

NORTH DAKOTA SPORTFISHING CONGRESS

P.O. BOX 2472 • BISMARCK, ND 58502

MEETING AGENDA

Saturday, April 14, 2007 – 10:30 a.m. (CT)
Eagles Club (1400 Collins Avenue) – Mandan, ND

Members Present: President Duaine Ash; Board members Mike Anderson, Don Baasch, Ed Dosch, Rick Eagelson, Richard Fink, Paul Haug, Lynn Schlueter, and; Members: Miles Bobb, Dave Bement, Ken Cumber, Terry Fleck, Dean Hildebrand, Perry Kapaun, Doug Kelly, Joe Neuenschwander, and Clark Williams (incoming President). Others Present: Greg Power and Terry Steinwand, Game & Fish; Steve Krenz, US Fish & Wildlife Services; Sen.. Bob Stenehjem, Reps. Ron Carlisle, Bob Martinson and Todd Porter, North Dakota Legislature; Denise Spanjer (Representative for Ron Liudahl Memorial) 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 January 13, 2007 meeting were approved as distributed. Motion was made by Don Paul Haug, second by Miles Bobb.
- Treasurer Rick Eagleson distributed the “Treasurer’s Report” and a motion to approve the Treasurer’s report was made by Don Baasch, second by Perry Kapaun and passed.
- Reports from NDG&F (<http://gf.nd.gov/>): Greg Power, Jerry Weigel and Lynn Schuelter (Subjects -- ANS, production partnership, boat ramps access plans, winter kill, SOL & immediate outlook for fisheries)

Greg Power – Various fishing lakes across the state are developed because of great cooperation from local landowners – they help provide public access and county government often help with cost-share. Both are good to work with and they love to fish. Lake Oahe has come up more than expected, but don’t get your hopes up too much. Likewise, for Lake Sakakawea the water level may be 6 feet lower than last year for the summer high. The smelt spawn does not look good for this year, but Greg believes fishing will be good on Lake Sakakawea. The population on adult walleye will be decreasing over the next couple of years, but the G&F expect good things in Devils Lake. Greg talked about the winter kill in some of the lakes and some were very minor. The G&F has a two-year fishing proclamation. The only real change (minor) was in paddlefish snagging. Greg showed a PowerPoint presentation on the making of the Fisheries. There are five divisions in the G&F and Fisheries is one of the smaller ones. The big issue that was dealt with for 10 years is the bait issue between wholesale and retail – bait is a lot cleaner than it used to be. 95-99 percent of retailers have “clean” bait.

Management Research (actively manage approximately 300 water bodies). They do a lot of netting for various reasons (stocking rates, regulation changes, etc.) This division deals with water quality and a small amount of research. G&F does lake contour mapping for nearly 170 new lakes. Bob Froehlich heads up the Development Program (boat ramps) which also includes boat docks, toilet facilities, fish cleaning stations, etc. He said Lake Sakakawea and Devils Lake are about 120 miles apart and a few

years back one had record low water and the other record highs. There is a lot of government oversight in developing ramps and roads. Van Hook is a popular place to fish. Stump Lake is about 70 feet deep now. Habitat Program (SOL -- The issues of water quality). The G&F is trying to piggy back SOL with other programs. Alternative water sources to get cattle off the lakes. ANS issues fall under Habitat Rehabilitation. The other division is Production. ND has about 200,000 people who fish. Even though ND offers a very diverse fishery such as for paddlefish and muskie, every survey in ND says walleye, pike, perch are the three top desired species.

Update on Carp – They are still not in Devils Lake. Nothing has changed.

Lee Klapprodt said the Lake Sakakawea Master Plan is underway and there will be some meetings coming up. He recommends anyone who is interested to attend these meetings and speak out.

