



## North Dakota Sportfishing Congress Fall Meeting

Saturday, August 18, 2007 • 6:00 PM

Duaine and Barb Ash's House • Devils Lake, ND

### MINUTES

Members Present: President Clark Williams; Past President Duaine Ash; Board members Don Baasch, Ed Dosch and Rick Eagleson; Members: Dave Bement, Tracy Gardner (and member of G&F District Advisory Board) and Ralph Gardner. Others Present: Greg Power, Game & Fish; and Executive Secretary Marie Hoerner.

- President Clark Williams called the meeting to order and attendees introduced themselves.
- Treasurer Rick Eagleson gave the Treasurer's report, which included a summary sheet on the April 2007 Fund Raiser. He said the report revealed about the same numbers for income and expenses as last year and the numbers didn't fluctuate much from last year. [Since there was not a quorum at the meeting, the minutes were not approved and will be presented again at the next meeting.]
- The minutes from the April 14, 2007 were distributed, but not approved, due to the lack of a quorum and will also be presented again at the next meeting.
- President Williams said he would like to create contact lists for the various member clubs to be used as a means of communication for the NDSFC. He circulated lists he had put together and asked if anyone had suggestions for members in their club other than delegates or board members that should be on the contact list, to please let him know ([shadrap@gondtc.com](mailto:shadrap@gondtc.com)). Clark would like to get the NDSFC lists updated for better communications, especially email addresses.
- Game & Fish representative Greg Power gave an update on fishing in North Dakota. He said that 172,000 fishing licenses were issued in 2006, which was up about 8,000 from the prior year. The 2007 numbers are not available at this time. He also talked about summer fishing on Lake Sakakawea and Devils Lake. Greg said there are a number of new lakes that were stocked with walleye and have had good fishing. Greg also went over the G&F staff changes as a result of Emil Berard's retiring, and said that the Department has three new positions as a result of the 2007 legislative session, one of which is in Fisheries. Visit the G&F website for more information – <http://gf.nd.gov/>. Greg said they don't see a lot of changes for the two-year proclamation period that will be started this fall. G&F has received a permit for cormorants, but it's not for public use; however, he will need to put a report together on the number of cormorants that were shot.

Greg reported that Missouri River gizzard shad are new to the system, which could affect fishing by creating better walleye fishing. He mentioned the legislative session gave G&F the approval to spend about \$1 million for boat ramp work immediately on the Missouri River System. In addition, he said the smelt numbers are way down -- 90% reduction over the past ½ dozen years. The good news is a year ago Lake Sakakawea had the best year class of Cisco (lake herring) which hopefully will help

improve the condition of the lakes predators. Late this summer, some bigger salmon have been caught (8 to 10 lbs). Cisco are not going to replace smelt, but they will at least help. Greg mentioned that Lake Oahe came up 9 feet from last year.

Greg Power encouraged everyone to look at website [www.takemefishing.org](http://www.takemefishing.org) for finding places to fish and boat in the United States and also promotes fishing nationally. A link to this website will be added on the North Dakota Sportfishing Congress website under “Miscellaneous/Helpful Links” ([http://www.ndsportfishingcongress.org/helpful\\_links.htm](http://www.ndsportfishingcongress.org/helpful_links.htm)).

ANS Update – Greg said the G&F is working with bait dealers on ANS issues to change rules and regulations. There are about 220 retail bait dealers in ND and about 25-30 wholesalers in ND. The retailers in Fargo had concerns because they get their minnows from Minnesota and no more “fatheads” from out-of-state will be allowed. He mentioned that the Red River has developed a lot and more ramps were put in, as well as shore fishing established.

Billings Lake Update – Greg said that G&F representative Lynn Schlueter and other staff have done a wonderful job of trying to keep the carp out of the Devils Lake basin. One documented carp did make it to the DL watershed below Billings Lake; however they were young of the year carp and that’s better than the large carp. Hopefully the pike will get the young carp. This project started in 2004 and continues. Duaine Ash told the Devils Lake Basin landowners that keeping carp out of Devils Lake will benefit the whole community and we are looking forward to working with the landowners to find a solution to the issue.

The G&F is proposing new regulations that when you leave a lake your boat has to be clean of vegetation and clean of water. Livewells will also have to be clean of water when you leave a lake and any ANS is going to be illegal to have in your possession. There will be a public hearing this fall to try to get these rules changed. The proposed regulations will help in the amount of water that could be transferred between water bodies. The law will probably be enforced initially more by “word of mouth” and G&F will need to step in the penalties. The law will allow 6 gallons of water for transporting bait. Bait can be in a bucket, but not the livewell. Greg said that letters were sent to the 220 bait vendors and over 100 clubs and fishing clubs. North Dakota is probably one of the cleanest states of ANS, so this is why G&F wants to make sure it stays that way.

