

North Dakota Sportfishing Congress

April 12, 2003 Meeting

Elks Lodge, Bismarck, ND

Attendees: President Duaine Ash, Past President Bruce Hagen, Treasurer Rick Eagleson, Director Paul Haug, Mike Anderson, Dave BeMent, Ed Dosch, Brian Ficek, Dick Fink, Joe Hall (US Army Corps of Engineers), Doug Kelly, Reinold Kellar, Lee Klapprodt, Steve Krentz, Mark Lamprecht, James Nagel, Mike Olson (Fish & Wildlife Service), Todd Lindquist (US Army Corps of EngineersBGarrison Project), Todd Sando (State Water Commission), Terry Steinwand (Game & Fish), Gene Van Eeckhout and Executive Secretary Marie Hoerner.

- President Ash called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. The minutes of the Jan. 18, 2003 meeting were distributed. A motion was made by Paul Haug, second by Mike Anderson and passed.
- Treasurer=s Report B Rich Eagleson presented the 12-month financial report, with a beginning balance in April 2002 of \$8,534.64 and ending balance of \$10,309.44 as of 4-12-03. Income of \$650 from 13 club dues, \$280 from 56 individuals and \$12,369.66 from the 2002 fund raiser; Expenses for postage, insurance, membership, fund raiser, newsletter, executive secretary, website and miscellaneous totaled \$11,524.86. A motion was made by Paul Haug, seconded by Lee Klapprodt and passed to accept the Treasurer=s report.
- Todd Lindquist, operations manager from the US Army Corps of Engineers-Garrison Project, said the Corps will address the boat ramp issues including lake elevations. A sheet on most likely runoff simulation evaluations was passed out. He mentioned it is now the 50th anniversary of the closure of the dam and the original purpose of this structure was irrigation, navigation, flood control and recreation. He mentioned the Clear Water Act.
 1. National Security B The Corps have been in Kuwait for the past 3 months.
 2. Major Rehab B increase reliability, efficiency on turbines; \$30 million project
 3. Lake Levels B nocuous weeds (Saltcedar)
 4. Lake Access

Joe Hall, lake manager from the US Army Corps of Engineers-Garrison Project, said they hope to have 12 ramps ready by May 10-15 and are working on the remaining ramps (distributed a list of 32 ramps). He said there are 83 public ramps in 34 areas; with most areas having 2-3 ramps. The available ramps and elevations will be posted on the Game & Fish website (www.state.nd.us/gnf/), their website (www.nwo.usace.army.mil/html/Lake_Proj/index.html) as well as in the newspapers.

Joe mentioned they are holding meetings on their shoreline management updates in New Town, Bismarck, Minot and Dickinson. The purpose of the meeting is the 5-year shoreline management and to address issues that come up.

They have developed a task force on the Saltcedar (have funding and meet every month). Joe said Saltcedar grows 1-5' tall, looks like a cedar tree, and they are able to control it (information sheet on Saltcedar was distributed). The state is working on a color brochure on this weed. If you see this weed, please give Joe a call at the Corps (701-654-7411) so they can control it. Joe said the Corps is not going to allow off-road driving. Saltcedar gets distributed B thinks waterfowl spreads it. He said the Sheyenne River is a mess with Saltcedar and most of our Saltcedar was in 1997 and 1998. Joe said some people have Saltcedar in their yards as an ornamental plant. To kill the noxious weed, you should spray the plant and leave it B cutting it makes it more resilient. On Little Missouri, Slope County, Sargeant County, Heskett Plant (Square Butte) are some places Saltcedar has been found. (Just found south of Gavins Point.)

- Todd Sando with the State Water Commission gave an update on the Missouri River System. Said it was the 4th year of a drought and they are trying to get the Corps to make changes on how they operate the system to benefit everyone. Todd said recreation is being slighted and the Corps has delayed the release of the Master Manual on how they operate the dam. Lawsuits were filed by SD, ND, MT and others which is creating a big mess. He said one of their lawsuits is to get the Corps to finish the Master Manual. Todd said Governor Hoeven has been trying to work with the governor of Missouri to conserve water. Missouri is trying to fight for every drop of water. Governor's office is looking at filing a lawsuit on the Clean Water Act. Based on lake levels, we could see high levels of die off of cold water habitat. He said Ft. Peck is more worried about perch than smelt. Their attorneys feel pretty good about the lawsuit. Trying to get Corps and US Fish & Wildlife Service to come up with a new Master Manual.
- Mike Olson, Missouri River Coordinator with Fish & Wildlife Service reported that five lawsuits are pending against the Corps and there are 10 waiting to be filed. Steve Krenz, who deals with fisheries issues and also works with the Fish & Wildlife Service, distributed two handouts. Said their main responsibilities deal with refugees but most of the emphasis is on waterfowl. Steve Williams, the new director of the F&WS, is trying to increase their presence in the fishing areas.