- Jerry Weigel (US Fish & Wildlife Service) – State and Federal Hatchery Partnership. ND has only two federal hatcheries (Garrison Dam and Valley City), but no state hatcheries. 98 ponds are generally in production covering nearly 140 surface acres. G&F and F&W work together on the hatchery, trying to minimize manpower. The State provides the FWS an annual grant for operating costs. A fish pump system was developed over the past 4-5 years to transfer fish to trucks. This process use to be labor-intensive work. Jerry talked about the different walleye, trout and perch programs being developed thus there is a continual demand for hatchery fish.
- SOL program (Scott Elstad is the main person at G&F working on SOL). Funding for this program is about \$1 million per biennium. The primary goal is to enhance and restore ND aquatic habitat resources in order to protect the fishery of North Dakota. Scott partners with many agencies with the SOL program. They are trying to prioritize waters. He showed pictures on some of the SOL projects (before and after photos) – dredging and other treatments being done, including alternate cattle water resources. Key components are local people partnering with SOL. Many lakes – farmers and ranchers are not interested in SOL and hopefully they will see the benefits. The G&F is looking for more cooperation on private lands. Steve Krenz suggested that Jerry Weigel go to different clubs to promote the SOL program to get momentum in helping clean lands.
- Lynn Schlueter gave an update on ANS. He said we have to keep it out of the state and this is the biggest effort. The need to make sure people understand the importance of controlling ANS and want to keep them informed. Lynn has been at tournaments to talk about ANS and he is going to be looking at some of the lakes again this year to see if there are any problems. He said the G&F uses chemical treatment for ANS on an experimental/research basis only. Lynn mentioned the latest virus is VHS, which affects a lot of different species internally. A treatment for ANS is to use Clorox to clean the boat. The G&F is working on regulations for ANS and are looking to develop an ANS list. They are going to work harder and harder with tournaments – to disinfect boats prior to the tournament, not just the day of the tournament. Beginning in 2008, all aquatic plants must be removed from boats, etc. when they leave a water...and all water must be drained from the boats, livewells, etc.
- Report from USF&W from Steve Krenz. Last week they were in Garrison; 10-12 crews will be in Williston to capture pallid sturgeon for propagation purposes. Last year on the refuge fisheries, they started an evaluation of the contaminant levels. They are taking a two-year look and will be putting out results on the internet and will provide us with the site. Management plan at Spirit Lake Nation – Mission Lake, Gravel Pit Lake, Fort Totten Lake to promote stock – hoping to get the fisheries population boosted.
- State Legislative Update: Representatives Todd Porter, Ron Carlisle and Bob Martinson; and Senator Stenehjem.

Rep. Carlisle said there is a week to 10 days left in the 2007 legislative session. – Key person in House is Rep. Frank Wald and that the Appropriations Committee has the G&F budget. They generally try to put an emergency clause in the G&F budget to get ramps started. He said the Corps has done a lot more positive things this year. The ball is in the air right now, but this week things will happen. Update on the G&F budget issues. There is always a fight with the Wildlife issues. Please feel free to contact any of the legislators. Reps. Matt Klein and Frank Wald are on the G&F budget. It's a whole new situation this year with a lot of money. President Duaine Ash said there have not been very many fishing issues in this legislative session. Rep. Bob Stenehjem said we all have the problems at Lake Sakakawea and Lake Oahe, but he appreciates the work of this organization and other groups to help maintain the boat ramps. It wouldn't happen without people like the NDSFC. Rep. Todd Porter has represented Mandan for the last 10 years serving on Natural Resources Committee and this year he is the chairman of the committee. They deal with fishing to hunting, in addition to energy issues. He said that past G&F director Dean Hildebrand spent a lot of time in front of the committee in his old job at G&F. ND numbers of youth getting into the sport of fishing and hunting indicates a drop off. There is an outside group that will possibly do a recruitment and retention on getting more youth involved. ND has a bill to lower the hunting age to 12 for deer hunting. The Senate moved it to 13; however, it appears that it will remain at age 14. Youth pheasant season was defeated in the House. No one can hunt in ND until they have had hunter safety. The House was looking at taking down barriers that would allow kids to get involved in hunting. The kids that testified said that they are so many things that get in the way, such as sports. The study has a budget of \$30,000 if approved and would take place from July 2007 through July 2008.

Dean asked if there would be a possibility of some work done on Sakakawea to get more access to shorelines. Bob Stenehjem holds the power of introducing delayed resolutions. There are only nine days left in the Legislature and Rep. Porter recommends that we call/write Stenehjem if we want to get delayed legislation. Dean suggested that the NDSFC develop a resolution at the meeting today.

Rep. Porter confirmed that Duaine Ash was at the Legislature dealing with the marina and boat ramp issues. Dean commended Todd Porter for the great job he has done in the legislature for the sporting industry.

- Terry Steinwand reported that the G&F will have \$300,000 transferred to Parks & Rec for ramps and parks. G&F received \$58 Million for requests. G&F asked for additional money with an emergency clause, meaning it can be used immediately after signed by the Governor. Another big add-on – Sweetbrier Dam has \$1 M to repair the dam. H.B. #1311 – will affect G&F because of youth hunting (hunter education). ND is not one of the more restrictive states for youth hunting. Terry mentioned that for 1.2 kids are being gained for every 1 hunters lost.
- Duaine said the only bill was SB 2332 – Non-resident fishing would be charged the same as they would charge a non-resident in their state. The legislation was opposed since there are so many mom-n-pop operations that a wrong fee may be charged and they would then be penalized for charging the wrong amount. SB 2377 was the other bill – a marina bill that was for Garrison. They wanted to get \$1.2 million out of G&F to put in as matching funds. This bill was killed and rolled over to put in the Parks budget. A copy of the bill can be found on the Legislative website at: www.legis.nd.gov. Senator Dorgan came up with \$10 million for the Garrison marina. This Garrison project will all be Corps money.
- Ron Kraft of Voices for Lake Oahe mentioned the three Voices projects listed in March 2007 newsletter: Beaver Bay project; low-water ramps -- shoreline access to Lake Oahe; and Hazelton Boat Ramp. He said they are trying to get a permanent ramp in the campground. He mentioned that there

is no charge for camping at Beaver Bay again this year. Ron handed out a Voices membership application and a flyer on their April 28th annual meeting in Linton.

