



North Central Division of the American Fisheries Society

Summer Business Meeting of the  
Walleye Technical Committee

Wednesday, June 21, 2023

Joint Technical Committee Meeting of the North Central Division of the American Fisheries Society

WTC Chair: Logan Zebro, zebrol@lopers.unk.edu

WTC Chair-elect: Jason Gostiaux, gostiauxj@michigan.gov

WTC Immediate past-chair: Jason DeBoer, jadeboer@illinois.edu

**1. Call meeting to order.**

Logan Zebro called the meeting to order at 1:25 pm on 6-20-22.

**a. Introductions**

15 attendances from MN, WI, IL, MI, NE, IA, and SD introduced themselves.

Logan Zebro UNK Nebraska, Dale Logsdon MN DNR, Rick Bruesewitz MN DNR, Kyle Broadway WI DNR, Nathan Lederman WI DNR, Jason Deboer IL Natural History Survey, Jason Gostiaux Michigan DNR, Jennifer Johnson Michigan DNR, Joe Rydell NE Game and Parks, Joshua Goff IA DNR, John Kubisiak WI DNR, Aaron Voirol IN DNR, Logan Cutler SDSU, Ben Vasquez UWSP, Bobby Davis UWSP

**2. Agenda additions and approval** Logan Zebro asked for any addition or amendments to the current agenda. No changes were proposed.

**3. Approve minutes from 2023 business meeting at the 83<sup>rd</sup> Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference**

Logan sent out the 2023 business meeting minutes ahead of time and asked for comments or changes to the meeting minutes. None were proposed and the Dale Logsdon motioned to approve the minutes. Jason Gostiaux seconded that motion and it was approved.

**4. Old business WTC**

**a. NAJFM publication finalized and paid for**

Logan Z announced that the final bills for the NAJFM publication have been paid and finalized. Joe Rydell gave a summary of the costs and the donations for that. \$15,550.00 was raised through donations and \$3,230.00 was spent out of the WTC fund. Total cost was \$18,780.00. See treasurer report below.

**b. WAE symposium at 2023 Annual AFS meeting.** WAE symposium will be held at the 2023 Annual AFS meeting in Grand Rapids, MI. This symposium is intended to involve broader stories that states are focusing on in regard to WAE research and management.

**c. Percid travel award**

**a. Voted on at 2022 summer meeting to increase percid travel award from one to three recipients.**

Joe Rydell explained that it was approved to award up to 3 recipients based on available funds but was raised from \$100 to \$300 each. The executive committee (Past chair, Chair, Chair Elect, and Secretary) can decide how many depending on applications and available funds.

## 5. New business WTC

- a. Jason Gostiaux (MI DNR) approved as chair elect at winter business meeting. Jason accepted that position and Jason Deboer announced that we typically start asking for interested individuals to volunteer as the next chair elect to be named at the Winter meeting. No one spoke up but anyone interested can reach out to Logan Z., Jason D., Jason G., or Joe R. via email to announce their interest.
- b. Ordering WTC merchandise (i.e., t-shirts, hoodies, can koozies) to be sold at 2023 Annual AFS meeting and 2024 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference. It was brought up to why do we need to make money as we are a not for profit organization. It was mentioned that if the summer tech meeting doesn't come out ahead, there is no funds adding to the account. With an annual expense for the Percid travel award, the account would deplete quickly with no additional income. With the budget not yet figured out during the business meeting, it was determined that the executive committee would review the funds and look at ordering attire for the national meeting in 2024. Securing a table and having volunteer WTC representatives take shifts to sell wouldn't be too much work.
- c. Percis VI conference, potentially in MI in 2024/2025 or Columbus 2026 in conjunction with annual AFS meeting. It was discussed when to try and hold the Percis VI conference. Jason G. Announced they they would not be interested in helping assemble the conference in 2024/ 2025 in MI but the group thought that Columbus in 2026 was a viable option.
- d. Possible discussion on WTC related topic?

The floor was open to discussion. The first topic was the request that came through emails about private hatcheries interested in state's willingness to purchase walleye from a private supplier. Minnesota purchases walleye from private vendors annually and is mandated to do so through legislation. One concern Minnesota had was not always knowing what year-class of walleye was being stocked. YOY and age 1 can be mixed when collecting fish from a brood pond (slough). No other states mentioned their production staff purchasing walleye from private vendors.