A handout produced by the US Fish and Wildlife Services on *Why Save Endangered Species?* was distributed. Mike said wildlife and fish have a role. He also mentioned we are not allowed to keep any sturgeon; a law that went into effect about 10 years ago. Mike said he works on the Missouri from one end to the other. A flyer on *Fishing on National Wildlife Refuges* was also distributed to attendees.

Corps has a *Flow to Target* B water to meet navigation needs and minimum discharges to meet drinking needs. Mike Olson said the government has spent millions of dollars trying to get the Master Manual complete and now it is going to be determined by court. Congress and the agencies have not gotten this done, so now it will be dictated by lawsuits B who has the most money and best attorneys. Missouri D&R (works with water appropriates and water rights) and Department of Conservation (work game & wildlife issues).

- Terry Steinwand with the Game & Fish (G&F) said things are looking better on water levels. There will be concerns on smelt spawning, not so much on walleyes. For 2003 there is a potentially large smelt loss B in 2002 smelt dropped by 60% and walleye dropping off in size a little. Terry said he is not as optimistic on boat ramps as Joe Hall. Information on the availability of boat ramps will be on the G&F website, as also mentioned by Joe.

Terry mentioned that during the last session a bill was introduced by trout people, with a goal to catch 12 20" trout per day. He said trout management is good now and the G&F has not received any complaints. Terry may contact some of our members to help set up meetings on trout fishing. The G&F Proclamation work will be coming up this winter and G&F will seek the club=s help. If you see dead fish floating, please contact the G&F Department. Terry said Lake Sakakawea fishing will be great this year, if you can get on the lake, and that smaller lakes may not be able to sustain fish for that much longer. He said G&F=s biggest challenge would be collection the eggs needed and they are reducing the fish stocking. Terry also talked about the Saltcedar problems.

- Lee Klappordt, delegate for AAFriends of Lake Sakakawea@@, said last year a group of individuals in Garrison worked with Sen. Dorgan to accomplish about \$1 million in boat ramp work on Lake Sakakawea. Unfortunately last fall, most of those ramps were out of the water due to steady decline in water levels. This spring, we need more boat ramp work done. He said the group recognized a need for developing recreation and promoting Lake Sakakawea so they drew up bylaws last summer establishing themselves as a form organization call the Friends of Lake Sakakawea. The NDSFC became a member to support their activities. Duaine Ash and Lee are two recreation representatives on the Friends of Lake Sakakawea Board. While the Friends of Lake Sakakawea was organized primarily to aid developing recreation on Lake Sakakawea, they have taken an active role in addressing Missouri River System management issues. They sponsored an meeting in Garrison in February that drew approximately 240 people. He believes there was a better understanding by the public after the meeting. Lee said we want to protect our rights for recreation in North Dakota. He said the concept was that the Corps is only interested in the navigation while in reality they have a difficult job of managing the river for several authorized purposes.

Lee mentioned that Coast Guard was considering discontinuing their maintenance of the navigation beacons on Lake Sakakawea. In working with Governor Hoeven=s office, The Friends of Lake Sakakawea have encouraged the Game & Fish Department help fund the beacons on Lake Sakakawea taking them over from the Coast Guard.

The Garrison Fish Hatchery is important to maintaining and, in particular, bringing back fisheries that have been negatively impacted during and after drought conditions. The Friends of Lake Sakakawea is working with Senator Dorgan to secure adequate funding for the Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery.

Maps were distributed on identifying the location of 21 recreation access areas on Lake Sakakawea that will be signed this spring and summer. Identifying various bays so boaters can better find their way on Lake Sakakawea is seen a very important since the lake draws many visitors unfamiliar with the reservoir. Lee reported that Bob Harms with the Governor=s office said signs are still being made and will be provided at no cost. Lee said AAFriends@@ may need help to put up signs and they hope fishing clubs will help out. He asked the attendees if they would consider helping out. He passed out membership forms for Friends of Lake Sakakawea.

- Webmaster Tony Burgan was not able to attend the meeting, so Duaine Ash gave a brief report. He said we have until May 3 to get work done on our website at no cost and after that date we will need to pay a fee for the work. Duaine mentioned that Tony is developing a web business on his own and will give NDSFC a discount for work on our website if he can put his logo on our website. Duaine recommended that clubs get their website changes to Tony before May 3.

