



# NORTH DAKOTA SPORTFISHING CONGRESS ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

Saturday, April 8, 2006 – 11:00 A.M.

ELK'S LODGE – 900 South Washington Street, Bismarck, ND

- Members Present: President Duaine Ash; Board members Rick Eagelson, Paul Haug, Don Baasch, Richard Fink; Mike Anderson and Reinold Kellar; Members: Brian Ash, Dave Bement, Dave Chadduck, Ken Cumber, Terry Fleck, Steve Goldade, Doug Kelly, Lee Klapprodt, Ron Kraft, Bill Lee, Joe Neuenschwander, Ron Sahr, Lynn Schlueter, Tony Splonskowski, Ed Sweeney and Clark Williams. Others Present: Terry Steinwand, Game & Fish; Mike Morris & Ralph Gabrysh, Corps of Engineers; Rob Holm, US Fish & Wildlife Services-Garrison Dam Fish & Hatchery; Steve Krenz, US F&W Service; Representatives Ron Carlisle, Todd Porter and Bob Martinson; and Executive Secretary Marie Hoerner.
- President Duaine Ash called the meeting to order and everyone introduced themselves and indicated who they represented.
  - The minutes of the December 3, 2005 meeting were approved as distributed. A motion was made by Paul Haug, second by Joe Neuenschwander and passed.
  - Treasurer Rick Eagelson distributed the “Treasurer’s Report” which showed a beginning balance of \$9,639.16 on 12-3-05 and ending balance of \$8,236.53 on 4-8-06. The report revealed total income of \$10,109.16 and total expenses of \$1,872.63. A motion to approve the financial statement was made by Mike Anderson, second by Dave Bement and unanimously passed.
  - Report from Corps of Engineers Mike Morris for Lake Sakakawea – Mike had a spreadsheet on the different ramps around the state showed that 23 out of 25 ramps should be open this year. The spreadsheet (Attachment) is a good reference to compare to the forecast info. For the April 1<sup>st</sup> forecast the basic simulation or average shows the reservoir peaking at 1813.7 m.s.l. and for the lower basic 1811.3 m.s.l. Both of these elevations are forecasted at the end of June. The link to the website for the forecast is <http://www.nwd-mr.usace.army.mil/rcc/>. On the left hand side you will see an icon for forecast information; click on that and scroll down under Reservoir Forecast Information, click on Main Stem Reservoir & Release Forecast – Monthly Study, scroll down to April or whatever month you are interested in. Mike indicated that the Corps did not receive any Congressional ad money for ramp work, but they should be in pretty good shape this year. He also talked about shortening of the navigation season.
  - Lake Oahe – Ralph Gabrysh reported on the elevation of Lake Oahe saying that on the lower basic simulation it peaks at 1572. He also gave an update on various boat ramps that have open up to date, with the latest one opening at Hazelton on April 3. The Corps are doing all they can to control noxious weeds on the Missouri River bottoms. The Corps will use some of their excess money for controlling Canadian Thistle on the River bottoms. Members were asked to keep their eyes out for looters on the shore lines and to contact the Corps office if they see any.
  - Rynee Kellar gave an update on what Bis-Man Reel & Rec is doing to help with boat ramps. He mentioned they would like to see a state park on Lake Oahe. The Corps will monitor the Hazelton boat ramp this year. They have been doing some feasibility studies about moving the Hazelton ramp further south. In the next few months, they should have something to look at in doing some price comparisons. Richard Fink mentioned that the Hazelton ramp is a vital problem and not only for the Bis-Man Reel & Rec.

