

The Aquatic Plant Management Society



APMS
The Aquatic Plant Management Society

Annual Board Meeting Providence, RI July 14, 2025 In-person & virtual

08:00 AM – 5:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Microsoft Teams Link for Virtual Participation:

AGENDA

**APMS Pre-Conference Board Meeting
Omni Providence Hotel
1 W Exchange Street
Providence, RI 02903**

Monday July 14, 2025 – 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, Eastern

Microsoft Teams Link for Virtual Participation:

[https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_ZmVkOGQ1NzMtNDJiZi00MDMyLTlhOWUtZDRkNTZmMTI1Mzhj%40thread.v2/0?context=-%7b%22Tid%22%3a%228bc97f9a-ea86-472e-8ab7-19db58c4c8af%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%222c74d03c-fa82-45e0-addd-ecd32641ca6a%22%7d)

[join/19%3ameeting_ZmVkOGQ1NzMtNDJiZi00MDMyLTlhOWUtZDRkNTZmMTI1Mzhj%40thread.v2/0?context=-%7b%22Tid%22%3a%228bc97f9a-ea86-472e-8ab7-19db58c4c8af%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%222c74d03c-fa82-45e0-addd-ecd32641ca6a%22%7d](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_ZmVkOGQ1NzMtNDJiZi00MDMyLTlhOWUtZDRkNTZmMTI1Mzhj%40thread.v2/0?context=-%7b%22Tid%22%3a%228bc97f9a-ea86-472e-8ab7-19db58c4c8af%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%222c74d03c-fa82-45e0-addd-ecd32641ca6a%22%7d)

7:00 – 8:00 am Breakfast

8:00 am – CALL TO ORDER

Approval of Minutes - Available online at <https://apms.org/member-login/>

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT – Jeremy Slade

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY – Greg MacDonald

REPORT OF THE TREASURER – Justin Nawrocki

REPORT OF THE EDITOR – Ramon Leon

COMMITTEE REPORTS –

Awards – Ryan Wersal
Bylaws and Resolutions – Shaun Hyde
Education and Outreach/Website – Christine Krebs
Exhibits and Sponsorship – Dean Jones
Finance – Andy Fuhrman
Meeting Planning – Tom Warmuth
Membership – Matt Johnson
Nominating – Jay Ferrell
Past President's Advisory – Jay Ferrell
Program – Lyn Gettys
Proposal Review – Jay Ferrell
Regional Chapters – Gray Turnage & Michael Greer
Strategic Planning – Mark Heilman
Student Affairs – Andrew Howell & Corrina Vuillequez

SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS –

AERF – Carlton Layne
BASS – Jeremy Slade
CAST – Gray Turnage
NALMS – Terry McNabb
RISE – Matt Johnson
Women of Aquatics – Amy Kay
WSSA – Andrew Howell

Science Policy Director – Lee VanWychen

OLD BUSINESS

- Tasks from mid-winter Board of Directors Meeting – February 2025
- APMS Exhibit Banners – received reimbursement for damaged set
- MDN GSRG Co-sponsored scholarship offering with APMS regional chapter(s) recommendation
- APMS travel assistance grant program / budget recommendation

NEW BUSINESS

- APMS Education and Outreach Committee Chair – open position – solicitation
- APMS dedicated student page on the website – Andrew Howell and Matt Johnson
- APMS sponsor/exhibit rates – exhibitor rate

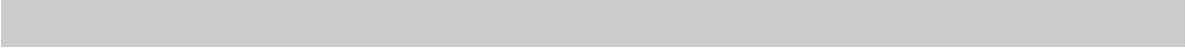
ADJOURN



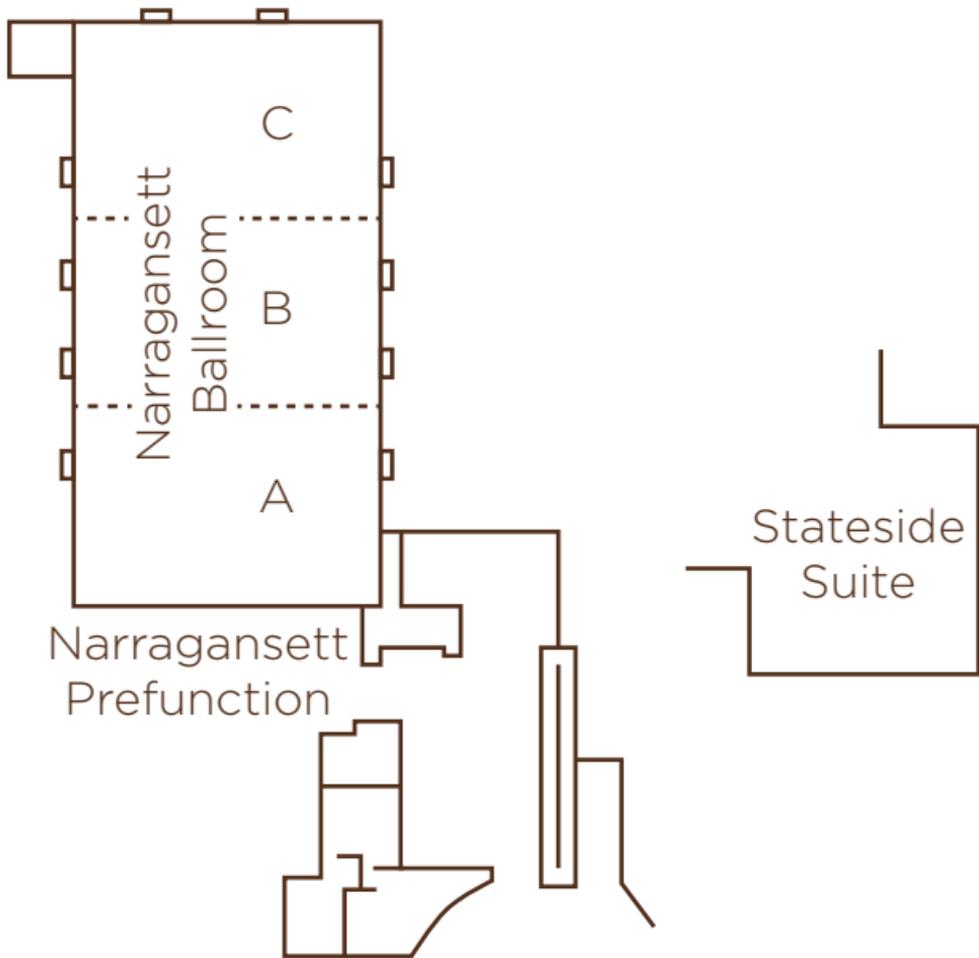
APMS Board Book – July 2025

Table of Contents	Chair/Contact	Noticed?	Received?
Board Book Cover	MacDonald	--	yes
Contents	MacDonald	--	yes
Agenda	Slade	--	yes
BOD Chairs & Contact Info	MacDonald	--	yes
Minutes			
Approved	Giannotti	yes	none
Draft	MacDonald	yes	yes
Officer Reports			
President	Slade	yes	At meeting
Secretary	MacDonald	yes	yes
Treasurer	Nawrocki	yes	yes
Editor	Leon	yes	no
Committee Reports			
Awards	Wersal	yes	yes
Bylaws	Hyde	yes	yes
Education/Outreach/Website	Chesser	yes	yes
Exhibits	Jones	yes	yes
Finance	Fuhrman	yes	yes
Meeting Planning	Warmuth	yes	no
Membership	Johnson	yes	yes
Nominating	Ferrell	yes	yes
Past Presidents' Advisory	Ferrell	yes	no
Program	Gettys	yes	yes
Proposal Review	Ferrell	yes	yes
Regional Chapters	Turnage/Greer	yes	Nothing to Report
Strategic Planning	Heilman	yes	no
Student Affairs	Howell	yes	yes
Special Representatives			
AERF	Layne	yes	no
BASS	Slade	yes	yes

CAST	Turnage	yes	no
NALMS	McNabb	yes	no
RISE	Johnson	yes	yes
WOA	Kay	yes	no
WSSA	Howell	yes	no
Science Policy	Van Wychen	yes	no



Providence Ground Floor



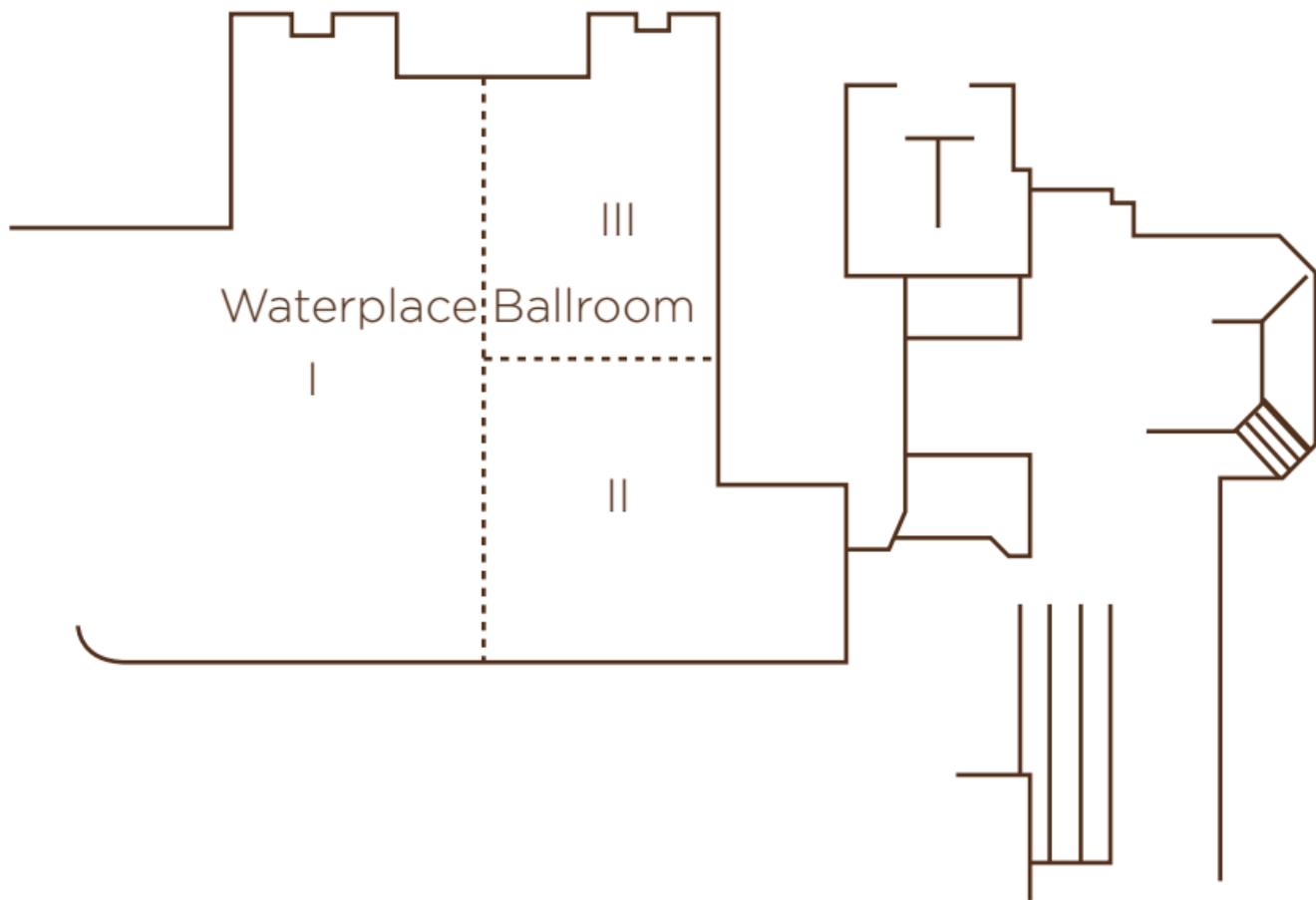
Providence Rotunda



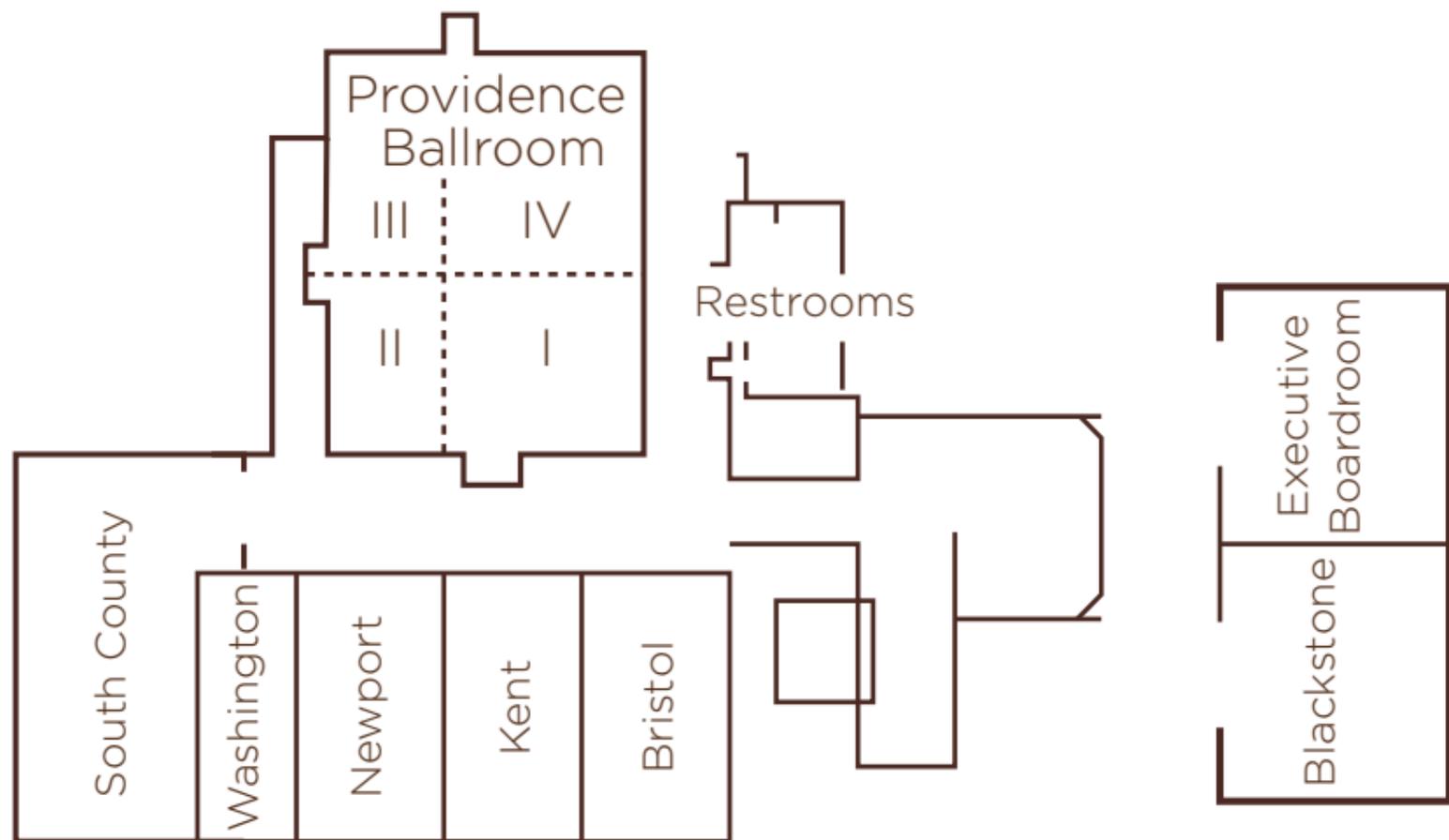
A floor plan diagram of the Providence Rotunda Room. The room is rectangular with a brown border. The text "Rotunda Room" is centered in the room. The top edge has two small rectangular protrusions. The left and right edges have four small rectangular protrusions each. The bottom edge has a small rectangular protrusion on the left side.

Rotunda
Room

Providence Second Floor



Providence Third Floor



The Aquatic Plant Management Society, Inc.
PO Box 754
Holly Springs, NC 27540
www.apms.org

2024 - 2025 Board, Committee Chairs, and Special Representatives

Officers

President – Mr. Jeremy Slade
SePRO Corporation

President Elect – Dr. Lyn Gettys
University of Florida

Vice President – Mr. Mike Greer
US Army Corps of Engineers

Immediate Past President - Dr. Jay Ferrell
University of Florida

Secretary – Dr. Greg MacDonald
University of Florida

Treasurer - Dr. Justin Nawrocki
UPL NA, Inc.

Editor - Dr. Ramon Leon
North Carolina State University

Directors

Ms. Amy Smagula
New Hampshire Department of Natural
Resources

Mr. J.J. Ferris
Cygnet Enterprises

Mr. Troy Goldsby
Jones Lake Management

Dr. Gray Turnage
Mississippi State University

Ms. Brittany Chesser
Texas A&M University AgriLife Extension

Mr. Damian Walter
USACE-ERDC Walla Walla District

Student Director

Ms. Corrina Vuillequez
University of Florida

2024 - 2025 Committee Chairs and Special Representatives

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Chair</u>	<u>Affiliated Societies</u>	<u>Representative</u>
Awards	Ryan Wersal	AERF	Carlton Layne
Bylaws and Resolutions	Shaun Hyde	BASS	Jeremy Slade
Education and Outreach	Christine Krebs	CAST	Gray Turnage
Exhibits	Dean Jones	NALMS	Terry McNabb
Finance	Andy Fuhrman	RISE	Matt Johnson
Meeting Planning	Tom Warmuth	Women of Aquatics	Amy Kay
Membership	Matt Johnson	WSSA	Andrew Howell
Nominating	Jay Ferrell	Science Policy Director	Lee Van Wychen
Past President's Advisory	Jay Ferrell		
Program	Lyn Gettys		
Proposal Review	Jay Ferrell		
Regional Chapters	Gray Turnage and Michael Greer		
Strategic Planning	Mark Heilman		
Student Affairs	Andrew Howell		

**APMS Task List from Mid-Winter Board of Directors Meeting
From the mid-winter BOD Meeting February 4, 2025**

Slade

- Notify BASS of support for annual mini-grant
- Identify and appoint a social media person for APMS, including salary
- Identify and select an education and outreach committee chair

Leon

- Update on author notification prior to publication
- DOI's for older publications – update
- Search function on website
- Increase in page charges to offset declining institutional memberships

Nawrocki

- Change wording to reflect \$120,000 in reserve
- Work with Jones, MacDonald and web person to streamline registration process
- Conflict of interest forms – complete?

Gettys

- Complete meeting program, provide materials to secretary MacDonald for annual program book with abstracts
- Update and report on WSSA Confex system
- Status of student judging – paper or electronic system (coordinate with B. Chesser)

Ferrell

- Nominations
- Contact Women of Aquatics – support for luncheon
- Contact and Agenda for Past Presidents Luncheon

Johnson

- Flyer for meeting
- Memoria for Dave Petty and Brenda Culpepper

Chesser

- Donate button on website
- Social media presence update

Krebs

- Updates to website
- Status of new poster to replace destroyed one from FAMPS
- Transition?

Howell

- Final program for student tours
- Coordination on judging with Chesser and Gettys
- Point person during meeting to help with student tours, etc.

Warmouth

- Site for 2027 meeting in Texas
- Hotel and costs?

Turnage and Greer

- Status of new scholarship with regional chapters
- Any movement/progress/news on new chapter for the central eastern region?
- Updates from regional chapters

Turnage

- CAST paper update, posted on website, program?

MacDonald

- Spring newsletter
- Complete draft minutes from Mid-winter BOD meeting on February 4, 2025
- Work on registration issues with Dean Jones and Justin Nawrocki
- Final meeting program
- Clean up registration and members on membershipworks
- Post bylaws changes to membership
- Upload approved minutes to website

Wersal

- Plaques for outgoing directors, past president, secretary

THE AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT SOCIETY, INCORPORATED

Minutes of the Board of Directors - Mid-Winter Board Meeting
February 4, 2025

The Board of Directors of the Aquatic Plant Management Society, Inc., met on Tuesday, February 4, 2025, at the Omni Providence Hotel in Providence, RI. Several attendees joined virtually as well. President Jeremy Slade called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. EST.

Officers and Directors present at roll call or joined shortly thereafter virtually (v) include:

Jeremy Slade, President
Lyn Gettys, President-Elect (v)
Mike Greer, Vice-President
Justin Nawrocki, Treasurer
Greg MacDonald, Secretary
Ramon Leon, Editor
Jay Ferrell, Immediate Past-President
J.J. Ferris, Director
Matt Johnson, Director (v)
Amy Smagula, Director
Gray Turnage, Director
Brittany Chesser, Director (v)
Damian Walter, Director (v)
Corrina Vuillequez, Student Director (v)

Others in attendance during all or portions of the meeting:

Andy Fuhrman, Finance Committee Chair (v)
Lee Van Wychen, WSSA Science Policy Director (v)
Tom Warmuth, Meeting Planning Committee Chair (v)
Dean Jones, Exhibits Committee Chair
Andrew Howell, Student Affairs Committee Chair (v)

President Slade called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. The agenda was presented, and Secretary MacDonald performed a roll call for the list of attendees. President Slade mentioned a lunch for the in-person attendees at The Vig, which was a potential restaurant to host the president's reception in July. He also mentioned a walkthrough at 1:30pm of the hotel property with Sarah, one of the hotel event coordinators.

