

**MN AFS Committee updates, compiled – for Feb 2025 St Cloud business meeting**

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Science Fair – Matt Ward  
Students – Eddie Carlson (new student liaison)  
Students – subunit leaders, if present  
Wildlife Society – Heather Baird

NCD:

Centrarchid – Ryan Carrow  
Esocid – Kamden Glade  
Ictalurid – Tony Sindt  
Rivers and Streams – Amanda Craft  
Salmonid – Nick Peterson  
SECPAC – Kamden Glade, Levi Suchla  
Urban Fishing – Rebecca Bullers  
Walleye – vacant

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**Responses from committee chairs as of Feb 8, 2025:**

(red = emailed responses before the meeting; blue = did not email but may be interested in giving updates in person at the meeting or at a later time)

**Arrangements – Kristen Patterson**

Committee responsibilities include coordinating with facilities and catering companies to handle the logistics of the meeting. This also encompasses the big lifts of materials and set up for the poster display done by Kyle Zimmer as well as collecting speakers and abstracts and turning them into a productive and exciting line up of presentations, orchestrated this year again by Katie Bruesewitz. This committee also communicates with local or neighboring agencies and states to coordinate meetings with a broader scope, such as the joint meeting planned with TWS and FAS for 2026!

**Awards – Keith Reeves, Kamden Glade**

We support our fellow Chapter members by formally recognizing their contributions to the fisheries profession.

We have 2 objectives, which are to 1) recognize active members by evaluating, developing, soliciting for, and recommending special recognitions for those who contribute and those who excel, and 2) organize paper and poster judging at the Annual Meeting to help our student members gain skill and confidence in sharing their expertise in fisheries-related topics.

We accept nominations annually for those who contribute significantly to our chapter, and individuals are selected that represent our pursuit of excellence. We also ensure that, every year, students are acknowledged and supported in their attendance and presentations.

The committee accepts help from those who want to be more involved in the Minnesota Chapter. Being part of this committee will provide you with lots of opportunities to interact with students and professionals in the supportive environment of our annual meetings.

### **Communications – Andrew Hafs**

**In your own words, what does your committee do?** I follow the Presidents orders as they relate to the website and the google email list. I keep those up to date, run chapter meeting registration, abstract submissions, and all required elections.

- **What's upcoming or been accomplished recently?** Website is current and the email list is up to date.

- **Do you need more folks to help? invite others to join if relevant.** Not with current tasks but if any one would like to run social medial for MNAFS that would be nice.

### **Continuing Ed – Amanda Craft**

1. **In your own words, what does your committee do?** The continuing education committee creates new education workshops and seminars to develop and improve your skills. Each year at MN AFS conference there are workshops on the first day to attend and learn a new skill or enhance a skill you already have. If you have any ideas or would like a certain workshop, please let me know your ideas.
2. **What's upcoming or been accomplished recently?** This year we had two workshop opportunities, the Fish ID workshop and the AFS certification workshop. This year would be the third year doing the Fish ID workshop and we had 38 people between students and professionals, which we have increased our numbers by a little each year. The AFS certification is new this year and we had a great turnout, it was a great opportunity to get your application done and to socialize with fellow students and professionals.

There was 13 people that accomplished the fish pin this year, which was a central mudminnow. There was a great turnout and a lot of people improved their score from the previous years.

There will be a continuing education seminar talk by Tyler Winters on April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 11 am-12pm on the Native fishes of MN.

[DEI – shifting to FishCAST – vacant; item for discussion coming shortly! Let Jessie know if you'd like to join, have questions or thoughts about this, or would like to discuss. Jkoehle.mnafs@gmail.com](#)

### **Fisheries Roundtable – Mark Hove**

- **In your own words, what does your committee do?** I represent MN AFS at the MN DNR's annual Roundtable meeting where the DNR shares information about pressing natural resource issues. The meeting is a valuable opportunity to network. I share resources MN AFS could provide to Roundtable attendees.

- **What's upcoming or been accomplished recently?** I represented MN AFS at the 2025 Roundtable meeting and plan to participate in the next Roundtable meeting.

- **Do you need more folks to help? invite others to join if relevant.** I happily welcome others who would like to rotate with me representing our chapter at future Roundtable meetings.

## Fundraising – Ryan Carrow

### Historian – Brian Borkholder

Historian: Responsible for compiling and archiving all Chapter business records, annual meeting programs, annual meeting reports and business meeting minutes, and Chapter Newsletters. There are also lots of images from annual meetings archived online. Archival occurs on the Chapter's Google Account. Images and items are open and available for anyone to access. Unfortunately, as a retired chump, I'm no longer at meetings to take pictures, and I haven't received any meeting minutes or programs since retiring in April 2022. If anyone takes any images from meetings that might be interesting in a historical context, please send them to me and they'll be archived. Individuals in the images should be identified. I'd also be interested in any Chapter materials from the last three years. Thank you.

