



American Fisheries Society - Wisconsin Chapter

WI AFS 2025 Annual Business Meeting Agenda Wednesday, January 15, 2025, 4:45 PM

1. Recognition of Executive Committee, past presidents, and special guests (Shaw)
2. Establishment of a quorum (50 members) (Shaw)
3. Call to order (Shaw)
4. Distribution (prior to meeting) and approval of 2024 meeting minutes
No corrections in person or online; accepted.
5. Treasurer's Report (Bergman)
 - John Kubisiak asked if there is an endowment for the Norden scholarship. Jen Bergman is not aware of an endowment for Norden, just the Kroeff. Will discuss further after the creation of the finance committee.
 - Steve Gilbert asked about the purpose of the Midwest checking account. Jen Bergman stated that it used to be for seed money when hosting Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference, but it is no longer needed for that. The balance of the Midwest checking account will be transferred to the regular checking account and the Midwest account will be closed following the meeting.
 - Jen Bergman noted that we did not meet contract obligations for hotel rooms given agency travel restrictions. The chapter covers those costs for now, but the Radisson agreed to hold that money (\$4800) as a deposit for next year's meeting. No concerns were raised.
6. Old Business (Shaw)
 - NCD Most Active Chapter Award
 - ByLaws Update & Vote – circulated 30 days prior to meeting
 - i. Add La Crosse as Student Subunit in the ByLaws
 - ii. Change name of Communications and Newsletter Committee to Social Media and Communications Committee
 - iii. Add a new committee – Investments & Financial Committee
 - iv. Greg Sass motion to approve; Justin VanDeHey 2nd. No further discussion.
 - Long Range Plan updates – current long-range plan is available on our chapter website. wi-afs.org/about/
 - i. Steph Shaw generated a report that summarized the chapters progress on tactics in the 2014-2024 Plan. Generated a new draft plan for 2025-2035.
 - ii. Ex Comm and committee were given an opportunity to review the tactic summary and provide edits/comments on the new plan. Those edits were incorporated, and the draft was sent to the membership 30 days ago along with info on the ByLaws vote. Email asked for membership to provide their comments and edits via email and that an opportunity would be given to provide comment at this meeting. No comments received in response to that email.
 - iii. The previous Plan was voted on to approve in the annual meeting notes in 2015. Steph would like to open a 30-day window to membership to review

and provide feedback. Steph will resend both documents to all current members following this meeting. Online votes have not been successful so incorporate edits and vote to finalize at next year's meeting.

- Procedures Manual updated
 - i. The procedures manual is also located on the chapter website. www.wi-afs.org/about. Hasn't been updated since it was created in 2003. Useful for committee chairs; explains general responsibilities.
 - ii. Modifications included updating committee names, add Student Affairs Committee, add Financial Committee, etc. Text for committee duties was based on current roles and other duties that each committee oversees.
 - iii. Reviewed by the Exec Committee in early 2024. Awaiting the ByLaws votes to finalize and post to the website.

7. Committee and Other Reports

- Awards (Pechacek)
- Continuing Education (Sass / Mrnak)
 - i. Successful workshop on 1/14/25 (Null hypothesis significance testing in R and Mississippi River fish identification). Joe Mrnak moving on, so **looking for a new co-chair**.
- Membership (Rieth) - 324 members in 2024, typically around 290
- Newsletter and Communication (Schmidt / Pechacek)
 - i. Active on social media. **Looking for a student to be involved**; contact Kristina Pechacek if interested.
 - ii. Name will be updated if ByLaws vote passes
- Raffle and Revenue (Gerbyshak)
 - i. Shifting more to donations from members rather than soliciting from businesses. Raised \$1,819; lower total than usual, but more per attendee.
- Resolutions / Environmental Issues (Seilheimer [not present])
 - i. **Looking for new chair** if there is any interest
- Student Affairs (Davis) - **Looking for new chair**
- Website (Eggold)
 - i. Always looking for feedback and ideas. **Looking for Northland, UW-Stout, and UW-Green Bay officer names and contacts**; send that info to Brad Eggold.
- Scholarship (Paoli [not present] / Justin VanDeHey) – Presentation of scholarships and award winners
 - i. Joan Duffy Travel Award: Lin-Li Szczesny (UW-Stevens Point)
 - ii. Carroll Norden Memorial Scholarship: Quinn Smith (UW-Madison)
 - iii. Tim Kroeff Fisheries: Elise Bass (UW-Stevens Point)
 - iv. Richard Frie Memorial: Bishop Peterson (UW-Stevens Point)
- NCD Committees
 - i. Urban and Community Fisheries (Schmidt)
 - ii. Walleye (Dassow [not present]):
 1. Discussion of generating income for the WTC account since there wasn't any at the time, may include some fundraiser sales, raffles, or increasing registration cost for summer meeting above what's needed to break

even. The WTC investment account has funds in it as well and can be used to supplement where needed.

