



NORTH DAKOTA SPORTFISHING CONGRESS

Minutes

Saturday, September 22, 2018 Meeting

Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery • Riverdale, ND

Present: President Rick Brueckner, Vice President Ken Cumber, Past President Duaine Ash; Treasurer Rick Eagleson; Board Members Jeff Herman, Don Schick and Joe Solseng; Club Members Bryce Anderson, Barb Ash, Wayne Beyer, Terry Fleck, and Marlin Schick; Game & Fish Representatives Terry Steinwand and Greg Power; Rob Holm, Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery; and Secretary Marie Hoerner

- President Brueckner called the meeting to order and introductions were made.
- Bryce Anderson gave an update on Mike Anderson's medical condition. He said that Mike has a strep infection that started in his mouth and then to the pons area of the brain. He is at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester and will have a long recovery. His progress can be followed on the Caring Bridge website. Since our meeting, Mike has been transferred to Trinity/St. Joseph's Hospital in Minot. Jeff Herman also said Richard Fink told him that his cancer came back, but didn't have more detail.
- A motion to approval of minutes from the annual meeting held April 28, 2018 was made by Wayne Beyer, seconded by Joe Solseng and passed.
- Treasurer's Report was presented by Treasurer Rick Eagleson. A motion to approve the report was made by Ken Cumber, seconded Jeff Herman and passed.
- The membership report was given by Marie Hoerner, indicating that all of the club 2018-19 dues are paid, but only about 20 individual dues are paid to date (\$5/year). Don Schick asked if we should raise the individual member dues. Rich Brueckner said before we think about raising our fees, maybe the local club should add \$5 to their local clubs and pass the income on to the NDSFC. It was recommended that we address this issue at the April 27, 2019 meeting.
- Rich Brueckner said that this summer he, Keith Witt and Mike Anderson met with Terry Steinwand and Greg Power regarding ANS issues and the boat tax. It was noted that legislators (Al Carlson, Dave Oehlke, Todd Porter, Lois Delorme, Corey Mock, Mike Nathe, Larry Luick, Mathew Ruby and Dan Ruby) were invited to attend, but none were able to participate. Many of these legislators work well with the G&F and we were hoping they could help with our legislative efforts.
- Club Reports
 - ✓ Dakota Anglers – Ken Cumber said their club is having the same problem as other clubs as far as getting people to attend the meetings. Their annual tournament was terrible, even though their payout is very good. Fishing is getting better in their local lakes, but that may be why there are not as many people at their fishing tournaments. There is a good turnout for the kids' event.
 - ✓ LRAA – Rich Brueckner said that summer activities went strong with high number of participants than the previous year. He mentioned they had problems with the grinders. He said that at their meetings, a change was brought up to change their tournaments to a catch, photo and release tournament, but was left open for discussion.
 - ✓ Great Planers – Marlin Schick said they also have a difficult time to get people to events and get volunteers. They held their annual meeting in January. They sponsored a salmon outing at Lake Sakakawea,

including a fish boil. The 32nd Annual Salmon Derby was held in August, participation was down, but good support from sponsors. In September the Club co-sponsored the 29th Annual Physically Challenged Fishing Derby with the Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery. Lots of fish were caught, sloppy joes and watermelon were provided and memories were made. Many of the members also assisted the hatchery with their Senior Fishing Derby with over 75 participants from nine nursing homes and assisted living centers.

- ✓ Voices of Lake Sakakawea – Terry Fleck said they have good turnout at meetings.
- ✓ Red River Area Sportsmen’s Club – Wayne Beyer said they hold four youth fishing events, hitting over 10,000 kids over all the years. They did a promotion where kids bring in Xboxes in exchange for a tackle box. He noted that Fishing for Life in Minneapolis provided tackle boxes for the kids fishing events. Minnesota started a high school fishing league during the summer, which had great success and they are one of the sponsors. They held three family fishing nights. They work with Junior Wildlife Club to get kids outdoors.
- ✓ Muskies Inc. – Rick Eagleson said they have 165 signed-up members, but only about 20 attend meetings unless at the chili feed in December there are about 60. Several high schools have fishing clubs, and they are going to hold Sunday outings starting next month to visit with the younger kids. He said Minnesota still has anti-Muskies peoples, so they are dealing with this issue on the Minnesota legislature.
- ✓ BisMan Reel & Rec – Don Schick said they also have about 640 members, but not many participate in the meetings. He noted the only reason for membership is to be able to fish in their club’s fishing tournament on the Missouri River. They had about 89 3-man teams at their annual tournament and their Annual Take-a-Kid fishing at Sweet Briar had over 60 kids. Their club had to change they by-law to change the quorum to five, due to the low number of attendees at regular meetings.
- ✓ Joe Solseng said there is not a fishing club in Grand Forks, but have fishermen. They hold a kids’ fishing event at Ryan Pond. He said the Catfish League in Grand Forks that is very successful and Brad Durick would be a good contact for that club. He pointed out that there are zebra mussels in the Red River.
- President Brueckner held the second Reading on changes to the NDSFC By-Laws, with the first reading taking place on April 28, 2018.
 1. Article V-Directors-at-Large; Section 1 – make no change to the number of Directors-at-Large (it will remain at six);
 2. Article VI-Board of Directors, Section 1 – change the number of Board of Directors to “ten to fourteen (10-14)”; and
 3. Article VI-Board of Directors, Section 3 – change to “a quorum of the Board (majority of the directors) present at any board meeting”.