### Issues, and Nominations – Eric Altena

- **In your own words, what does your committee do?** (Just to help students and new members understand)  
**Issues-** brings forward any pertinent items the president has determined are important in the agenda (items like lead ban)

**Nominations-** Round up prospective individuals interested in being elected officials on Excom (President elect, Sec/treas, various representatives) arrange for their bios and convey information prior to the annual meeting for voting.

- **What's upcoming or been accomplished recently?** (if no recent updates, that's ok too!) **Issues-** Relatively quiet as of late, no pertinent issues that have been brought forward. **Nominations:** One President Elect (non-DNR) candidate, two Sec/Treas candidates, three Academic rep candidates and one Federal rep candidate

- **Do you need more folks to help? invite others to join if relevant.** Not particularly, unless a significant issue the MN chapter wants to address then some help in formulation might be necessary.

### Long Range Planning – Jacquelyn Bacigalupi

#### MNAFS Long Range Plan 2016-2025:

The MNAFS Long Range Plan is a 10-year plan and was last updated in 2016. It is included as chapter 8 of the procedures manual, and includes goals and strategies for the chapter related to Parent Society Goals (goals from the parent society are directly referenced, but are now outdated). The plan is organized into goals and strategies related to 1) membership services and 2) outreach and stewardship.

The long-range plan is used to develop an annual action agenda for the MNAFS Chapter.

The plan should be updated in the next year. We could consider aligning it with the AFS 2025-2029 Strategic Plan objectives and strategies.

#### National AFS Strategic Plan 2019-2024:

The 2019 revision stated that the goal of the plan was to provide guidance to AFS Units to develop annual and longer-range plans.

Sections include Welcome, Mission and Vision (fisheries leadership, education, membership services), Overview (including brief history), Objectives and Strategies: 1) Advance fisheries

disciplines, conservation, and management, 2) Develop fisheries professionals, 3) Communicate the importance of the implications of fisheries science for information effective management and policy and the value of aquatic habitat and fisheries discipline, 4) Increase diversity among fisheries professionals and promote an inclusive environment in AFS, 5) Provide effective governance of AFS and high-quality service to AFS' members.

AFS is currently working on a 2025-29 Strategic Plan. Revisions to the initial draft have been returned to the Committee, and they expect movement on the draft later this spring.

#### [Lota Fisk Gazette newsletter – Craig Kelling](#)

##### **Membership – Calub Shavlik, Joel Hoffman**

This committee creates a membership writeup and mostly reads this at the chapter meeting. Minnesota Chapter membership ended at 257 for 2024. This number is consistent with previous years. Of the 257, 117 were students. Of the 117 students, 56 of them got a free membership because they attended our annual meeting last year. For folks that are parent society members, our membership level is 136. Of the 136 members, 51 are student. Of the remaining 85, we have 3 Lifetime members, 8 retired, 18 Young Professionals, and 56 regular members. These 51 students came from at least 33 different universities because our student membership is free. However, 28 students came from universities closely related to Minnesota, such as Bemidji State, Mankato State, North Dakota State, Minnesota, Minnesota-Duluth, South Dakota State, and St Thomas. Finally, we have 55 Associate members. If you are an associate member, please think about joining American Fisheries Society and help support the Minnesota Chapter. For any member, please think about serving on a committee, running for office or help with the planning of our next meeting. Also, don't forget to renew your membership for 2024.

#### [Resolutions – Brian Nerbonne](#)

##### **Scholarship – notes from Jay Hatch**

**Function:** Each year this committee contacts fisheries and aquatic biology undergraduate students and advisors to encourage their application for scholarship awards offered by the Chapter. Committee members review all applications, rank them, and recommend awards to the Executive Committee. Typically, the Committee has two co-chairs, who do all of the paperwork and coordinate the applicant evaluations. This year there were three co-chairs, with one training in and another anticipating stepping down after this year. An additional six to seven members evaluate and rank the applications.

**Current Work:** This year, as they have for the past nine years, the chapter co-sponsored the New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen (NUASF) E. E. Mecklenburg Environmental Scholarship, which provided a \$900 stipend—\$500 from NUAFS and \$400 from the Chapter. This scholarship was awarded to Jack Abel, a senior Ecology, Evolution and Behavior major, with emphasis in fisheries, at University of Minnesota—Twin Cities. A Chapter Scholarship with a stipend of \$300 was awarded to Juliet Krutz, a senior Environmental Science major at Minnesota State University—Mankato.

**Stability:** The size of the committee (N = 9) has been stable and works well. The co-chairs have been able to recruit new or substitute members as needed.

##### **Scholarship – notes from Mark Hove & Susan Colvin**

**- In your own words, what does your committee do?** Our committee conducts a scholarship program to support 2-4 students to attend the annual MN AFS meeting.

- **What's upcoming or been accomplished recently?** We announced another round of scholarships this year, reviewed the applicants, and selected award recipients, who will be attending the annual meeting.