Duaine said NDSFC is currently paying \$21 per month to the phone company, but the company made a donation of \$250 to NDSFC, which covers all but \$2 of our yearly fee.

- Mike Anderson gave an update on the Smoker & Raffle fund raiser. He said ticket sales were down from 2002, with 185-190 tickets sold this year and 220 tickets in 2002. The format this year is the same as in past years. Mike mentioned donations from club for the fund raiser B Great Planers Trout & Salmon donated a salmon sculpture, Lake Region Anglers Association donated the rod and reel combo special raffle and Bowman Haley donated \$50.

There was a discussion on whether to hold the 2004 fund raiser on this same Saturday. Some comments from attendees were: 1) We may lose people if it is held later in May because of nice weather and golfing; 2) People from out of town want the fund raiser held at a later date; 4) The date change would have to fall within the Constitution, and 5) Do we want our event to grow to 400-500 people? No date for the 2004 Smoker & Raffle fund raise was set at this time and will be decided at a later date.

- Duaine Ash reported that NDSFC had three issues in the 2003 legislative session and we were successful. Legislative representative Tom Abrahamson was not able to attend the annual meeting.
- It was suggested that other hunting and fishing clubs from North Dakota be invited to join our organization, but that clubs involved in both areas should only bring fishing issues to the Congress and leave hunting issues at home. Duaine received a list of clubs from Terry Steinwand and a letter inviting them to join NDSFC will be sent. Ron Sahr of Fargo offered to put something in their newsletter on the NDSFC.
- A discussion was held on when to hold the 2003 Fall Meeting. Terry Steinwand of Game & Fish said their proclamation is due in mid-December and he would like information (issues NDSFC wants to see addressed in proclamation) from our organization earlier in the fall. It was decided the fall meeting will be held on Saturday, Sept. 27, 2003 in Bismarck, but if another club would like to host it, they should contact President Ash at least one month before the meeting.
- Marie Hoerner, at the recommendation of Duaine Ash, handed out a revised front page of the NDSFC newsletter to include the Executive Board, as well as a Table of contents. The attendees liked these suggestions, so they will be implemented in the next newsletter. The city and email addresses of board members will also be added. The web address will also be included in the newsletter.
- The deadline for articles for the next newsletter is May 1. Clubs are encouraged to include their events B use this as advertising for your club=s events. Duaine Ash asked that articles should be emailed to Marie Hoerner (mhoerner@btinet.net), with a copy to him (dash@stellarnet.com).
- Duaine Ash read a letter he received from AVoices of Lake Oahe@ from Linton, ND. Their group=s five goals are unified voice on Lake Oahe, promote and develop Lake Oahe, access on Lake Oahe, education on water levels on Lake Oahe, and Corps to implement Master Plan. Their club=s annual dues are \$50 and individual memberships are \$25. Lee Klapprodt said their purpose is a lot like Friends of Lake Sakakawea. After a discussion, a motion was made by Lee Klapprodt, seconded by Paul Haug and passed that NDSFC should join Voices of Lake Oahe, but after the first year, we will see how their organization develops and we will reevaluate our membership for future years. Duaine will send a check for membership and will say we would appreciate their club=s membership in NDSFC.

- Ed Dosch held the election of officers, mentioning that Rick Brueckner was resigning as vice president. Executive Board positions were elected as follows:
President B Duaine Ash B motion by Paul Haug, seconded by Ron Sahr and unanimously passed.
Vice President B Paul Kriege B motion by Lee Klapprodt, seconded by Bruce Hagen and passed.
Treasurer B Rick Eagleson B motion by Paul Haug, seconded by Mike Anderson and passed.
2-Year Director B Don Baasch B motion by Mike Anderson, seconded by Paul Haug and passed.
2-Year Director B Richard Fink B motion by Jim Nagel, seconded by Ron Sahr and passed.
1-Year Director (replace Paul Kriege) B Brian Ficek B motion by Lee Klapprodt, seconded by Mark Lamprecht and passed.
- Paul Haug will review the NDSFC books kept by Rick Eagleson.
- After a brief discussion, it was decided that individuals currently on our mailing list will be dropped off if their dues are not paid.
- Duaine thanked the speakers and club members for their presentations and taking time out of their weekend.
- There being no further business, President Ash adjourned the meeting at approximately 2:30 p.m.

Submitted by: Executive Secretary Marie Hoerner