APPROVAL of MINUTES

The meeting minutes for the annual meeting held in St. Petersburg were presented to the board. These included the Pre-conference Board Meeting Minutes, Annual Business Meeting Minutes, and the Post-Conference Minutes. For clarification, these minutes were taken by the former secretary Amy Gianotti. President Slade asked for any comments to these minutes; there were no comments although Secretary MacDonald mentioned he would include a list of attendees for the post-conference meeting as an amendment to those minutes.

There was a motion to accept the minutes by Justin Nawrocki, seconded by Jay Ferrell and all three minutes were approved collectively without further discussion.

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

President Slade thanked the Board of Directors, Committee Chairs and Special Representatives for their service to the society. He then provided a summation of activities that had been conducted over the past year.

- 1) APMS co-sponsored the Bear Lake Eurasian Watermilfoil Symposium held in conjunction with state agencies in Utah and Idaho; he attended along with several members of APMS.
- 2) Participated in 2 WSSA Science Policy Advisory sessions that resulted in collective co-sponsored letters from APMS, WSSA and regional affiliate societies sent to:
 - a. Trump Transition Team indicating support for nominees that commit to science and risk-based decision making
 - b. Congress concerning misinformation about pesticides and GMO crops
 - c. Congress to maintain support for Orphan Ag Programs in current and future farm bills
 - d. Comments on EPA's Insecticide Strategy
- 3) Attended and provided APMS updates at several regional affiliate chapter meetings including the Mid-South APMS, Florida APMS, and the Northeast APMS. He also plans to attend the WSSA/CWSS national meeting in February in Vancouver, Canada.

SECRETARY'S UPDATE

Secretary MacDonald presented his report to the board which included activities completed by the former secretary Amy Gianotti. Transfer of electronic files and physical materials from Amy to himself has occurred and that this transition was going well. He also mentioned learning the membership works web program and has had a couple of zoom calls to help with that process. He will be pulling together information for the spring newsletter and will be soliciting articles and materials for that very soon. MacDonald will also be sending out a reminder to sustaining members very soon and work with program chair Lyn Gettys to promote the annual meeting. He will provide updates for the website and work with the new education and outreach committee chair.

TREASURER's UPDATE

Treasurer Nawrocki stated all accounts have been reconciled as of January 13, 2025. He mentioned the society was in good financial shape and the annual meeting garnered \$27,000 for the general fund and over \$26,000 for scholastic account. Nawrocki stated \$20,000 would need to be pulled from scholastic investment into scholastic checking to cover the cost of the scholarship installment to Montana State University. In addition, some funds were expended for refunds for those persons unable to attend the annual meeting. Nawrocki also reported the journal was profitable last year and credited editor Ramon Leon for his efforts. He also mentioned conflict of interest forms would need to be filled out for all the board members each year. He would send these to everyone for signature, compile and provide Secretary MacDonald copies of these forms.

Nawrocki reminded everyone that 20% of membership fees go to the scholastic account and annual dues was currently \$115 per individual. Nawrocki said he would work with Exhibits chair Dean Jones and Secretary MacDonald to streamline the registration process, including web-based form changes. This would include monies collected for the meeting registration dues, sustaining membership and sponsorship and exhibit dollars. Nawrocki pointed out a new form for the 501 3b is needed for each state in which the meeting is held, and he has completed this form for Rhode Island. Secretary MacDonald pointed out a discrepancy in the previous treasurer's reports where reserve was indicated to be \$120,000 but currently was listed as \$100,000. It was concluded after discussion that the reserve would be changed to \$120,000 and that this would be part of the investment accounts.

EDITOR's UPDATE

Editor Ramon Leon reported that the journal is doing much better this past year. Previous problems with the six to eight-month delay for journal publication has been fixed, with several articles in the pipeline. The current acceptance rate is 52% with a 63-day average turnaround from reviewers. The journal is currently publishing 10 to 12 articles per issue with two issues per year. Ramon stated 15 articles per year would allow the journal to break even and 20+ articles per year would result in the journal turning a profit. Journal costs currently run around \$1100/article for members or nonmembers. Ramon stated \$1500 would be reasonable to offset rapidly declining institutional memberships due to online access.

He plans to explore the possibility of notifying authors that their article had been accepted, prior to publication. This would be like the notification that members get from WSSA publications and Cambridge press. The DOI system for new articles has made for easier access for our journal, which has increased accessibility and visibility. Ramon plans to add DOI numbers to older articles. Other issues that were discussed included a search function on the website, but this would require a web designer and potentially incur a significant expense. There was mention of a review detailing methodologies (species specific?) but it was indicated that the criteria for reviews would need to be framed and graduate students could be potential authors.

There was also discussion to advertise articles and Gray Turnage mentioned he would be going to Portugal and would be glad to advertise the journal at that venue.

Following the editor's report president Slade called for a motion to approve the board reports. This motion was put forth by Gray Turnage and seconded by Justin Nawrocki, the motion was accepted without discussion.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Awards Committee

The awards report was submitted by awards committee chairman Ryan Worsel, and this included an honorary membership that was approved for Carlton Layne. Another honorary membership was submitted for Terry McNabb but confirmation by 10 members is needed for this award to be approved. The president's award is yet to be determined. The outstanding paper award is also yet to be determined by the editor.

Bylaws Committee

The bylaws report was submitted by committee chair Sean Hyde and these included a bylaws change with respect to the criteria for honorary member. The Committee proposes the current language highlighted in yellow, be replaced by the language in blue.

Article XII. Section A.5.

“Honorary Member. An Honorary member shall hold in perpetuity all rights of active membership. Before being considered for honorary membership a person must meet the following criteria:

a. The nominee must have contributed significantly to the field of aquatic vegetation management. (The individual should be retired and no longer employed in the field of aquatic vegetation management, except that part-time work as a consultant shall be permissible). The individual should be at least 55 years of age or have been employed in the field of aquatic vegetation management for a minimum of 25 years.

b. The nominee must have been a voting member of the Society for no less than ten (10) years.

c. The nominee must have actively promoted the Society and its affairs during their membership.

d. Nominees for honorary membership shall be submitted to the Bylaws and Resolutions Committee in the form of a petition signed by no less than ten (10) active members or may originate within the Bylaws and Resolutions Committee. Nominees will be evaluated by the Bylaws and Resolutions Committee to ascertain that they meet the criteria for eligibility as an honorary member. Eligible nominees will be presented to the Board of Directors by the Bylaws

and Resolutions Committee. Honorary membership shall be approved by a majority vote of the Board of Directors”

Education and Outreach Committee

The education and outreach committee reported 2 APMS displays were made; however, one display was destroyed in a flooding event at the Daytona Hilton Hotel during the Florida Aquatic Plant Management Society annual meeting. The hotel has agreed to reprint one of these displays. Other items tasked included ‘no solicitation verbiage or clause’ on the Membershipworks page, donate button on the APMS website, and updates on the website for the 2025 and 2026 meetings. At the time of the meeting these were yet to be completed, however, Secretary MacDonald was in contact with Sonja on those matters. President Slade informed the board of Sonja’s decision to step down from chair of this committee, so the board is looking for a new chair of the education and outreach committee. The primary duty of this committee is keeping the website up to date and working with the membership committee. Mike Greer suggested a possible person as a replacement could be someone that does this type of website update work currently with their job.

Exhibits and Sponsorship Committee

The exhibits and sponsorship committee report was given by Dean Jones. He discussed the concern with a loss of sustaining members, due in part to the continued consolidation of industry partners. He also discussed the survey that was presented to the sustaining members in August 2024. This survey was designed by Christine Krebs with the Center for Aquatic Invasive Plants at the University of Florida and had a 55% return rate (considered very good). The overall response was positive in most respects. There was concern for the 2025 meeting in Providence that there would be a limited amount of exhibit space and possibly limited activities. *(However, upon touring the facility this appears to be of limited concern).*

Justin Nawrocki mentioned we need to be careful on how we engage the exhibitors particularly with respect to exhibit space. Some exhibitors have taken advantage of booth space in recent years, so President Slade suggested we post on the website (as soon as possible) what the exhibitors and sponsors get for their membership. Dean mentioned there would be language on the registration page that the space provided for exhibitors was 10 by 10 ft² with a table and a chair. There was also a suggestion to provide language on the registration page that exhibitors may encourage and incur an additional charge if space is overextended. Dean stated exhibit space would come on a first come first serve basis and he would keep the roster of those registering.

Finance Committee

Andy Furman provided the Finance Committee report. He mentioned \$20,000 was moved from liquid assets in July into scholastic checking. He stated he would move money as interest rates change. Currently there is over \$500,000 in both the investment and the scholastic accounts,

which is the goal to be self-sustaining to fund the scholarship. Andy mentioned we are close but suggested/cautioned we are not quite there to be considered self-sustaining.

Meeting Planning

The meeting planning committee report was given by Tom Warmouth. There are several options for the president's reception at the annual meeting, including The Vig, which the in-person group is supposed to visit for lunch (however it was closed). Other possible options included Dave and Buster's and Blakes Tavern. The 2026 annual meeting will be held in Phoenix, AZ and the 2027 meeting is slated for Texas with possible options being Houston, Dallas or Austin. The Austin location appeared to have the most positive feedback as a meeting location, and Bill Torres plans to visit Austin for possible venues. President Slade asked the location and potential costs for the upcoming meeting in 2025 be placed on the website. Additional information regarding Providence, locales and the program would be coordinated with meeting planner Bill Torres and program committee chair Lyn Gettys and provided to the membership and exhibitors prior to the meeting.

Membership Committee

The membership report was given by Matt Johnson. Notification in the form of a one-page flyer (with a QR code linking to the annual meeting) was sent to affiliate societies and past members regarding the upcoming meeting and would be placed in newsletters as well. Matt also asked about the possibility of developing postcards to advertise as a means of physical mailing. He received a quote of \$750 for 500 cars plus postage. Matt also provided an article in remembrance of David Petty, a longtime member who passed away recently. The board provided comments on the article and Matt has subsequently provided a final copy which will be posted on the website and put in the spring newsletter.

Nominating Committee

The nominating committee report was provided by immediate past-president Jay Ferrell. The choices for the new slate of officers beginning their term in 2025 included Matt Johnson for vice president, Mirella Ortiz for director - replacing Troy Goldsby, and Carl Del Torre - replacing Gray Turnage.

Past Presidents Committee

The past presidents report was also given by Jay Ferrell and there was limited amount to report. He wanted to make sure we had a room/space available for the luncheon at the annual meeting. Jay has sent an email to the past presidents regarding attendance at this year's meeting. He has received 8 yes and 2 maybe for attendance. He also suggested an agenda for the past presidents to help guide their meeting.

Program Committee

President-Elect Lyn Gettys provided a report of the program committee. She mentioned the annual meeting would have a session dedicated to the new CAST/CAB paper that will be launched soon. Lyn also stated she would be using the new abstract submission program, CONFEX, being used by the Weed Science Society of America (WSSA). APMS generally partners with WSSA for their abstract submission, which has been free in the past. However, after this year this program will cost

and Lyn cautioned it maybe too expensive. It was mentioned the sustaining members would like to have the program by May 15th to help them in applying for the ability to attend the meeting. Once the abstract submission program (CONFEX) is operational, Lyn will provide a deadline for abstract submission.

Proposal Review Committee

The proposal review committee report was given by past president Jay Ferrell. The main topic was an action item this past August that was inadvertently missed. This was an ad hoc committee to set up guidelines for reviewing proposals for people attending the meeting and associated travel assistance. The ad hoc committee included immediate past-president Jay Ferrell, meeting planning chair Tom Warmouth, treasurer Justin Nawrocki, program chair and president-elect Lyn Gettys and membership chair Matt Johnson. Jay stated he would coordinate a meeting with the committee and provide a report with the guidelines for the annual meeting this July.

There was considerable discussion surrounding the proposal submitted by Amy Kay, who is the special representative to the Women of Aquatics. For the past several years, APMS has provided support for the Women of Aquatics to host a luncheon at the annual meeting, up to the amount of \$1500.00. For the past several years the BOD provided support, but in 2023 it was suggested that a formal proposal be submitted for support of the luncheon. This was submitted in 2023, with the language of continued annual support of the luncheon. The BOD approved in 2023 but requested a proposal for the 2024 meeting when the luncheon was discussed as part of meeting planning. Amy Kay said the proposal was submitted last year (2023) and was under the assumption the proposal would be recurring annually, so there was no need to submit an additional proposal. The board approved to support the luncheon at the 2024 meeting. Given the confusion in 2024, the proposal issue was brought up again. The main issue was whether APMS would support the Women of Aquatic luncheon at the annual meeting as part of the annual meeting expenses, or whether the BOD wanted to revisit the request each year. The BOD expressed concerns about space and potential costs and was hesitant to commit to recurring funding. This discussion was tabled until after lunch.

After lunch, the discussion continued with Matt Johnson asking the question does APMS have a place/representative in this group. It was suggested by Damien Walter that the proposal be submitted on a three-to-five-year cycle with review on continued support. There was also mention of an extra category to the registration fee (\$30?) to attend the luncheon and APMS would facilitate the logistics of the event. Other thoughts were to keep it the same unless there is compelling reason to not support. Jay Ferrell made a motion to provide \$1500 in support of the women of Aquatics luncheon for the 2025 annual meeting, seconded by Ramon Leon. Jay said he would provide a letter to Amy stating the proposal had been accepted and funded.

Regional Chapters Committee

Gray Turnage and Mike Greer provided the regional chapters report. The chapters are continuing to provide support for the Michael Netherland grant. A formal request is to be sent to the regional chapters via the vice president for soliciting funds for this grant. Gray reminded the board of the regional breakfast/lunch at the annual meeting for up to 2 attendees per region. In most cases this is the president of the regional society and one other person, however for purposes of voting there

is only one vote per chapter. Mike Greer mentioned discussions at the Northeast APMS meeting about forming another APMS regional chapter. This chapter would serve the Mid-Atlantic region, including Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, etc. Mike asked the board if this was a good idea or whether these areas/members should just be blended in with another chapter. One of the reasons for an additional chapter was the issue of CEU's (generally state by state) and differences in the type of work needed for aquatic plant management.

Strategic Planning Committee

There was a limited written report from Mark Heilman, and he was not available to attend the meeting. In the report he emphasized the need to maintain our goal to broaden our membership and journal impact. He also stated we should maintain student engagement. The new strategic plan is slated to be initiated in 2027.

Student Affairs Committee

The student affairs report was given by Andrew Howell and student representative Corrina Vuillequez. Andrew Howell mentioned that the tour at the 2024 annual meeting in St. Petersburg was a big success and the students overall had a good time at the meeting. Corrina followed up with emails to the past students to maintain student involvement. For the 2025 meeting it was suggested that a field trip or some sort of unique outdoor activities to the region would be most welcomed by the students. This could include the Blackstone River, RI where they could review water chestnut management, and this could be using a pontoon boat or kayak rental. Andrew stated he would put together a proposal on costs for each of these venues. The meet and greet was discussed as a good venue for the students to engage with the APMS members, but last year's facility was difficult for the students to mingle and meet. It was suggested that this issue be kept in mind when securing a venue for the next meeting. The students also requested would like to have more communication about the voting process and the paper scores for their presentations. Brittany Cheshire at Texas A&M is exploring an electronic judging format for papers and posters. As in previous years, the students are asked to help with ticket and raffle sales, and this would be conveyed through the abstract submission portal.

A motion to approve the committee reports was put forth by Justin Nawrocki and seconded by JJ Ferris; this motion was approved without discussion.

REPORTS - SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVES

Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Foundation

Matt Johnson provided a report for AERF where he pointed out a list of projects and participation that occurred in 2024 and outlined projects for 2025. Highlights from 2024 included an EPA tour of Florida and EPA attendees at the annual meeting. President Slade mentioned that APMS provides annual funds to AERF but with changes in AERF and the relationship with APMS, maybe funding request should be routed through the proposal committee. It was also mentioned that APMS could be listed as an affiliate member to AERF, with a special rep from APMS to AERF.

BASS

Jeremy Slade provided a report from BASS and mentioned the relationship between APMS and BASS has been very good and beneficial for over 30 years. Jeremy also stated that APMS provides annual monies to help sponsor a joint mini-grant or other type of program. This year the funds would be used for a restoration project and BASS is asking for an increase from 1500 to \$2000. There was a motion from Jay Ferrell to approve the \$2000 request for this year, seconded by Gray Turnage. The motion was passed without discussion.

CAST

The CAST report was given by Gray Turnage. Gray mentioned CAST continues to have an active voice on Capitol Hill, mainly through white papers given to staffers that provide scientific background on a wide range of topics. Most recently there has been a paper spearheaded by Dale Laughinghouse and others regarding harmful algae blooms or HAB's. This paper is due to be rolled out this spring, where the authors will provide an overview of the paper directly to a house subcommittee. There are also printed copies that are handed out. It is hoped that this paper will link well with the HAB session that is a potential venue for the APMS annual meeting this year. Gray also mentioned the white paper would be linked to the APMS website.

NALMS

Terry McNabb is our representative to NALMS and there was no report submitted. However, Amy Smagula did provide some updates. She mentioned NALMS and APMS provide booths at each other's conferences. A typical annual meeting for NALMS consists of 400 technical presentations and about 600 attendees. The 2025 NALMS annual meeting will be held in Myrtle Beach, in 2026 it will be in Canada and in 2027 it will be either in New England or Indianapolis. Amy mentioned a great session on HAB's at last year's conference, and this topic would be targeted for their July magazine issue. She also mentioned that NALMS is looking for articles and their journal articles are taking more plant-oriented articles.

RISE

Matt Johnson provided the RISE report. He stated there have been changes to PFAS and mentioned the bulletins are live documents. So every time wording is changed on a private label one will need to a website to see if the site is on the label and if this is an enforceable activity. Unfortunately, the website currently is a bit clumsy and hopefully we'll get better. Matt said this new ruling will likely require more people to ensure that folks are compliant with the label.

Women of Aquatics

There was no report submitted, and representative Amy Kay was not present.

WSSA

There was a limited report from WSSA from Andrew Howell, but he will provide a subsequent report once he attends the annual WSSA meeting later in February. The primary issues pending between WSSA and APMS include the new convex abstract system and the online judging format.

Weed Science Policy

Lee vanWychen provided the weed science site policy update. He was very brief but provided a lot of detail in his written report. Lee mentioned the current climate on Capitol Hill was extremely chaotic. He mentioned that WR DA helps the Connecticut river basin funding project and there has been increased funding for hypoxia in the Great Lakes regions - upwards of \$500 million.

OLD BUSINESS

Ramon Leon was officially confirmed for another three-year term as journal editor, as this was omitted at the last business meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Amy Gianotti stepped down as social media coordinator last fall and President Slade mentioned Brittany Chesser had expressed interest in this position. Amy Smagula made a motion for Brittany Chesser to assume the role of social media coordinator at the previously negotiated rate of \$4,400 per year, and this was seconded by Jay Ferrell. There was also some discussion with respect to getting the website updated, but it was mentioned this is not part of the social media coordinator; this would be under the direct of the education and outreach committee. Amy Smagula said that she would be glad to help but could not chair the committee and secretary Greg MacDonald also mentioned that he would be able to help in this regard

Gray Turnage mentioned there was discussion about developing a new Mike Netherland joint scholarship with the regional chapters and this would potentially be awarded for 2026-2028. He stated there would be a proposal to review by the board in July. It was felt this scholarship would be in addition to the current scholarship already provided. This scholarship would target a specific topic, potentially issues in the South Carolina APMS area. Jay Ferrell motioned that we entertain this proposal, seconded by Gray Turnage and approved without discussion.

It was mentioned by Secretary MacDonald that the Society of Wetland Scientists would be meeting at the same time and had received e-mail communication from a member. He also communicated with their advisory committee and board members. It was suggested by MacDonald that program chair Lynn Gettys be contacted and possibly have someone from that society present at our meeting and invite one or two of their senior membership to our president's reception. A joint meeting at this late stage but it was felt initiating an open dialogue would be beneficial to both societies.

A motion to adjourn the meeting occurred at 4:17pm by Amy Smagula and seconded by JJ Ferris – motion passed without discussion.

Report of the President

To be given at the BOD meeting

Aquatic Plant Management Society
Annual Board of Directors Meeting
July 14, 2025

Secretary Report, Greg MacDonald

Notifications: Emails were sent to the membership regarding the annual meeting registration and dues, and necrology for Brenda Culpepper. Notification for the by-laws change was sent 30+ days prior to the membership for voting at the annual business meeting. Approved minutes from the last board meeting have been uploaded to the website.

Membership, Membership Invoices and Annual Meeting: Reminder notices were sent in April March, May, and June 2025, prior to the Annual Meeting. Sustaining Members need to be paid in full and provide logo and company description no later than June 15 to be included in the Annual Meeting Program.

