

# Mainstream

## President's Message by Melissa Wuellner



This is my last *Mainstream* writing as President of the NCD. By the time the September issue comes out, the annual meeting in Kansas City will be nothing but a memory, and Sandy Clark-Kolacks will begin her term as the next NCD president. Congratulations to Mark Pyron who was elected as the First Vice President (serving as president in 2017-2018) and Tony Barada who was elected as our Secretary-Treasurer for the next two years! Special thanks to Vince Travnichek, our outgoing Past President, and Andy Jansen, our outgoing Secretary-Treasurer, for their service to the NCD! We'll miss you both!

As I move into the last few months of my presidency, I'm extremely proud of what the NCD has accomplished thus far this year! But I also realize that there's much still left undone! As

you may have read in my September "President's Message," I set three goals for my time in office. I think where we've really made the most progress is in the second goal: to increase communications with the NCD. Our migration to the new NCD webpage is complete (with some ongoing patches here and there), and the site now includes new features such as the "President's Blog" and the (free) job board. Thanks to Brian Borkholder for his continued work as webmaster and Sandy Clark-Kolacks for her idea on the job board! Our listserv postings seem to be more frequent than I can ever recall. Thanks to all of you who post to our listserv and special recognition to Doug Workman for his continued administration of this tool! The NCD Executive Committee has held monthly calls since September and has hosted three quarterly calls with leaders of all NCD units (i.e., subunits, chapters, technical committees, and standing committees) this year. Overall, our NCD members appear to be satisfied with our communications tools. But let us know what else you'd like to see!

While great progress has been made on the communications goals, progress on my other two goals has been slower than I would have liked. My first goal was to update some of our NCD governing documents such as the strategic plan and our bylaws,

This newsletter is published twice a year. Deadlines for submission are April and September 1st. The views and opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the NCD.

Editors:  
Thomas M. Slawski, PhD  
Chief Biologist  
Natural Resources Planning  
and Management Division  
Southeastern Wisconsin  
Regional Planning  
Commission  
P.O. Box 1607  
Waukesha, WI 53187-1607  
(262) 953-3263  
tslawski@sewrpc.org

Jeremy Tiemann,  
Aquatic Zoologist  
Illinois Natural History Survey  
Prairie Research Institute at the  
University of Illinois at Urbana-  
Champaign  
Mailing Address:  
1816 South Oak Street  
Champaign, IL 61820  
Physical Address:  
607 East Peabody Drive,  
NRB Room 96  
Champaign, IL 61820  
(217) 244-4594  
INHS Fax: (217) 244-0802  
jtiemann@illinois.edu

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## President's Message (continued)

rules, and procedures. My own personal deadline was to have a draft ready to present to division members at the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference (MFWC) back in January. But time got away from me. The upside is that other chapters have also recently revised their strategic plans as well, so this gives the NCD an opportunity to align our plan with those units and the Society. Look for a vote on this plan in May!

Once the plan is ratified, efforts will shift to revising the bylaws, rules, and procedures. Many subunits, chapters, and divisions across the Society have also recently revised or are currently revising these documents as well, and I have learned much about their processes in my role on the AFS Management Committee who approves of these bylaws. I'm hoping to use what I've learned to make quick(er) work of this task.

The third goal – identify and “sell” the unique value of NCD membership – is a tricky one. What can the NCD provide to a fisheries professional that his/her local chapter or the Society can't? I had hoped that we could start by creating some travel award opportunities for professionals to attend the MFWC. But the treasury is a bit stretched with all of the other great things we're doing

(thought hopefully our AFS investment will grow)! The NCD Continuing Education Committee, led by Deb King, is currently looking at the possibility to develop ongoing CE opportunities outside of the annual MFWC (stay tuned!). The new strategic plan will hopefully generate some additional ideas along the theme of “value of membership.” Please feel free to share your ideas as I continue to work on this goal.

In closing, it has been my pleasure to serve as the NCD President and I thank the division for selecting me for this amazing opportunity! I will continue to work toward achieving the goals set out in my plan when I took office as I transition into the Past President role. I'm excited to work with our new NCD ExCom – Sandy, Mark, and Tony – and our other NCD leaders as we transition to our next goals and new visions!

Melissa R. Wuellner

*Assistant Professor and Distance Education Coordinator  
Department of Natural Resource Management  
South Dakota State University*

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Esocid Technical Committee

The ETC held their 2016 Winter Business Meeting in conjunction with the Hugh C. Becker Muskellunge Symposium in Minnetonka, MN on March 13th. Bullet points from the mid-year Governing Board report.

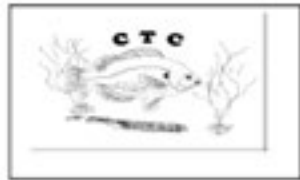
- The Muskellunge Symposium was well attended by about 160 people.
- Acknowledgment to the planning committee members (Steve Pallo, Tim Simonson, Derek Crane, Jeff Reed, Ellen Wells, and others) for doing such a great job on this symposium
- Folks from all across the United States and Canada attended with some as far as Washington state.
- The ETC Winter Business meeting was held on Sunday night March 13th
- 14 people attended (5 nonmembers attended the meeting)
- State reports were given for (OH, MO, NE, MN, SD, MI, ON, WV, and IA)
- The ETC members voted to add a representative of Southern Division AFS to the ETC. Jeff Hansbarger

from WV DNR will serve as the representative for SD AFS. SD AFS states are interested in forming an ad hoc committee at this time with potential to organize a formal ETC for Southern Division.