- Terry Fleck with Friends of Lake Sakakawea mentioned that their Board meeting is scheduled for 3:00 p.m. at Ottertail Building in Garrison on April 25th regarding developments for shorelines.

Committee Reports

- Fundraising – Mike Anderson said that earlier this week it looked like ticket sales were down by 15%, but is now up to over 200 again this year. He thanked Richard Fink and his selling crew for the excellent job. This is the first year that the fund raiser is being held at the Eagles. Mike said we have more room at this facility and hopefully more tickets can be sold in future years. He said we will have a few special raffles and he would like some volunteers to sell tickets. A question survey as to whether to have a sit-down or buffet dinner will be handed out at the fund raiser dinner. Duaine thanked Mike and Richard for all the work they did.
- Ron Liudahl's Memorial Scholarship Fund – (Paul Haug and Kenny Cumber serve on the Committee) Ken reported on the memorial scholarship fund in Ron's name. Ken said there was money that came from his family \$1,200. Ken's club, Dakota Anglers, gave \$1,000. When the Dakota Anglers had their buffalo feed, they had a raffle which raised \$300, so there is \$2,500 in the fund to date. The Scholarship Committee will get names from the G&F of individuals who are going into the fisheries division to qualify for the scholarships. The committee is going to work with G&F to put the scholarship together and Ken noted the contributions will hopefully be tax deductible. The scholarship fund will use only the interest for the scholarships. A Scholarship Committee would need to be set up and they would decide how the money would be distributed in scholarships. Ken would like a letter from NDSFC promoting the scholarship. A motion was made by Ron Kraft, seconded by Paul Haug and passed that the NDSFC contribute \$500 to the Ron Liudahl Memorial Scholarship fund and a letter from the NDSFC to the clubs encouraging donations. Ken Cumber and Paul Haug will draft the letter. Dakota Anglers is willing to handle this fund and one of the two delegates will report on the fund at the NDSFC annual meeting.

Old Business:

- Website – Duaine encouraged the clubs to update their websites.
- The NDSFC gave Friends and Voices \$250 each last year. Lynn suggested that we just make a donation and not in the form of dues. Richard Fink opposed the idea of a donation because he said that's not the purpose of the NDSFC. Ken Cumber believes that once these organizations are viable, they won't need our support. Duaine Ash made a motion that the NDSFC not contribute to either organization. The motion was seconded by Clark Williams and passed. (Vice President Lynn Schlueter acted as president for this motion.)
- Treasurer Rick Engleson said he received a renewal on insurance policy –\$249 fee a year (minimum fee) which is due on April 25. A motion was made by Ron Kraft, seconded by Clark Williams and passed to renew the insurance policy.
- Due to the increase in gas prices, Duaine Ash asked for an additional \$100 per month for serving as lobbyist for the NDSFC. This would increase the fee to \$1,100 a month or \$3,300 for the session. A motion to reimburse Duaine Ash \$3,300 as lobbyist for the 2007 Legislative session was made by Paul Haug, seconded by Lynn Schlueter and passed

- Election of Officers – President Ash presented the following slate of officers:
 - President Clark Williams
 - Treasurer Rick Eagleson
 - Board of Directors: Mike Anderson, Don Baasch and Richard Fink

A motion was made by Ken Cumber, seconded by Lynn Schlueter and passed to accept the slate of officers as presented.

- Duaine said his term as President has been a great experience and he couldn't ask for anything better. He said has met and made a lot of good friends. He then welcomed Clark Williams as the new President of NDSFC.
- A motion was made for the NDSFC to send a letter to pass a resolution to have Rep. Bob Stenehjem request a legislative resolution requesting the Corps to provide improved or expanded lake shore access on the Missouri River System. Motion by Perry, seconded by Mike Anderson and passed.
- The North Dakota Sportfishing Congress and its representatives of 14 North Dakota Fishing, Sportsman and Wildlife Clubs unanimously approved a Resolution today (April 14, 2007) asking the North Dakota Legislature to approve a Resolution asking the United States Corps of Engineers to modify its Operating Plan and to set aside specific designated shore fishing access areas along the shores of Lake Sakakawea and Lake Oahe.

In these years of low water conditions, environmental and archeological concerns have moved the Corps to close off hundreds of miles of publicly-owned shoreline to public use. This leaves the general tax paying licensed public who do not own a boat with little or no options to fish these waters.

- The next NDSFC newsletter will be in June highlighting the annual meeting and legislative session, as well as clubs' information. **Articles are due by June 1 with the newsletter to be sent by June 15.**
- Other New Business – Fishing tournament fees were discussed briefly. There is a \$5,000 tournament fee cap; 10% conservation fee.
- President Ash mentioned he received a group promo packet from Sportsmen's Lodge at Lake of the Woods. There was no interest from club members.
- There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Submitted by: Marie Hoerner, Secretary

Date submitted: April 24, 2007