Newsletter: The Spring 2025 newsletter was completed and posted to the website. Newsletters can be viewed on the web site at <http://www.apms.org/newsletters/>. I am always welcome for ideas or suggestions for articles. September 2025 and December 2025/January 2026 Newsletters are planned.

2024-2025 Expenditures: As outlined in the APMS Operating Manual, I have included a breakdown of AMEX credit card expenditures so far for APMS year 2024-2025 for the Office of the Secretary. Items shaded in gray are expected charges that have not yet been incurred as of July 9, 2025.

	Date	Expense/Expected in Gray	Amount
Omni Hotel Providence, RI	Feb. 2-3	Midyear BOD Meeting	\$418.70
Rental & Tolls	Feb 2-4, 2025	Travel to Midyear BOD Meeting	\$262.85 + \$33.37 = 296.22
Rental Fuel	Feb 5, 2025	Travel to Midyear BOD Meeting	\$70.06
4Imprint	July 7, 2025	Lanyards for Annual Meeting	\$361.54
Name Badge Productions	July 7, 2025	Name Badge Ribbons	\$92.18
Name Badge Materials and Printing	July 10-11	TBD	TBD
Omni Hotel Providence, RI	July 13-17, 2025	Annual Meeting	TBD

APMS Social Media Report

Prepared by Brittany Chesser

Without a social media coordinator, there was little to no interaction with APMS social media platforms between September 2024 to mid-February 2025. With 5 months of absence, it can be a challenge to get back on the user's algorithms. One of the first actions taken in this new role was creating a link in bio page (<https://linkin.bio/apmsociety>), to house post links along with other relevant links. Previous links posted on platforms such as Instagram were not clickable. When directing people to our social media, it may be more convenient to provide this link rather than listing separate links for all platforms. I appreciate all of those on the board who have interacted with our platforms over the past few months. For those of you with social media, I would kindly ask you to follow along.

I recommend that moving forward, when organizations request APMS to share or promote their content on our social media platforms, the Board of Directors also requests that they reciprocate by tagging APMS in their posts. We have had multiple instances where we've shared partner content, often from organizations we financially support through sponsored initiatives, but received no engagement or acknowledgment in return. A basic interaction such as a like, repost, or tag costs nothing, yet goes a long way in building visibility and reinforcing a mutually supportive relationship. If we are investing time, effort, or funding to support another organization, it's reasonable to expect some level of public partnership in return. I'd be happy to share specific examples where this kind of engagement was lacking.

I have included a proposal to continue my services for another 6 months.

Analytics below are from February 1st to June 15th.

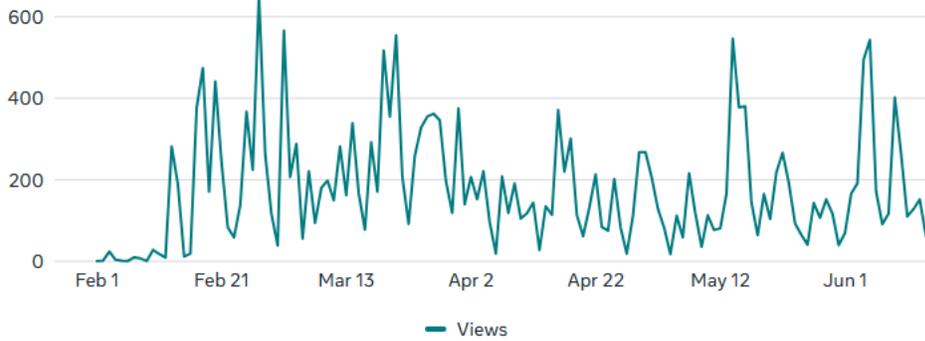
Facebook Overview

Content overview

Breakdown: Organic/ads

All Posts Stories Reels Videos Live

Views **23.9K** Reach **3.1K** ↑ 415.5% 3-second views **454** ↑ 45.3K% 1-minute views **0** 0% Content interactions **654** ↑ 2.2K% Watch time **1h 42m** ↑ 88



Views breakdown

Feb 1 - Jun 15

Total
23,909
From organic
100%
From ads
0%

17 new followers

704 visits

Total Followers: 1,061

Total People Who Like the Page: 867

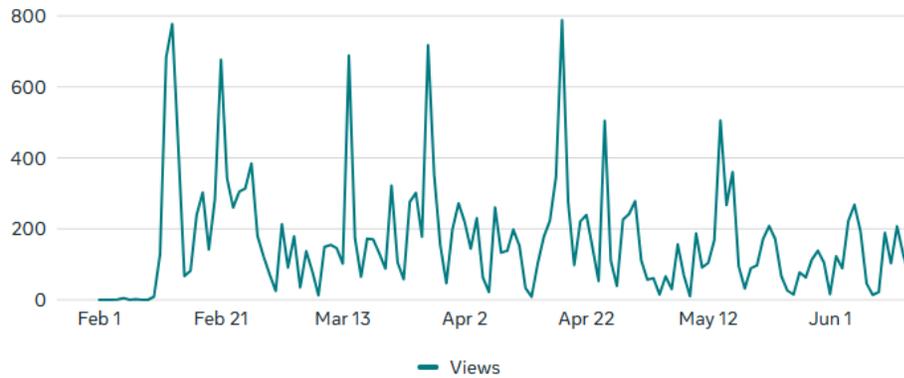
Instagram Overview

Content overview

Breakdown: Organic/ads

All Posts Stories

Views **22.7K** ↑ 23.6K%
Reach **3.7K** ↑ 921.7%
Content interactions **1.1K** ↑ 104.9K%



Views breakdown

Feb 1 - Jun 15

Total **22,714** ↑ 23.6K%

From organic **100%** 0%

From ads **0%** 0%

65 new followers

268 visits

Total Followers: 750

LinkedIn APMS Page Overview

Feb 1, 2025 - Jun 15, 2025

Export

Highlights

Data for 2/1/2025 - 6/15/2025

18,531

Impressions

▲750.4%

656

Reactions

▲1,238.8%

38

Comments

●0%

36

Reposts

●0%

Visitor highlights

201

Page views

▲240.7%

93

Unique visitors

▲244.4%

Follower highlights

678

Total followers

137

New followers in the last 135 days

 **389.3%**

APMS LinkedIn Group

1,656 total members

Right now, I am the only one (through my personal account) selectively posting to this group and it receives very little interaction.

June 23, 2025
Aquatic Plant Management Society

Dear Board and Education & Outreach Committee,

I would be pleased to support the Aquatic Plant Management Society and promote its mission, membership, and programs through social media. I'm passionate about sharing the science and impact of aquatic plant management and would be honored to serve in this role. Please find the proposal below for social media management services for the period of September 1, 2025 – August 31, 2026:

- Manage social media platforms (Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram)
 - Serve as administrator and content creator (posts, graphics, photos, video)
 - Create and schedule a minimum of 2 posts per week per platform, which may include cross-posting, excluding reposts.
 - Respond to messages, comments, and inquiries professionally and promptly
 - Like, share, and engage with posts from partners (APMS, JAPM, local chapters).
 - Engage with followers to grow and retain a relevant audience
 - Repost relevant user-generated content to platforms and stories
 - Target schools, agencies, professionals, and industry to increase visibility and engagement
 - Provide biannual analytics, or on request, to the board with social media insights and engagement data
 - Adjust content strategy based on engagement trends.
 - **Total investment: \$4,400 for 12 months**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this proposal for the social media management services I can provide.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need clarification. An invoice for services will be issued four months into the term and is expected to be paid before the end of the term.

Thank you,

Brittany Chesser

Brittany Chesser

2025 APMS Treasurer's Report

All accounts have been reconciled, and account balances are as of July 6th, 2025.

Investment	Amount	Change from 2024
General Checking	\$100,190.73	-\$10,124.25
Scholastic Checking	\$4,176.80	-\$9,879.50
Reserve Fund	\$120,000.00	-
Investment Account	\$161,833.99	+\$24,792.86
Scholastic Endowment	\$249,074.93	+\$33,600.07
Total	\$635,276.45	\$38,389.18

Year Over Year Annual Meeting Comparison				
Source	2022	2023	2024	2025
Delegate Registration	\$33,950	\$31,670	\$37,640	\$31,855
Sponsorship	\$53,500	\$36,000	\$41,500	\$43,500*
Exhibitors	\$18,500	\$13,115	\$22,460	\$18,185
Total	\$105,950	\$80,785	\$101,600	\$93,540

The 2024 meeting was very successful and we were able to cover the meeting expense as well as the general operating expenses of the society for the year. With a week left until the annual meeting the current income appears to be on par with previous successful meetings of the past. We continue to see steady growth in our investment accounts and we were able to add \$10,000 to the Scholastic Endowment due to the excellent work of the Finance/Scholastic committee as well as the generous donors. We will continue to monitor rising costs and make adjustments as necessary.

Justin Nawrocki

Attached:

2025 Detailed Income/Expenses

2025-26 Estimated Expenses

Ordinary Income/Expense**Income****Annual Meeting Income**

Banquet Ticket	185.00
Delegate 1-Day Registration	235.00
Delegate Pre-Registration	23,750.00
Delegate Registration	7,870.00
Exhibit Fees	18,185.00
Guest Pre-Registration	465.00
Sponsorship	26,000.00
Student Registration	<u>100.00</u>

Total Annual Meeting Income 76,790.00

Journal Income

Page Fees	8,610.00
Subscriptions	<u>882.39</u>

Total Journal Income 9,492.39

Membership Income

Individual	10,235.00
Student	225.00
Sustaining	<u>3,600.00</u>

Total Membership Income 14,060.00

Miscellaneous Income 1,455.96

Refund -705.72

Scholastic Endowment Income

Grand Prize Contribution	<u>7,115.00</u>
--------------------------	-----------------

Total Scholastic Endowment Income 7,115.00

Total Income 108,207.63

Gross Profit 108,207.63

Expense**Awards**

Plaques/Certificates	<u>2,510.00</u>
----------------------	-----------------

Total Awards 2,510.00

Credit Card Merchant Processing 2,616.65

Dues

CAST	<u>1,500.00</u>
------	-----------------

Total Dues 1,500.00

Journal Expense

Editing	5,113.06
Editor Stipend	9,000.00
Journal Expense - Other	<u>275.00</u>

Total Journal Expense 14,388.06

Licenses and Permits 61.25

List Server Services 383.59

Miscellaneous -1.00

Professional Fees	
Accounting-Quickbooks Sub	<u>1,071.43</u>
Total Professional Fees	1,071.43
Scholastic Endowment Expense	
Prizes	<u>5,702.85</u>
Total Scholastic Endowment Expense	5,702.85
Supplies	172.63
Tax Preparation	1,556.30
Travel	
Registration Booth Staff- Sherry's Flight	<u>672.37</u>
Total Travel	672.37
Website	
Administration	<u>3,000.00</u>
Total Website	3,000.00
Winter Board Meeting	
BOD Hotel Rooms	1,143.04
Meals	699.44
Travel	<u>1,282.34</u>
Total Winter Board Meeting	<u>3,124.82</u>
Total Expense	<u>36,758.95</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>71,448.68</u>
Net Income	<u><u>71,448.68</u></u>

2025 Proposed Budget

Item	Amount
+Journal	
-Allen Press	\$4,000
-Editor Stipend	\$6,000
Total	\$10,000
+APMS Meeting	
-Food and Beverage	\$75,000
Presidents Reception	\$10,000
-Meeting Planner	\$6,000
-AV	\$9,500
-Signs	\$1,000
-Student Rooms	\$8,000
-EPA, NIWA Rooms	\$3,600
-Plaques	\$2,500
Total	\$115,600
+Operating Expenses	
-CC Processing	\$3,000
-Tax Prep/Audit	\$1,500
-Insurance	\$1,500
-Secretary Stipend	\$0
-Social Media Stipend	\$4,200
-Website Admin	\$4,000
Total	\$14,200
+Sponsorships	
-CAST	\$1,500
-RISE	\$575
-WSSA + Lee	\$7,200
-BASS Grant	\$0
Total	\$9,275
Grand Total	\$149,075

APMS Editors Report – Ramon Leon

No report submitted

Awards Report - Ryan Wersal

Plaques ordered and in production

Bylaws and Resolutions Committee Report

The Committee put forth a change to the Bylaws language regarding qualification criteria for Honorary Membership (see below). They also presented two nominees for the 2025 Honorary Member Award (attached).

The nominations for honorary members were approved by the BOD at the midwinter BOD meeting in February. The Bylaws change has been sent to the membership for voting at the annual business meeting in July.

The Committee proposed the current language highlighted in yellow, be replaced by the language in blue.

Article XII. Section A.5.

“Honorary Member. An Honorary member shall hold in perpetuity all rights of active membership. Before being considered for honorary membership a person must meet the following criteria:

a. The nominee must have contributed significantly to the field of aquatic vegetation management.

(The individual should be retired and no longer employed in the field of aquatic vegetation management, except that part-time work as a consultant shall be permissible). The individual should be at least 55 years of age or have been employed in the field of aquatic vegetation management for a minimum of 25 years.

b. The nominee must have been a voting member of the Society for no less than ten (10) years.

c. The nominee must have actively promoted the Society and its affairs during their membership.

d. Nominees for honorary membership shall be submitted to the Bylaws and Resolutions Committee in the form of a petition signed by no less than ten (10) active members or may originate within the Bylaws and Resolutions Committee. Nominees will be evaluated by the Bylaws and Resolutions Committee to ascertain that they meet the criteria for eligibility as an honorary member. Eligible nominees will be presented to the Board of Directors by the Bylaws and Resolutions Committee. Honorary membership shall be approved by a majority vote of the Board of Directors”

Education and Outreach Report – Christine Krebs

Updates on the website have been accomplished as needed

Dr. Krebs has recently taken another position at the University of Florida and will no longer be able to serve as education and outreach chairperson

Sponsors

Platinum	SePRO
Gold	Syngenta UPL Environmental Solutions
Silver	NA
Bronze	Alligare Brandt Oase Professional The Orion Companies Phoslock Environmental Technologies TIGRIS
Contributor	Atticus Aquatic Control, Inc Brewer International Frontier Precision Jones Lake Management Keycolour Nufarm

Exhibitors

Alligare
AquaMaster
Aquatic Control, Inc
Atticus
Biosafe Systems
BlueGreen Water Technologies
Brandt
Brewer International
Cygnet Enterprises, Inc
Frontier Precision
Kasco
Keycolour
Nutrien Solutions
Oase Professional
Phoslock Environmental Technologies
Sepro
Sox Erosion Solutions
Syngenta
The Orion Companies
UPL Environmental Solutions
Vertex Aquatic Solutions

Non-profit Exhibitors

AERF RISE FAPMS

Finance Committee Report July 2025

Andy Fuhrman Chair

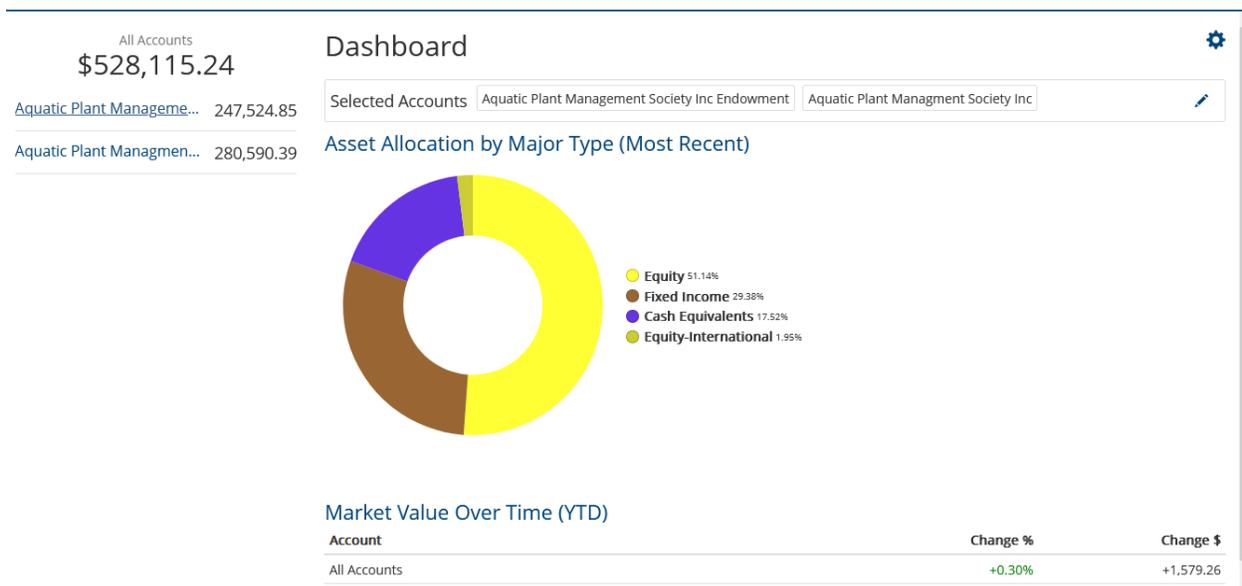
The following is the summary as of July 2, 2025

Total currently in our investment accounts is \$528,115.24

Aquatic Endowment Account is \$247,524.85

Aquatic Plant Account is \$280,590.39

Below is the chart showing accounts as of July 2, 2025

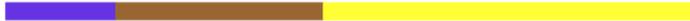


Aquatic Plant Management Society Inc-

[Summary](#) [Holdings](#) [Performance](#) [Transactions](#) [Pending Transactions](#)

Account Balance **Available Cash**
\$280,590.39 \$10,101.38

My Portfolio Actual Allocation



Asset Class	Percentage	Market Value
● Cash Equivalents	16.07%	45,101
● Fixed Income	30.12%	84,510
● Equity	53.81%	150,979
Portfolio Total	100.00%	280,590

Recent Activity

Portfolio Performance (YTD)

Total Account: 4.15%
Composite Index: 0.00%

Contact Us

Admin Officer
Beverly J Hudson
beverly.hudson@thestatebank.com
810-714-3977
PO Box 725
Fenton, Michigan 48430-0725

Aquatic Plant Management Society Inc Endowment-

[Summary](#) [Holdings](#) [Performance](#) [Transactions](#) [Pending Transactions](#)

Account Balance **Available Cash**
\$247,524.85 \$22,449.12

My Portfolio Actual Allocation



Asset Class	Percentage	Market Value
● Equity-International	4.17%	10,324
● Cash Equivalents	19.17%	47,449
● Fixed Income	28.54%	70,649
● Equity	48.12%	119,103
Portfolio Total	100.00%	247,525

Portfolio Performance (YTD)

Total Account: 3.92%
Composite Index: 0.00%

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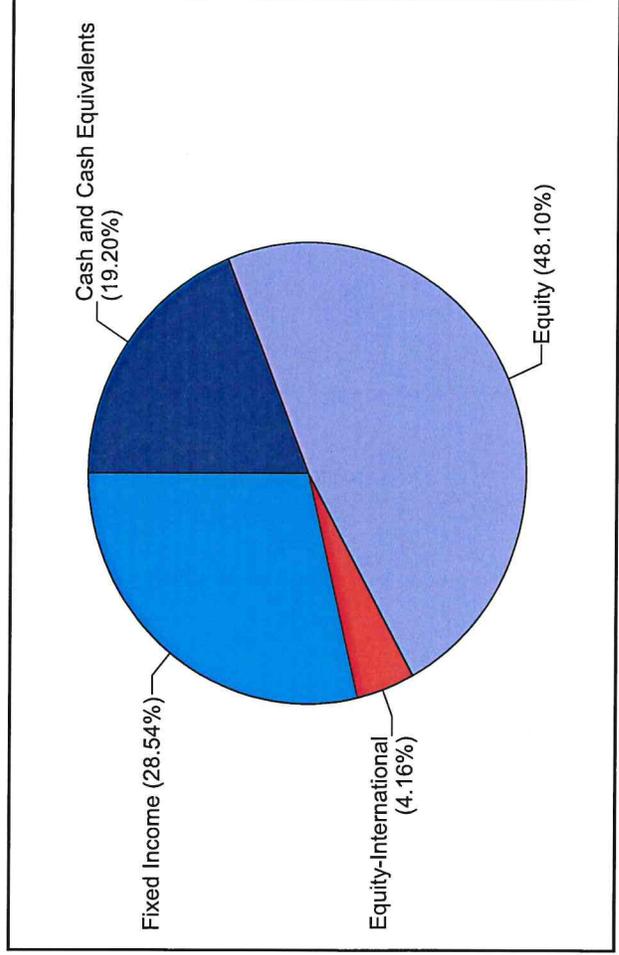
Aquatic Plant Management Society Inc Endowment

Holding Summary



Account: 550

Asset Composition	3/31/2025 Valuation	% of Account	6/30/2025 Valuation	% of Account	Change in Value (\$)
Cash and Cash Equivalents	26,742.90	11.37	47,430.84	19.20	20,687.94
Equity	118,649.81	50.43	118,842.76	48.10	192.95
Equity-International	9,223.32	3.92	10,291.78	4.16	1,068.46
Fixed Income	80,658.23	34.28	70,506.86	28.54	-10,151.37
Grand Total	235,274.26	100.00	247,072.24	100.00	11,797.98