- The Summer Business Meeting was discussed and is being planned. Location is Gretna, NE at the Ak-Sar-Ben Aquarium. Dates: July 25-28. The program is still under development at this time, but additional details are to come (see first call for papers).
- During the Muskellunge Symposium, 2 Northern Pike Symposium Books were sold. The ETC has three copies of the Proceedings of The International Pike Symposium book available.

Thanks,  
Cory K. Kovacs  
Fisheries Biologist-MDNR  
(906)-293-5131 x4071

NORTH CENTRAL DIVISION OF THE AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY  
*JOINT MEETING*  
Centrarchid, Esocid and Walleye Technical Committees



2016 Joint Meeting of the Centrarchid,  
Esocid, and Walleye Technical Committees  
North Central Division of the American Fisheries Society

***ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR PAPERS***

**Dates:** July 25-28, 2016

**Location:** Ak-Sar-Ben Aquarium, Gretna, Nebraska

**Lodging:** Super 8 14355 NE-31, Gretna, NE (1 402 332-5188)

[www.super8.com/hotels/nebraska/gretna/super-8-gretna/hotel-overview](http://www.super8.com/hotels/nebraska/gretna/super-8-gretna/hotel-overview)

LODGING

A block of rooms have been reserved until June 25, 2016 at a rate of Single (\$61.99/night + tax), and Double (\$71.99/night + tax), Available under the name Fisheries Technical Committee Meeting (holding 30 rooms)

REGISTRATION COST

Cost is anticipated at \$60 for the entire meeting, which includes a fish fry or BBQ social Tuesday; morning and afternoon breaks, lunch and dinner on Wednesday; morning break on Thursday. Students are half price. A continental breakfast is available at the Super 8 in Gretna.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

A continuing education workshop is planned for Tuesday, July 26th. The topic options will include: Habitat Improvement Workshop (Site Visit Included), Developing Methods for Sportfish Control, an Optional Float Trip, and Fish Fry. Cost is anticipated at \$50 per person.

REGISTRATION AND PRESENTATION SUBMITTAL

If you have a paper for inclusion please forward the abstract to John Bruner ([jbruner@ualberta.ca](mailto:jbruner@ualberta.ca)).

Meeting registration will be via email to Hilary Meyer at [Hilary.Meyer@state.sd.us](mailto:Hilary.Meyer@state.sd.us).

We will accept payment by cash or check at the door. Sorry, we are not equipped to accept credit cards or other forms of electronic payment.

*Deadline for registration is June 17th, 2016.*

## The NCD Reservoir Technical Committee: *A Renewed Solution to an Old Problem*



At the 76th Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference held 25–27 January 2016, the NCD Reservoir Technical Committee met for the first time in many years. Five Chapter representatives were present and provided reports on current reservoir research and management activities in their states, some of which were presented earlier that afternoon in a special symposium titled “New Solutions to Old Problems: Innovative Approaches to Reservoir Fisheries Management.” Both the symposium and committee meeting sought to re-connect Midwestern reservoir fisheries managers and scientists through improved communication, a clear need given the symposium’s popular attendance and enthusiastic participation in the committee meeting.

The half-day symposium included nine presentations with topics ranging fish habitat selection, fish stocking, and water quality. **Please read the summary of the 2016 symposium here.** Overall, the symposium reflected high-quality reservoir fisheries research being conducted across the Midwest, and every talk generated interest and follow-up questions. Similarly, the committee meeting which followed yielded discussions of a wide variety of ongoing projects being conducted by state agencies and universities throughout the NCD. Without this committee, many of the attendees would have been unaware of useful projects occurring in neighboring states. The challenge of keeping up-to-date with the latest science and avoiding redundant research efforts is certainly not a new problem, and the renewed

committee hopes to alleviate the problem through active participation and communication. The Reservoir Technical Committee will continue to build connections among its members, identifying projects of regional and national relevance and sharing outcomes via its website and mailing list. It will also host discussion forums where committee members can seek assistance from each other and non-committee members can ask for advice. If you are interested in joining the Reservoir Technical Committee, please contact [ncd.reservoirs@fisheries.org](mailto:ncd.reservoirs@fisheries.org) or sign up on our mailing list. North Central Division chapter representatives are still needed from the following chapters:

- Kansas
- Michigan
- Mid-Canada
- Minnesota
- Missouri
- Ontario
- Wisconsin

The committee now has an updated webpage as well: <http://ncd.fisheries.org/reservoir-committee/>

Thank you!  
Rebecca M. Krogman  
Phone: 641-780-5201



# Walleye Technical Committee

## Sunday January 24, 2016 — Winter Business Meeting Agenda



3 to 5 pm, Amway Grand Plaza Hotel,  
3rd floor, Thornapple room, Grand Rapids, MI

*“The purpose of the Walleye Technical Committee of the North Central Division of the American Fisheries Society is to promote the research and development of functional management strategies leading to the wise use of native, and introduced stocks of walleye, sauger and their hybrids, to improve culture techniques, and to facilitate the dissemination of pertinent data and technology to both the scientific and user communities.”*

that the money market account was closed this past summer, so you will no longer receive interest deposits from that account.

1/12/2015: \$13,450.22;  
1/8/2014: \$13,469.62;  
9/26/2012: \$13,707.32;  
10/31,2011: \$13,335.40

Some NCD chapters (e.g. Nebraska) have invested in the AFS portfolio instead of the money market accounts. But, \$10,000 is needed to invest and some people did not want all that money tied up when the WTC only has \$12,771.59.

