

Creating a Vision for Minnesota

By Craig Sterle

The upcoming Board meeting weekend of Oct. 19-21, is an opportunity for members and chapters to create a long-term conservation vision of where your Ikes must go in the coming decades. For those of us with a passion for the outdoors, for clean water, productive and healthy soils, for well-managed forests, and abundant fish and wildlife, these are indeed challenging times. But giving up, abandoning our principles of providing a better world for future generations simply isn't an option. And so, we must begin with the creation of our Vision Statement for the future. This will be followed by the development of our strategic plan, which will lay out our path to that future.

Most of our leadership is made up of, dare I say it, old(er) white guys. Like America itself, we need to transition to an organization that reflects a younger, more diverse membership and leadership. So, here is my request. I need each chapter to send at least 2-3 members to this meeting. And because this is about the future, not the past, send us the young, the women, and any minority members in your chapter. These are our future leaders, and they will be the voices that carry out this vision and strategic plan. If these diverse members don't exist in your chapter, that's okay, but please send folks that can bring your chapter's voice and vision.

As much as possible, this needs to be a grassroots effort, where members and chapters drive the conversation. Clearly, the Division has made real commitments in program areas such as the Upper Mississippi River Initiative, to help restore swimmable, fishable waters to the farm zone; and our new Energy/Climate Change program that will work on energy conservation, renewable power development, and addressing climate change. One as yet unmet challenge across the state is membership retention, growth, and diversity. For the organization to survive, this need to be part of our planning effort. More? Let's hear it!

It is critically important that every chapter attend, so please send representatives and your thoughts. If you want to participate, and you're not currently in a leadership position, that's okay. Just contact your chapter officers and *volunteer* to be a part of our future. Hope to see you there.

Weekend Draft Agenda

Friday

Social at Breckenridge Chapter (go to the Events tab at Minnesotaikes.org for a map)

7:00- 9:00 PM Friday Evening Social & Issues discussion

Saturday

Creation of Vision Statement for the Division and launch of a 5-year Strategic Plan

9:30 – 10:00 AM Coffee/Continental Breakfast

10:00 AM Planning session begins to develop a draft Vision Statement for the Minnesota Division Izaak Walton League covering the next 15-20 years

(Chapter leaders and members please bring your conservation and organizational ideas)

12:00- 1:00 PM Lunch

1:00 PM Resume with Strategic Planning (Chapter input – their program suggestions/needs, compile suggestions/needs for statewide look – what becomes part of the Division responsibility and what stays as (a) Chapter strategy(s)

2:30 PM Break

2:45 PM Session resumes (as strategic plan begins to come together, offer suggestions about short and long-term budget/staffing needs necessary to implement the strategic plan – for future use in budget development)

4:00 PM (Plan calendar for subsequent meeting/conversations of strategic planning committee, how and when to obtain further chapter input on Draft Vision and Strategic Plan, and for Exec. Committee and Division staff to develop a draft 2019 Division budget ahead of winter BOD meeting, where a final Vision statement, 5-year strategic plan, and a 2019 budget will be finalized/ratified by the Board)

Sunday

9:30 AM Continental Breakfast

10:00 AM Board of Directors' meeting

Fall Board of Directors' Meeting & Strategic Planning Session

All are invited and welcome to attend.

Walter J. Breckenridge Chapter Hosting

October 19-22, 2018

8816 W River Rd., Brooklyn Park, MN 55444

Friday - October 19

7:00 PM - Social and Issues Discussion

Saturday - October 20

Morning

9:30 - Continental Breakfast

10:00 - Strategic Planning Meeting Please bring your draft budgets and vision for any program area that you have are involved with or leading, ie. Scholarship, UMRI, Energy, Awards, etc.

Afternoon

12:00 PM - Lunch

1:00 PM - Strategic Planning Session resumes

4:00 PM - Adjourn

Sunday - October 22

9:30 AM - Continental Breakfast

10:00 AM - Board of Directors' Meeting

12:00 PM - Adjourn

Registration Form - Fall BOD/Strategic Planning Meetings

Name (s) _____

Address _____

City _____

ST _____ Zip _____

Best phone _____

Email _____

Meals included with registration

Suggested donations:

\$50 per person (Friday & Sunday)

_____ X _____ = _____

\$10 per person each (Friday and/or Sunday)

Total enclosed: \$ _____

Please indicate any dietary restrictions: _____

Please send completed registrations and payment by October 17 to:
Attn: Tim Johnson, Walter J. Breckenridge Chapter, 8816 W River Rd., Brooklyn Park, MN 55444.
Be sure to include the registration form and "Fall BOD" in the memo line of your check.
More information is available at minnesotaiakes.org. Click on the **Events** link.
Questions? Call Craig Sterle at (218) 384-4054 or email csterle777@gmail.com. Thank You!

MAP TO THE WALTER J. BRECKENRIDGE CHAPTER