Aquatic Plant Management Society Inc Endowmen



Account Overview

Account: 550

04/01/2025 to 06/30/2025

Account Value Change

Beginning Account Value	\$235,274.26
Account Activity for Period	\$734.85
Realized Gains/Losses	\$4,130.86
Unrealized Gains/Losses	\$6,932.27
Ending Account Value	\$247,072.24

Account Activity

Cash Receipts	
Dividend - Ordinary	\$1,061.15
Interest - US Gov't Bond (State Tax Exempt)	\$200.00
Interest - US Treasury	\$150.00
Cash Receipts Total	\$1,411.15

Cash Disbursements

Trust Department Fiduciary Fee	(\$676.30)
Cash Disbursements Total	(\$676.30)
Grand Total	\$734.85

Realized Gain/Loss Summary

Long Term	\$4,163.52
Short Term	\$0.00
	<u>\$4,163.52</u>
Long Term	\$0.00
Short Term	(\$32.66)
	<u>(\$32.66)</u>

Net Realized Gain/Loss **\$4,130.86**

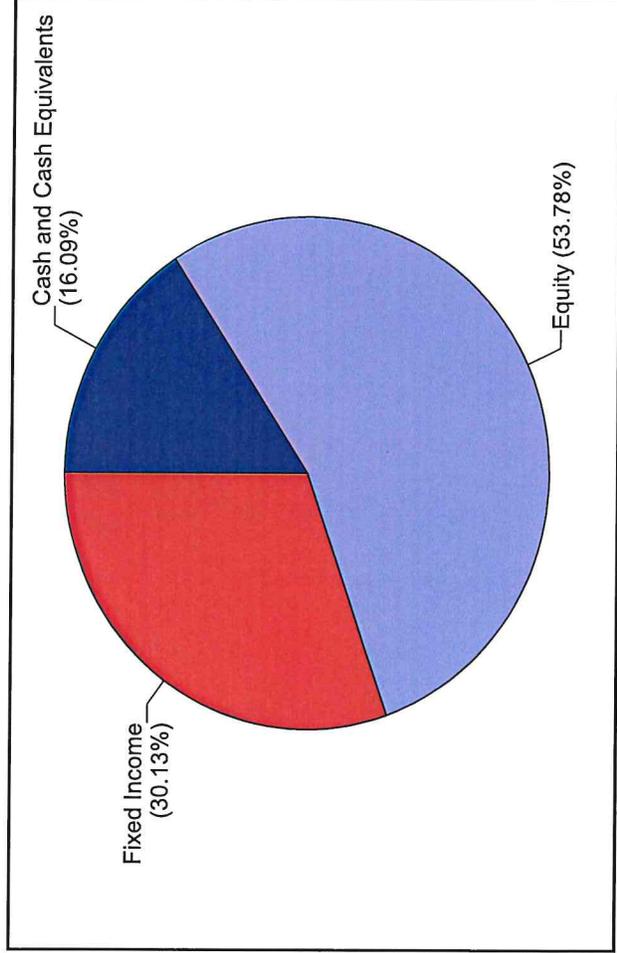


Account: 540

Asset Composition

Cash and Cash Equivalents
Equity
Fixed Income

	3/31/2025 Valuation	% of Account	6/30/2025 Valuation	% of Account	Change in Value (\$)
Cash and Cash Equivalents	52,101.93	19.29	45,054.45	16.09	-7,047.48
Equity	161,619.95	59.83	150,539.15	53.78	-11,080.80
Fixed Income	56,414.07	20.88	84,334.64	30.13	27,920.57
Grand Total	270,135.95	100.00	279,928.24	100.00	9,792.29



Aquatic Plant Management Society Inc



Account Overview

Account: 540

04/01/2025 to 06/30/2025

<u>Account Value Change</u>		<u>Account Activity</u>	
Beginning Account Value	\$270,135.95	Cash Receipts	
Account Activity for Period	\$833.98	Dividend - Ordinary	\$1,609.97
Realized Gains/Losses	\$13,425.55	Cash Receipts Total	\$1,609.97
Unrealized Gains/Losses	(\$4,467.24)	Cash Disbursements	
Ending Account Value	\$279,928.24	Trust Department Fiduciary Fee	(\$775.99)
		Cash Disbursements Total	(\$775.99)
		Grand Total	<u>\$833.98</u>
<u>Realized Gain/Loss Summary</u>			
Long Term	\$13,425.55		
Short Term	\$0.00		
	<u>\$13,425.55</u>		
Long Term	\$0.00		
Short Term	\$0.00		
	<u>\$0.00</u>		
Net Realized Gain/Loss	\$13,425.55		

APMS Meeting Planning – Tom Warmuth

No report submitted



APMS

The Aquatic Plant Management Society

www.apms.org

Membership Committee Update

7/9/25

The membership committee updated the digital piece that we have been using to reach out to past members as well as marketing ourselves to new potential members through social media, tradeshow, and other society memberships. The piece was further expanded to push folks that would not be attending the conference in 2025 to at least update their membership (version included with this report).

Given that the conference is in the northeast region, we worked with the NEAPMS secretary and board of directors to publicize the conference to their membership multiple times leading up to our conference. Specifically, the piece mentioned above was distributed to their membership.

To reach out to the international community, the meeting information has also been sent to the members of International Aquatic Plants Group's membership.

Condolence letters and newsletter recognitions were prepared for Brenda Culpepper and Dave Petty. The letter for Brenda was sent to Bill Culpepper and the letter for Dave Petty was sent to his best friend/executor of his will.

The committee values all input from other board members and our membership on what we could be doing to better the society and increase membership and attendance to the annual conference.

Respectfully Submitted: Matthew Johnson (Chair), Lyn Gettys, Gray Turnage, Amy Kay, Mirella Ortiz, Brian Isaacs, and Candice Prince.



APMS

The Aquatic Plant Management Society

www.apms.org



2025 ANNUAL MEETING

July 14 - 17 in Providence, Rhode Island



 Register Here

About Us

The Aquatic Plant Management Society is a respected source of expertise in the field of biological, mechanical, and chemical aquatic plant management and aquatic plant species.

The Society has grown to include several regional and state chapters. Through these affiliates, annual meetings, newsletters, and the Journal of Aquatic Plant Management, members keep abreast of the latest developments in the field.

Our Objectives

Promote the management of nuisance aquatic plants, algae, and cyanobacteria, provide for the scientific advancement of members of the society, encourage scientific research, promote university scholarship, and stir public interest in the aquatic plant science discipline.



Home of the
Michael D. Netherland
Graduate Student Research Grant



The Why?



network with
industry
professionals



boost your
knowledge and
skillset



contribute to the
industry by sharing
knowledge



stay plugged
into industry
trends

Why Not?

Cant make the conference?
Renew Membership Now





APMS

The Aquatic Plant Management Society

BECOME A MEMBER



 Join Here

What Your Membership Funds and Provides:

- Support of the Society to effectively address its Mission & Objectives
- Funds Publication and Research in JAPM which is now open access to support Industry to General Public.
- Part of professional organization with a unified voice and interest in managing nuisance aquatic vegetation and algae
- Ability to collaborate with experts in the field of aquatic plant and algae management

Our Objectives

Promote the management of nuisance aquatic plants, algae, and cyanobacteria, provide for the scientific advancement of members of the society, encourage scientific research, promote university scholarship, and stir public interest in the aquatic plant science discipline.



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Why Not?



APMS

The Aquatic Plant Management Society

www.apms.org



In Loving Memory

Brenda Culpepper - Remembrance

Brenda Kay Lancaster Culpepper, a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and cherished community member, passed away peacefully on February 13, 2025, at her home in Zionsville, IN. Brenda was born on September 9, 1946, in Rocky Mount, NC, to Louis E. Lancaster and Agnes Adele Weaver. Brenda was raised on the beauty of her family farm in Castalia, NC and was a graduate of East Carolina University. She was married to her devoted husband William (Bill) Henry Culpepper, Jr. in 1967 for 57 years until the time of her death.

Many of us in the Aquatic Plant Management Society were fortunate enough to meet and interact with Brenda at one of our annual meetings or other industry functions over the past 30 years as she supported her husband Bill Culpepper, founder of SePRO Corporation. Our thoughts and prayers are with Bill, his family, and the SePRO team as they mourn the loss of Brenda, a long-time friend and supporter of the industry.

A memorial service to celebrate Brenda's life will be held on Friday, February 28th at the 2nd Presbyterian Church, 7700 N. Meridian Street in Indianapolis. Visitation will begin at 11am and the service will start at 1 pm. Interment will be at Hamilton Memorial Park, 4180 Westfield Rd, Westfield IN, following the service. Please find the full obituary [here](#).



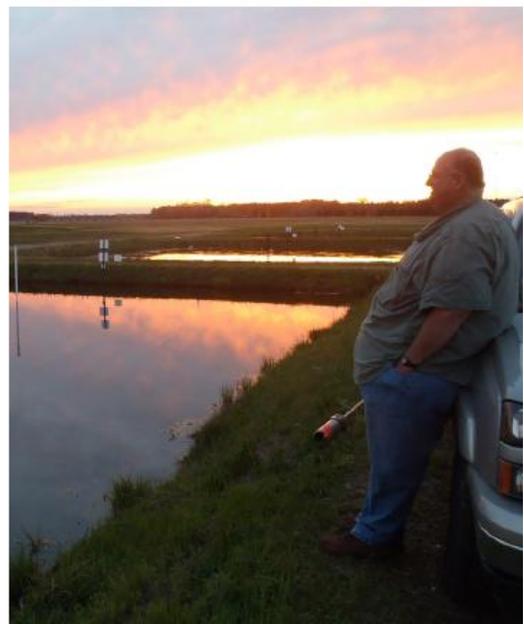
Brenda Culpepper

Dave Petty - Remembrance

David “Big Dave” Petty was a long-standing advocate and supporter of aquatic plant management. Dave graduated from Michigan State University with a BS degree in Entomology in 1986, and served as entomologist at The Dow Gardens until 1988. He was employed as a Senior Chemist with Dow Agrosciences from 1989-1996. During his Dow tenure, Dave became very interested in managing aquatic and wetland vegetation and was a major contributor in the USEPA sanctioned Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) studies that ultimately led to an aquatic use label for the systemic auxin, triclopyr. The triclopyr GLP efforts are still regarded as the industry gold standard in obtaining an aquatic label.

In 1996, Dave formed NDR Research in Plainfield, IN, and led that business for nearly 30 years as Director of Research until his recent passing. NDR provided technical and consultant services for managing aquatic vegetation across the US, including a long association with the US Army Engineer Research and Development Center. He quickly became a valued member and advisor of the Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Foundation (AERF) and among other duties provided technical and IT services to the AERF. Dave also became an active member and contributor of the Aquatic Plant Management Society. Dave’s technical and communication skills were frequently utilized by the aquatics industry and agencies to develop “EPA White Papers” to successfully support the expansion of labels and use patterns with many aquatic herbicides. He was an effective writer and authored numerous peer-reviewed articles and agency technical reports.

Dave Petty was a very talented and quietly knowledgeable individual - a behind-the-scenes type guy, making many significant contributions to aquatics. He loved the camaraderie of working with like-minded aquatics folks and had a great sense of humor. He will be missed.



Dave Petty

Nominations Committee

Nominations were put forth at the mid-winter BOD meeting and the slate was approved by the board. These nominees have been posted in the spring newsletter. Official voting on these nominees will occur at the business meeting.

Past-Presidents Report

A lunch meeting will occur at the annual meeting – agenda TBD

Program Committee Report

The program has been completed and posted on the website.

Proposal Review Committee

1. Be comprised of five members, consisting of the Immediate Past President, President-Elect, Treasurer, one Director, and one member-at-large. The committee will be chaired by the Immediate Past President, who will appoint the Director and the member-at-large.
2. The committee will review all proposals to the society of more than \$5,000, and all proposals regardless of cost that do not originate from a standing committee. [Requests for complimentary registration and rooms for all those not covered in Section F, will be considered by the Proposal Review Committee.](#) The committee will not, ~~however,~~ review the Graduate Student Research Grant.
3. Proposals must be submitted to APMS on the Proposal Submittal Form in Section G of the Operating Manual. [All proposals are due on April 1 each year.](#) Upon review of the proposals, the committee will provide a written recommendation with justification to the board for final decision.
4. Therefore, proposals or recommendations from standing committees and ad hoc that require more than \$5,000 in expenditure will be referred to the Proposal Review Committee for review ~~before the next meeting of the Board of Directors. These requests should be referred to the Proposal Review Committee at least four weeks before the next Board of Directors meeting.~~ Proposals for less than \$5,000 from standing and ad hoc committees can be considered directly by the Board of Directors.
5. All proposals, recommendations, or motions from Special Representatives will be referred to the Proposal Review Committee [by April 1.](#) ~~at least four weeks before the next Board of Directors meeting.~~
6. All funding requests and unsolicited proposals without a parent committee should be directed to the Proposal Review Committee by [April 1](#) for consideration.
7. [The Proposal Review Committee will have an annual budget based on 5% of available funds within the checking and investment account, not considering the \\$100,000 emergency fund. While annual allocation can exceed the budget, the committee is encouraged to maintain fiscal responsibility.](#)
8. [Up to four complimentary registrations and/or rooms will be held annually for Federal agency participants \(EPA, FWS, USACE, etc\). Those receiving support are expected to participate in the annual meeting in an active and meaningful way. This can be a presentation, luncheon with the board, or whatever is appropriate for the attendee. Those not covered in Section F that receive complimentary registration/rooms are not generally eligible for reimbursement of flights, meals, or other travel costs. The cost of](#)

complimentary rooms and registration will be calculated annually and charged against the annual budget allocated to the Proposal Review Committee.

9. Monetary requests that do not originate from a standing or ad hoc committee will be considered and ranked relative to the stated goals within the Strategic Plan and other relevant factors.

10. The Proposal Review Committee may confer in person, by conference call, or by email communication as deemed appropriate by the Chair. Notwithstanding the mode of communication, the discussion of proposals should endeavor to follow Roberts Rules of Order and operations standards of the Society.

Ad Hoc Committee

An ad hoc committee was formed to provide guidance to the Proposal Review Committee regarding annual allocation of funds APMS to support travel and special requests.

Committee met 4/16/25 and 5/8/25

Attending: Ferrell (Proposal Review), Fuhrman (Finance committee), Nawrocki (Treasurer), Gettys (Program committee), M. Johnson (Membership Committee)

Recommendations

1. Funding special requests is within the collective ethic of APMS and helps meet goals established within the Strategic Plan.
2. A budget for the Proposal Review Committee will be established annually, based on 5% of available funds within the checking and investment account, not considering the \$120,000 emergency fund. While annual allocation can exceed the budget, the committee is encouraged to maintain fiscal responsibility.
3. An annual call for proposals will be made using the APMS Newsletter and Social Media with a deadline of April 1.
4. The cost of complimentary registration and rooms will be calculated prior to the Proposal Review Committee discussion of proposals. Each complimentary registration and/or room, will be counted against the annual allocation budget.
5. Flights, meals, and other related travel costs will not be covered for those receiving comp registration/rooms. However, exceptions can be made.
6. Up to four complimentary registration and/or rooms will be held annually for Federal agency participants (EPA, FWS, USACE, etc). Those receiving support are expected to participate in the annual meeting in an active and meaningful way. This can be a presentation, luncheon with the board, or whatever is appropriate for the attendee.
7. Monetary requests will be considered and ranked relative to stated goals within the Strategic Plan and other relevant factors.

APMS Proposal Review Committee

April 1, 2025

Committee: Jay Ferrell (Past-President, chair), Justin Nawrocki (Treasurer), Andy Fuhrman (Delegate), Gray Turnage (Delegate), Lyn Gettys (President-Elect, not present)

Three proposals were brought forward to the committee: 1. AERF Bronze Sponsor request (\$2,500), 2. NEAPMS Plant Camp (\$7,000), 3. TVA Plant Camp (\$2,500). Official requests are provided below.

AERF. Discussion centered on the long-standing relationship between AERF and APMS. There was agreement that maintaining relations with AERF is valuable and the committee is recommending to provide \$2,500 in support to AERF and to become a Bronze Sponsor.

NEAPMS Plant Camp. The committee was fully supportive of this educational effort, but did not feel that APMS is able to meet the full request of \$7,000. The committee recommended providing \$2,500 to assist with this event.

TVA Plant Camp. Gray Turnage provided a request to the committee for \$2,500. Dr. Turnage provided background and details, then dropped off the call due to conflict of interest. After discussion, the committee is recommending \$1,000 in support of this effort.

In summary, the Proposal Review Committee is suggesting \$6,000 be allocated to cover the requests:

\$2,500 to AERF

\$2,500 to NEAPMS Plant Camp

\$1,000 to TVA Plant Camp



The Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Foundation (AERF)
Partnership Sponsor Request for APMS
February 20, 2025

The AERF feels that continued partnerships with like-minded industry groups only benefits the niche market we appeal to and strengthens our chances of making an impact on overall betterment of Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration and sustainment. Our goal is to be a funnel of connecting with other groups traditionally outside of APMS connections. We will certainly try to continue to support APMS regardless of reciprocal support, but as we all know, budgets will dictate where our efforts will go each given year. We appreciate any consideration of support in the future. In review of the APMS Strategic Plan, AERF does align and assist with several of those current goals.

Aquatic Plant Management Society Strategic Plan

Goal #1 – Build partnerships with external organizations

- AERF has been for many years and is currently listed as an organization that is important enough to the society that they have a special representative listed on all society board meetings.
- AERF has supported government and student travel to get to the APMS conference for many years
- AERF has promoted APMS at many symposium conducted over the years and continues to do so in recent years even when support from APMS has not been in place

Goal #4 – Fill the niche needs of APMS scientific expertise

- AERF's Science Advisory Panel aids in this goal.
- Please visit <https://aquatics.org/science-advisory-panel/> to see a list of SAP Responsibilities and Panel Members
- SAP reviewed more than 20 manuscripts for publication in peer-reviewed aquatic journals
- Bear Lake Symposium – Co-sponsored with APMS
- Keynote address for Minnesota Coalition of Lakes Association – Management planning for invasive aquatic plants
- Collaborating with TVA to develop and conduct Plant Camp Educational Event
- Collaborating with Wallace State and other universities for curriculum for Aquatic Plant Control Technicians

continued on next page



Goal #5 – Increase Membership

- AERF currently does not have a conference of their own, but rather promotes APMS and chapters of APMS to those looking for a place to learn more about aquatics.
- AERF has historically funded travel support to students, government agencies, and other conference additions
- AERF plans to continue to positively contribute to the aquatic ecosystem field in the future

From a historical perspective on value gained by APMS from The AERF, since the question arose at a recent board meeting during the AERF update, many of the research projects that are the basis of the publications, posters, and speakers present at APMS's annual conferences are funded by sponsors through AERF. AERF also provides travel funds for EPA personnel to attend those same annual conferences. AERF has sponsored many topic-specific sessions over the years at APMS conferences. In 2024, for example, AERF and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers co-sponsored a HABS-oriented session. Over the years AERF has also paid for the travel of speakers to APMS events. AERF conducts seminars and symposia, which provides a platform for aquatic research, leverages funding for projects across the country and it provides an unbiased voice to promote the benefits of proper aquatic plant management in a more-than-skeptical world. Many of the activities have been "jointly" presented in partnership with APMS and AERF, such as Plant Camps, the BASS Conservation Summit luncheons and the recent Big Bear Lake online symposium. AERF provides travel stipends and other benefits for students and regulators at APMS Chapter meetings as well. AERF has consistently promoted APMS without reservation at AERF events such as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Canada's Pesticide Management Regulatory Agency aquatic tours – regardless of APMS's actual contribution.

Feedback that we receive from members of APMS is that they receive benefits from AERF that are tangible and not hard to quantify: research, regulatory consulting, peer presence, subject matter experts, a scientific advisory committee that is unparalleled and readily available, legal aid and advice that is unbiased in crucial situations, legislative support, etc.

APMS and AERF have had a mutually beneficial relationship since 1996 and worked cooperatively in many areas as described above and others too numerous to mention. The organizations have always worked so closely that AERF has had a standing role as a Special Representative on every APMS board meeting agenda. It would seem that APMS would highly value those that they have as special representatives on every board meeting.

continued on next page



Another benefit of running government or other attendee travel support through AERF is that they have already been through the ethics review due to our work with EPA. APMS can have a fixed annual budget, we would appreciate Bronze Level sponsorship, and APMS can simply divert those travel requests to their partner foundation that evaluates and handles those requests for travel support.

We again thank APMS for their willingness to accept the past support of AERF and we hope that our efforts in the future will continue to support mutual goals.