1.) Approval of winter agenda & summer meeting minutes: Steve Gilbert moved that the summer meeting minutes be approved. Casey W. Schoenebeck seconded the motion. Motion passed. There were no suggested amendments to the agenda. 20 people from both the WTC and CTC, were in attendance at the winter meeting: Casey Schoenbeck, B.J. Schall, Matthew Perrion, Brett Miller, Andy Jansen, Michael Vaske, Trevor Keyler, Loranzie Rogers, Joe Larscheid, Steve Gilbert, Lewis Bruce, Jason DeBoer, Matt Vincent, Tom Bacula, Sandy Clark-Kolaks, Heather Dawson, Andrew Carlson, Patrick Hanchin, Melissa Wuellner, and John Bruner.

**b. Sander Travel Award to Trevor D. Keyler:**

Trevor D. Keyler, University of Minnesota, Duluth is the 2016 winner. Lewis Bruce, President of the AFS Iowa Chapter, presented Trevor a check for \$100.

2.) Welcome by chair: John Clay Bruner and introduction of chair-elect, Jeff Koch, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism, 1830 Merchant, Emporia, Kansas 66801, 620-459-6922, [jeff.koch@ksoutdoors.com](mailto:jeff.koch@ksoutdoors.com)



Andy Jansen, Treasurer of AFS NCD, presented Trevor with a check for \$100 from the WTC.

3.) a. **Treasurer’s Report:** Andy Jansen, NCD AFS Secretary-Treasurer — 01/04/2016

2015 WTC	Description	Expenses	Deposits	Balance
1-Jan				13,450.22
27-JAn	Sander	\$100.00		
19-Feb	Schultz reg	\$310.00		
23-Mar	plaque	\$25.00		
14-Aug	Summer Meeting	\$2,308.55	\$2,320.00	
25-Aug	SDSU donation	\$250.00		
19-Oct	plaque	\$25.00		
7-Jul	MM interest		\$19.92	
		\$3,018.55	\$2,339.92	12,771.59



This financial report spreadsheet includes all expenses and deposits for calendar year 2015. Please remember

The members of the WTC were encouraged to see Trevor's poster presentation, entitled, *Visual Sensitivity of Walleye (Sander vitreus): A Comparison of Freshwater Fishes*.

Also, two other student members of the WTC received \$200 in Duffy travel awards from the NCD, Michael Vaske, University of Wisconsin, Steven Point, and Brett Miller, University of Nebraska at Kearney.

**c. Invitation to 2016 Joint Summer Meeting of the Centrarchid, Esocid, and Walleye Technical Committees - North Central Division of the American Fisheries Society:** The meeting will be at the Nebraska state aquarium, Ak-Sar-Ben Aquarium (Ak-Sar-Ben is Nebraska spelled backwards) located outside of Gretna, Nebraska, July 25-28, 2016. Keith Koupal (NGPC) was not able to attend so Casey W. Schoenebeck, University of Nebraska at Kearney, presented a short powerpoint presentation to the committee on his behalf advertising the joint meeting.



**4.) New Business:**

a. "OPERATIONS MANUAL FOR THE WALLEYE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE OF THE NORTH CENTRAL DIVISION, AFS" has been updated and is now posted on the WTC website.

**b. Certificates of appreciation for the outgoing Chair:** These will be presented to Randy Schultz at the summer meeting at the Ak-Sar-Ben Aquarium.

**c. Break out session for WTC and CTC State and Provincial Reports:**

**c. I.** The following presented written reports (posted on WTC website): **Canada:** 1.) Alberta, Michael G. Sullivan; 2.) Ontario, Steven M. Bobrowicz; 3.) Manitoba, Geoff Klein; 4.) Québec, Emmanuelle

Chretien; 5.) Saskatchewan, Mark Duffy; **U.S.A.:** 6.) Idaho, Rob Ryan; 7.) Illinois, Jason A. DeBoer; 8.) Iowa, Randall Schultz; 9.) Kansas, Jeff Koch; 10.) Minnesota, Dale Logsdon; 11.) Montana, Adam Strainer; 12.) Michigan, Seth J. Herbst; 13.) Missouri, Paul Cieslewicz; 14.) New York, Jeff Loukmas; 15.) North Dakota, Todd Caspers; 16.) Ohio, Matthew Faust; 17.) South Dakota, Mark Fincel; 18.) Texas, Charles Munger; 19.) Washington, Bruce Bolding; 20.) West Virginia, David I. Wellman, Jr.; 21.) Wyoming (2 reports); [I.] Jason Burckhardt, and [II.] Mark Smith; 22.) Indiana, Jason Doll; 23.) Nebraska, Casey W. Schoenebeck; 24.) Wisconsin, Steve Gilbert; 25.) Pennsylvania, Robert M. Lorantas

**c. II.** The following attendees presented updates on current projects. Steve Gilbert, Wisconsin, started by giving further comments on his state report. One change was the number of trolling lines per boat. Fishers are allowed 1 line per person up to 3 lines/boat. Casey W. Schoenebeck, Nebraska, had three of his students talk about their projects:

1) B.J. Schall talked about Lake McConaughy, he is doing a distributional study of walleye and population dynamics of sport fish;