- The Master Plan may be updated for Lake Oahe. They will be doing some vegetation studies and possibly public meeting to get input for the Master Plan update. There are outside interests from federal and state agencies.
- Report from Lee Klapprodt on Plenary meetings -- Lee has been attending Plenary meetings all last summer that the Corps set up to discuss the Master Plan. It was mentioned that the Pallet Sturgeon population is to have a spring rise. The idea was to design a spring rise scenario for 2006 to help with Pallet sturgeon. Special task forces were setup to address questions that came out of the plenary meetings. CDR consulting firm from Denver ran the meetings, which the Corps hired to facilitate the process, and Lee feels they did a fairly good job. Through the Plenary, they saved several days of high flow, limiting to about a 3-day window. There was no consensus on what the 2006 spring rise should be. The runoff from the spring rise can flood the farmland and farmers are opposed to any other risk that may flood their lands. The farmers rejected any ideas that would cause a spring rise. There was no consensus from the Plenary group and what they did in the end was the Corps took the information from the Plenary group and made the decision themselves. Lee encourages Congress members to attend the Corps planning meetings and express their concerns. MRRIC (Missouri River Recovery Initiative Committee) is made up of the stakeholders and tribes. After the Plenary meetings, they had no recommendation to give to the Corps. Richard Fink asked if there is a possibility of having an AOP meeting in Bismarck. The Corps representatives said they will check on this and get back to the NDSFC group.
- Report from Lynn Schlueter on ANS & Red River & Devils Lake issues  
ANS update – Lynn thanked the NDSFC for supporting ANS. The G&F has a proposed list for ANS in North Dakota that should be considered and they will work on getting it approved, as well as starting to look at what the base regulations should be to control it. They want the regulations enforceable. Ramson County Water District was willing to take the reservoir down and Lynn recommends that Duaine Ash send a letter to thank them for their support. The G&F is going to have people on the ground this spring and will be working with the Fisheries staff (Rob Holms) to have a plan in place to minimize ANS. Lynn will be on the road giving his ANS report on the danger of ANS, and he said we can't back off! The G&F will have people out looking for ANS and educating.

It was mentioned that at a jar filled with Zebra mussels was found near Jordan, MT on the south side of the Fort Peck Reservoir. They have not found out where it came from, but there are some people who don't like the US Government.

Red River & Devils Lake Issues – The possibility of Carp getting into the Devils Lake. G&F have been trying to work with the locals, who don't like government. Some of the temporary solutions will cost about 200% of what the permanent solution would cost. G&F would like to get the final approval of locals. Terry Steinwand, director of the ND Game & Fish, said that his patience is running out on the Devils Lake. Individuals just don't trust government regarding flooding. G&F committed to buying all the chemicals, but the problem is they want everything. G&F is contracting with the Weed Board to administer the chemicals.

- Report from ND Game & Fish Department (Terry Steinwand report for Greg Power) – To add to what Lee was talking about, Terry said there was the Missouri River Association of States & Tribes (MORAST). The purpose was to have a more unified voice. Missouri has declined to participate in MORAST. As far as legislative issues for 2007, Terry said it is too early for legislation. They met with "Friends" and they would like to do the same with Voices of Lake Oahe, to get the line of communication. The AOP meeting is critical and the Governor will attend and they will focus on the spring rise. Terry said we need to remember all the lakes in the state, as they are all important to the G&F, not just the big lakes. 4.8 cents of each gallon of gas tax goes to G&F. G&F will have an extra \$1 million per year to work with. USDA gives G&F \$1 million to work with viruses.

- Report from Terry Fleck on “Friends of Lake Sakakawea” meetings – Terry is chairman of Friends. He talked about the list of 12 accomplishments that Friends sent to their membership this year, which can be found on the Friends website at [www.lakesakakawea.com](http://www.lakesakakawea.com). There continues to be a number of contentious issues as it relates to the lower basin lakes and they need to stay involved. Terry mentioned they have around 8,000 members. He said we need to make sure the Lake comes up and stays up.

The Master Plan has to do with the lake shore and the Corps invited Friends to be involved, since it is unusual for the government to invite individuals and groups to become involved in the process. Terry said there are a lot of neat things to happen on the shores of Lake Sakakawea and it will take a lot of work and Friends hopes to make it happen.

- Lee Klapprodt works for the State Water Commission – He would be interested in having the NDSFC supporting a spokesperson that would represent the upper Basin. Needs to come from the grassroots type efforts. We need to get the tribes involved on a positive note as well as the states. The people in the state of Missouri do not understand what people do on the Missouri River in North Dakota, such as the sandbar recreation.
- Report from Ron Kraft on “Voices of Lake Oahe” Meetings – Back in January, Ron conducted an experimental meeting to come up to speed on Lake Oahe issues. He said that Lake Oahe shouldn’t be treated as the “red-headed step child”. In February, Voices approached him about getting better access on Lake Oahe. Ron distributed 10 different pictures and a “Langelier Bay Low Water Boat Access Map”, and talked about the need of moving the Hazelton ramp south to the main channel of the Missouri River. The proposed ramp at Langelier Bay encompasses approximately 2 miles, which includes the road.

