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| No. 9 | North Central Division | Gary Whelan |
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AFS North Central Division Annual Report

TO: **John Boreman**, President
 FROM: Gary Whelan, NCD President, North Central Division (NCD)
 DATE: August 12, 2013

I. Motion Report

(A) Recommended Motion: None.

(B) Minority View: N/A

(C) Background for Motion: N/A

II. Activity Report

(A) Summary of Outcomes and Accomplishments Organized by Focus Area in Strategic Plan.

Goal 1: Global Fisheries Leadership

The North Central Division (NCD), American Fisheries Society (AFS) will be a regional leader providing information and technical resources for the sustainability and conservation of fisheries resources.

Objective 1.1. The NCD is continuing to support the implementation of the National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP) that includes 7 Fish Habitat Partnerships in the Division and is actively seeking opportunities to facilitate their work. Additionally, the NCD is working to increase involvement with the USFWS Landscape Conservation Cooperatives in our Division's geographic area. We are providing input on processes with resource implications within the NCD such as the Missouri River Authorized Purposes Study and the Great Lakes-Mississippi River Separation Study being conducted by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers.

The NCD actively participated in the Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference held December 9-12 in Wichita, Kansas and was pleased to host both John Boreman and Gus Rassam who provided Society insights at our business meeting. The NCD is continuing its liaison role to the Midwest Steering Committee in an effort to ensure continuity in annual conference planning, increase our visibility at the conference, and streamline our involvement with conference activities such as the Janice L. Fenske Award ceremony and continuing education courses.

The NCD is actively working to get two additional technical committees back up and functioning. We have interest from the membership in getting the Great Lakes and

reservoir technical committees operating and look to get these restarted by the 2014 Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference.

The NCD is excited to assist the Missouri Chapter in hosting 2016 national AFS meeting in Kansas City, MO.

The Archives Committee has completed discussions regarding housing NCD files at the DC Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery and Archives and we are moving our files there where they can be administered by Randi Sue Smith, Museum Curator & Archivist.

Objective 1.2. The Esocid Technical Committee (ETC) republished soft-bound copies of the 2006 International Pike Symposium in an effort to broaden distribution of this valuable work. The ETC is currently selling them to fisheries scientists and anglers who are interested in pike biology. ETC will also be heavily involved in the 2016 Hugh C. Becker International Muskie Symposium in March 2016 that will be held in the Twin Cities, MN. A unique joint meeting was held July 23-23 at Wausau, WI with the Centrarchid and Walleye Technical Committees.

The Ictalurid Technical Committee co-hosted the Second International Catfish Symposium in 2012. The proceedings (*The Conservation, Ecology, and Management of Catfish: The Second International Symposium*) have been published and are available for purchase on the AFS bookstore website (<http://www.afsbooks.org/54077C>).

The Indiana Chapter is part of a 30 member organization called the Indiana Conservation Alliance (INCA) that enables them to speak to legislators with a clear and concise message on conservation and natural resource issues.

The Iowa Chapter position statement supporting no change in the use of lead fishing tackle (http://www.fisheriessociety.org/iowa/statepdfs/IAFS_Official_Position_Statement_on_the_use_of_Lead_in_Fishing.pdf) was shared with interested parties including the Iowa Outdoor Partnership and the Congressional Sportsmen Caucus. Iowa AFS sent this position statement to the parent society. The Chapter is also involved with the Resource Enhancement and Protection Alliance, the Iowa Conservation Alliance, and the Iowa Environmental Council. All of which keep the membership plugged into legislative activity related to natural resources and the environment. The Chapter also continues to support a small habitat grant program to directly improve Iowa's aquatic habitat.

The Dakota Chapter had a special session at their Annual Meeting in February 2013 on the extensive oil and gas development occurring in this area and the potential for some new conservation funding that may result from oil and gas revenues.

The Missouri Chapter has a very active Legislative and Environmental Concerns Committee that is monitoring their legislature for their membership and provided a detailed report in their most recent newsletter.

The recent spring Ontario Chapter meeting attended by over 70 members was focused on the Management of Fisheries in the Age of Austerity, a topic near and dear to all of us at this time.

The Wisconsin Chapter is focusing efforts on the Wisconsin Mining Bill and is providing input on issues pertaining to the large scale land use change and water usage associated with mining in northern Wisconsin.

Objective 1.3. The NCD continues to publish our newsletter, the Mainstream, electronically twice a year and notify members electronically, through social media and our listserv.

The Indiana Chapter will be participating with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources at the State Fair Fishing pond on August 17. It is expected that 20 IAFS volunteers will fill an entire shift, teaching approximately 150 kids to fish during the 3 hour period.