2) Brett Miller, talked about Harlan County Reservoir, creating a standardized sampling protocol for age-0 white bass and walleye, documenting age-0 white bass diets, determining stock contribution of age-0 walleye by verifying presence of OTC, and documenting trends in zooplankton, larval fish, and water quality parameters. The standardized sampling protocol involves comparing catch rates among bag seines, boat electrofishing, and small-mesh gill nets from July to September for age-0 white bass and walleye;

3.) Matthew Perrion talked about analyzing stock contribution and food habits of juvenile White Bass *Morone chrysops* and Walleye *Sander vitreus* and also diet overlap with gizzard shad in Lake McConaughy, Nebraska. Seth J. Herbst, Michigan, talked next on a study of community related, climate related, foraging limits. With climate change, the prediction is that centrarchids will continue migrating north. The water quality protocol of where to stock will have to change. Patrick Hanchin: 1. For the Michigan DNR the webinar put on by the WDNR and USGS about trends in walleye was a big eye opener for us. They have a powerful dataset and showed that both adult walleye density and age-0 walleye relative abundance have been significantly declining across the northern part of the state. Although our data in Michigan is not

as extensive, we very well could be experiencing the same trend that they are. 2. In Michigan we are also looking at using physico-chemical characteristics of lakes to establish criteria for walleye stocking. Some lakes do not have enough usable area in terms of temperature and oxygen to support walleye. 3. We are also looking at revising benchmarks for walleye recruitment evaluations. 4. The Ak-sar-ben aquarium, where this year's summer meeting will be held, is just Nebraska spelled backwards. I was surprised some people were not aware of this clever naming convention. Melissa Wuellner reported an M.Sc. student recently completed an assessment of stock-recruitment models for fry and fingerling stockings in eastern South Dakota. The state either has or is currently reducing its stocking rates of these products based on the results. She and other collaborators have collected data regarding fisheries biologists' perceptions of walleye and bass (smallmouth and largemouth) interactions in their state. Results will be presented in Kansas City and will hopefully be published by the end of the year. Two other Ph.D. students at SDSU under Dr. Brian Graeb are working on walleye-related projects: one is working on a tagging study in Lake Oahe to estimate the population size and harvest; and the other is working on a hydroacoustics study to better assess prey availability in Lake Oahe. Jason A. DeBoer reported, Illinois doesn't do much research or management targeted at walleye or sauger, though a few of us are hoping to change that in upcoming years. Heather Dawson gave a report on centrarchids in Michigan. She talked about how research was conducted on the effects of catch and immediate release, specifically when male bass are removed, can they make it back to their nest. This research suggested no change to bass recruitment in the short term. Michigan has now changed their fishing regulations to permit catch-and-immediate-release fishing of largemouth and smallmouth bass all year. She reported on a Michigan DNR report in which 10,000 crested comorants were culled. 9 public meetings were held to engage the public in new fishery regulations. She reported a 9.33-pound, 24.50-inch smallmouth bass was caught in Hubbard Lake, Alcona County, Michigan, which broke the previous record catch set in 1906. And, according to research published in January 2015 in *Freshwater Biology* by Crane et al., bass are eating round gobies in the Lakes Erie and Ontario. Sandy Clark-Kolaks the exploitation rates of black bass in Indiana are based on the 8% tag return. Metal jaw tags are used and get returns up to 2 years later. A

slot limit of 12" to 15" is in place with a limit of 2 over 15 " (which used to be 12 inches). For crappie, it was found water quality is what affects them the most. A larger size limit regulation will start in the spring. Indiana tried to issue a regulation of 25 fish excluding crappie. Casey W. Schoenebeck interjected that a 10 inch size limit for crappie in Nebraska was successful on the one reservoir on which it was tried. Tom Bacula (substituting for Jason Doll) There was a walleye study on Indiana's largest reservoir (10,750 acres) with a mark-recapture study for angling exploitation that finished up in 2015. There are continued tweaks and evaluations with various sized walleye stockings (Fry, fingerling, and advanced fingerlings). In Southern Indiana reservoirs, there is a switch from low numbers of fingerlings to hopefully closer to target fry stockings, while Northern Indiana glacial lakes are switching from fingerlings to advanced fingerlings. Northern Lakes continue to tweak rates to find the best benefit for stocking. Also, Northern Indiana recently was able to get a minimum size limit increased up to 16 inches from 14 inches that was statewide (still for Central/Southern Indiana). Since this is a new regulation, continued evaluations and monitoring will occur. Andy Jansen stated Iowa is conducting a transportation stress study and an immigration study on Walleye. One of Iowa's hatcheries had a new recirculation system installed. Trevor Keyler, gave a summary of his poster presentation on the visual sensitivity of walleye. He found that walleye are most sensitive to blue wavelengths of light and that they are less sensitive than perch and bluegills to all wavelengths of light.

Casey W. Schoenebeck moved the meeting be adjourned, Jason DeBoer seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
*John Clay Bruner, Chair, Walleye Technical Committee*

John Bruner, Chair: [jbruner@ualberta.ca](mailto:jbruner@ualberta.ca)  
Chair Elect 2017: Jeff Koch [jeff.koch@ksoutdoors.com](mailto:jeff.koch@ksoutdoors.com)  
Randall Schultz, Past Chair: [randy.schultz@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:randy.schultz@dnr.iowa.gov)  
Hilary Meyer, Secretary: [Hilary.Meyer@state.sd.us](mailto:Hilary.Meyer@state.sd.us)  
<http://ncd.fisheries.org/walleye/>



## 2016 North Central Division Business Meeting Minutes 76th Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference

January 25, 2016 — Amway Grand Plaza Hotel, Room Ambassador West, Grand Rapids, MI

President Wuellner called the meeting to order at 3:00PM. Thirty-nine members were in attendance therefore the requirement for a quorum was met.