Sincerely,

AERF Board

Section G – Proposal Submittal Form



Proposal for Funding from the Aquatic Plant Management Society

Title of Proposal: Northeast Aquatic Plant Management Society 2025 Plant Camp

Date Submitted to APMS: March 13, 2025

Entity Requesting Funds: Northeast Aquatic Plant Management Society

Name: William Stevenson, Treasurer, NEAPMS

Address: PO 176 Grand Isle, VT 05458-0176

Phone: (617) 549-0780

Email: wstevenson@solitudelake.com

Amount of Funds Requested: \$7,000.00

Will Other Entities Share Costs for this Project? Yes (if yes, list each entity and amount) **Northeast Aquatic Plant Management Society** \$

Lake Stewards of Maine \$1,500

Duration of Proposal: (i.e. one-time, annual event, ongoing program) Annual event- Onetime funding request

Attach a Detailed Description of Benefits to APMS Membership:

Autumn Webinars and Plant Camp Video are now posted on the website! Winter webinars coming soon!



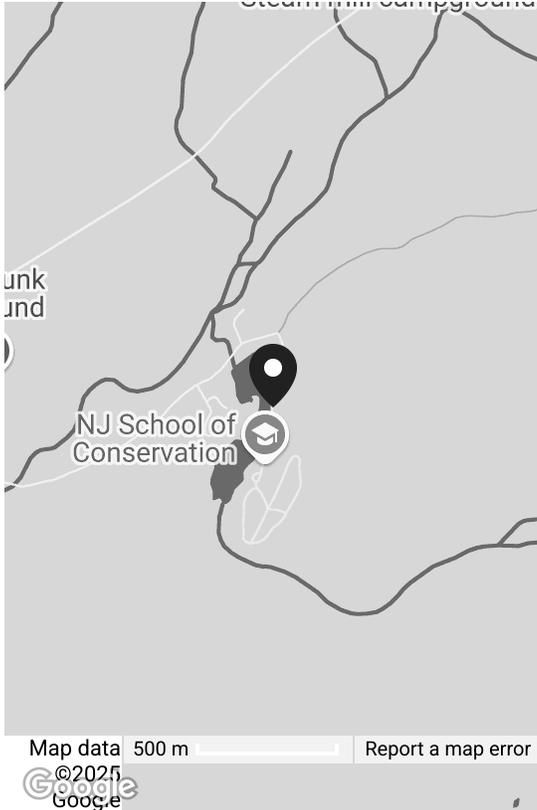
The Northeast Aquatic Plant Management Society (NEAPMS) will be hosting another "Plant Camp" in 2024. This event is hosted by the New Jersey Water Supply Authority. This intensive three-day program is geared toward individuals currently working as aquatic plant managers,



those involved in regulation of aquatic plants, and students in the field of aquatics.

A staff of regional experts and industry specialists will provide in-person training and coursework in the following:

- aquatic plant identification
- introduction to field sampling (including local field trips)
- best management practices for nuisance species
- data collection and reporting tools used in aquatic plant management



Date: September 10-12, 2024

Location: [New Jersey School of Conservation](#), 1 Wapalanne Road, Sandyston, NJ 07826

Cost: \$200 (includes lodging and meals)

Included Lodging: Shared bunk houses with electricity while the shared camp-style restroom/shower facilities are in nearby buildings

Optional Lodging : On your own. Search Newton, NJ and Milford/Matamoras, Pennsylvania **(not included in registration)**

Registration: Opens April 1, 2024 / Space is limited, capped at 50 participants

Student Scholarships Available! (see below)
Apply by May 1, 2024!

Plant Camp 2024 Agenda

Plant Camp Registration



2024 NEAPMS Plant Camp
Registration
\$200.00

[Register Now](#)

Plant Camp 2024 staff will include individuals from the following organizations:

- Naiad Consultants
- New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
- Water Resource Services
- Princeton Hydro
- Little Bear Environmental
- New Jersey Water Supply Authority

Plant Camp 2024 Planning Committee

- New Jersey Water Supply Authority
- Friends of New Jersey School of Conservation
- Naiad Consultants
- New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
- Tigris
- Lake Champlain Basin Program
- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
- Water Resource Services
- Little Bear Environmental

Plant Camp Scholarships are Available

NEAPMS strives to foster a diverse and inclusive environment through its student programs and initiatives.

3 Full Scholarships to Plant Camp are available for students from historically underrepresented groups.

Historically underrepresented groups are those who have, throughout history, had lower representation in higher education and/or aquatic plant management careers due to structural discrimination and racism. Underrepresented groups include ethnic minority students (African Americans, Native Americans, Hispanic and Latinos) as well as LGBTQ+ students.

Scholarship Sponsors Include:

Northeast Aquatic Plant Management Society (NEAPMS) (www.neapms.org)

North American Lake Management Society (NALMS) (www.nalms.org)

Submit Your Plant Camp Scholarship Application

Name (required)

First Name

Last Name

Email (required)

Name of College/University (required)

Major

Hometown

Briefly explain why you would like to attend Plant Camp. (5 sentences or less)

Submit



[Privacy Policy](#) | [Cancellation Policy](#)

Our Mission: To assist in the management of aquatic vegetation, to provide for the scientific and educational advancement of members, to encourage scientific research in all facets of aquatic plant management, to promote an exchange of information among members and to extend and develop understanding in the discipline.



AERF



APMS

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[Site Design By Sustainable Digital](#)

Section G – Proposal Submittal Form



Proposal for Funding from the Aquatic Plant Management Society

Title of Proposal: AERF-TVA Aquatic Plant Management Workshop

Date Submitted to APMS: 4/1/25

Entity Requesting Funds: MSAPMS/TVA/AERF

Name: Gray Turnage

Address: 2 Research Blvd.
Starkville, MS 39759

Phone: 662-325-7527

Email: Gturnage@grimsstate.edu

Amount of Funds Requested: \$2500

Will Other Entities Share Costs for this Project? Yes (if yes, list each entity and amount) TVA - \$15,000

Duration of Proposal: (i.e. one-time, annual event, ongoing program) Annual

Attach a Detailed Description of Benefits to APMS Membership:

AERF-TVA Aquatic Plant Management Workshop

Organizers: Carlton Layne (AERF); Gray Turnage (MSU/MSAPMS); Stephen Turner (TVA)

Cost: \$25,000+

Background

TVA has donated seed money to AERF to host a 1.5 day Aquatic Plant Management (APM) workshop within the TVA territory August 4-6, 2025. The 2025 target audience is resource managers in state and federal agencies with APM responsibilities that geographically overlap with or are adjacent to TVA territory. The goal of this workshop is to 1) introduce new personnel to the broader APM field, 2) communicate APM information to a demographic (field biologist and technician level practitioners in government agencies) that doesn't normally attend national or regional APMS meetings, 3) provide CEU's to APM practitioners, and 4) strengthen the APM network in and neighboring the TVA region. This workshop is not intended to replace the regular MSAPMS annual meeting workshop that targets state level supervisors (rather than local or regional employees) in state agencies and employees of applicator companies.

Need

We are targeting a minimum of \$25,000 for this effort and asking other industry and stakeholder groups to donate so that attendees and presenting subject matter experts will be able to participate at no cost to themselves or their agencies. Sponsors will receive:

Sponsor Level	Sponsor Amnt.	Printed Program	Digital Recog. During Breaks & Social Events	5 Minute Oral Pres.	15 Minute Oral Pres.
Hydrilla	<\$1,500	✓	X	X	X
Hyacinth	\$1,500 - \$3,000	✓	✓	X	X
Lotus	\$3,000 - \$5,000	✓	✓	✓	X
Naiad	>\$5,000	✓	✓	✓	✓

1. Hydrilla (<\$1,500) = Recognition in printed program
2. Hyacinth (\$1,500 - \$3,000) = Hydrilla + digital recognition (company logos) during breaks and networking/social events
3. Lotus (\$3,000 - \$5,000) = Hyacinth + 5-min presentation slot during workshop
4. Naiad (>\$5,000) = Lotus + 15-min presentation slot during workshop

Considerations

- All sponsors will have opportunity to network with attendees during breaks, meals, and social events.
- Due to the truncated planning timeframe, no booth space will be available for sponsors for this event. However, please contact the organizers if you would like booth space to be an option for future workshops.
- If we receive more than the necessary funds for this event, AERF will apply it to future workshops.

Regional Chapters and Strategic Planning

No reports at this time

All-- just a heads up that I will most likely not be attending this year's meeting. However, several members from Student Affairs have stepped up to take my place while at the conference. Sam Sardes and Leif Willey are both going to be drivers/mentors/herders while on the Monday tour. Vans are already scheduled for pick-up and the tour should be all set. I do plan to have a follow up call with our tour cooperators once I know the exact number of students planning to attend just to confirm.

Overall, it looks like student participation is tracking close to past conferences. No schools jump out that don't have at least one student participating. I will be sending out an email to students shortly on their rooming preference and if they even require a room at all (some of the student presenters I doubt will need rooms), length of stay, and the A/V requirement. I'll be sure to remind students that they need to register ASAP too. I will update Bill on food needs (breakfast/lunch items) for the day of the student tour once I know which students plan to attend the tour.

Lyn-- once the program is built, I'll send out a spreadsheet for students to sign up for time slots so that A/V activities are covered.

Proposed APMS Website Addition: 'Students' Section

Andrew Howell and Matt Johnson

Justification:

There is a clear need to provide a student-centric page within the current APMS website to provide resources, which will engage current and future student participation within the society. A dedicated tab/section shows how much APMS actually supports students (Michael D. Netherland Grant; activities during the annual conference; benefits of student membership; dedicated journal; etc.) which, is not only beneficial to legacy students/universities, but also perspective students from nontraditional programs or those programs and institutions not currently represented at APMS. Other accredited water resource and weed science organizations (e.g., NALMS; WSSA) have dedicated student pages that direct perspective students to submitting their respective research, the associated benefits with society participation, and provide helpful professional resources using a Students section within the website.

Examples of student oriented sections for NALMS¹ and WSSA²:

¹<https://www.nalms.org/nalms-student-programs/>

²<https://wssa.net/society/student-resources/>

A brief outline of possible content to be included in a 'Students' section are provided below.

Sections:

- Further highlight the Michael D. Netherland Research Grant
- Society interest in students/what we do for them
- Highlight the student tours by year (at least most recent year's)
- Student BOD position and contact information
- Student testimonials
- Career opportunities
- Statistics of student engagement in the society (i.e., where do they end up following graduation)
- Student News—research or fieldwork covered by media/podcast link/etc
- Submitting to the JAPM



Empowering The Next Generation Of Aquatic Plant Management Professionals

Short Welcome Message: Briefly introduce the section and its purpose for current and prospective students.

Michael D. Netherland Research Grant

Brief overview of the grant, its purpose, and impact

Past Winners



Winner Name

Brief summary of research topics



Winner Name

Brief summary of research topics



Winner Name

Brief summary of research topics

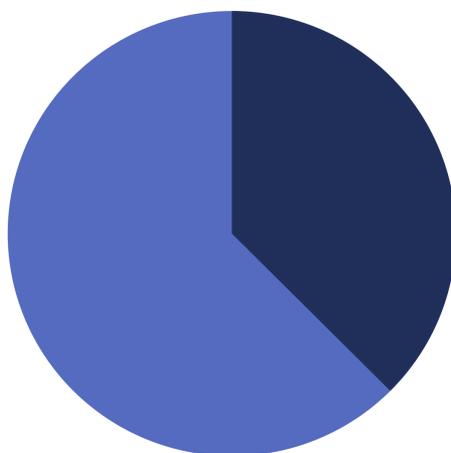
Learn More & Apply.

Your Future Starts Here: How APMS Supports Students

Key Benefits

- Dedicated Student Membership Benefits
- Annual Conference Activities & Networking
- Access to the “*Journal of Aquatic Plant Management*”
- Opportunities For Leadership: Student Board Positions

Student Success Stories



“Brief testimonials from students who have transitioned into successful careers”

“Brief testimonials from students who have transitioned into successful careers”

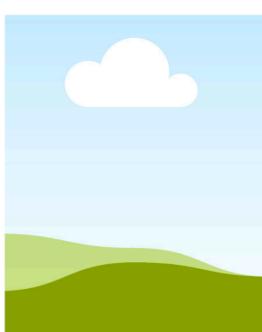
Your Future Starts Here: How APMS Supports Students

Student Tours



Past Tour Information

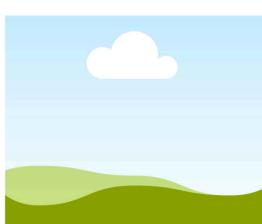
Student Board of Directors Position



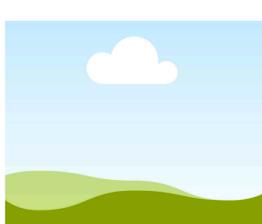
Name and Contact Information for the Student Board of Directors Representative

Brief description of the role and how to get involved

Student & Professor Testimonials



Quote block section featuring diverse testimonials from current students and professors



Quote block section featuring diverse testimonials from current students and professors



Building Your Career In Aquatic Plant Management

Career Opportunities

[Link to a job board](#)

Resources for resume building, interview tips, and networking

Student News & Highlights

Featured articles, media coverage, or podcast links related to student research or fieldwork in aquatic plant management

[Submit Your News](#)

Share Your Science: Submitted to JAPM

Clear, concise instructions and guidelines for student looking to submit their research to the *Journal of Aquatic Plant Management*

[View Submission Guidelines](#)



AERF

Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Foundation

June 2025 Newsletter

Collaborating with the Tennessee Valley Authority to develop and conduct a Plant Camp Educational Event

TVA and AERF will host a 1.5-day Aquatic Plant Management (APM) workshop at Lake Guntersville State Park in Alabama August 4-6, 2025. The target audience is resource managers in state and federal agencies with APM responsibilities that geographically overlap with or are adjacent to TVA territory. The goal of this workshop is to 1) introduce new personnel to the broader APM field, 2) communicate APM information to a demographic (field biologist and technician level practitioners in government agencies) that doesn't normally attend national or regional APMS meetings, 3) provide CEU's to APM practitioners, and 4) strengthen the APM network in and neighboring the TVA region. Assuming this Plant Camp is successful, we hope to create similar training opportunities in other areas of the country.

As you can see, on page 4, there is a lot of information crammed into a couple of days. In accordance with our goals, we want to make as many of our projects to be self-supporting. We received a grant from TVA to get us started and are raising the balance of the estimated \$25,000 cost by donations. Our goal is to present the Plant Camp at no cost to the attendees. It will be held at Guntersville State Park near Guntersville, AL, August 4-6. Should you wish to contribute to the success of the first TVA/AERF Plant Camp, please send your donations to:

AERF
P.O. Box 369
Cadillac, MI 49601



Mark your checks clearly that your donation is intended to support the Plant Camp. You may also donate by credit card from our website. If you choose that method, please send an email to Clayne@Aquatics.org so your donation is properly credited.

AERF thanks Harry Knight for his coordination efforts and his continuing support of AERF. Stephen Turner with TVA has been the Plant Camp Champion inside TVA. Dr. Gray Turnage has been the driver of the Plant Camp effort since we confirmed it was going to happen. For more information, contact Carlton Layne or Dr. Gray Turnage.



Alligatore[®]

A PROUD GOLD SPONSOR

AERF & TVA Plant Management Workshop

Organizers: Carlton Layne (AERF); Gray Turnage (MSU/MSAPMS); Stephen Turner (TVA)

TENTATIVE AGENDA

NOTE: Presentations and work shop components are listed scheduled in 50 min time blocks (50 min, 100 min, 150 min, etc.) so that each provides 1 to 3 CEU's; as written, this agenda should provide 13 CEU's if accepted by licensing agencies.

Day 1 (Aug. 4): Travel, registration, and classroom presentations

12:00 – 1:00 PM: Registration

1:00 – 1:50 PM: AIS impacts to Aquatic Fauna and Human uses of water – Dr. Joe Bisesi/Univ. FL

1:50 – 2:00 PM: Break

2:00 – 2:50 PM: Ecology and Life History of AIS – Dr. John Madsen/JD Madsen Consulting

2:50 – 3:00 PM: Break

3:00 – 3:50 PM: Environmental fate and toxicity of herbicides used for aquatic plant control – Dr. Gray Turnage/Mississippi State University

3:50 – 4:00 PM: Break

4:00 – 4:50 PM: Digital and printed resources for APM practitioners – Dr. Lyn Gettys/Univ. FL

4:50 – 6:00 PM: Break

6:00 – 9:00 PM: Dinner/Evening Social

Day 2 (Aug. 5): Classroom, hands on plant ID, A-Z herbicide applications, and field site visits on Lake Guntersville

7:00 – 8:00 AM: Breakfast

8:00 – 8:50 AM: Floating and emergent plant control – Mr. Daniel Hill/Louisiana Department of Wildfire and Fisheries

8:50 – 9:00 AM: Break

9:00 – 9:50 AM: Submersed plant and algae control – Mr. Leif Willey/Aquatic Control, Inc.

9:50 – 10:00 AM: Break

10:00 – 10:50 AM: Regulatory perspectives on APM – Mrs. Kim Brown/Univ. TN

10:50 – 11:00 AM: Break

11:00 – 11:50 AM: Industry updates (Sponsors)

11:50 – 1:00 PM: Lunch

Continue On Next Page



AERF & TVA Plant Management Workshop

Day 2 (continued)

1:00 – 1:50 PM: Hands on Plant ID Dr. Gray Turnage/MSU

1:50 – 2:00 PM: Break

2:00 – 2:50 PM: A-Z herbicide applications Mr. Troy Goldsby/AquaServices

2:50 – 3:00 PM: Break

3:00 – 5:30 PM: Visit field sites on Lake Guntersville Mr. Stephen Turner/TVA

5:30 – 6:00 PM: Break

6:00 – 6:30 PM: Closing Remarks Mr. Carlton Layne/AERF

6:30 – 9:00 PM: Dinner/Evening Social

Day 3 (Aug. 6): Breakfast and departure

7:00 – 8:00 AM: Breakfast/Registration

8:00 AM: Depart





Cygnets Enterprises, Inc.

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Implementation of the Endangered Species Act and Evaluating the impact of Bulletins Live Two!

This is an ongoing effort with not much new to report currently. Stay tuned. Other federal activities have garnered most of AERF's attention. The fallout of DOGE's effect on government in general and EPA in particular; Administrator Zeldin's own efforts to streamline the regulatory process and cut expenses; employee buyouts, retirements and resignations; and the return of employees to the office from years of working at home. We're still waiting for the dust to settle a bit to see what effect all this will have on aquatics.

Pesticide (FIFRA) registration activities are largely self-supporting through PRIA and so will likely be minimally affected. Having said that, however, EPA's portion of the Trump proposed budget (not the Big Beautiful Bill) projects over a 20% reduction in the appropriation for the Office of Pesticides Programs and the elimination of the pesticide grant programs for the states which supports state pesticide certification, enforcement, and registration activities. There's little doubt the reduction of federal funds available for pesticide activities will have a major trickle-down effect for state pesticide lead agencies—if it happens.

EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin has announced a reorganization of EPA. Google says the following:

“EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin announced a comprehensive reorganization of the EPA, aiming to improve operational efficiency, integrate science into decision-making, and reduce taxpayer spending. The changes include creating new offices, realigning existing ones, and potentially eliminating some units like the Office of Research and Development. The reorganization is expected to save \$300 million annually and align the EPA's structure with its core mission.”

We can only imagine how deep the Hunker-Down mode is within the EPA.

Continue On Next Page

Implementation of the Endangered Species Act and Evaluating the impact of Bulletins Live Two! (continued)

The Office of Water and other agencies like the Corps of Engineers research program, the Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service are facing major challenges and/or reductions in personnel and budgets. There are those who predict that federal research and much of the regulatory responsibilities once held by federal agencies and programs will become the responsibility of the various states. This likelihood will require greater diligence and involvement by the aquatic plant management community in general and AERF in particular to ensure the uniform implementation of permitting and enforcement.

Just when you thought it was safe to go into the waters of the United States, both the EPA and the Corps of Engineers have announced they intend to rewrite the definition of Waters of the United States – again. A series of six so-called listening sessions were held in April and May and a new draft definition will likely be published for comment in the months to come. AERF will monitor the goings-on and keep you informed. We'll provide updates, as warranted.

Endangered Species Protection Bulletins are a part of the Endangered Species Protection Program. As pesticides go through the re-registration process, they will begin to include wording referencing Bulletins Live Two or the requirement to determine if there are additional Pesticide Use Limitation Areas (PULAs) which exist that further regulate the use of the specific pesticide in the geographic area where they are to be applied. The Bulletins Live Two website [Click HERE](#) will be a required prerequisite to pesticide applications. The bulletin will need to be filed in records for future reference in case questions arise on the application by regulatory agency, as they are as enforceable under FIFRA. Bulletins may be accessed up to six months before the application is to occur. Please keep an eye out for this language on the product labels as this requirement is already in place as soon as the wording appears on product labels.



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Demonstration Studies for Management of *Lyngbya wollei* in a South Carolina Reservoir and Farm Pond

AERF will be overseeing treatments to control *Lyngbya* (*Microseira wollei*) in a large lake in South Carolina (~20 square miles). We foresee testing products in demonstration mode in 10-acre plots. The nature of the *Lyngbya* leads us towards specific products for the testing.