The Ohio Chapter continues to sponsor the annual Milt Austin Aquatic Science Awards for aquatic-related projects at the State Science Fair.

Lake Superior State University Subunit members gave presentations to K-12 students to help promote science education through the program STEMS (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math).

The Missouri Chapter successfully hosted its second “A Day at the Trout Park” program which provided angling opportunities for anglers with disabilities at the Meramec Spring Trout Park.

Goal 2: Education/Continuing Education

The NCD will facilitate life-long learning through world-class educational resources and provide training for practicing professionals in all branches of fisheries and aquatic sciences.

Objective 2.2. The NCD sponsored workshops at the 2012 Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference including an R workshop by Dr. Derek Olge and a BACI workshop with Drs. Daniel James and Steven Chipps.

The Dakota Chapter hosted a session on before-after-control-impact (BACI) statistical design.

The Illinois Chapter hosted a two day workshop on “An Introduction to R-Statistics and Darter and Minnow Identification” on February 7-8, 2013 at Kibbe Biological Research Station in Warsaw, IL.

The Indiana Chapter hosted a continuing education workshop on updated QHEI protocols that included classroom and field exercises at their fall 2012 meeting.

Iowa AFS sponsored a two-day Turtle Biology, Identification, and Sampling workshop at Iowa State University in Ames, 7-9 August 2012. The course included lab and field components and was attended by 25 individuals.

The Minnesota Chapter is planning to hosting workshops on an age and growth, hydroacoustics, and the MARK program in 2013.

The Missouri Chapter will host a workshop on “Power-Based Standardization in Electrofishing”, taught by Dr. Jim Reynolds, at an upcoming Missouri Fish and Wildlife Conference.

Goal 3: Value of Membership

The NCD will serve its members and fisheries, aquaculture, and aquatic science constituencies to fulfill the mission of the Society

Objective 3.1. The NCD is using the information developed from the 2011 survey that examined membership needs and satisfaction with resources, services, products and professional development services to better improve our products. This work was done to support the updated 2012-2015 Strategic Plan and we are working to implement this outstanding plan of work.

Objective 3.2. Enhance participation of students and professionals at all levels of the society to assure recruitment, retention, and leadership development into the future.

Greater participation is going to require new and innovative efforts to engage students and professionals who are unable to travel to meetings. Recruitment of students and young professionals is extremely important and efforts will be made to maintain initiatives and to develop new ones that encourage participation in the Society, such as internships, travel grants, scholarships, and future-leader mentoring. Leadership training will be continued and promoted at NCD meetings. Additionally, the NCD is continuing to enhance efforts to communicate the value of Society membership to employers, and recognize the contributions of volunteers.

The NCD continues to support student travel to the Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference with matching Joan Duffy Award travel grants to each Chapter. The NCD continues to improve communication with Student Subunits and presented the 2012 Outstanding Student Subunit Award to the Lake Superior State University Sub-Unit. The NCD EXCOM visited 5 of our Student Sub-Units this year and continues to supporting student colloquium initiatives.

The NCD continues to provide awards that recognize individuals, groups, and Chapters who have provided distinguished service in the stewardship of aquatic resources in their geographic regions. All awards have local and regional press packages to further promote AFS to the public and to employers.

The NCD EXCOM attended 8 of 13 Chapter meetings this winter and spring to update the membership on NCD initiatives and ensure complete communication of key issues at the AFS Society level.

Objective 3.3. The NCD continues to support the Hutton Junior Fisheries Program's effort to recruit under-represented groups to the fisheries profession.

Objective 3.4. The NCD continues work on improving online and web-based services that promote the Society and Division mission and enhances the social networking of aquatic resource professionals. The NCD maintains a Facebook page and encourages its use by our members. The NCD will also encourage units to interconnect electronic mediums to facilitate expedited information exchange and to look for ways to promote distance learning and meeting attendance.

Indiana Chapter members have a power-point presentation on-line for use in presenting information about IAFS. Members are often called upon in their various professions for career days and environmental awareness presentations. Members stress the importance of maintaining membership through their perspective professional societies – our opportunity to introduce IAFS.

Objective 3.5. Practice good governance and organizational management. To achieve this objective, we intend to archive and make available electronic files of NCD documents of interest to members, including the minutes of Governing Board meetings and actions of the Governing Board, and Officers that pertain to Society business. The NCD is also ensuring key information for membership is rapidly distributed to NCD officers and through our social media and listserv.

(B) Recommendations or Suggestions for Future Consideration: None.