- **Do you need more folks to help? invite others to join if relevant.** We've had some people retire from their profession and the committee. We welcome others who would like to help us review <10 applications during the fall.

Note, Jay Hatch, a founding committee member, stepped down this year as committee Co-Chair. Thank you Jay for your years of service organizing this scholarship and supporting young talent to attend our annual meeting, it was a joy working with you!

#### Science Fair – Matt Ward

Notes: volunteer with us to help out students in aquatic sciences!

Could use someone in the Rochester area, no volunteers there currently.

Students – Eddie Carlson (new student liaison); Jonathan Wilson-Thieroff (UMN);

Wildlife Society – Heather Baird

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#### North Central Division (NCD) of AFS committee representative updates:

Centrarchid – Ryan Carrow

#### Esocid – Kamden Glade

- **In your own words, what does your committee do?** (Just to help students and new members understand)
  - The committee is open to anyone managing or researching muskellunge and northern pike throughout the division. We typically meet twice a year in person; once in conjunction with the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference (winter) and once as part of the joint Centrarchid, Esocid, and Walleye technical meeting (summer). The committee provides an avenue for researchers and managers to share information and ask questions, provides a travel scholarship to the Midwest F&W conference and AFS annual meeting, and has helped organize symposia at regional and national AFS meetings.
- **What's upcoming or been accomplished recently?** (if no recent updates, that's ok too!)
  - Scholarship fund was started in 2022 and continues to grow, primarily through donations from angling clubs (e.g., Muskies, Inc. chapters). If you know of a chapter that wants to spend money, feel free to send them my contact info!
- **Do you need more folks to help? invite others to join if relevant.**
  - The group is open to all NCD division members that are interested in esocids. Because this is a division committee, you technically need to be a member of the parent society. If you have questions or are interested in getting on the email list, come find me!

#### Ictalurid – Tony Sindt

- **In your own words, what does your committee do?** In general, I serve as the primary point of contact between the NCD Ictalurid committee and our MN state AFS chapter. This includes providing an annual state update regarding all and any “catfish” associated work that is being done

in Minnesota. I attempt to inform the MN chapter of any relevant updates in the “catfish” world, including scholarship opportunity for catfish related projects.

- **What's upcoming or been accomplished recently?** I have not had any communication from the NCD Ictalurid committee in quite some time. The NCD Ictalurid committee has sponsored a scholarship for students working on catfish projects the last few years and I suspect we may be hearing about that again soon.

- **Do you need more folks to help? invite others to join if relevant.** No

### **Rivers and Streams – Amanda Craft**

1. **What does your committee do?** The Rivers and Streams committee keeps in touch with the NCD (North Central Division) of the American Fisheries Society and reports back to MNAFS on any new updates. “The NCD committee organizes and disseminates information and promotes useful and timely research for the development of sound Lotic management techniques that address aquatic populations and their environment.” Each year a report is written up on the projects that were done in the previous year on the Rivers and Streams in Minnesota.
2. **What's upcoming or been accomplished recently?** There is an annual meeting usually done in the winter of every year in Illinois. This year it is March 26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> at the Rock Island Conservation Club in Milan, IL.

### **Salmonid – Nick Peterson**

### **SECPAC – Kamden Glade, Levi Suchla**

### **Urban Fishing – Rebecca Bullers**

#### **Minnesota DNR Fishing in the Neighborhood (FiN) Update**

Contact: Rebecca Bullers & Mario Travaline

The MN DNR Fishing in the Neighborhood (FiN) program focuses on urban fisheries management and community engagement across the seven-county metro area. The program identifies waterbodies for inclusion, conducts biological monitoring, develops fish stocking plans to enhance local fish communities, and fosters connections between residents and their nearby fisheries resources. Program effectiveness is assessed through creel surveys, participant feedback, and satisfaction evaluations. Currently, the FiN program manages 70 lakes across two area offices: East and West Metro.

This year, fish stocking resumed at normal levels. Due to the mild winter, winterkills did not present as much of a challenge than previous years. A total of 13,861 adult fish, representing 9 species, were stocked across 41 lakes. Additionally, 1,003,000 walleye fry and 6,025 walleye yearlings were stocked in FiN waters. A key highlight was the introduction of 5,100 white bass fingerlings into the Phalen Chain of Lakes, with subsequent stocking of larger white bass planned for 2025.

FiN hosted **54 angling and aquatic education events** in 2024, reaching **4,905 participants**.

Approximately 68% of events focused on shore angling, while the remainder incorporated activities such as fish identification, angler education, career exploration, and fish biology themes (dissections).

The program secured additional funding this year to expand fishing clinics and outreach activities. FiN is currently partnered with three contractors to increase opportunities across the metro and with plans to add additional collaborators for 2025. FiN has also acquired funding to improve shore fishing access by purchasing fishing piers and related structures. One of these projects includes installing a pier at LeMay Lake in the City of Eagan, with further infrastructure developments planned for 2025.

Walleye – vacant (Has been Dale Logsdon but he recently retired/stepped down from committee)