



## “Musings by Melissa”

From the Desk of the NCD President

July 2016

Thank you all for the great e-mails and discussions after last month’s blog! I’ve really enjoyed reading your journey stories and hearing your thoughts on passing conservation on to the next generation. The conversation is ongoing, so keep sharing!

Time to get back to AFS business this month. In the next couple of weeks, you will be receiving a draft of the new *NCD AFS Strategic Plan* for 2016 – 2019. The progress on this plan has been a little slower than I had hoped (my fault), but we’re nearly there.

To give you some context for the plan, I thought I’d use this month’s blog to discuss our revision process. Prior to the 2015 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference in Indianapolis, I was putting together my “President’s Plan of Work.” I was reviewing the old *NCD AFS Strategic Plan* (as presidents should, right?) and noticed the end date of our plan – 2015. So one of my goals as President was to update that document. A few months later, the Society unveiled its newest approved Strategic Plan (see <http://fisheries.org/about/governance/strategic-plan-2015-2019> if you haven’t already reviewed the Society’s plan). And so it followed that many Chapters in the NCD and elsewhere began to update their respective plans. Good timing, no?

During one of our quarterly calls of the NCD leaders (Executive Committee, Technical and Standing Committee Chairs, and Chapter and Subunit Presidents), the request to serve on the NCD Strategic Plan Ad-Hoc Committee was presented. Two brave souls – Vince Travnichek (Missouri Chapter and NCD Past President) and Joe Conroy (Ohio Chapter member and co-chair of the Reservoir Technical Committee) – decided to join me. Our committee decided to develop a quick survey that asked the NCD leaders which of the goals and strategies in both the new Society strategic plan and the previous NCD plan were most relevant to their unit and to the NCD. Opportunities to suggest new goals and strategies were also provided. The results of the survey informed our committee on what should be included in the new NCD strategic plan.

From there, it was time to write the first draft. The Society’s plan and various Chapter plans were used as our templates. The first draft was reviewed by the NCD Executive Committee just this last May and June. Edits and comments were discussed. The second draft is currently being shared with the NCD leaders, and will be discussed during our quarterly call in July. Any additional edits will be made very soon after. The next step will be to distribute the draft to the NCD membership through our listserv and via the NCD website. All NCD AFS members will be allowed to comment on the document and suggest any changes over a 30-day period. After that deadline, any necessary changes will be made before the final draft is put to a vote. All voting will be electronic in accordance to NCD and AFS bylaws and rules, of course. ☺ Hopefully this will mean that we will have a new plan in place by September 1.

So, be on the lookout in the coming weeks for your chance to review and comment on the new *NCD Strategic Plan*. Special thanks to Vince and Joe for their service on this committee! On behalf of our team, we look forward to hearing from you!

Stay cool!

Melissa