July 2024 Meeting in Warsaw Illinois

2. Summer 2025 meeting may be held at Central Michigan's Research Station on Beaver Island in northern Lake Michigan, if those plans don't work out then Pokagon State Park in Indiana is the next option.
 3. Interest in developing a continuing education session on managing and analyzing telemetry data
 4. Logan Zebro is working with AFS and NCD to establish an invasive species committee, if anyone is interested in being involved in the process, they should reach out to him
- iii. Reservoirs (Nye)
- iv. Esocid (Weeks)
1. Joint summer meetings with Walleye Technical Committee meeting. Winter business meeting at Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference.
- v. Centrarchids (Feiner [not present])
1. We successfully revived our student travel award and supported one student's travel to Midwest (thanks to WI AFS for our contribution!). The hope is that we can keep this going and make it an annual award. One idea to try and keep it funded is to have each state chapter have one CTC sponsored raffle item at their state meetings, curious how that might work in our case.
 2. Other members of the CTC published a review of black bass recruitment dynamics in KS and IL ([paper here](#)) – we tried to make it geographically more inclusive but many other states, including WI, didn't have enough of the right kind of data, which pointed to an important gap in some monitoring (i.e., that we don't really index YOY or age-1 bass very well in many cases). There is still interest in this subject among the CTC if there are WI folks that would like to be kept up to date or may have data.
 3. The CTC is actively participating in planning the 2025 Black Bass Symposium, which will be held during the 2025 National AFS meeting, Aug 10-15 in San Antonio. Folks doing bass work interested in presenting/participating should keep that on their radar.
 4. Andrya Whitten (Illinois Natural History Survey) will be taking over as CTC chair in the upcoming year.
- vi. Ictalurid (Hennessy [not present])
- vii. Rivers and Streams (Parks)
1. Meeting in late March or April in the Quad Cities. Announcement to come soon.
- Photo Fishing Contest (Sniadajewski)
 - i. Similar participation to previous years (12 adults, 10 kids). Calvin Wolter and Henry Kornis tied for 1st in kids division; Kelsey Weeks in 2nd. Evan Sniadajewski in 1st for the 3rd consecutive year in the adult division, Brandon Waumbach in 2nd, Logan Cutler in 3rd.
 - Fisheries Bootcamp (Sass)

- i. 2024 was highest participation yet; needed to split into 2 weekends. Representation from UW-Stevens Point, UW-La Crosse, UW-Madison, and Northland College.
- President Award
- 8. Officer Installation
 - Secretary-Treasurer Installation – Logan Cutler
 - i. Motion by Jordan Weeks; Tony Reith 2nd; motion passes.
 - President Installation
 - i. Dan Isermann and Greg Sass escorted David Schumann
- 9. New Business (Schumann)
 - 2025 Priorities - Leverage partnerships, including student groups and others
 - President recognition
 - Proposed budget and approval
 - i. Fisheries bootcamp increase
 - ii. Hutton program decrease to \$500 from \$2000 annually
 - 1. Potential to increase if WI student participates
 - iii. Walleye tech committee request for travel grant match \$300
 - 1. Suggestion to extend to other technical committees too
 - a. Supplied Centrarchid with \$100 seed money in 2024.
 - 2. Only applies when recipient is from WI
 - 3. Some members remember WI AFS matching in the past, but other chapters have opted not to match, or partial match.
 - iv. Funding Request – Black Bass Symposium Sponsorship
 - 1. 4 days, concurrent with parent society meeting
 - 2. Lots of discussion, most people in favor of approving up to \$1,500; Ex Comm can decide final amount.
 - 3. Ex Comm sent full \$1500 in July 2025.
 - v. Brandon Waumbach motion to approve budget; Justin VanDeHey 2nd. Motion passes.
 - Chapter membership and affiliation with Parent Society
 - i. Contact information will be shared with Parent Society
 - ii. Website has been updated to reflect changes
 - President Elect nomination(s) & vote (Raabe)
 - i. Mitro volunteered, no other nominations
 - ii. Bobby Davis motion; Quinn Smith 2nd; motion passes.
 - Annual Meeting Arrangement - La Crosse 2026
 - Call for volunteers for Investments & Financial Committee
 - i. Looking for volunteers**
 - ii. Chaired by Secretary-Treasurer
- 10. Adjournment (motion to adjourn is not necessary but I think we usually do this)
 - Bobby Davis motion; Max Wilkinson 2nd.

Kristina Pechacek announced the presentation award winners after lunch on 1/16/2025

- Steve Yeo Best Student Paper – Max Wilkinson (UW-Stevens Point)
- Steve Serns Best Professional Paper – Max Wolter (WI DNR)
- Best Poster – Roni Maddox (US FWS)
- John Lyons Best Speed Talk – Evan Sirianni (UW-La Crosse)