

FRAMEWORK FOR THE LAKE OF THE WOODS FISHERIES INPUT GROUP

Section of Fisheries (Section), Division of Fish and Wildlife (FAW), Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

DNR Input Groups are citizen–agency collaborations that support effective management of the state’s fisheries resources.

Purpose	To foster open communication, review technical information, and provide practical counsel to the DNR pertaining to the fishery during the Lake Management Plan revision process.
Authority	Public engagement is integral to fisheries management and the DNR values the participation and opinions of its stakeholders. The Section of Fisheries, Division of Fish and Wildlife, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources may establish or decommission the input group and amend the terms and conditions of the group. The group holds no formal authority with regard to policy or operations in management of the fishery.
Membership	The input group consists of 12-16 citizens and DNR staff participants, as needed. The Section of Fisheries will select participants that reflect both local and statewide interests in the fishery. Citizen participants serve in a volunteer capacity for the life of the management plan they are revising.
Member Responsibilities	Participation. Members attend all meetings or provide advance notice of inability to participate. Failure to attend two consecutive meetings without advanced notice may lead to dismissal from the group. Members agree to common ground rules, including being respectful of other participants and ensuring involvement of all members. Members agree to declare conflicts of interest. Participants will have the option to attend virtually, but in-person attendance is strongly encouraged. External communications. Members are free to express their views as private citizens but should not represent, or imply representation, of the input group or Section in any external communications. Media requests should be directed to the Section.
DNR Responsibilities	DNR staff participants will provide technical information and updates on the fishery. DNR staff will facilitate meetings and record meeting notes. DNR staff will provide updates on action items identified in the previous or current Lake Management Plan and propose revisions to the plan as appropriate. DNR staff will identify and implement broader opportunities for public comment as needed.
Process	Meetings. The input group will consist of up to six meetings during the Lake Management Plan revision process. Annual update meetings for the input group will be provided thereafter, and members are encouraged to attend. Members will be notified and provided an agenda by e-mail at least one week before a meeting. Meetings are open to public observation.

Agenda. Typical meetings will address the following: information/updates on the fishery including special topics, potential management changes and discussion, and next steps.

Communication. Meeting minutes will be distributed via email. DNR staff will also provide periodic email updates related to the group and fisheries management.

Decisions. Meeting agendas do not include decision items.

Contacts

Matt Skoog, Baudette Area Fisheries Supervisor (matthew.skoog@state.mn.us; 218-395-6036)

Marc Bacigalupi, NW Region Fisheries Supervisor (marc.bacigalupi@state.mn.us; 218-308-2633)

Brett Nelson, Large Lake Specialist (Brett.Nelson@state.mn.us; 218-395-6035)