Joe brought up the question asked through email about whether other states have ever tried stocking walleye fry in a river above a reservoir to help contribute to the reservoir fishery. It was asked why Nebraska would consider that. Logan Z. provided a summary of why as it pertains to his thesis work on Lake McConaughy.

The email request received several responses from Iowa, South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Ontario. It appears that stocking walleye fry into streams above a reservoir or lake is a very rare management act. The few examples that have been presented all included fingerling stockings that yielded little to no return to the reservoir walleye population. Rathbun reservoir in Iowa is one example that was brought up several times that used fingerling walleye with little to no return. Wisconsin had one example where they stocked walleye fry into the Bark River in the 1990s that had some contribution to the walleye population downstream in Lake Koshkonong. The stock contribution evaluations suggested that the stockings made up 2 – 20% of the fall YOY collections from Lake Koshkonong. In this example, the stream location where they were stocked was approximately 40 miles upstream in a feeder creek to the main stem river that the reservoir was on.

There have been a couple other examples where lakes upstream of a designated lake have been stocked with walleye fry that contributed strong year-class success to both the stocked lake and the downstream lake. The common practice for stocking walleye fry is to distribute within the lake proper.

The next item up for discussion was the location to hold the summer meeting next year. Jason G. proposed holding it in Michigan at Beaver Island. He did some preliminary evaluation in this site and there are some kinks that would need to get figured out including the ferry ride and lodging on the island. The group was asked if there was any interest in this location and it generated some interest in the room.

Dale L. came prepared to share some of the ongoings in Minnesota and shared that there are lots of job opportunities available right now. Minnesota was on a hiring ban that has lifted and opened up lots of positions.

Dale also announced that Minnesota is experiencing a minnow shortage that is impacting both production and recreation. MN legislation restricts the importation of minnows from out of state but that might see some changes. It was asked to why they are down and there was no good answer. There are less bait harvesters permitted this year and more restrictive AIS regulations that may be potential impacts. It was asked if anglers were able to harvest their own bait, and the answer was yes but not from an AIS infected waterbody.

Another line of discussion was Forward Facing Sonar (FFS) and the impacts to fisheries. MN is questioning this technology and its impacts to fisheries. This was first brought up for concerns about barotrauma on deep basin fishing from ice anglers. FFS is on the interest in several states. Nebraska is outfitting staff with Garmin Livescope units that can be used to evaluate some of the questions in the future. It was mentioned that angler use of FFS is increasing. There was also discussion how FFS may requires reduced bag limit regulations. An interesting point made was that Jeremy with Anglers Edge pointed out that FFS may spook fish.

Jason G gave an update on Michigan activities and mentioned the new underwater spearfishing season for game fish on some Great Lakes.

Aaron V. provided an update on Indiana walleye activities including production and stocking in the state. Clearer natural lakes in northern Indiana get stocked with Advanced fingerling walleye where southern, larger reservoirs get smaller fingerlings. He mentioned that they are working with Ball State University to raise minnows on campus for hatchery use. This benefits both BSU and Indiana DNR.

**6. Adjourn** Jason Deboer motioned to Adjourn and Bobby Davis second the motion. Meeting Adjourned at 2:35pm.

## 2023 WTC Summer Treasure Report by Joe Rydell



### North Central Division of the American Fisheries Society

June 13, 2023

**Joe Rydell**  
Walleye Technical Committee

Nebraska Game and Parks Commission  
299 Husker Rd, P.O. Box 725  
Alliance, NE 69301

Mr. Rydell,

Below you will find the updated financial report for the Walleye Technical Committee. Your account was last updated on Tuesday, June 12th, 2023. The biggest change you will see is that the final payment has been made for the special WTC sponsored publication. After using your raised funds and the \$5,000.00 donation for the NCD the remaining balance was taken from your general fund as well. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

| updated 4/12/2023 |                                       |             |            |             |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| 2023 WTC          | Description                           | Expenses    | Deposits   | Balance     |
|                   | 1-Jan                                 |             |            | \$21,230.72 |
|                   | 16-Feb Percid Travel Award - Ben V.   | \$300.00    |            |             |
|                   | 14-Feb Percid Travel Award - Logan Z. | \$300.00    |            |             |
|                   | 14-Feb Percid Travel Award - Logan C. | \$300.00    |            |             |
|                   | 25-Apr WTC Publication (raised funds) | \$15,550.00 |            |             |
|                   | 25-Apr WTC remaining balance          | \$3,230.00  |            |             |
|                   | 22-May Paypal WTC Transfer            |             | \$1,449.33 |             |
|                   | 5-Jun Paypal WTC Transfer             |             | \$722.37   |             |
|                   | 9-Jun Paypal WTC Transfer             |             | \$600.00   |             |
|                   |                                       | \$19,680.00 | \$2,771.70 | \$4,322.42  |