- Bylaws and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) – President Williams said that parts of the NDSFC bylaws are not clear, i.e. – 1) executive secretary position is not mentioned in the bylaws; 2) does not talk about how we do business; 3) how the fund raiser is handled; 4) activity report on the things that we do; 5) Missouri River coordinator (what they do); and 6) there is no longer a “family” fee, but still mentioned in the bylaws. Past President Duaine Ash suggested that the Bylaws Committee (Haug, Eagleson & Sahr) – be made aware of these issues and others, so they can be clarified. Duaine also said that the “president” should not be on the Nominating Committee.
- It was mentioned that the current committees and their membership should be listed on the website, once it is determined who serves on each committee.
- Club reports were given by members present at the meeting:
  - Rick Eagleson (FM Mushies) – they have heavy membership from Minnesota, so it relates a lot to MN.
  - Ed Dosch (LRAA) – Good turnout at outings and ready to start up on meetings. Framework to new dock at Henegar Landing is complete and ready for completion. Six-Mile Bay fish cleaning station – it’s going to cost more than \$40,000 and its location has been a problem (drainage issue). Elaine Dosch is now the Publicity Chairman and stepped down as Treasurer. She is trying to get

everyone's email as an effective way of communication. Clark Williams said that Grahams Island State Park is looking at expanding its ramps from 2 to 4 this fall.

- Dave Bement (Bis-Man Reel & Rec) – nothing going on as far as the club. They have about 600 members now and they are always looking for new/younger members.
- Don Baasch (Barnes County Wildlife) – June was their fishing derby and they are now starting up their meetings.
- Fall/Winter Newsletter – It was decided that the next newsletter will be in the spring of 2007 and the 2008 fund raiser will be highlighted in it.
- It was a consensus that a winter/spring meeting will not be needed, since the Fund Raiser Committee coordinates the activities for the fund raiser. The next meeting will be held the day of the Annual Meeting in April 2008 in conjunction with our fund raiser.
- Fund Raiser Activities – Clark Williams will talk to Paul Haug to see if he can go with him to get items for the 2008 fund raiser. The group felt it would be good to have more than one person familiar with this part of the fund raiser duties.
- Website Information – Clubs are encouraged to get their information up-to-date their club activities on the NDSFC website. Please email your changes to Marie at [sportfishing@bis.midco.net](mailto:sportfishing@bis.midco.net). Some of the clubs have the tournament applications and results posted on the website.
- A motion made at the April 14, 2007 meeting was to get a resolution introduced to the Legislature requesting the Corps address the need for anglers to have access to and along the shore line of Lake Sakakawea and Lake Oahe for the purpose of fishing. A copy of Senate Concurrent Resolution #4037 was passed around at the meeting and can be found at: <http://www.legis.nd.gov/assembly/60-2007/session-laws/documents/SCR.pdf#CHAPTER656>
- Corps of Engineers Master Plan for Lake Sakakawea: see website for present draft\*  
[https://www.nwo.usace.army.mil/html/Lake\\_Proj/garrison/MP/mpupdate.html](https://www.nwo.usace.army.mil/html/Lake_Proj/garrison/MP/mpupdate.html)  
\*comment period: July 20, 2007 to August 31, 2007  
The Corps is in their last final stage of the Master Plan and it should be completed in early spring. The comment period ends August 31, 2007. President Williams said the G&F didn't have any major issues with the Master Plan and that Duaine Ash has been the NDSFC representative on the Steering Committee to give input.
- New business:
  - 1) Link the "Take Me Fishing" website through the NDSFC.
  - 2) Clark Williams sent flowers for G&F Director Terry Steinwand Dad's funeral. Clark will submit the bill for reimbursement.
  - 3) Mileage will be paid to the executive secretary for the Devils Lake meeting.
  - 4) NDSFC (represented by Clark Williams & Duaine Ash) had a meeting with Friends and G&F a couple of months ago. It became mostly a discussion of how G&F dollars are appropriated and Coast Guard money.
  - 5) Reinee Keller was on the state Fishing Tournament Committee and Clark Williams will serve on the committee in his place.
- There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by President Clark at 9:25 p.m.

Submitted by: Marie Hoerner, Executive Secretary

Date submitted: August 19, 2007