The Problem

Lyngbya wollei (a.k.a. *Microseira wollei*) is a filamentous cyanobacterium that forms thick black mats in rivers and lakes, shading beneficial native aquatic plants and algae, degrading water quality, and emitting foul odors. It can also produce toxins such as dermal toxins and paralytic shellfish poison. Unlike other algae and cyanobacteria, *L. wollei* persists throughout the year, overwintering as thick benthic mats that can rise to the surface during the warmer months. Infestations are becoming more common throughout the southeast and other parts of the United States. *L. wollei* can fix nitrogen and “mine” phosphorus from sediments. It is an invasive nuisance in North and South Carolina reservoirs, the Everglades, Rainbow and Crystal Rivers in Florida, Gunterville Reservoir in Alabama, and the lower Rio Grande, Texas (and many other places). Control efforts for *Lyngbya wollei* may be hampered by a thick sheath of mucilage that often surrounds the cells, as well as production of both surface and benthic mats in the spring and summer.

The Opportunity

There are opportunities to manage *L. wollei* in southern US reservoirs and numerous farm ponds. The reservoirs are relatively large with extensive littoral zones, and they are often dendritic. There is an opportunity to initiate some demonstration projects in portions of some of these reservoirs. This would be an excellent chance to provide real world data that would be useful for management of this cyanobacterium. Dr. John Rodgers (Professor Emeritus, Clemson University) will be serving as an advisor for the initial project. The opportunity to participate in this demonstration project is by invitation for major members of the Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Foundation (AERF).

Continue On Next Page



Demonstration Studies for Management of *Lyngbya wollei* in a South Carolina Reservoir and Farm Pond (continued)

The Question(s)

Products and methods approved by the US EPA will be used in this project. This is an opportunity to produce efficacy data regarding performance of products in a “real world” situation. A goal in this project is to ensure that each product tested has an opportunity to be as efficacious as possible. Applications will be made according to product labels by a certified applicator (e.g. Aqua Services and AquaDoc). The primary questions in this study are centered on the performance of products for controlling *L.wollei* in the reservoir. The rate of control, extent of control of *L.wollei* and the need for repeat treatments will be crucial metrics in this study.

The Approach (Methods)

Each product in the study will be allocated a separate ~10-acre plot. This plot size is sufficient to accurately observe algaecide effects without undue influence of edge effects. Currently, six applications of products are anticipated each year and applications will be triggered by growth or regrowth of *L.wollei*. Performance will be monitored by using the rake method for evaluation of *L.wollei* growth and regrowth post-treatment. For copper-based products, treatment concentrations will be verified by sampling and analysis. Sediment residuals will also be monitored. Where appropriate, field results will be supported by laboratory studies to define exposures required to produce desired results.

The Results (Outcomes and Presentations)

This is a unique opportunity for participants to develop scientific information to support claims regarding the efficacy of products for control of one of the most targeted cyanobacteria in the world. And these efforts will be supported by presentations through AERF as well as peer reviewed publication. The results will be presented at regional and national meetings of scientific organizations and lake associations.

Continue On Next Page

Demonstration Studies for Management of *Lyngbya wollei* in a South Carolina Reservoir and Farm Pond (continued)

What we need from you is financial sponsorship to help cover our projected expenses. In return for a \$2,000 donation your company will be listed as a supporter of the study on our website, on links to the study on our website and recognition within any presentations made at meetings. Donors of lesser amounts, of course, will be credited appropriately but will not be listed as a "supporter."

Time is of the essence as pond applications have already begun. Please contact Carlton Layne (Clayne@Aquatics.org) with your intent to support the project so that your company can be listed as quickly as possible. Please send your donation to:

AERF
P.O. Box 369
Cadillac, MI 49601



Mark your checks clearly that your donation is intended to support the SC Project. You may also donate by credit card from our website. If you choose that method, please send an email to Clayne@Aquatics.org so your donation is properly credited.



UPL

A PROUD GOLD SPONSOR

Still In Development...

Developing and conducting a workshop on HAB Management for water managers

While this continues to be an AERF priority, circumstances have hindered progress on this item. Mote Marine, our purported partner, was devastated by the hurricanes in the fall of 2024 and they have essentially been “offline” since then. We’re still committed to the idea, but it’s a work in progress. For more information, contact Carlton Layne or Dr. John Rodgers.

Developing a manuscript on the relationship between wildfires and HABs: “Wildfire, Nutrients, and Algal Blooms”

This document is about 80% complete and has been expanded to include the Saharan dust cloud currently detected in Florida. Interesting stuff for sure. For more information, contact Carlton Layne or Dr. John Rodgers.

PROUD BRONZE SPONSORS



Collaboration with Wallace State to develop a curriculum for Aquatic Plant Control Technicians

This Applied Technology Division program provides students an Associate degree in Applied Science. This program lines up well with the skills, education, and experience needed to prepare students for a career as an Aquatic Technician or entry sales position.

- Program overview and objectives:
- Pesticide training including product use, specimen labels, SDS and PPE
- Equipment maintenance with tear down and rebuild of small engines
- Aquaponics - water chemistry, nutrients, D.O.
- Equipment operation including trailer towing and backing
- Spray equipment use and calibration
- Plumbing of equipment and irrigation systems
- Plant propagation and Introduction to Horticulture
- Plant identification and culture
- Soils & Fertilizers – Understanding of phosphorus impacts
- Principles of biology
- Horticultural business management
- English composition, college algebra, and ethics

AERF is proud to partner with Wallace State Community College on this pilot program. Sponsors of AERF will have access to post jobs and internships directly to their agribusiness students who are actively looking to enter the workforce out of this program. We hope to connect these students to those inside our industry. If successful, Wallace State Community College is willing to make some minor adjustments to the program to focus a bit more on some aspects of the Aquatics industry. AERF looks at this as a pilot program to work on developing similar programs with other colleges around the United States.

Your Industry Needs You

Given the likelihood of more and more state involvement in aquatic-related research and regulation, AERF is looking for someone or some people to assist AERF in the monitoring of state activities, state liaison efforts, and reporting. Of necessity, this would be a part-time 1099-type position, but it could expand. more. AERF is looking to spread the responsibilities beyond a single person and involve more people in what has become a very diversified nonprofit foundation. For more information, contact Carlton Layne.

Outside of the projects, we still need your financial support for the day-to-day activities of AERF, which include supporting students' and regulators' attendance at chapter meetings, EPA Regulatory Aquatic Tours, seminars and symposia and other training opportunities. Our efforts are all on your behalf. Please send your donations to support our work to the Cadillac, MI, address above or use the "pay now" button on our website.

I've attached a packet of AERF-related information to this newsletter for your reading pleasure. We've also included a form to complete your donation so you can be credited appropriately in presentations and on our website. Some have indicated they would prefer to receive an invoice annually. We plan to initiate that process with the 2026 solicitation. In the interim, we have attached a blank invoice for your convenience to start the process. Just choose your donation level, attach a check, and send it to Cadillac. From now on you'll receive an invoice annually.

AERF is an IRS designated not for profit foundation and donations are tax-deductible. AERF's tax I.D. No. is 38-3304154.



AERF Board Of Directors

Rob Richardson, Ph.D. - NC State University

Lyn Gettys, Ph.D. - University of Florida

John Rogers Ph.D. - Clemson University

Carlton Layne - US EPA (retired)

Matthew Johnson - Aquatic Control, Inc.

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» Gold - \$10,000 Level Or Above

- Formal introduction of Gold Sponsors provided during any AERF update at any conference.
- Company name displayed on AERF booth whenever exhibiting at any conference.
- Acknowledgement on AERF Website with a large logo, direct link to your company's home page, and up to 150-word company overview.
- Acknowledgement on AERF Meeting Agenda for annual meeting
- Acknowledgement in AERF newsletter with a full-page ad in newsletter
- Access to executive Director assistance in regulatory issues.

» Silver - \$5,000 Level Or Above

- Formal introduction of Silver Sponsors provided during any AERF update at any conference.
- Company name displayed on AERF booth whenever exhibiting at any conference.
- Acknowledgement on AERF website with large logo
- Acknowledgement in AERF newsletter with a ½ page ad in newsletter

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- Company name displayed on AERF booth whenever exhibiting at any conference.
- Acknowledgement on AERF website with small logo
- Acknowledgement in AERF newsletter with a ¼ page ad in newsletter

» Affiliate - \$1,000 Level Or Above

- Acknowledgement on AERF website with text listing acknowledgement
- Company name displayed on AERF booth whenever exhibiting at any conference.

» Friends of AERF - \$300 Level or Above

All donations are accepted and greatly appreciated to support the work that we do. The above sponsorship levels all have voting rights for board of directors.



Become A Sponsor Today



YOUR AERF SPONSORSHIP IS KEY TO:

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- SUPPORTING HIGH QUALITY RESEARCH
- ATTRACTING GRADUATE STUDENTS
- EXPANDING AN ALREADY DIVERSE MEMBERSHIP
- BEING A SOURCE FOR MEMBERS AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCIES

TO DONATE, JOIN, OR RENEW YOUR SPONSORSHIP IN THE AERF PLEASE SEND THE COMPLETED FORM AND PAYMENT TO AERF, P.O. BOX 369, CADILLAC, MI 49601. COMPLETE THIS SECTION TO RECEIVE A BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES MANUAL.

DATE: _____ NAME/COMPANY: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ FAX: _____

WEB ADDRESS: _____ EMAIL: _____

CIRCLE THE DESIRED LEVEL OF SPONSORSHIP. YOU ARE WELCOME TO SUPPORT AERF AT ANY LEVEL AND DONATIONS ARE APPRECIATED.

GOLD	\$ 10,000	SILVER	\$ 5,000
BRONZE	\$ 2,500	AFFILIATE	\$ 1,000
FRIENDS OF AERF	\$ _____	ANY CONTRIBUTION AMOUNT	



AERF - INVOICE FOR MEMBERSHIP

Date:

Name/Company:

Address:

Telephone:

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Email:

Website Address:

Please use the following as a guide in the selection of the desired level of membership: Gold is recommended for manufacturers and registrants; Silver and above is recommended for formulators; Bronze and above is recommended for distributors; Affiliate and above is recommended for consultant and application companies, equipment manufacturers/resellers and biological producers/resellers;

Gold (\$10,000)

Affiliate (\$1,000)

Silver (\$5,000)

Bronze (\$2,500)

Submitted By:

Title:

Please send the completed application and payment to Treasurer, AERF, 1860 Bagwell Street, Flint, MI 48503-4406. AERF's Federal I.D. Number is 38-3304154. For more information contact Carlton R. Layne, Executive Director, AERF, 3272 Sherman Ridge Drive, Marietta, Georgia 30064, Telephone 678-773-1364, E-Mail clayne@aquatics.org.

The AERF is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) Foundation. Our activities are funded through the support of our sponsors and Endowment Funds focused on Environmental Protection and Sustainability.

Pay Online —————> **[Donate - Aquatics.org](https://aquatics.org)**

AERF – no report at this time

CAST – no report at this time

NALMS – no report at this time

WOA – no report at this time

WSSA – nothing to report

Science Policy – no report at this time

July 14, 2025

To: Board of Directors of the Aquatic Plant Management Society (APMS)

From: Jeremy G. Slade, President APMS

Subject: Report of the B.A.S.S. Special Representative

I continue to maintain communication and open dialogue with B.A.S.S. Conservation Director, Gene Gilliland. Most recent correspondence provided below. In odd years (i.e., 2025) APMS has supported a co-sponsored mini-grant with affiliate organizations like AERF, but for the last two cycles this has been an APMS-only sponsored grant. In even years (i.e., 2026) APMS has supported and participated at the B.A.S.S. Conservation Summit/Symposium that takes place in the spring at the Bassmaster's Classic at a location chosen by B.A.S.S.

Unfortunately, this year's mini-grant had no submissions and it was therefore decided to forego extending the submission date to accept proposals. We don't know what the reason was for no submissions but suspect the amount of the grant (\$2K) or the outline of potential requirements for the application (e.g., partnership with state fisheries agency) could be items. It was advertised by both B.A.S.S. and APMS.

Below is the motion approved by APMS BOD at the midwinter APMS Board meeting February 2025.

I make a recommendation, request, motion to provide \$2,000 (\$500 increase from prior years) to award a B.A.S.S. Conservation ([Conservation News - Bassmaster](#)) affiliate mini-grant for an aquatic vegetation/habitat restoration project submitted through B.A.S.S. and reviewed by APMS BOD for selection of winning project.

Attached is the proposal request form for review.

Link to the grant on Bassmasters.com: <https://www.bassmaster.com/conservation-news/news/apms-b-a-s-s-nation-offer-award-for-best-aquatic-plant-management-project-in-2025/>

Dialogue with Gene about APM topics:

June 16, 2025: Feedback on grant and information about Conservation Summit in 2026.

As to 2026, the Bassmaster Classic will be in Knoxville, and assuming they put it in my budget, we will have a Conservation Summit. And yes, I think APMS could be involved in the program somehow. I am waiting until we get through the Black Bass 2025 Symposium at the Amer. Fisheries Society annual meeting in August to see what topics come out of the round-table discussions. That will help guide my planning for the 2026 B.A.S.S. Conservation Summit. I will keep you in the loop on that planning.

Thanks again for the support.

June 3, 2025: *I don't know if it is just being overlooked or if nobody is doing aquatic plant work this year. The only agencies I know that are working in the weeds are the Georgia DNR, Arkansas GFC, North Carolina WRC, and the Corps of Engineers in Kansas. Might be some others experimenting. No BASS Nation clubs working on projects of their own that I'm aware of.*

So....do we want to extend the deadline and send out a "targeted" call for proposals to those state chapters where there might be work going on, asking them if they can partner with their state agency? Or do we punt?

May 5, 2025: I asked if there were any items APMS should be aware of or could assist with.

Hot topics? Yes, Okeechobee is one. Anglers don't like the "spraying" but they don't like the low water that would allow the good SAV to regrow either. Navigation issues. The group on the St. Johns River (Mighty River Recovery) is gaining a following. They had a booth at our two Florida Elite tournaments in February and are asking some interesting questions about the history of plant management on the River - and who is responsible for the health of the ecosystem. Hydrilla management in New York and Connecticut is what I would call a smoldering issue - not full-blown fire right now but at any moment it could flare up. On the positive side, North Carolina's greenhouse project (funded in part by AFTCO) is moving along and they are seeing some expansion of plantings outside of exclosures. The floating coontail cubes that Arkansas developed a few years ago are catching on in other states that have to deal with water level fluctuations.

Friendly reminder, check out the B.A.S.S. conservation website: [Conservation News - Bassmaster](#). Gene and B.A.S.S. do their best to represent APMS activities as required but as an organization representing the angling community it's sometimes difficult to play "favorites" to aquatic plant management items especially with their members' expectations. Another page to join is the Facebook group: [\(1\) B.A.S.S. Conservation | Groups | Facebook](#)



**Submission for APMS Award for the Best Aquatic Plant Management Project
\$2,000**

Required information for consideration:

- Sponsoring member/agency
- Project Leader Contact
- Statement of Problem/Need
- Location of Project: (lake or reservoir name, location (GPS coordinates of dam, if available)
*lake or reservoir must be open to public access to be eligible
- What is the habitat or education issue that is being addressed by the proposal?
- A letter of support from a representative of the state fish and wildlife management agency must be included in the proposal.
- If available, include a copy of or link to a lake management plan that states this need (proposals which complement an existing plan for the lake will receive extra consideration).
- Describe the methods being used to address this need: State the type and amount of habitat that the project proposes to add/restore or education plan that will be implemented.
- Describe the methods used to accomplish the project.
- What are the expected outcomes?
- Partners: Provide a list of partners involved in the project; To be a considered partner, the group/company/agency must provide either direct monetary or in-kind (supplies, equipment, labor) to the project.
- Budget (the budget should be presented in the table format below; you can cut and paste this table directly into your proposal and fill in as appropriate.

Partner	Cash Contribution	In-kind Contributions (type: labor, supplies, equipment)	In-kind Contributions (cash value)
APMS	\$2,000		
Total			

- Outreach (Include an outreach plan); How do you propose to advertise the project (on-site signage, press release, websites, message boards, etc.)

Projects must be submitted to B.A.S.S. Conservation by May 31, 2025, to be eligible for the award.

Judging will be done by the B.A.S.S. Conservation Director and APMS Board of Directors.

APMS Board of Directors Meeting: RISE Update

Prepared by Kylie Gregory, RISE Staff

Presented by Matt Johnson, RISE Aquatics Committee Chair

July 2025



State Legislative Issues:

1. New York A.6930 (2025)

- a. For the fourth year in a row, the New York legislature is considering a bill that would allow local municipalities to regulate pesticide use in freshwater wetlands.
- b. RISE met with the sponsor and their staff on the bill and discussed our opposition.
- c. RISE led a coalition opposing the bill. RISE will actively seek a veto from the Governor for a fourth year if the bill passes the legislature.

2. New York S.1833/A.5150 (2025)

- a. HABs Monitoring and Prevention Act would create preference for “non-chemical” solutions in combating harmful algae blooms (HABs) in grant programs and treatments in municipalities.
- b. The bill has passed the Senate and is in the Assembly currently. RISE submitted a letter of opposition to the bill and is continuing to monitor its activities.

Federal Legislative and Regulatory Issues:

1. Waters of the United States

- a. On March 12, 2025, the EPA and the Army Corp of Engineers announced a [Federal Register notice](#) publicizing a series of six listening sessions and a 30-day recommendations docket to solicit feedback on key aspects of the definition of “waters of the United States.”
- b. The agencies are committed to obtaining targeted input from a full spectrum of co-regulators and stakeholders on key topic areas related to the definition of “waters of the United States” in light of *Sackett v. Environmental Protection Agency*, regarding “continuous surface connection,” “relatively permanent,” and jurisdictional versus non-jurisdictional ditches. The agencies also seek input on implementation challenges related to those key topic areas.
- c. RISE submitted comments in April to the Environmental Protection Agency and the Army Corps of Engineers as the Agencies again review the definition of waters of the United States (WOTUS). The comments focused on the importance of regulatory clarity that supports public health protection, without adding unnecessary complexity or permitting burdens.
- d. RISE along with members of the RISE Aquatics Committee attended a May 1 industry listening session hosted by EPA to share our position on the new definition.

2. Clean Water Act Permitting Reform

- a. The U.S. House of Representatives Transportation and Infrastructure Committee approved the PERMIT Act (H.R. 3898) on [June 25 with a vote of 34 - 30](#). The committee folded numerous standalone Clean Water Act (CWA) permitting reform bills into H.R. 3898, including H.R. 3824 Reducing Regulatory Burdens Act, via the [Amendment in the](#)

APMS Board of Directors Meeting: RISE Update

Prepared by Kylie Gregory, RISE Staff

Presented by Matt Johnson, RISE Aquatics Committee Chair

July 2025



[Nature of a Substitute \(ANS\)](#) to allow for one comprehensive permitting reform package.

- b. [H.R. 3824 Reducing Regulatory Burdens Act](#) was introduced by Rep. David Rouzer (R-NC-X). The bill prohibits the EPA or states from requiring permits under the NPDES program for discharges of pesticides into navigable waters if the pesticides are registered, used for their intended purposes, and used in compliance with their pesticide label requirements, as already required.
- c. RISE was included in the [Committee's press release](#) to show support of the package and sent examples to Committee staff to use in their justification to the House Rules Committee for consideration for a vote on the House floor.
- d. RISE will continue to engage with Members of Congress on this bill.

3. Federal Funding for Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP)

- a. PRIA 5 raised the minimum funding level to \$166 million. FY 2025 keeps funding at FY 2024 levels for the Office of Pesticide Programs but does not reach the \$166 million mark.
- b. The formal process for FY 2026 is underway, RISE submitted over 150+ requests to offices of Members of the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate Appropriations Committees, who are responsible for allocating funds for the Office of Pesticide Programs.
- c. Markups for the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies bill have yet to be scheduled in both chambers of Congress.
- d. RISE is continuing to advocate for fully funding of OPP and engage with Committee staff along with Members of Congress.

4. President's Budget Request

- a. The President released the [fiscal year 2026 \(FY26\) EPA Budget in Brief](#) on May 31, outlining requested funding levels. In the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) priorities, outlined in the Budget in Brief, pesticide registration activities are specifically mentioned in two of the five pillars:
 - i. Pillar One: Ensure Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American, saying, "In line with returning to core activities, EPA will emphasize the review and registration of new pesticides and new uses for existing pesticides, and other covered applications under the Pesticide Registration Improvement Act (PRIA) and its reauthorizations."
 - ii. Pillar Three: Advance Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism & Cross-Agency Partnership, noting "EPA will also implement improvements to the processes used to review and register new pesticides and new uses for existing pesticides, and other covered applications under PRIA, the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, and the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDC)."
- b. EPA's overall budget is set at \$4.16 billion—a 54 percent decrease from the FY25 enacted budget. The Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) is allocated \$117.812 million, distributed across three funding lines:
 - i. \$112.07 million from Environmental Programs & Management,
 - ii. \$5.742 million from Science & Technology, and
 - iii. \$0 from State and Tribal Assistance Grants.