Sincerely,

**Drew Holloway**  
Secretary/Treasurer  
dholloway@msdeng.com  
P:1 (765) 717-1568  
226 E. State St.

## AFS Managed Unit Investment Program

**Fund or Unit Name:** Walleye Technical Committee NCD  
**For the period ending:** 12/31/2022

| <b>Contributions</b> | <b>Date</b> | <b>Amount</b> |
|----------------------|-------------|---------------|
| Contribution         | 10/15/2018  | \$5,000       |
| Contribution         | Nov 2019    | \$2,500       |

| <b>Description</b>          | <b>Calendar<br/>2020</b> | <b>Calendar<br/>2021</b> | <b>Calendar<br/>2022</b> |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Beginning Balance           | \$8,641                  | \$9,355                  | \$10,633                 |
| Contributions / Withdrawals | \$0                      | \$0                      | \$0                      |
| Income                      | \$166                    | \$139                    | \$190                    |
| Gains / Loss                | \$588                    | \$1,188                  | -\$1,927                 |
| Fees                        | -\$40                    | -\$49                    | -\$48                    |
| Ending Balance              | \$9,355                  | \$10,633                 | \$8,848                  |

| Organization                    | Date   | \$ Donation        |          | Status | Apprec. Letter Sent      |
|---------------------------------|--------|--------------------|----------|--------|--------------------------|
|                                 |        | Amt.               |          |        |                          |
| Indiana AFS                     | Mar-20 | 300                | Received |        |                          |
| Kansas AFS                      | Apr-20 | 1,000              | Received |        |                          |
| Iowa AFS                        | Apr-20 | 500                | Received |        |                          |
| Minnesota AFS                   | Apr-20 | 1,000              | Received |        |                          |
| Wisconsin AFS                   | Jul-20 | 1,000              | Received |        |                          |
| Illinois AFS                    | Nov-20 | 1,000              | Received |        |                          |
| Dakota AFS                      | Jan-21 | 1,000              | Received |        |                          |
| South Dakota DNR                | Feb-21 | 1,000              | Received |        |                          |
| Nebraska AFS                    | Feb-21 | 250                | Received |        |                          |
| Illinois DNR                    | Mar-21 | 1,000              | Received |        | Yes - double check email |
| Ohio DNR                        |        | 1,500              | Received |        | Yes - double check email |
| Wisconsin AFS                   |        | 2,000              | Received |        |                          |
| AFS Education Section Committee | 22-Jan | 4,000              | Received |        |                          |
| <b>Total Symposium Received</b> |        | <b>\$15,550.00</b> |          |        |                          |
| <b>Total Symposium Paid!</b>    |        | <b>\$15,550.00</b> |          |        |                          |

49 participants (13 students and 36 professionals)

Tuesday Social 43 participants

Side Scan Workshop (24 participants)

|  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| <b>WTC 2022 Investment Balance as pf June 2022</b>                                     | <b>\$8,848.00</b>  |
| <b>Previous Balance</b>  | <b>\$21,230.72</b> |
| <b>Percid Symposium Paid</b>   | <b>\$15,550.00</b> |
| <b>WTC Percid Symposium remaining balance</b>  | <b>\$3,230.00</b>  |
| <b>3 Percid Travel Awards (Ben V., Logan C., Logan Z.)</b>                             | <b>\$900.00</b>    |
| <b>Meeting Balance</b>   | <b>\$3,845.00</b>  |
| <b>PayPal Fees</b>   | <b>\$128.66</b>    |
| <b>Meeting Costs (onsite lodging, food, vendor, etc)</b>                               | <b>\$4,256.39</b>  |
| <b>Transferred funds (\$94.24 each) from CTC and ETC for remaining meeting Balance</b> | <b>\$188.48</b>    |
| <b>WTC Account Total assets (Investment Balance + WTC funds)</b>                       | <b>\$10,047.15</b> |
| <b>WTC available Funds (Total Assets – Investment Balance)</b>                         | <b>\$1,199.15</b>  |