### Introduction of Special Guests

President Wuellner introduced special guests in the crowd including Doug Austen (AFS Executive Director), Ron Essig (AFS President), and Tom Bigford (AFS Policy Director), and past-presidents of the NCD in attendance.

### AFS Report

**Ron Essig:** The AFS Communications Strategic Plan is currently posted on the AFS website for comments. A special committee lead by Gwen White (former NCD President) was tasked to develop recommendations to improve AFS communications by the AFS Mid-Year meeting. The AFS website has a new look! Please see the comments section at the bottom of the webpage to provide input on the new design. A new section (Imperiled and Aquatic Species) was formed and needs to be approved by the membership. The 2016 AFS Annual Meeting will be held August 21-25 in Kansas City. The theme of the meeting will be fisheries conservation and management: making connections and building partnerships. There will be three plenary sessions at the meeting with invited speakers to discuss this theme. The deadline for symposia at the annual meeting is January 31st. Some of the symposia topics received so far include habitat, reservoirs, sound and aquatic species, climate change, hook & release mortality, fisheries techniques, human dimensions, and professional development. I encourage all of you to attend the annual meeting.

**Doug Austen:** The annual meeting in Kansas City will be great! We will have symposium on the Yangtze River which will be held at the meeting. AFS is continuing to build relationships with international groups. For example, we will continue to help with the FAO held in Rome. We have a great line-up of upcoming AFS annual meetings including Tampa in 2017, Atlantic City in 2018, joint meeting with the Wildlife Society in Reno in 2019, and the 2020 meeting will be the 150 year anniversary of AFS. Some of the locations AFS is looking into for the 2020 meeting include Cincinnati, Columbus, and Minneapolis. We have some new staff members in the

AFS office. Martha Wilson is the new communications director and Jessica Mosely will be working on student and professional development. Jessica will be in charge of the Hutton, AFS certification, and Continuing Education programs. We continue to work on building partnerships with federal agencies. For example, we are working the Wildlife Society to write the MOU with the US Fish & Wildlife Service and looking into other ways to get federal agencies more engaged with AFS. The new website is operational. Thank you to Rebecca Krogman and others on the team that were instrumental in creating the new website.

**Tom Bigford:** We have a new policy staff person named Taylor Poole. We need your help on identifying policy issues in the Midwest region. We are having a special session to develop recommendations for the 2016 President of the United States on fisheries policy issues. Our goal is create a concise document to provide to the President. We will have a one-hour session on Tuesday of this conference to discuss our plans for this document. If you can't attend, please call me with your ideas. Our goal is to have a completed document by August. We are still figuring out the best format for the document but shooting for around a 10 page document. There will be a powerpoint handout at the special session that explains our vision for this document. We are hoping to have other partners on this document, not just AFS.

### Approval of the 2015 Business Meeting Minutes

Andy Jansen (NCD Secretary-Treasurer) completed the 2015 business meeting minutes. The minutes were posted on the NCD website as well as included in the spring issue of Mainstream. No comments or changes to the business meeting minutes were received. A motion to approve the business meeting minutes as written was made, seconded, and motion approved by membership.

### Treasurer's Report (Andy Jansen):

The North Central Division of the American Fisheries Society has \$85,920.18 on hand as of January 1, 2016. This amount is divided between two accounts as follows.

AFS Investment Funds (~6% return)	\$ 35,000.00
Checking	\$ 50,920.18

The North Central Division's share of all accounts is \$27,065.08



Major income items during the period were:

AFS dues rebate	\$ 4,968.00
Total money market interest (closed 5/18/2015)	\$ 113.99

Major expense items during the period were:

Officer Travel	\$ 1,264.89
Midwest Meeting Expenses	\$ 1,018.85
Joan Duffy Student Travel Award (MFWFC)	\$ 1,100.00
AFS Portland Meeting Donation	\$ 500.00
Plaques	\$ 125.00
Continuing Education Donation	\$ 1,000.00
2016 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference	\$ 1,000.00

The Technical Committee's share of all accounts is  
\$ 56,565.86

Account balance after income, final money market disbursements and expenses.

Centrarchid	\$ 1,632.19
Esocid	\$ 3,020.28
Ictalurid	\$ 20,650.59
Rivers & Steams	\$ 3,400.54
Salmonid	\$ 8,563.41
Walleye	\$ 12,771.59
Fenske	\$ 6,527.26
Continuing Education Fund	\$ 2,289.24

Prepared by: Andy Jansen  
North Central Division of AFS, Secretary/Treasurer  
Iowa Department of Natural Resources  
Mount Ayr Fish Hatchery  
2093 E Loch Ayr Rd., Mount Ayr, IA 50854  
andy.jansen@dnr.iowa.gov

Bill Taylor moved to approve the treasurer's report as written, seconded by Gary Whelan, and motion approved by membership.

### **President's Plan of Work:**

President-Elect Sandy Clark-Kolaks presented her plan of work which will be based upon the revision of the NCD's Strategic Plan:

Theme 1: Membership Value

- Create a free job board on the NCD website
- Continue to investigate remote continuing education opportunities
- Create financial travel support for young and established professionals

Theme 2: Increase Communication

- Regular conference calls with EXCOM members and chapters
- Continue President's blog
- Develop electronic reporting tools for mid- and end-of-year reports.