Ralph Gabrysh said that the Corps no longer owns the boat ramps in South Dakota, the state has jurisdiction over the ramps. A comment was made that South Dakota has no interest in helping North Dakota.

Ron said they had problems with the landowners adjacent to the project and has the eye of one County Commissioner and he has convinced them to “drag their heels” on the project and we need more vocalization from our members and other groups. Ralph said the regulator permits were all done and were waiting for the “Green light”. A breeding duck pond is being proposed on Beaver Bay. Terry Steinwand said that Beaver Bay is important for walleye, when it has water, and that ducks and fish don’t always mix and match for the G&F to get involved in the duck pond.

- Legislative Update – Reps. Ron Carlisle, Todd Porter and Bob Martinson  
Todd Porter – What is in store for the upcoming session? Todd is House co-chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee. Policy change in the Century Code always comes to his committee. Not a lot of fishing issues came up in the last session. Raised and split up the licenses and put the money back into public access. G&F money comes from us who buy licenses. Guide & Outfitter issues – only a few loopholes were left, but he will look at these in the next session. In 2005, they worked on a minnow trapping issue where people come across others land to trap minnows. Added a law that said if your state doesn’t allow minnow trapping, then you can’t do it in another state – these are leveling the playing field laws. G&F is funded by license sales and matching funds from fish and wildlife restoration funds. The G&F trust fund cannot be spent to lower than \$15 million. The next move is to have a felony game violation, where they loose rights such as to vote, bear arms, etc. How much do you have before it becomes a felony? They want to add game warden positions in the next legislative session, to increase the awareness of Game & Fish.

Ron Carlisle – \$80,000 was added to G&F for boat ramps and there was an optional youth pheasant hunting season. It helps that a lot of the senators/representatives hunt and fish.

Bob Martinson – Rynee asked Bob if he foresees a state park south of Bismarck. Bob said he thinks anything is possible and he would certainly take a look at it.

President Ash had an article from *Dakota Country* on how they rank the legislators; he did not agree with the rankings as they did not consider all impacts on Natural Resources issues. He thanked the Representatives for coming to the meeting and for doing a good job for fishing during the legislative session.