APMS Board of Directors Meeting: RISE Update

Prepared by Kylie Gregory, RISE Staff

Presented by Matt Johnson, RISE Aquatics Committee Chair

July 2025



- c. Unfortunately, this represents a decrease of approximately \$20 million from FY2025 and falls nearly \$50 million short of the \$166 million PRIA 5 trigger level.
- d. The budget must now move through the Congressional appropriations process.

5. Make America Healthy Again Movement

- a. Created by a February 13, 2025, Executive Order with a purpose to address chronic disease and childhood chronic disease. The Executive Order does not specifically mention “pesticide”.
- b. Chaired by Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS), with an Executive Director in the White House. Includes Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior, EPA Administrator, Director of Office of Management and Budget, and other federal agency leads.
- c. The Make America Healthy Again (MAHA) Commission released its initial assessment on May 20, [The MAHA Report: Making Our Children Healthy Again](#). The 69-page report mentions “pesticides,” with a section about pesticides (Section 2, “The Cumulative Load of Chemicals in our Environment”). Of note in the report:
 - i. Non-agricultural uses are mentioned - For the specialty industry, lawn care and indoor exposures, including “dust” and “household sprays” are mentioned in the assessment
 - ii. Specific active ingredients are mentioned - Glyphosate and atrazine are mentioned, stating “common exposures include *lawn care*, farming, and pesticide residues.” Chlorpyrifos is also mentioned in one chart, with no other mention within the document.
 - iii. EPA review process is recognized - The assessment notes that EPA has a robust risk-based approach that considers hazard and exposure for assessing the risks of chemicals, including pesticides, to human health and the environment.
 - iv. The studies cited are dated or flawed - Generally, the studies referenced in the assessment contain serious methodological flaws, with some discredited by state and federal courts. In particular, the assessment cites a 2009 Housing and Urban Development analysis, *American Healthy Homes Survey*. RISE responded to that study at that time, and we are revisiting the study and our previous responses to it.
 - v. A focus on industry lobbying and industry-funded science - The assessment raises “concerns over potential biases in industry-funded research.”
- d. RISE is working closely with CropLife America on the issue. Along with launching a new campaign, *Promoting Healthy People and Places* (PHPP).

Respectfully Submitted: Matthew Johnson, Chair- RISE Aquatics Committee; Kylie Gregory, RISE, Manager, Government Affairs

2025 APMS Annual Meeting, Providence, RI
Science Policy Report
Lee Van Wychen

New Science Policy Fellows (SPFs)

- Aleah Butler-Jones: Cornell. 4th year Ph.D. student. Advisor: Lynn Sosnoskie
- Cole Woodard: Texas Tech. 2nd year Ph.D. student; Advisor: Peter Dotray

Army Corp of Engineer Funding for the Aquatic Plant Control Program

FY 2024: Aquatic Plant Control Program Funding (FINAL).—The agreement includes additional funding of \$9,000,000 for watercraft inspection stations and related monitoring, consistent with Senate direction; \$1,000,000 for activities related to monitoring, surveying and control of hydrilla verticillate and flowering rush; **\$5,000,000 for nationwide research (ACOE ERDC); and \$5,000,000 to address infestations of hydrilla in Lake Champlain and the Connecticut River basins.** The agreement notes that there is no additional capability for activities authorized pursuant to section 509 of WRDA 2020 (Asian Carp Prevention & Control Pilot Program); the agreement expects swift progress on these efforts using existing funds.

FY 2025 House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Report Language

FY 2025 Aquatic Plant Control Program (House).--Of the additional funding recommended for the Aquatic Plant Control Program, \$10,000,000 shall be for watercraft inspection stations, as authorized in section 104 of the River and Harbor Act of 1958; \$3,000,000 shall be for related monitoring, as authorized by section 1170 of the America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018; and \$2,000,000 shall be for activities related to monitoring, surveying, and control of hydrilla verticillata and flowering rush. The Corps is encouraged to consider work to address and prevent the threat of hydrilla infestation within the states of Florida and Georgia. The recommendation also includes **\$5,500,000 for nationwide research**, and the Corps is encouraged to consider work to address invasive aquatic plants in the Northern Everglades region. The recommendation also provides \$10,500,000 to continue activities authorized under section 509 of WRDA 2020. (Asian Carp Prevention & Control Pilot Program)

FY 2025 Senate Appropriations subcommittee on Energy and Water Report Language

FY 2025 Aquatic Plant Control Program (Senate).—Of the funding recommended for the Aquatic Plant Control Program, **\$10,300,000 shall be for nationwide research** and development to address invasive aquatic plants, within which the Corps is encouraged to support cost-shared aquatic plant management programs. Additionally, the Committee understands the Corps has sufficient funding for fiscal year 2025 activities for watercraft inspection stations and rapid response as authorized in section 104 of the River and Harbor Act of 1958, subsections (d)(1)(A)(i), (d)(1)(A)(ii), (d)(1)(A)(iii), (d)(1)(A)(iv), and (d)(1)(A)(v); and related monitoring.

Further, \$7,500,000 shall be to address infestations of hydrilla in Lake Champlain and the Connecticut River, Lake Erie, and Ohio River Basins. The Corps is encouraged to prioritize Mosquito Creek Lake and to consider the benefits of establishing a rapid response task force to cover the Connecticut River watershed. Finally, the Committee recommends \$1,000,000 for the Corps to establish a pilot program to remove invasive plant species in riparian areas that contribute to drought conditions in the Lower Colorado River Basin, the Rio Grande River Basin, the Texas Gulf Coast Basin, and the Arkansas-White-Red Basin, per section 8305 of WRDA 2022.

*Aquatic Plant Control Program-Mississippi River Basin.—The Committee recognizes that the Corps is engaged in a multipronged effort to combat invasive species in our country’s waterways and protect the Mississippi River Basin, which is one of the most valued ecosystems in the world. The Committee recommends \$10,500,000 for the Corps, in partnership with other Federal partners, to continue planning, designing, engineering and project management activities, and to **begin construction of carp barriers** in the Mississippi River Basin and the Tennessee-Tombigbee waterways. The Corps is directed to brief the Committee on a plan for prioritization of location of barrier construction prior to obligation of funds.*

Aquatic Plant Control Program Funding for FY 2020 – 2024. For FY 2025, the funding from the House and Senate are given, but the ACOE has completely eliminated Aquatic Plant Control funding in their FY 2025 Work Plan due to the Continuing Resolution for the entire FY 2025.

Army Corps of Engineers - Civil Works	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2025	2025
						House*	Senate*	ACOE
	-----\$ Millions -----							
Aquatic Plant Control Program- TOTAL	24.0	25.0	30.0	33.5	20.5	18.5	18.8	0.0
Aquatic Plant Control research	5.0	6.0	7.0	7.0	5.0	5.5	10.3	0.0
Flowering Rush and Hydrilla survey & control	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.0	0.0	0.0
WRDA 2022 Section 8305							1.0	
CT River & Lake Champlain Hydrilla infestions	n/a	n/a	n/a	6.0	5.0	0.0	7.5	0.0
Watercraft Inspection stations (& monitoring)	18.0	18.0	20.0	19.0	9.0	13.0	0.0	0.0

*In 2025, both the House and Senate included \$10.5 million for construction of carp barriers from APC funds

We will see what the House and Senate do for FY 2026. The House is expected to mark up their FY 2026 Energy and Water bill on Thursday, July 17. However, there is a chance we could end up in another full year Continuing Resolution for FY 2026. This would be bad. We have to focus our attention on the Army Corps of Engineers leadership, especially the **Assistant Secretary of the Army -Civil Works (ASA-CW), Lee Forsgren** and the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Management and Budget, **Ms. Stacey Brown**.

Butch Graham Confirmed as Commanding General of US Army Corp of Engineers



On July 31, 2024, the Senate confirmed Army Maj. Gen. William H. "Butch" Graham Jr. as the next chief of engineers and commanding general of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (US-ACOE). President Biden nominated Graham to the post, along with an appointment to the grade of lieutenant general. Graham succeeded Lt. Gen. Scott A. Spellmon, whose four-year term as chief ended on September 13.

Industry leaders say he is a supporter of the inland waterways and understands the importance of partnering with the dredging, marine construction and all private sector industries. Prior to this, he served as the deputy chief of engineers and deputy commanding general for Civil Works and Emergency Operations.

Graham received his commission from the Reserve Officer Training Corps in 1989 from the University of Pittsburgh. Graham served as deputy commander of the Pittsburgh Engineer District, and assistant division engineer of the First Infantry Division (Mechanized) at Fort Riley, Kan.

Graham is a graduate of the Senior Service College Fellowship at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the Joint and Combined Warfighting School and United States Army Command and General Staff College. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Pittsburgh and a Master of Science degree in environmental engineering from the University of Kansas.

D. Lee Forsgren Appointed Assistant Secretary of the Army -Civil Works (ASA-CW)



Mr. Lee Forsgren was appointed Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) on 31 March 2025 and is currently the Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works). As Principal Deputy to the Assistant Secretary he provides policy and performance oversight for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (US-ACOE) Civil Works program. The Civil Works program consists predominantly of water resources development including navigation, flood control, hydroelectric power generation, municipal and industrial water supply, outdoor recreation activities, fish and **wildlife habitat restoration, and ecosystems management**. Mr.

Forsgren also provides direction on the development and articulation of the Department of the Army's policies and practices in support of the Clean Water Act, the Rivers and Harbors Act and related Corps regulatory programs. He has a Juris Doctorate from George Mason University School of Law in May 1990 and a B.S. from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in June 1983.

Career Chronology:

- Senior Counsel - HBW Resources LLC – January 2021-March 2025 (Note- HBW Resources is a government affairs, advocacy, public relations, and communications firm exclusively

focused on traditional and renewable energy, environment, conservation, technology, and transportation issues.)

- Deputy Assistant Administrator for Water – United States Environmental Protection Agency – June 2017 – January 2021
- Counsel – HBW Resources LLC – February 2011 – June 2017
- Partner – Nossaman LLP/O’Connor & Hannan – January 2006- January 2011
- Assistant Administrator for Legislative Affairs - National Aeronautics and Space Administration – November 2003 – April 2005
- Partner – Adams & Reese LLC – April 2005-December 2005, April 1999-November 2003
- Counsel on Water (Majority) – Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure – U.S. House of Representatives – January 1995-April 1999
- Counsel on Lands & Forestry (Minority) – Committee on Natural Resources – U.S. House of Representatives – November 1989 – December 1994
- Legislative Assistant – Congressman Don Young (R-AK) – March 1987-October 1989
- Policy Analyst – Designers and Planners – September 1986-February 1987
- Coordinator of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs – American Institute of Merchant Shipping – January 1985-August 1986
- Staff Assistant – Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT) – January 1984- December 1984

Contact info: Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), 108 Army Pentagon, Washington, DC 20310-0108. (703) 697-4672

Ms. Stacey Brown: Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Management and Budget



Ms. Stacey E. Brown serves as the principal advisor on management and budget issues to the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) and is responsible for all matters related to the development and implementation of the Civil Works budget and the reimbursable international and inter-agency support activities of the US-ACOE. Ms. Brown served previously as the Civil Works Chief of Programs Integration for the US-ACOE at Corps Headquarters in Washington, D.C. In that capacity, Ms. Brown was responsible for the development, defense and execution of the U.S. ACOE Civil Works Program across all accounts (Investigations, Construction, Operations and Maintenance) and business lines (Navigation, Flood Risk Management, Ecosystem Restoration and Hydropower) working closely with senior Administration officials, Congressional leaders and project partners.

Ms. Brown’s first assignment was as the Chief of the Planning and Policy Division for the US-ACOE where she provided leadership and oversight for activities and programs within the Corps’ Mississippi Valley Division and Southwestern Division Regional Integration Teams. As Chief of Planning and Policy Division, Ms. Brown was responsible for ensuring that plans and investigations undertaken within the US-ACOE were soundly conceived, formulated to the proper scale and scope and responsive to the various legislative and executive authorities governing restoration, conservation and development of the nation’s water and related land resources.

Ms. Brown has a Bachelor of Science, Civil Engineering, a Bachelor of Arts, English, and a Minor in Engineering Management, all from Tufts University in Medford, MA in 1989.

Career Chronology:

- April 2018 – June 2019: Deputy Chief, Programs Integration Division, HQ, US-ACOE
- October 2007 – March 2018: Deputy Chief, South Atlantic Regional Integration Team, HQ
- August 2005 – September 2007: Governmental Liaison, HQ, US-ACOE
- February 1997 – July 2005: Team Leader, Planning Division, Civil Project Development Branch, Baltimore District, US-ACOE
- May 1997 – May 1998: Special Assistant to the Assistant Sec. of the Army (Civil Works)
- February 1994 – February 1997: Civil Engineer, Planning Division, Civil Project Development Branch, Baltimore District, US-ACOE
- July 1992 – February 1994: Civil Engineer, Planning Division, Norfolk District, US-ACOE
- July 1989 – July 1992: Civil Engineer, Planning/Engineering Division, San Francisco, US-ACOE

Both House and Senate Ag Appropriations Reject President’s “Skinny” Budget for FY2026

The House Appropriations Committee passed their agriculture spending bill on June 30 by a vote of 35 to 27 and the Senate passed their ag spending bill on July 10 by a 27 to 0 vote. Thankfully, both spending bills rejected most of the Administration's proposed deep cuts to agricultural research.

The biggest area of concern in the **President’s Budget Request (PBR)** for FY 2026 was for USDA NIFA. The FY2025 estimated funding for NIFA is \$1.686 billion, while the PBR was \$1.044 billion, a 38% cut. The House Ag Appropriators marked up their bill at \$1.654 billion, which is a 1.9% cut, but the Senate marked up their bill at \$1.69 billion, a 0.3% increase.

Within the NIFA “Research and Education” account, the FY26 PBR had eliminated \$265 million in funding for the **Hatch Act**, which funds our agricultural experiment stations. However, thankfully, both the House and Senate Ag Appropriators restored the \$265 million in full.

The **Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)** was proposed to be cut by \$50 million in the PBR for FY 2026, but the House Ag Appropriators kept the funding at FY 2025 levels at \$445 million, while the Senate bumped it up by \$200 K. The same can be said for the **IR-4 Program** being held level at \$15 million for FY 2026. The sentiment on the Hill this year is that flat funding is considered a victory.

Within the NIFA “Extension” account, the FY 2026 PBR would have cut **Smith Lever b & c** extension funding from \$325 million to \$175 million, a 46% cut. However, both the House and Senate Ag Appropriators rejected that cut and kept funding at FY 2025 levels at \$325 million.

Within the NIFA “Integrated” account, the FY 2026 PBR eliminated every program in the account. The NIFA Integrated account supports projects that bring together research, education and extension activities to address critical issues in agriculture. However, once again, the House Ag Appropriators restored funding at FY 2025 levels. This includes the **Crop Protection and Pest Management (CPPM)** program at \$21 million and the Organic Transitions Program at \$7.5 million. The **Methyl Bromide Transitions** program was reduced from \$2 million to \$1 million in the House, but kept level in the Senate.

Finally, the House Ag Appropriators provided \$1.79 billion for the **Agricultural Research Service (ARS)**, which is \$2.5 million above the FY25 enacted program level, and includes increases for high-priority initiatives, addresses emerging pests and diseases, but eliminates funding for climate hubs. The FY26 PBR proposed a cut of \$88 million for USDA-ARS. The Senate Ag Appropriators provided an even greater increase to \$1.83 billion.

A Post-MAHA Report Letter to USDA, EPA and HHS Regarding Science and Transparency

On June 16, the six National and Regional Weed Societies joined over 250 other agricultural organizations in a letter to the heads of USDA, EPA and HHS after the release of the draft Make America Healthy Again (MAHA) report. Our concerns were that many of the studies referenced to support erroneous claims significantly misrepresented their findings or in some cases are entirely nonexistent. In other instances, the report relies on a few select pieces of poor evidence and opinion articles to justify false claims, ignoring vast volumes of scientific evidence to the contrary. Since its inception, the MAHA Commission has operated without meaningful input from food and agricultural stakeholders. [The letter can be read here.](#)

Congress Must Reaffirm EPA Authority Over Pesticide Labeling Laws

The six National and Regional Weed Science Societies, along with 350 plus other agricultural and pesticide stakeholders [sent a letter to House and Senate leaders](#) expressing our growing concerns that some states have begun to regulate pesticides in a manner contradicting decades of scientific guidance from EPA.

The Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) establishes EPA as the authority for making decisions on how pesticides should be labeled and used. While states are permitted to regulate the sale and use of pesticides under FIFRA (sections 24(a) and 24(c)), they are preempted from creating additional labeling requirements or requiring different labels and packaging (FIFRA 24(b)).

A lot of this goes back to California and the decision in 2017 to require warning labels for glyphosate. California listed glyphosate as a known carcinogen despite the EPA (and the rest of major regulatory bodies in the world) conclusions that it was not. To that end, we strongly urge Congress to enact the [Agricultural Labeling Uniformity Act](#) (note- this was introduced in the last session of Congress as HR 4288. It has not been re-introduced yet in this Congress).

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) Reauthorization

Bipartisan bills S. 528 and H.R. 284 were introduced this spring to extend federal funding and protections for the Great Lakes. The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act of 2025 would reauthorize the GLRI through 2031 and increase the program's annual funding levels from \$475 million to \$500 million from 2027 through 2031. The GLRI focus areas include:

- Improving water quality for drinking, fishing, and aquatic habitats.
- Protecting shorelines and restoring wetlands.
- Restoring native habitats and species.
- Preventing and controlling invasive species.
- Cleaning up toxic sediments.
- Reducing agricultural and other nutrient pollution

WSSA and NAICC Will Host Tour for EPA/FWS/NMFS on ESA Issues in VA/NC

The WSSA and the National Alliance of Independent Crop Consultants (NAICC) will once again host a tour for EPA and FWS staff on Endangered Species Act issues. This year's tour will also include some aquatic endangered species issues which is why we invited the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The tour is co-sponsored by WSSA and NAICC and will be held Sep. 23 - 24 in VA and NC.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

Cedar Point Farms – Wakefield, VA

At this stop, we will be interacting with growers using cover crop programs to manage nutrient and soil erosion thereby reducing runoff. We will hear from grower Clay Lowe of Cedar Point Farms, representatives from Virginia Tech's (VT) Tidewater Agricultural Research & Extension Center, the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation and others to discuss cover crop and nutrient recycling research and conservation programs driven by the needs of the Chesapeake Bay.

Tidewater Agronomics Research Farm – Belvidere, NC

Here we will discuss the practical application of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) principles and the role of the independent crop consultants in utilizing them on a field basis. We will also continue our discussion on field edge infesting insects through a presentation by the North Carolian Extension Service, and how use of IPM can in cases significantly reduce pesticide applications. We will also learn basic insect identification, engage in hands-on insect scouting techniques in soybeans, and discuss how the consultant assesses pest pressure while considering presence of beneficial insects.

Peanut Harvest- Jackson, NC

Here we will view peanut harvesting and discuss the limitations of conservation tillage under certain cropping conditions with a discussion of how best to address mitigation points under these conditions.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

Fisher Family Farms – Whitakers, NC

Here we will engage in a discussion on the area's endangered species, as well as learn about tobacco and sweet potato production from the North Carolina Extension Service.

Mush Island Farms – Weldon, NC

At this location we will continue discussion on **endangered species, particularly North Carolina river marine life, adjacent pesticide use limitation areas, and the promise of targeted spray technologies** through discussion from North Carolina extension specialists.

Herbicide & Insecticide Strategies for Endangered Species on Non-Agricultural Sites

EPA's herbicide and insecticide strategies for endangered species are currently only applicable to agriculture sites. However, implementation of those strategies on non-agricultural sites (aquatic, forest, rangeland, rights-of-way) will occur in time. Bill Chism, WSSA's Regulatory Consultant and Endangered Species Act (ESA) Committee chair reached out to EPA, the Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to get an idea of what information could help them understand these sites and help them with their assessments.

1. Use Information

- a. General application information
- b. Application methods
 - i. Usual application methods (e.g., hand-held sprayer only, canopy only, etc.). Example of a typical application scenario would be helpful
- c. Size of typical treatment area
- d. Time(s) of year when applications are made
- e. Whether annual usage tends to occur on the same or different sites from year to year
- f. Are pesticides used on the entire aquatic site or only particular areas?

2. Usage data

- a. Amount applied annually
- b. Area (or percent of use site area) treated annually
- c. Geographical information on where usage occurs

3. Management of Sites

- a. Who is responsible for management of the site
- b. Who is responsible for pesticide applications

4. Best Management Practices (BMP) for pest management

- a. How and to what extent are impacts to non-target species being avoided and minimized?
- b. Are methods to protect non-target species discretionary or required?
- c. What alternatives to pesticide applications are available that can be employed? Pros/Cons
- d. Are there existing conservation measures/restrictions that applicators adhere to that are not on product labels or are outlined in other documents? (e.g., habitat conservation plans, other existing biological opinions, etc.).