Motion to approve President Clark-Kolaks's Plan of Work by Gary Whelan, seconded by Mark Porath, and approved unanimously.

President Melissa Wuellner presented an update of accomplishments from her plan of work:

Theme 1: Update NCD Governing Board documents

- Develop 2016-2019 Strategic Plan via special committee
- First draft due April 1, 2016
- Update NCD bylaws & procedures manual
- Low priority until new Strategic Plan is completed & approved
- Meet with John Boreman to help with revisions

Theme 2: Increase Communication

- Held regular conference calls with EXCOM members and quarterly calls with chapters
- Develop electronic reporting tools for mid- and end-of-year reports
- Revisit this idea in preparation for AFS Mid-year Briefing Book
- Maintain up-to-date information from the Society to NCD members
- Continue encourage members to utilize NCD listserv & website. The new NCD webmaster quickly updates website material
- Continue President's blog

Theme 3: Membership Value

- Continuing Education Survey
- Continuing course evaluations & supplemental questions for feedback on workshops
- Utilize new AFS staff members for assistance with continuing education
- Membership Satisfaction Survey
- Survey sent to NCD chapter presidents & Tech Committee Chairs for inclusion of ideas/recommendations for the new Strategic Plan
- Travel Support
- Continue financial match for Duffy Award winners
- Contribute to other AFS units for student awards
- Address funding assistance for young and established professionals in the future

*continued on next page.*

**Proposed 2016 Budget**

President Wuellner reviewed the proposed 2016 budget:

Income	AFS Dues Rebate	\$6,500
	AFS Invest Interest	\$1,200
Expenses		
	NCD Officer Travel	\$2500
	Midwest Expenses	\$2000
	Past-President Lunch	\$300
	Duffy Awards	\$1000
	Award Plaques	\$150
	Sponsorships	\$2,000
	General Funding request	\$1,000
	Continuing Ed Workshop	\$1000

Jessica Mistak moved to approve the 2016 budget, seconded by Bill Taylor, and motion approved by the membership.

**NCD Officer Election**

Immediate Past-President Travnichek announced elections for the President-Elect and Secretary-Treasurer positions this year. An e-mail with the link to the election survey will be sent out via the NCD listserv next week. The election link will be active for 30 days. We have two candidates for President-Elect and two candidates for Secretary-Treasurer:

President Elect: Jim Lamers & Mark Pyron

Secretary-Treasurer: Dave Michaelson & Tony Barada

Please be sure to vote once the election link is active. Vince also announced that in regards to the 2016 NCD budget, some of the profits from the AFS annual meeting in Kansas City will go to the NCD. 70% will go to AFS, 20% will go to the Missouri Chapter, and 10% will go to the NCD. This should generate \$15,000 to \$20,000 for the NCD budget.

President Wuellner presented plaques to Vince Travnichek and Andy Jansen in recognition of their service to the NCD.

**Committee Reports**

**Archives Committee:** No report.

**Audit Committee (Tom Bacula):**

Audit was completed on the 2014 treasurer’s report and no corrections are needed.

**Awards Committee (Melissa Wuellner):**

Awards were presented during the plenary session this morning. Summary of the awards:

**Meritorious Service:** Joe Dillard (Missouri Dept. of Conservation/Missouri Chapter). (Accepted by Amanda Rosenberger on Joe’s behalf)

**Communications:** Indiana Chapter

**Most Active Large Chapter:** Missouri Chapter

**Most Active Small Chapter:** Indiana Chapter

**Most Active Student Subunit:** Southeast Missouri State University

**Joan Duffy Travel Awards:**

Jeremy Kientz (Dakota Chapter)

Nathaniel Lederman (Minnesota Chapter)

Christopher Schwinghamer (Missouri Chapter)

Brett Miller (Nebraska Chapter)

Richard Budnik (Ohio Chapter)

Michael Vaske (Wisconsin Chapter)

Hanna Kruckman (Illinois Chapter)

No applications for the Fisheries Excellence and Distinguished Service awards were received this year.

**Communications Committee:** No report.

**Continuing Education Committee (Deb King):**

NCD hosted one continuing education workshop at this conference. The bioenergetics workshop was well attended and we received positive comments from the attendees.

**Membership Committee (Doug Workman):**

In 2015, our membership increased by 140 members. We have seen an increase in the number of students and young professionals.

**Nominating Committee (Craig Paukert):**

There were eight candidates for AFS Second Vice President. The committee selected a couple of the candidates and their biographies will be in the next issue of Fisheries magazine with a vote to be held in early April.

**Resolutions Committee:** No report.

**Student Affairs Committee:** No report.

**Centrarchid Technical Committee:** No report.

**Esocid Technical Committee (Cory Kovacs):**

We did not have a winter business meeting at this conference. That meeting will be held during the Musky Symposium on March 13-15, 2016 in Minnesota. There are 60 presentations so far for this symposium and more

information can be found at [www.muskiesinc.org](http://www.muskiesinc.org). We plan to publish the proceedings from this symposium at a later time. Our summer meeting will be held in conjunction with the CTC and WTC in Nebraska.

**Ictalurid Technical Committee (Tony Barada):**

We had 9 people attend our winter business meeting at this conference representing five states. Our big topic of discussion was the Catfish 2020 conference. We are still looking into location and format of the conference. It is a possibility that this conference could help in conjunction with a Society annual meeting or other regional conference.