- Rob Holms, Riverdale Hatchery, gave an update on federal legislation that was written up a few years ago. The bill amounts to a permit funding. Our support comes from the legislators in Washington and they are looking at a \$1 million cut next year and \$2 million for the year after that. They would like to see legislation backed by our Congressmen. He encouraged NDSFC members to go to the American Sportfishing Association website ([www.asafishing.org/asa/governemntal/natl\\_fish\\_mitigation.html](http://www.asafishing.org/asa/governemntal/natl_fish_mitigation.html)) and click on the button where you can contact the Congressmen to comment on the federal legislation – H.R. 537. Lake Sakakawea opened up and is available for fishing. Rob said there will be a big Perch push up at Devils Lake.
- NDSFC members were encouraged to fill out the Creel survey from if they receive one. Ron Sahr asked if the G&F website could have any areas for “licenses” that are available in one place, as it is hard to find the various licenses. Terry Steinwand said he would bring this up as a possible G&F website change.
- Steve Krentz, US Fish & Wildlife Service – A four-page handout on update Fisheries Forever was distributed, which is included as part of the minutes. Recreational fishing is important to the public and future generations. If you want to get on their mailing list, contact Tony at [Tony\\_Brady@fws.gov](mailto:Tony_Brady@fws.gov). He commented that mercury is always a concern. They are trying to make sure the communities are benefiting from what they are doing.
- Terry Steinwand said it’s too early to talk about legislative issues as they are just starting to compile it.
- Committee Reports and Assignments – Fundraising (Mike Anderson) – Mike said there was about the same amount of ticket sales and thanked Richard Fink for the large amount of sales. Mike said there would be a buffet dinner instead of a Prime Rib dinner. There are not going to be any auction items this year, but will have a couple of special raffles. Paul Haug said he had a few reel/rod combos that were worth about \$15 and would like to give them to the Bis-Man Reel & Rec’s “Take a Kid Fishing” day. A motion was made by Mike Anderson, seconded by Rynee Kellar and unanimously passed. If this happens in future years, Richard suggested they should be given to different club.
- New Business
  - Set Fall Meeting – Since this will be President Duaine Ash’s last meeting, he would like to have a Board meeting, including a salmon boil, in Devils Lake. The meeting/event will be held the first weekend in August; with the meeting the evening of August 5 and fishing on August 5 and 6. If you want items included on the agenda, please let Duaine know in advance.
  - Newsletter – The Executive Officers will make decision on the date of the next newsletter.
  - Selecting a Lobbyist for the 2007 Legislative Session – It was recommended that Duaine represent the NDSFC, but no action was taken.
  - Website – We have had a record number of hits since late fall when we switched to a new website host. Duaine encouraged clubs to submit dates of their club tournaments so they could be posted on the NDSFC website. Marie Hoerner said that the entry form can also be included; just e-mail or send her the form at [sportfishing@bis.midco.net](mailto:sportfishing@bis.midco.net) and it will be linked to the date of the tournament so interested individuals can print the form.
- Other New Business
  - Lake Regional Anglers has a board meeting on Tuesday and they talked about increasing the conservation fees at a higher cap than the current \$5,000.
  - Richard Fink – Reel & Rec issue. Asked each of the clubs to let them know they keep their club’s records.

- Red River Sportsman Club of Wahpeton had sent in the club dues and a list of the 80 individual members. Duaine will call Wayne to clarify that the dues are for the club and includes two delegates, not all of their individual club members.
- Rick Eagelson said the renewal on club insurance is due (\$256 per year). A motion was made by Lynn Schlueter, seconded by Rynee Kellar and passed to renew the club's insurance.
- NDSFC received a statement for the Friends of Lake Sakakawea's membership due for \$250. A comment was made that if we donate to one group, do you need to belong to all. Ken Cumber asked if we should encourage individuals to belong, instead of a club membership. Richard Fink felt that we give our time and efforts, and we should encourage individual membership. Lynn Schlueter suggested giving a \$100 donation to support their activities; however, Mike Anderson asked if it met our charter bylaws regarding donations and membership. After discussion, a motion was made by Lynn Schlueter, second by Ron Sahr and passed on a vote of 6-4 to pay the \$250 dues to Friends. In return, a motion was made by Ron Kraft, seconded by Mike Anderson and passed on a vote of 7-5 to make a \$250 donation to Lake of Oahe. Ron Sahr and Paul Haul will check the NDSFC bylaws as to the legality of donations being made.
- Election of Officers (Nominating Committee, Duaine Ash & Ed Dosch) –
  - Duaine mentioned that Rynee Kellar resigned from the Board and that Paul Haug and Ed Dosch's term was up. Rich Lee, Paul Haug, Ed Dosch put their names on the list of delegates. A motion was made by Mike Anderson, second by Rynee Kellar and passed to re-elect Paul Haug and Ed Dosch, and to elect Rich Lee as a new member of the Board.
  - Duaine further said that Paul Kriege decided to not seek re-election as Vice President. Duaine asked if there are any nominations from the floor. Paul Haug made a motion to nominate Lynn Schlueter for Vice President and it was seconded by Rick Eagleson, and passed unanimously. Terry Steinwand confirmed that it would be okay if Lynn served in this capacity, even though he was a G&F employee.
- Rynee said he received a letter for membership from "Friends" and he believed the names came from the NDSFC membership list and didn't think it was appropriate. Ash stated he contact a majority of the E-board and got there approval to send the name providing they didn't give them any one else. They wanted to send out an information letter to our membership giving them the opportunity to join with the FOLS. After a short discussion, it was decided that Ron Sahr would check to make sure this complies with the NDSFC bylaws.
- There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:15 p.m.

Submitted by: Marie Hoerner, Secretary

Date submitted: April 14, 2006