

NORTH DAKOTA
SPORTFISHING
CONGRESS
P.O. BOX 2472 • BISMARCK, ND 58502

Minutes

Saturday, January 13, 2007 – 11:00 A.M.
ND Game & Fish Department Office – Bismarck, ND

Members Present: President Duaine Ash; Board members Don Baasch, Rick Eagelson, Paul Haug, Richard Fink, Rick Lee, and Mike Anderson; Members: Miles Bobb, Dave Bement, Ken Cumber, Bob Hagland, Rynee Kellar, Doug Kelly, Joe Neuenschwander, Lynn Schlueter, and Clark Williams. Others Present: Greg Power and Bob Frohlich, Game & Fish; Shawn McKenna, ND Wildlife Federation; and Executive Secretary Marie Hoerner.

- President Duaine Ash called the meeting to order and was glad to see such a large group. Everyone introduced themselves and indicated who they represented.
- The minutes of the August 5, 2006 meeting were approved as distributed. Motion was made by Paul Haug, second by Lynn Schlueter.
- Treasurer Rick Eagleson distributed the “Treasurer’s Report” and a motion to approve the Treasurer’s report was made by Richard Fink, second by Mike Anderson and passed.
- Chief of the G&F Fisheries Division Greg Power, who has been in this position for about a year, reported on the following:
 - Relating to personnel, retiring is Emil Berard, who has been with the G&F for about 35 years and in Dickinson for about the last 15 years. Emil’s retirement party is Saturday, February 3 at the Elks in Dickinson, with the social at 5:00 p.m. (MT) and supper at 6:00 p.m. MT.
 - Jeff Hendrickson will be transferring to Dickinson, SW supervisor in early March.
 - G&F staff highlights are posted on the NDSFC website to give expose to the NDSFC members and public.
 - Scott Gangl replaced Greg Power about nine months ago, when Greg accepted his new position and G&F.
 - Fisheries: Winter kill – so far so good since we have had very good conditions. Now that there is snow pack, there is a possibility of winter kill. Often times, winter kill is not known until the ice is off.
 - Budget wise in the division, been fairly status quo. ANS has been relatively new over the last 10 years, and six years dealing with Save Our Lakes (SOL). The G&F has priority lakes and trying to work where they can. Water quality is a big issue and SOL helps out in smaller water bodies. The

upside of drought conditions is that it allows the G&F to do work on ramps. SOL budget is about \$1 million a biennium, and hopefully will be increased to \$1.25 M for next biennium.

- Lynn Schlueter is the ANS coordinator at the G&F. He works with district supervisors around the state, especially with the ones with high use and the ones most likely with ANS transfers. An update on ANS in lakes was provided – GF is currently treating a couple infested lakes/areas. ANS will not go away (low light) and will be on our plate forever and need to impose some rules and regulations.
- Bait issues – (where all of the bait comes and goes – clean versus bad bait) it has gotten much better with the retailers. Administratively, it takes a lot of time for the G&F. VHS is a disease issue out in the Great Lakes and the G&F is dealing with this issue.
- Drought is a low light issue. Southwest & South Central ND have had drought conditions. Carp issues in Devils Lake basin (south of Langdon) is another low light. Been working on it for a few years and the process has been very slow, but G&F and others are working in the right direction – back to chemical treatment control in 2007. Hopefully in 2008 there will be a permanent solution.
- Another low light is Lake Sakakawea (forage issues) and Lake Oahe (lack of water is a lack of anglers). Talked about Sakakawea and Oahe Lake issues.
- Boat ramp development -- \$5 million collectively has been spent in the past few years. Hoping that Dorgan gets more money from the U.S. Congress, but it may not happen.
- Looking at a \$800,000 add-on to the GF budget from the ND Legislature to chase the water. Requested another \$300,000 for a cost-share for Sweet Briar Dam. Dams are getting old and they need to be fixed.
- As far as legislation this session, there is none to speak of. There is always something going on with hunting, but fishing over the years has not been that way (less laws). Last session, there was an ANS law, and this year so far there hasn't been any.
- Federal excise tax is paid by purchase of boats, licenses, bait, etc. The G&F would get their money back from the counties if they started charging for boat ramp access, since the lease states “free public access”.
- Bob Frohlich met with the Corps/Linda back in November and looked at the different lake scenarios and the work that needed to be done at the different elevations. Last week they got the word that the \$900,000 from Congress will probably not happen. Bob distributed three sheets, indicating maintenance costs – 1) proposed work to maintain access at elevation 1801 ft msl (work necessary at elevation 1801); 2) other proposed activities to take advantage of low-water conditions (work that should be done); and 3) proposed work to maintain access at elevation 1801 (planned work). 1st sheet are non-Corps related projects. Ramps that work needs to be done to maintain access at 1801. Need at least 3 feet of water to launch a boat. 3-4 are tribal ramps that the G&F hasn't gotten involved in, due to tribal conservation fees. Bob mentioned that steel ramps are more expensive than concrete ramps. 2nd sheet will not provide more usable ramp access, but activities to take advantages in low-water conditions. Request for ramp maintenance is dues by February 1 and G&F has only received about 4 requests. Private land owners and county boards have been great to work with. Will probably need the \$800,000 right away this spring to maintain ramp access. 3rd sheet was a list of all the recreation areas that would remain open this summer if the work on ramps is done. This also includes all of the Corps sites and is probably what you'll start seeing in the media. There

are three new ramps pending approval (#10-Hamble Marina, 14-Parshall Bay and 18-Sportsmen's Centennial). \$800,000 – if the budget goes through (March) is for emergency development; beside the regular G&F budget.