5. Critical considerations that are not apparent based on label instructions

- a. Is there a critical time of year that applications are most needed? Are there periods when applications are very unlikely to be made?

6. Research Information

- a. Is there any information on estimating pesticide transport (and resulting concentrations) associated with this site or the application methods used on this site?

7. Information Sources

- a. Are there any national or regional organizations that maintain and/or publicly share information about this type of use (e.g., tracking pest pressure, tracking pesticide resistance issues, gathering usage data, promoting BMPs)? APMS?

Website that Lists Noxious Weeds in each US State and Canadian Province Now Available

Mohsen B. Mesgaran and his team at UC-Davis have launched a website that provides lists of noxious weeds for each U.S. state, as well as provinces and states in Canada and Australia:

<https://regulatedplants.unu.edu/>

They are planning to expand the database to include other countries and add ecological information, management guidelines, and photos for each weed species in future releases. For the U.S. list, they have also conducted a quantitative analysis of noxious weed sales on Amazon and eBay, which will be out soon. Based on their analysis, over one-third of these noxious weeds are available for sale on Amazon and eBay!

Lee Zeldin Confirmed as EPA Administrator



On January 29, 2025, [Lee Zeldin was sworn in as the 17th Administrator](#) of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Administrator Zeldin will work closely with the dedicated career officials at the agency to fulfill the agency's mission to protect human health and the environment.

Zeldin is currently in his 22nd year in the United States military, having deployed to Iraq in 2006 with the Army's Elite 82nd Airborne Division and continues to serve as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Army Reserve. He served in the New York State Senate from 2011-2014 and later represented New York's First Congressional District in the United States House of Representatives from 2015-2023.

During his eight years in Congress, Zeldin worked across party lines to preserve the Long Island Sound and Plum Island. He supported key legislation that became historic, bipartisan success stories like the Great American Outdoors Act and Save our Seas Act to clean up plastics from our oceans. He also led the fight for Sea Grant, combated per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in drinking water, voted for the Lautenberg Chemical Safety Act, and supported clean energy projects on Long Island.

At just 23, Lee became the youngest attorney in New York State at the time. Born and raised in Suffolk County, New York, Lee and his wife Diana are proud parents to their twin daughters, Mikayla and Arianna.

Doug Burgum Confirmed as Secretary of the Interior



On January 30, the Senate [confirmed Doug Burgum as the 55th Secretary of the Interior Department](#) with a 79-18 vote.

Raised in Arthur, North Dakota, Burgum worked as a chimney sweep to help pay his way through North Dakota State University before earning an MBA from Stanford University. In 1983, Doug literally “bet the farm” to provide seed capital for a software startup called Great Plains.

Doug led Great Plains through a successful IPO and grew the company to over 2,000 employees before its acquisition by Microsoft. Burgum remained with Microsoft for six years as the Senior Vice President of Business Solutions.

In 2016, Burgum was elected to serve as North Dakota’s 33rd Governor. In 2020, he was re-elected in a landslide. Under his leadership, North Dakota passed the largest tax cut in state history and dramatically reduced red tape. Forbes named him “America’s Best Entrepreneurial Governor.” During his tenure, North Dakota experienced the highest growth in real GDP and had the lowest unemployment rate in the country.

Burgum has three adult children. He is married to Kathryn Burgum, a nationally recognized advocate for addiction recovery.

Brooke Rollins Confirmed as USDA Secretary



On February 13, Brooke Rollins was [confirmed as the 33rd Secretary of Agriculture](#) by 78-22 vote in the Senate. She is the second female to hold that position. Brooke is originally from Glen Rose, Texas. Most recently, Rollins served as the Founder, President, and Chief Executive Officer of the America First Policy Institute (AFPI). During President Trump’s first administration, she was the Director of the Domestic Policy Council and Assistant to the President for Strategic Initiatives in the White House. She also previously served as Director of the Office of American Innovation.

Rollins graduated with honors from Texas A&M University with a degree in agricultural development and was the first female to be elected student body president. After earning her Juris Doctor with honors at the University of Texas School of Law, she served as Governor Rick Perry’s policy director before running the Texas Public Policy Foundation (TPPF) for 15 years. At TPPF, Rollins elevated a small policy organization to a national force and redefined the possibilities for a state-based think tank — setting the model and aspiration for AFPI. Rollins and her husband, Mark, call Fort Worth, Texas home, and spend a large majority of their free time taxiing their four very active children to baseball games, cattle shows, piano lessons, and Aggie football games.

Lee Van Wychen, Ph.D.
Executive Director of Science Policy
Weed Science Society of America
5720 Glenmullen Pl, Alexandria, VA 22303
Cell: 202-746-4686

Meetings of the National and Regional Weed Science Societies

Jul. 14 - 17, 2025 Aquatic Plant Management Society (APMS), Providence, RI www.apms.org
Dec 15 - 18, 2025 North Central Weed Science Society (NCWSS), Grand Rapids, MI www.ncwss.org
Jan. 5 - 8, 2026 Northeastern Weed Science Society (NEWSS), Hershey, PA www.newss.org
Jan. 26 - 29, 2026 Southern Weed Science Society (SWSS), Nashville, TN www.swss.ws
Feb. 9 - 12, 2026 Weed Science Society of America (WSSA), Raleigh, NC www.wssa.net
Mar 2 - 5, 2025 Western Society of Weed Science (WSWS), Tucson, AZ www.wsweedscience.org

July XX, 2025

The Honorable Lee Forsgren
Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)
108 Army Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20310-0108

Dear Mr. Forsgren

The Aquatic Plant Management Society (APMS), and our affiliate societies (Florida APMS, MidSouth APMS, South Carolina APMS, Midwest APMS, Northeast APMS, Texas APMS, and Western APMS) are dedicated to fostering an awareness of aquatic weeds and their impact on our environment. Collectively, we promote research, education and extension outreach activities related to aquatic invasive weeds and provide science-based information to the public and policy makers. The APMS and our affiliate societies are non-profit organizations with members from around the world including academic, governmental and private industry research scientists, students and extension educators, commercial pesticide applicators, consultants, administrators, and concerned individuals interested in the science of aquatic weed management. Overall, we represent a diverse group of public and private stakeholders with an interest in effective aquatic weed management in both managed and natural ecosystems.

The purpose of this letter is to express our concern with the recent decision by your office to eliminate the Aquatic Plant Control Program from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Civil Works 2025 Work Plan. As the **nation's only** federally authorized program for research and development of effective, science-based strategies to manage invasive aquatic weed species, we feel compelled to bring to your attention, the significance of this decision. For over 60 years, the Corps of Engineers has served as the lead agency for developing and sharing new and improved technologies to protect our nation's aquatic resources from invasive weeds. The Aquatic Plant Control Program is the only program of its kind and is not duplicated by any other federal or state agency. It is a vital and comprehensive program that investigates biological, chemical, ecological and integrated approaches to invasive weed management in aquatic ecosystems. The Aquatic Plant Control program is the nation's original "Integrated Pest Management" program and the first of its kind dedicated to research on invasive species management.

We commend the Corps of Engineers for their dedication and efforts over the years to provide for and share their knowledge gained through the research conducted in the Aquatic Plant Control program. However, the elimination of this program will have an enormous impact to the nation's water resources. Overall impact will be the loss of needed technologies for consistent problem management, commensurate with national water resources missions within the Corps of Engineers and all other federal, state and local agencies that manage aquatic systems. Furthermore,

- It is estimated that hydrilla and Eurasian watermilfoil populations will expand to an additional 5-7 million acres nationwide. Based on past experience and current knowledge of growth rates of invasive aquatic species, such increases could take place within 3-4 years.
- Over \$100 million is spent annually in the U.S. to control aquatic weeds; however, the estimated benefits of utilizing effective management control operations are reportedly much higher (10x

higher) than these costs.

- Hydrilla, a Federally Listed Noxious Weed, serves as the preferred aquatic weed for a neurotoxin-producing cyanobacterium that is directly linked to Avian Vacuolar Myelinopathy, a disease which has caused the **deaths of thousands of eagles**, waterfowl and other birds of prey throughout the Southeastern U.S.
- A new and aggressive strain of hydrilla has been discovered in the Connecticut River and other water bodies in Connecticut. This strain, first identified in 2016, is genetically distinct from other hydrilla strains found in the US. It has been spreading rapidly, forming dense mats that can impede boat traffic and displace native aquatic vegetation. It has the potential to spread to the Great Lakes.
- The Aquatic Plant Control program supports collaboration with the EPA to evaluate new, reduced-risk herbicides to replace older chemistries for selectively controlling the most problematic invasive plants. **New herbicides and use patterns identified in recent years have reduced chemical application rates by nearly 40%.**
- Hybridization between the invasive and native aquatic plant species has been documented in recent years, yielding hybrid populations that are more vigorous and difficult to control using traditional management practices. Continued use of traditional management practices is inefficient and will result in wasteful expenditure of operational dollars.
- Herbicide resistant populations of hydrilla and Eurasian watermilfoil have also been confirmed in aquatic environments and demand new approaches to herbicide use. Costs to manage resistant hydrilla in the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, headwaters of the Central and South Florida Flood Control Project, exceed \$10 million annually and will continue to increase as resistant populations spread to new waterbodies.
- Development of effective Early Detection and Rapid Response tools are critical to prevent spread of new invasions and for reducing long-term economic impact. A cohesive program was not designed at the time hydrilla was introduced into the U.S. and **now more than \$25 million is spent annually to control this single weed species.**
- Invasive aquatic weeds increase the risk of flood damage, reduce the habitat value of waters for fish and wildlife, decrease property values for riparian landowners, disrupt the generation of hydropower, obstruct commercial and recreational navigation, and further exacerbate existing recovery for endangered species and may bring other species to the brink of endangerment.

The Aquatic Plant Control program emphasizes integrated, cost-effective and science-based approaches to invasive aquatic plant management. The termination of the Aquatic Plant Control program will compromise decades of research, precluding culmination of new control technology development. Without dedicated funding, the Corps of Engineers as well as other federal and state aquatic plant control operations will lack long-term technological solutions that provide consistent and environmentally sustainable results. Without the Aquatic Plant Control program, the Corps of Engineers and other federal and state water resource agencies will not be able to meet today and tomorrow's challenges in aquatic and wetland invasive plant management and aquatic ecosystem restoration. Due to

limited resources and the need to serve immediate local public water needs, state and local government programs lack the long-range goals necessary to protect and enhance national environmental and water resources missions now being provided by the Aquatic Plant Control Program.

We believe that continued support for the Aquatic Plant Control program, particularly for **research and management** of invasive aquatic weeds like hydrilla is of utmost importance. We are aware that the Corps of Engineers has many competing fiscal needs; however, we also recognize that as the largest federal provider of water-based recreation, hydropower, navigation, and flood control in the nation, **the Corps has an unprecedented responsibility to preserve and protect our nation's water resources.**

Funding for Aquatic Plant Control research between 2020 – 2024 has ranged between **\$5 - \$7 million**. That research has returned its value hundreds of times over in the control of invasive aquatic weeds and the restoration of our aquatic ecosystems. The benefits and value of research and the knowledge gained from such endeavors far outweigh the cost of maintaining this small but **nationally significant research program**. For these reasons, we request that funding be restored to FY 2024 levels for the Aquatic Plant Control Program.

Sincerely,
Presidents of APMS

cc:

Lt. Gen. Butch Graham, Commanding General of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Ms. Stacey Brown: Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Management and Budget

Rep. Chuck Fleischmann (R-TN); Chair, House Appropriations Committee Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Subcommittee

Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-OH); Ranking Member, House Appropriations Committee Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Subcommittee

Sen. John Neely Kennedy (R-LA); Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee Energy and Water Development Subcommittee

Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA); Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations Committee Energy and Water Development Subcommittee

Attachment: River and Harbor Act of 1958

River and Harbor Act of 1958-(Section 104)

[Public Law 85–500]

[As Amended Through P.L. 118–272, Enacted January 4, 2025]

【Currency: This publication is a compilation of the text of Public Law 85–500. It was last amended by the public law listed in the As Amended Through note above and below at the bottom of each page of the pdf version and reflects current law through the date of the enactment of the public law listed at <https://www.govinfo.gov/app/collection/comps/>】

【Note: While this publication does not represent an official version of any Federal statute, substantial efforts have been made to ensure the accuracy of its contents. The official version of Federal law is found in the United States Statutes at Large and in the United States Code. The legal effect to be given to the Statutes at Large and the United States Code is established by statute (1 U.S.C. 112, 204).】

AN ACT Authorizing the construction, repair, and preservation of certain public works on rivers and harbors for navigation, flood control, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

TITLE I—RIVERS AND HARBORS

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SEC. 104. 【33 U.S.C. 610】 (a)

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is hereby authorized a comprehensive program to provide for **prevention, control, and progressive¹ eradication of noxious aquatic plant growths and aquatic invasive species** from the navigable waters, tributary streams, connecting channels, and other allied waters of the United States, in the combined interest of navigation, flood control, drainage, agriculture, fish and wildlife conservation, public health, and related purposes, **including continued research for development of the most effective and economic control measures**, to be administered by the Chief of Engineers, under the direction of the Secretary of the Army, in cooperation with other Federal and State agencies.

(2) LOCAL INTERESTS.—Local interests shall agree to hold and save the United States free from claims that may occur from control operations and to participate to the extent of 30 per centum of the cost of such operations.

(3) FEDERAL COSTS.—Costs for research and planning undertaken pursuant to the authorities of this section shall be borne fully by the Federal Government.

¹ The amendment to strike “control and progressive,” and insert “prevention, control, and progressive” made by section 1039(d)(1)(D)(i) of Public Law 113–121 was executed by striking “control and progressive” and inserting the new language to effectuate the probable intent of Congress.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section (except for subsections (f) and (g)) \$130,000,000 for each fiscal year, of which—

(A) \$30,000,000 shall be made available to carry out subsection (d)(1)(A)(i);

(B) \$30,000,000 shall be made available to carry out subsection (d)(1)(A)(ii);

(C) \$30,000,000 shall be made available to carry out subsection (d)(1)(A)(iii);

(D) \$30,000,000 shall be made available to carry out subsection (d)(1)(A)(iv); and

(E) \$10,000,000 shall be made available to carry out subsection (d)(1)(A)(v).

(2) OTHER PROGRAMS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated—

(i) \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029 to carry out subsection (f); and

(ii) \$75,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2029 to carry out subsection (g)(2).

(B) INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES PILOT PROGRAM.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, \$10,000,000 to carry out subsection (g)(3).

(3) CONTROL OPERATIONS.—Any funds made available under paragraph (1) or (2)(A) to be used for control operations shall be allocated by the Chief of Engineers on a priority basis, based on the urgency and need of each area and the availability of local funds.

(c) SUPPORT.—In carrying out the program under this section, the Secretary is encouraged to use contracts, cooperative agreements, and grants with colleges and universities and other non-Federal entities.

(d) WATERCRAFT INSPECTION AND DECONTAMINATION STATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—

(A) WATERCRAFT INSPECTION AND DECONTAMINATION STATIONS.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall establish (as applicable), operate, and maintain new or existing watercraft inspection and decontamination stations—

(i) to protect the Columbia River Basin;

(ii) to protect the Upper Missouri River Basin;

(iii) to protect the Upper Colorado River Basin and the South Platte and Arkansas River Basins;

(iv) to protect the Russian River Basin, California; and

(v) to protect basins and watersheds that adjoin an international border between the United States and Canada.

(B) LOCATIONS.—The Secretary shall place watercraft inspection and decontamination stations under subpara-

graph (A) at locations with the highest likelihood of preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species into and out of waters of the United States, as determined by the Secretary in consultation with the Governors and entities described in paragraph (3).

(C) **RAPID RESPONSE.**—The Secretary shall assist States within the areas described in subparagraph (A) with rapid response to any aquatic invasive species, including quagga or zebra mussel, infestation.

(2) **COST SHARE.**—The non-Federal share of the cost of constructing, operating, and maintaining watercraft inspection and decontamination stations described in paragraph (1) (including personnel costs) shall be—

(A) 35 percent; and

(B) provided by the State or local governmental entity in which such inspection station is located.

(3) **COORDINATION.**—In carrying out this subsection, the Secretary shall consult and coordinate with—

(A) the Governors of the States within the areas described in each of clauses (i) through (v) of paragraph (1)(A), as applicable;

(B) Indian tribes; and

(C) other Federal agencies, including—

(i) the Department of Agriculture;

(ii) the Department of Energy;

(iii) the Department of Homeland Security;

(iv) the Department of Commerce; and

(v) the Department of the Interior.

(e) **MONITORING AND CONTINGENCY PLANNING.**—In carrying out this section, the Secretary may—

(1) carry out risk assessments of water resources facilities;

(2) monitor for aquatic invasive species;

(3) assist States in early detection of, and monitoring and contingency planning for, aquatic invasive species, including quagga and zebra mussels; and

(4) monitor water quality, including sediment cores and fish tissue samples.

(f) **INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT PILOT PROGRAM.**—

(1) **DEFINITION OF INVASIVE SPECIES.**—In this subsection, the term “invasive species” has the meaning given the term in section 1 of Executive Order 13112 (64 Fed. Reg. 6183; relating to invasive species (February 3, 1999)) (as amended by section 2 of Executive Order 13751 (81 Fed. Reg. 88609; relating to safeguarding the Nation from the impacts of invasive species (December 5, 2016))).

(2) **DEVELOPMENT OF PLANS.**—The Secretary, in coordination with the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, shall carry out a pilot program under which the Secretary shall collaborate with States in the Upper Missouri River Basin in developing voluntary aquatic invasive species management plans to mitigate the effects of invasive species on public infrastructure facilities located on reservoirs of the Corps of Engineers in those States.

(3) **MANAGEMENT PLAN.**—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Governor of each State in the Upper Missouri River Basin that elects to participate in the pilot program, shall prepare a management plan, or update or expand an existing plan, for each participating State that identifies public infrastructure facilities located on reservoirs of the Corps of Engineers in those States that—

- (i) are affected by aquatic invasive species; and
- (ii) need financial and technical assistance in order to maintain operations.

(B) USE OF EXISTING PLANS.—In developing a management plan under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall consider a management plan submitted by a participating State under section 1204(a) of the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 4724(a)).

(4) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—The authority provided under this subsection shall terminate on September 30, 2028.

(g) INVASIVE SPECIES PREVENTION, CONTROL, AND ERADICATION.—

(1) DEFINITION OF INVASIVE SPECIES.—In this subsection, the term “invasive species” has the meaning given the term in section 1 of Executive Order 13112 (64 Fed. Reg. 6183; relating to invasive species (February 3, 1999)) (as amended by section 2 of Executive Order 13751 (81 Fed. Reg. 88609; relating to safeguarding the Nation from the impacts of invasive species (December 5, 2016))).

(2) INVASIVE SPECIES PARTNERSHIPS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may enter into partnerships with applicable States and other Federal agencies to carry out actions to prevent the introduction of, control, or eradicate, to the maximum extent practicable, invasive species that adversely impact water quantity, water quality, or ecosystems in the Platte River Basin, the Upper Colorado River Basin, the Upper Snake River Basin, the Lake Erie Basin, the Ohio River Basin, the Connecticut River Basin, and the Upper Missouri River Basin.

(B) PRIORITIZATION.—In selecting actions to carry out under a partnership under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall give priority to projects that are intended to control or eradicate the Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*), hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*), or saltcedar (of the genus *Tamarix*).

(3) INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES PILOT PROGRAM.—

(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

(i) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible entity” means a partnership between or among 2 or more entities that—

(I) includes—

- (aa) at least 1 flood control district; and
- (bb) at least 1 city, county, township, town, borough, parish, village, or other general purpose political subdivision of a State or Indian Tribe (as defined in section 4 of the In-

dian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)); and

(II) may include any other entity (such as a nonprofit organization or institution of higher education), as determined by the Secretary.

(ii) INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES.—The term “invasive plant species” means a plant that is nonnative to the ecosystem under consideration, the introduction of which causes or is likely to cause economic harm or harm to human health.

(B) PILOT PROGRAM.—The Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, shall establish a pilot program under which such Secretary shall work with eligible entities to carry out activities—

(i) to remove invasive plant species in riparian areas that contribute to drought conditions in—

- (I) the Lower Colorado River Basin;
- (II) the Rio Grande River Basin;
- (III) the Texas Gulf Coast Basin; and
- (IV) the Arkansas-White-Red Basin;

(ii) where appropriate, to replace the invasive plant species described in clause (i) with ecologically suitable native species; and

(iii) to maintain and monitor riparian areas in which activities are carried out under clauses (i) and (ii).

(C) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report describing the implementation of the pilot program.

(D) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—The authority provided under this paragraph shall terminate on September 30, 2028.

(4) COST SHARE.—The Federal share of an action carried out under a partnership under paragraph (2) or an activity carried out under the pilot program under paragraph (3) shall not exceed 80 percent of the total cost of the action or activity.

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SEC. 113. Title I may be cited as the “River and Harbor Act of 1958”.