**Reservoir Technical Committee (Joe Conroy):**

We will have a special reservoirs symposium tomorrow afternoon. There will be a business meeting following the symposium at 5pm. This will be our first business meeting and we will be discussing where we want to go as committee from here.

**Rivers & Streams Technical Committee (Matt Matheny):**

We had our winter business meeting at this Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference on Sunday. Our spring meeting will be March 29-30 in Rock Island, IL. Agenda for meeting will be posted on NCD website. We offer some lodging to students interested in attending the meeting. Please contact Matt for more information.

**Salmonid Technical Committee:**

There is some interest in reviving this technical committee. Melissa and Vince will contact those interested individuals to determine their level of interest in reviving this committee.

**Walleye Technical Committee (John Bruner):**

We had 20 people attend our winter business meeting yesterday. We received five reports from Canadian provinces and 20 written reports from the states. Our 2016 Chair-Elect is Jeff Koch from Kansas. The summer meeting will be held in July in Nebraska in conjunction with CTC and ETC. For more information on the summer meeting please contact Keith Koupal with Nebraska Game and Parks Commission.

**Other Discussion Items:**

There was some discussion on whether individuals from other divisions can participate on technical committees within the NCD. Melissa will follow-up with the AFS constitutional consultant on this matter. Joe Conroy indicated that it would be nice if budgets would line-

up with President's term. As it is now, the budget is on calendar year and President's term is September to September.

**Upcoming Meetings & Locations**

2016 AFS Annual Meeting in Kansas City, MO, August 21-25, 2016

2017 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Lincoln, NE, February 5-8, 2017

2018 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Wisconsin (Location TBD)

Motion to adjourn at 4:11pm

*Respectfully submitted by  
Andy Jansen, NCD AFS Secretary-Treasurer.*

Melissa Wuellner, President, [Melissa.Wuellner@sdstate.edu](mailto:Melissa.Wuellner@sdstate.edu)  
Vince Travnichek, Immediate Past President, [Vince.Travnichek@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:Vince.Travnichek@mdc.mo.gov)  
Sandy Clark-Kolaks, President-Elect, [sclark-kolaks@dnr.in.gov](mailto:sclark-kolaks@dnr.in.gov)  
Andy Jansen, Secretary/Treasurer, [andy.jansen@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:andy.jansen@dnr.iowa.gov)  
<http://ncd.fisheries.org>

## UPCOMING EVENTS



The Missouri Chapter and North Central Division of the American Fisheries Society invite you to attend the 146th AFS Annual Meeting in Kansas City, August 21-25, 2016. This year's theme is: *Fisheries Conservation and Management: Making Connections and Building Partnerships.*

### **July 8, 2016 — Deadline for early registration**

See website for more details: <http://2016.fisheries.org/>



### **SAVE THE DATE!**

**The 77th Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference**

**February 5 - 8, 2017**

**Cornhusker Hotel in Lincoln, Nebraska**

The annual conference attracts over 800 biologists and students from state, federal and tribal natural resource agencies across the 13 Midwestern states. Highlights include: over 400 technical presentations, poster displays, plenary sessions, networking opportunities and social events.

### ***Submissions of symposia proposals are now being accepted!***

The Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference invites you to submit a symposium proposal for the 2017 conference. The theme of the meeting is "Private Landscapes, Public Responsibilities."

<http://midwestfw.org/html/call-for-symposia.shtml>



# CHAPTER & STUDENT SUBUNIT REPORTS

## Indiana Chapter

*submitted by Tom Bacula, President*

Indiana had its annual spring meeting on March 1st and 2nd, 2016 and the theme of the conference was Indiana Species on the Edge: Management Issues and Implications. This was a joint meeting with the Indiana Chapters of The Wildlife Society and Society of American Foresters. It was a very well attended meeting with excellent plenary speakers providing a broader overview on aquatic and terrestrial species on edges of their range. Of particular note was endangered and threatened mussel species and their change in management to augmentation and reintroductions. The second day of the conference had directed aquatic talks but quite varied with talks on mussels, hellbenders, and ciscoes. During the business meeting we were able to award our “Most Active Organization in Indiana Fisheries” to West Boggs Parks. For over 20 years, the department has provided recreational opportunities, environmentally friendly management practices and quality public service to outdoor users. This parks department has cooperatively worked with many different state agencies especially Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Fish and Wildlife for fisheries renovations.

Indiana Chapter was the recipient of the Best Small Chapter and Communication awards from the NCD and we are very happy to be able to receive them. Earlier in April, we released our chapter newsletter that featured our business meeting minutes, announcements, and a section “All in a days work” to highlight various fisheries projects throughout the state. We are also getting a much larger following on Facebook (Indiana Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (IAFS)) to highlight some of our work catches and announcements.

