

Michigan Chapter-American Fisheries Society
2019 Rivers and Streams Technical Committee Report

Submitted on 3.11.20 by Nate Winkler, Chair

Introduction

By way of introduction, my name is Nate Winkler and I reside in Traverse City, Michigan which is in the northwest corner of the lower peninsula. I'm a biologist for Conservation Resource Alliance (CRA), a non-profit organization that manages river habitat enhancement work in over a dozen watersheds located between the Straits of Mackinac in the north and the Pere Marquette River to the south.

My work with CRA includes management of projects on a wide array of cool and coldwater streams with projects ranging from road/stream crossing replacements and large wood installations to dam removal and subsequent restoration work, including the Boardman River dam removal project.

2019 Activities

April

- email solicitation for membership in the Rivers and Streams Technical Committee (R&STC)
- developed short list of topics to dialogue on based upon input from respondents which included 1. groundwater withdrawal and its effects on streams and biota, 2. connectivity or the lack thereof in rivers and streams, and 3. engineered log jams as an emerging best management practice in fluvial habitat restoration and enhancement

May

- preliminary discussions and planning for webinars or short-courses on topics, tentatively planned for late summer

June-March 2020

- due to individual work commitments, not much in the way of dialogue occurred and the webinars and short-courses were postponed to 2020

Throughout the year, peer-reviewed journal articles were reviewed for the purpose of project reference and I'll commit to putting a bibliography together for distribution to those that are interested. Our work at CRA primarily relates to the second and third subjects above, however the issue of groundwater withdrawal will become more important in our work in the years to come. That said, most of the references I came up with had to do with connectivity and habitat enhancement through the use of wood. I'd encourage membership to share any journal references they come across that may be interesting to the R&STC.

Goals and Objectives for 2020

Based on the goals outlined on the AFS North Central Division website, the following are offered for 2020:

Quarter 2 (April-June)

- Solicit feedback from other state R&STC Chairs as to how they operate in their capacity as Chair*
- Update Michigan R&STC membership list and contact information
- Make contact with Michigan R&STC membership to initiate dialogue on management concerns as well as ideas for research priorities and potential workshops/symposia
- Review peer-reviewed literature and add select articles to a bibliography of river and stream management to be housed here at CRA and made available for distribution

Quarter 3 (July-September)

- Maintain contact with Michigan R&STC membership to continue dialogue on management concerns in their respective bailiwicks as well as ideas for research priorities and potential workshops/symposia
- Continue to review peer-reviewed literature and add select articles to a bibliography of river and stream management to be housed here at CRA

Quarter 4 (October-December)

- Host or assist in hosting informational symposia/workshop
- Maintain contact with Michigan R&STC membership to continue dialogue on management concerns in their respective bailiwicks as well as ideas for research priorities and potential workshops/symposia
- Continue to review peer-reviewed literature and add select articles to a bibliography of river and stream management to be housed here at CRA

Quarter 1 (January-March 2021)

- Maintain contact with Michigan R&STC membership to continue dialogue on management concerns in their respective bailiwicks as well as ideas for research priorities and potential workshops/symposia
- Continue to review peer-reviewed literature and add select articles to a bibliography of river and stream management to be housed here at CRA

*Schedule and priorities described above likely to change based on feedback received

Conclusion

As the always helpful asterisk indicates, the list of goals and objectives above will expand or contract. I appreciate your patience and I'll be happy to take suggestions from more seasoned membership.

Nate Winkler, Biologist
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