- There is sufficient money (other than Devils Lake) for ramp projects. Policy guides – clubs need to submit a letter of what they want done, with specifics listed, by Feb. 1, 2007 and they are considered by the G&F. G&F ranks them and then gives money for projects – very few projects are denied. The G&F has a \$600,000 budget for these projects. On July 1, they start with a new biennium budget.
- Fishing proclamation is a two years. There may be 3 emergency proclamations added. 1) ANS issue; 2) paddlefish – may need to close the season early depending on the number catch but would add a week of snag and release; Season is basically the month of May; Last, there were only 7-8 days to harvest 1,000 fish. A lottery system for paddle fish would be a nightmare for G&F; and 3) Definite of bait. What is legal bait fish – need to tighten up the rules & regs.
- President Ash asked club delegates if they had any questions/concerns in their area. SW Anglers (Miles Bobb) said Charging Eagle Bay ramp needs work; however, Charging Eagle Bay is a tribal ramp. It was mentioned that if a ramp access fee is charged, then those ramp improvement requests are ranked lower by the G&F than those providing free public access.
- President Ash is the lobbyist for the NDSFC and he mentioned that HB 1212, legislation sponsored by Rep. DeKrey relating to taking off the receiver hitch on vehicle if you're not towing a boat. You are encouraged to talk to your legislators about this bill – to kill this bill.
- Don Baasch mentioned two bills dealing with raffles -- HB 1263 (he would like to see support of this bill; doesn't allow real estate); and SB 2140 (allows real estate).
- Richard Fink asked Duaine if he knew of someone who might deal with club insurance policies, since their club had problems with their current insurance provider. Rick Eagleson provided Richard with the name of the insurance company that NDSFC uses.
- Committee Reports and Assignments
 - Fund Raiser (Mike Anderson) – The Fund Raiser is scheduled for **Saturday, April 14** at the Eagles Club in Mandan, who can easily accommodate twice the number that we had in past years. A buffet dinner is again planned for this year. The committee is just getting started on particulars and Mike welcomes input/suggestions from the members. \$1 raffles will again be held (i.e. knife for a set amount of ticket purchase).
 - Nominating Committee (Lynn Schlueter) – No individuals interested in running for the office of President have been found to date. Lynn would welcome any suggestions/nominees that you may have.
- Old Business
 - Website -- NDSFC members were encouraged to e-mail/send their club's events/activities to Marie Hoerner @ sportfishing@bis.midco.net so they are listed on our website.
 - ANS – Lynn mentioned the G&F did get to cover most of the state and didn't find anything new. Valley City, Barnes County Weed, Barnes County Water District are working together with the G&F to control the ANS. Duaine said he's been getting comments on the ANS policy where the

tournament sponsors/clubs should have the liability of checking the boats for ANS. The G&F cannot possibly be responsible for inspection at each tournament. One suggestion was to do the inspection before the boat goes into the lake, either the day of the tournament or when they come to pre-fish. Lynn said there is no simple answer, but said to look for plant material hanging from the boat; there should be no water inside the boat; and the live well/bilege area has been treated with chlorine (if it smells like fish – you have a problem; if it smells like chlorine, it's okay). Lynn said the G&F are looking to provide DVD's on what to look for.

■ New Business

- Newsletter – Articles for the next newsletter should be e-mailed to Marie by March 3 (sportfishing@bis.midco.net), with the newsletter to be printed and mailed by March 12.
- Ron Liudahl's Memorial Donation – Ron was instrumental in getting the Congress where it is today. His family would like to get a memorial fund started. His wife, Judy, gave \$1,200 for a scholarship memorial and we received \$30 from his employer, Sterling Group. After a discussion as to what to do in Ron's memory, it was suggested to buy a prize with the interest from the fund and donate the prize in his name at our Annual Meeting. A motion was made by Lynn Schlueter, second by Clark Williams and passed. Ken Cumber and Paul Haug will investigate options on setting up a memorial for Ron.

■ Other New Business.

- President Ash encouraged individuals to send letters of congratulations to Emil Berard on his retirement from his 35 years with the ND Game & Fish.
- Ron Kraft – read letter his sent to the tournament fishing committee regarding PWT, addressing the conservation fund; not the \$5,000 cap for the PWT. Duaine said it was discussed at the Rules meeting and it was decided to keep it at \$5,000. Greg Power said it is 10% up to \$5,000, and mentioned that if it was a no entry fee tournament, the amount would be \$0. No action was taken.

- There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:30 p.m.

Submitted by: Marie Hoerner, Secretary

Date submitted: January 16, 2007