## Wisconsin Chapter Report

*submitted by Greg Sass, President*

On February 17-19, 2016, the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Fisheries Society held their annual meeting in La Crosse. Over 200 students and professionals attended the meeting, which included 37 platform presentations and 21 poster presentations with a good proportion of the presentations being provided by students. Our WIAFS student sub-units (Northland College, UW-Green Bay, UW-Stevens Point, UW-Stout) were again very well represented at this year’s meeting and provided

outstanding updates about their activities during the business meeting. Each of the chapter committees presented updates on relevant information during the business meeting. New for this year was the addition of The Great WIAFS Photo Fishing Challenge initiated by Max Wolter (WDNR, Fisheries Biologist, Hayward) as a fun recreational fishing contest for our state chapter and the support of “Fisheries Bootcamp” to provide additional field fisheries experience to sub-unit students at the Escanaba Lake Research Station in Boulder Junction each spring. Greg Sass (WDNR Fisheries Research, Boulder Junction) was installed as President and Dan Isermann (USGS/UWSP Cooperative Fishery Research Unit) was selected to be President-Elect. Ted Treska (USFWS, Green Bay) remains as Secretary/Treasurer.

At the end of the meeting, and for the second year in a row, the Steve Serns Best Professional Paper was awarded to Max Wolter (WDNR, Fisheries Biologist, Hayward) for his presentation “The Up’s and Down’s of Water Level Management on the Chippewa Flowage”. The Steve Yeo Best Student Paper award was presented to Hadley Boehm (UW-Stevens Point) for her talk “Identifying Recruitment Bottlenecks for Age-0 Walleye in Northern Wisconsin Lakes”. The Best Poster award was given to Dan Dembkowski (UW-Stevens Point) for his poster entitled “Influence of Habitat Additions on Survival, Growth, and Condition of Extensively-reared Muskellunge”.

The Wisconsin Chapter has started planning for its joint meeting with The Wildlife Society in 2017 and also continues to plan and organize the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference as the host in 2018. Please see our Chapter website [www.wi-afs.org](http://www.wi-afs.org) for more information on our chapter and for instructions on how to be added to our email list.

## Minnesota Chapter Update

*submitted by Joel Hoffman, MN Chapter President*

This past winter was marked by a successful joint meeting between the Minnesota Chapter of the American Fisheries Society and the Minnesota Society of American Foresters. The meeting theme was “Watershed Thinking: Healthy Forests for Healthy Fisheries” and was held in Duluth, Minnesota from February 1-3. The meeting was attended by an impressive 337 fisheries and forestry

*continued on next page.*

professionals and students. The conference kicked-off with a well-attended gathering at the Great Lakes Aquarium, with liquid refreshments generously provided by Bent Paddle brewery (thank you to our Ad-Hops Committee Chair, Brian Borkholder). During the kick-off, the student sub-units competed for bragging rights in the 2016 Fish Bowl, which was organized by Andy Hafz. The plenary included fishery-related presentations from Doug Austen, AFS Executive Director, Don Pereira, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Section Chief, and Bruce Vondracek, Professor Emeritus, University of Minnesota. Forestry-related presentations were given by Bob Alverts, Society of American Foresters Past-President, Forrest Boe, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry Director, and Katie Fernholz, Partner from Dove Tail, Inc. Over the following day, 70 oral presentations and 27 poster presentations were given. To cap it off, the evening featured an awards banquet and impressive raffle organized by the University of Minnesota Duluth student sub-unit, aided by Kristan Maccaroni. Special thanks to Eric Altena, Owen Baird, Jerry Bourbannais, Mandy Erickson, Bob Hedburg, Christy Meredith, Greg Russell, and Calub Shavlik for their time and energy to organize a fantastic meeting that will not soon be forgotten! Conference information and presentations can be found at [http://mnafs.org/?page\\_id=218](http://mnafs.org/?page_id=218).

*photo credit: Brian Borkholder*



Forestry and fishery professionals network at the Great Lakes Aquarium during the welcome reception.



Forestry and Fishery professionals are encouraged to pat each other on the back during the plenary session.



Trevor Keyler receives the Best Student Paper Award from Keith Reeves for his talk “Visual Sensitivity of Walleye (*Sander vitreus*): A Comparison of Freshwater Fishes”



Phillip Oswald receives the Best Student Poster Award from Keith Reeves for his poster “Survival of walleye eggs in Upper Red Lake and the Tamarac River”



Minnesota Chapter Past-President Owen Baird receives recognition for his service to the chapter from Minnesota Chapter President Joel Hoffman.



# NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

## NCD AFS Award Winners

The competition was fierce in some of the NCD award categories! Special recognition goes to the NCD Awards Committee for making these tough decisions! Thank you to Sandy Clark-Kolacks, Marty Hamel, John Hoxmeier, Jeff Koch; Hilary Meyer and, Sara Tripp for your service!

The NCD awards were presented to the selected winners at the 2016 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Grand Rapids.

- Best Communications: Indiana
- Fisheries Excellence: No nominations received
- Meritorious Service: Joe Dillard (Missouri)
- Most Active Chapter (Small): Indiana
- Most Active Chapter (Large): Missouri
- Most Active Student Subunit: Southeastern Missouri State University
- Joan Duffy Student Travel Award: Richard Budnick (Ohio), Jeremy Kientz (Dakota), Hanna Kruckman (Illinois), Nathaniel Lederman (Minnesota), Brett Miller (Nebraska), Christopher Schwinghamer (Missouri), and Michael Vaske (Wisconsin).

Congratulations again to our individual and chapter winners! Keep up the great work!



President Wuellner presenting Indiana AFS the Most Active Chapter (Small).



President Wuellner presenting Missouri AFS the Most Active Chapter (Large).



Amanda Rosenberger accepting the Meritorious Service Award on behalf of Joe Dillard from President Wuellner.



President Wuellner presenting Southeast Missouri State University the Most Active Student Subunit.



President Wuellner and some of the Duffy Award winners.