



# NORTH DAKOTA SPORTFISHING CONGRESS ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

7:30 p.m. – Saturday, August 5, 2006

Duaine & Barb Ash's, 317 Dickinson Drive SE, Devils Lake, ND

Members Present: President Duaine Ash; Board members, Ed Dosch, Paul Haug, Rick Lee and Lynn Schlueter; Members: Tracy Gardner, Ralph Gardner, Ron Kraft, and Clark Williams. Others Present: Terry Steinwand and Greg Power, Game & Fish; and Executive Secretary Marie Hoerner.

- President Duaine Ash called the meeting to order and the attendees introduced themselves.
- A motion to approve the minutes from the April 8, 2006 meeting was made by Rick Lee, seconded by Lynn Schlueter and passed unanimously.
- Paul Haug presented the Treasurer's Report for Treasurer Rick Eagleson. A motion to approve the financial statements was made by Lynn Schlueter, seconded by Rick Lee and passed. Duaine suggested we should continue to do something like giving knives for a certain amount of \$1 tickets sold; however we should look at getting a different item for the 2007 fundraiser that relates to fishing or hunting. Secretary Marie Hoerner will check on other options from the same company as last year that we purchased the knives from.
- President Ash asked for club activity reports from those delegates present:
  - \* Paul Haug (FM Muskies) – Reported on their club's activities, which included some kids events, and Muskie outing to learn more about fishing and what types of lures to use. Tuesday is the Challenge to see who can score the most points fishing for muskies, no money involved. The winning club has to put on the event the following year. It is a 3-day event and they anticipate about 100 participants.
  - \* Ron Kraft (Bismarck Reel & Rec) – working with Voices to help with the water levels. They will start meeting again in September and they will try to start working on the Hazelton dock. Ron mentioned a "liability" issue at one of the Reel & Rec events. They borrowed a pontoon for one of their events and it got damaged. They found out that their insurance didn't cover the pontoon since it wasn't in the water. Ron asked what other clubs had for insurance or rider policies that would cover volunteers if they got hurt or boats that were damaged. Please email Richard Fink ([rtfink@bis.midco.net](mailto:rtfink@bis.midco.net)) or Ron Kraft ([rk9977@msn.com](mailto:rk9977@msn.com)) if any club has any suggestions or recommendations on insurance policies that would cover such.
  - \* Rick Lee (Voices for Lake Oahe) – Moderates their goals with The Corps. Have 8-9 other project to gain water access, including the Beaver Bay ramp. They are working on fundraisers and trying to get notices for their lake.

Duaine passed out a letter he sent to Governor Hoeven with a copy to Senator Conrad and Phillip Sheffield of the US Army Corps of Engineers, regarding the NDSFC concern about the low water conditions in the Missouri River and moving the Hazelton boat ramp to a new location and improve recreational facilities. Duaine read the letters of response from both the Governor and Senator, with both expressing support of our concerns about the water levels and Hazelton boat ramp.

Ed Dosch (Lake Region Anglers) – Reported their club got East Bay up running, 6-Mile Bay fish cleaning station and working with G&F. Since Clark Williams has come back to the Devils Lake area, he has been working to get their club more a "fishing" club (not all boat ramp issues) and started a "F" troop to get people involved and get new club members. They are working to get more people involved in the Billings

Lake carp issue. Basically, they do not have meetings during the summer. The Lake Region Anglers had an outing event today on Devils Lake.

■ Discussions of the following topics with Game & Fish Director Terry Steinwand and Fisheries Chief Greg Power:

A. Devils Lake Outlet – Has not been able to run all; couldn't let any water out; Devils Lake and Stump Lake will stabilize. Terry said that the Devils Lake outlet will not do a lot for Devils Lake in the short term. They don't think there is anything in Devils Lake that will hurt anything. There has been some criticize of the DOH about sulfate lake levels, but from a fisheries department, it is not an issue. Sulfate levels are caused by soils and it could be a problem forever. From a human health perspective, it has a real laxative effect.

B. Carp Issue (Devils Lake) – Greg Power said the saga continues of keeping the carp out of Devils Lake and away from the divide. However, the dry conditions help with controlling the carp. No permanent fix has been found, but they are looking for a proposal. There will be a meeting next week Wednesday at Minnewaukan to discuss the carp problem. Lynn Schlueter said the cost of a permanent solution (to raise the road – where the barrier should go in) was about \$55,000. He said it would be cheaper than using chemicals over the years. It was mentioned that heavy rains would have caused a real problem of controlling the carp problem, and landowners continue to be part of the problem. Terry Steinwand said the carp issue is one of his top priorities. He said that the only way it would be a legislative issue is if it would be a funding issue and with only \$55,000 that would not be an issue and they would work on it right now if they had the authority.

