directly represented on this group; however, Lance Ness and Gary Botzek from FWLA and MCF represent us as part of the group.

Shallow lakes and aquaculture: The MN DNR issued a white paper on aquaculture last fall. The legislature has been interested in the affects of aquaculture on shallow lakes and wetlands for numerous years. At least three bills were introduced this past session related to aquaculture with actions ranging from a moratoria on licenses, increased fees, to requiring all landowners to provide permission. It looks like the only outcome was a direction to DNR in the omnibus bill (SF2096) that says "By January 15, 2008, the commissioner shall report to the senate and house of representatives committees on natural resource policy and finance on policy recommendations regarding aquaculture.". MNAFS should track this issue and be prepared to provide comments the next legislative session. We are also going to coordinate with TWS on this issue.

Stocking: The EXCOM has discussed our stocking paper on several occasions the past year. There is an interest in revising and updating this white paper. We need a group of members to step forward to revise this white paper.

or we may consider working the paper into a class project at one of the Universities or Colleges.

Woody debris and streams: Background for a white paper on this subject were prepared as a class project at the University of Minnesota. Watch for more on this in the next RYBA.

Dedicated Funding: The constitutional amendment made it through conference but never received a final vote in the House or the Senate. There seems to be plenty of blame to go around for this failure. The bottom line seems to be that this has made it all the way to the finish line but did not cross. Hopefully, next year it can take that one final step. Watch for updates here and in the FWLA/MCF updates.

OHV's and Aquatic Habitat: The legislature apparently muddled the issues related to legal OHV trail. We have distributed our resolution and will track this issue and coordinate with TWS and SAF.

Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS): The Chapter remains concerned about this issue. A letter was sent to Representative Oberstar's office last winter. No further action has been taken. The Izaak Walton League and MCEA have engaged the MPCA, MNDNR, and the Attorney Generals' office in discussions to pressure the state to take actions to regulate ballast water that is dumped into the St. Louis estuary. Stay tuned for more on this.

Statewide Conservation Planning

As many know, there are three major natural resource planning efforts underway in Minnesota (see information at www.campaignforconservation.org; LCCMR Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan:

<http://wrc.umn.edu/scpp/>; and a similar report at

http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/aboutdnr/reports/clc_report.pdf). A number of chapter members are involved and/or participating in these efforts.

Although the apparent overlap and redundancy of these efforts is a bit troubling it does seem like this is a unique period of time where numerous groups are realizing that we need to have a statewide vision for conservation for the next 50 years. These planning efforts when combined with the possibility of dedicated funding could substantially shape the future of fish and wildlife conservation in Minnesota. The EXCOM has begun to discuss how the Chapter can engage in these efforts beyond individual member's involvement. Members are encouraged to take a look at these plans and let EXCOM members know how you think the Chapter should become involved.

University of Minnesota Students Research Position Papers for MN Chapter on Importance of Wood in Streams, ATV Impacts

The Minnesota Chapter of AFS has been fortunate to enlist the help of University of Minnesota students in researching two topics for future position papers for the chapter. All students in the Natural Resources program at the university are required to complete a senior capstone class. Part of that class is an in-depth research paper on an assigned topic, which in the past had been simply chosen by the instructor. The current instructor approached AFS as well as the MN Society for Conservation Biology chapter about research topics that might be used by the societies in their advocacy for natural resources. The MN Chapter of AFS was able to have two topics researched: the role of wood in streams, and the impact of all terrain vehicles on aquatic systems.

Groups of students were assigned to 3 sub-parts of each topic, and performed literature reviews as well as interviews with professionals working in the topic area. Members of the MN Chapter, including Dean Paron, Eric Merten, Tim Brastrup, Bruce Vondracek, and Karl Koller, advised the students. Don Pereira was also able to arrange for Dr. Tom Waters to provide his perspective on ATV issues to the students.

Each group presented the findings of their work to the class as well as AFS representatives prior to the end of the semester in April. However, because each topic was divided among groups there was still a need to create a unified paper for MN Chapter use. Two students, one from each subject who were interested in completing the papers and identified as good candidates by the instructor, will create cohesive papers including annotated bibliographies for AFS in exchange for a small stipend.

The papers are due to be completed some time in the middle of August, incorporating feedback from Eric Merten (wood in streams) and Dean Paron (ATV impacts). Once completed, the chapter will need to decide how to turn the research into position papers representing the chapter.

The experience thus far has been a positive one. The chapter has not often done position papers because few members are able to devote the amount of time necessary. The student's research will hopefully dramatically reduce the amount of time needed for chapter members to see the papers through to completion. Additionally, working with students has raised the profile of the chapter and may lead to future participation as they continue in their careers.

DNR FISHING ROUNDTABLE

Mark Hove

Editor's note: Mark took extensive notes during the 2007 Fishing Roundtable. His notes, and an excellent summary of the event can be found on the Chapter website: www.mnafsf.org/roundtable.pdf

Topics covered at the 2007 Roundtable included managing esocid fisheries, largemouth bass seasons, implications of the new Farm Bill, climate change, declining participation in outdoor activities, and long-term conservation funding.

Upcoming Events

2007

American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists Annual Conference

Jul 11-16, 2007 --- St. Louis, Missouri

www.dce.ksu.edu/jointmeeting/

American Fisheries Society 137th Annual Meeting

Sep 2-6, 2007—San Francisco, CA

www.fisheries.org/sf

International Symposium: WILD TROUT IX

Oct 9-12, 2007 --- West Yellowstone, MT

www.wildtroutsymposium.com/

68th Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference

Dec 9-12, 2007 --- Madison, WI

midwest.ncd-afs.org/conference_info.asp

2008

American Fisheries Society 138th Annual Meeting

August 17-21, 2008 —Ottawa, ON

**Minnesota Chapter of the American Fisheries Society
Current Officers and Committee Members 2007**

Chapter Officers

President	Mike Duval	michael.duval@dnr.state.mn.us	218-847-7416
President-elect	David Fulton	dcfulton@umn.edu	612-625-5256
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Academic	Kyle Zimmer	kdzimmer@stthomas.edu	
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Federal	Tim Welkert	lwelker@fs.fed.us	
Minnesota DNR	Eric Altena	eraltena@gmail.com	763-675-3301

Standing Committees

Awards	John Hiebert	mottled_sculpin@hotmail.com	651-259-5212
Issues	Henry VanOffelen	mcea@lakesnet.net	218-847-7416
Long-range planning	Tracy Close	tracy.close@dnr.state.mn.us	218-525-0853
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Resolutions	Jeff Weiss	jeffrey.weiss@dnr.state.mn.us	507-467-2442
Students	Rob Dodd	dodd0037@umn.edu	

Special/Ad Hoc Committees

Arrangements	Doug Schultz	Doug.W.Schultz@state.mn.us	507-467-2442
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	Phil Talmage	phil.talmage@dnr.state.mn.us	218-286-5220
	Edie Evarts	edie.evarts@dnr.state.mn.us	218-732-4153
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	Jeff Sluiter	jsluiter@yahoo.com	952-432-2692
Newsletter	Jeff Reed	jeff.reed@dnr.state.mn.us	320-634-4573
Procedure Manual	Mike McInerny	mike.mcinerny@dnr.state.mn.us	320-234-2562
Science Fair	Brian Nerbonne	brian.nerbonne@dnr.state.mn.us	651-772-7965
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