C. Missouri River Levels – Duaine handed out sheets on water releases. Most concerning news is that Lake Oahe will be at its all-time low and the Corps is releasing water like it is a normal year for rainfall. They are releasing for barging that isn't there. Terry said there is talk about getting some Governors to sign off on a letter on the damage the water release may cause in future years, including the water needed for power plant cooling.

D. Smelt on the Missouri River System – Greg Power said there was an 83 percent reduction in smelt and they are getting complaints of skinny walleyes being caught. Fishing should continue to be good on Lake Sakakawea. Oahe's fisheries are in a lot better shape, due to the wide variety and warmer water.

E. ANS – Where do you stand on the issue and where do you see ANS going in the future? Duaine mentioned they were at Lake Michigan fishing and there were a fisherman from Minnesota there. Duaine asked how he to clean his boat before taking it back, but he said he didn't know anything about disinfecting his boat. Unless you belong to a fishing club or are in a fishing tournament, you may not be aware of ANS. Three things are looked at when it comes to ANS -- 1) stuff coming in; 2) residents moving it around and 3) the others. They are going to put more emphasis on ANS.

F. Red River Dam Removals – Eight dams on the Red River and three left, with Fargo being done. Duaine thanked the G&F for taking care of the dam removals.

G. Issues for upcoming Legislative Session – Terry Steinwand has not heard of anything regarding fishing, only increasing non-resident duck hunting and license fees for big game (i.e. elk). It is still early in the process, but Terry is sure something will come up. Greg Power hopes they don't see fishing legislation – the fewer laws they have, the better off the G&F is to respond to groups like the NDSFC and it allows them not to have to follow legislation.

H. Budget proposal for upcoming legislative session – G&F's current budget is \$51 million; Legislature is in control of the license fees.

- Discussion on legislative candidates' review letters; format on how to write a review; encourage clubs to send letter to their candidates in their areas and what questions to be asked. – It was suggested that the clubs work with the ND Wild Life group in preparing an “input form” with questions and answers for the candidates. NDSFC is a front runner for the clubs, but the clubs need to initiate this project. Terry Steinwand suggested getting together and having a Sportsmen’s Forum in the various regions. He said to make sure the legislative candidates have the questions that they will be asked in advance, although they will also have questions from the audience that cannot be controlled. Lynn Schlueter suggested working with Donny Baasch (ND Wild Life Federation) and to contact the clubs to let them know how this important it is. Duaine said the NDSFC will not sponsor the Forums, but they will help coordinate the meetings. Clubs are urged to incorporate all non-fishing entities (i.e. bow hunting). Needs to be opened up to a moderated discussion after the question and answer period. The Congress will furnish the format and suggested questions to the clubs. The clubs should look to initiate these forums in September and they should try to get the press/newspaper involved. President Ash will get something to the clubs when he has the information together on a “Sportmen’s Forum”.
  
- President Ash read a letter from Bob Valeu (Senator Dorgan's office) regarding the status following projects which Senator Dorgan has secured funds for the Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery, Garrison Bay (Fort Stevenson) Marina, noxious weed control on Lake Sakakawea and Lake Sakakawea recreational upgrades. Greg Power commented that the production at the Garrison Hatchery is unbelievable and Terry Steinwand said he would like to see additional funds for salt cedar.
  
- Old Business:
  - A. The next newsletter is scheduled to be mailed in mid-September, with articles due by September 1. Emphasize there are concerns of issues that could be raised to affect fishing. Encourage members to attend their “Sportsmen’s Forum”.
  
  - B. Website – Duaine mentioned we had almost 38,000 hits and he encourages the clubs to keep submitting information.
  
- New Business:
  - \* We are trying to keep Hwy 281 open for shore fishing access. Pelican Lake boat ramp access will be out if we cannot have access to Hwy 281.
  
  - \* Form Search committee for President – Lynn Schlueter, Ron Kraft and Paul Haug will sit on a committee to seek nominations for a new NDSFC President, which are to be presented at the April 2007 meeting.
  
  - \* Lobbyist for '07 Legislative Session – A motion to nominate Duaine Ash as the lobbyist for the 2007 legislative session was made by Paul Haug, seconded by Ralph Gardner and unanimously passed. Paul said adjustments should be made for travel expenses for Duaine for the upcoming session. Duaine will figure out costs and get back to us.
  
  - \* A motion was made by Duaine Ash, seconded by Rick Lee and passed that mileage be paid for the Secretary’s travel to Devils Lake.
  
- There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Submitted by: Marie Hoerner, Executive Secretary  
 Date submitted: August 16, 2006