A motion was made by Wayne Beyer, seconded by Duaine Ash and passed to accept the NDSFC By-Laws changes. These changes will be made on the website and updated copies of the By-Laws will be distributed at the NDSFC annual meeting on April 27, 2019.

- Rich Brueckner provided each club a copy of the members in their specific legislative district(s), as well as a list of all the ND state legislative candidates up for election in November. He wants to determine how we are going to contact legislators during the legislative session starting in January. He would like the members to take the lists back to your clubs to determine how they will specifically communicate with the legislators in their own districts. Terry Steinwand said in Dickinson and Valley City they have a sportsmen's caucus, which in past years were well attended. We need to find out which legislators are supporting fishing issues and G&F.
- Legislation Action - Fisheries Division budget and staffing for Aquatic Nuisance Species and Fisheries Development Programs. Terry Steinwand said the G&F did not enter into the early State buy-out, which was offered to cabinet agencies.

Rich Brueckner hand out a sheet regarding the G&F Fisheries Division budget staff needs and asked if they had more money, where would it go. Jessica needs at least two full-time people to cover the ANS issues in North Dakota as he believes that over the next 5-10 years there will be additional ANS species that show up in our water. Wayne Beyer asked if there were other agencies beside the G&F funds to get additional funding. Terry Steinwand said the options right now are to use the G&F dollars. Corps and Bureau of Rec help monitor for ANS in a few waters including Sakakawea, Audubon, Heart Butte and the Canal Lakes, so that does help. He said other agencies could perhaps assist in providing funding for ANS work and that anyone using surface water will be affected by ANS, not only fishermen.

Rich Brueckner asked what action would the NDSFC like to take for supporting G&F for FTEs and part-time summer staffing – (i.e. funded from gas tax, license fees). Boat safety fees is a 50/50 state match, enforcement is 100%. Following discussion, Terry Fleck made a motion to amend the G&F Fisheries Division proposed budget for the 2019 Legislative session for one additional ANS, one development FTE and two enforcement FTEs. The motion was seconded by Duaine Ash and unanimously passed.

- President Brueckner distributed the “Red Book” numbers for Highway Distribution Fund from 1996 to 2016 and “motorboat programs and safety account-transfer from highway tax distribution fund”. He noted the increase from 1996 of \$90M to \$190M in 2016. However, fish cleaning stations have doubled to 60 stations with no additional funding since 1996. There was talk about asking for 1/10th of 1 percent of the Highway Distribution Fund, instead of the \$2.50 based on the number of registered boats. After discussion, Duaine Ash asked to table the gas tax issue and revisit the issue after talking about license fees. Greg Power said fishing licenses were increased four years ago and before that, there was no substantial increase for almost 20 years.

A motion was made by Terry Fleck, seconded by Jeff Herman and unanimously passed to include ANS in the NDCC language regarding funds placed in the motorboat program. The Game & Fish was asked to insert the ANS wording in the document and also get back to the NDSFC Board on the percentage.

- Terry Fleck said he visited with Sara Otte-Coleman, director of ND Tourism. She feels we could beef up and get the fishing industry companies involved (i.e. Yamaha, Berkley) to support fishing.
- Rich Brueckner said we need to step back and see what income we can ask for with the boat gas tax and then ask for the balance in license sales. Terry Steinwand noted that the Governor has to make decisions on the G&F reserve funds by early December.

Terry Fleck said the Friends of Lake Sakakawea will look to the legislators, not the Governor, to discuss issues regarding the Lake Sakakawea and we need to figure out how the various groups in the state can work together. Terry said that at Van Hook, EPA closed down one of their fishing stations so there were 35-40 boats lined up. He said the Development program with G&F needs help (would like to see at least 3 additional FTEs). The Corps has put fish grinders in a few stations and they are awesome.

- President Brueckner handed out a proposal from Clearwater Communications to provide legislative services for the NDSFC during the 2019 legislative session (Lance Gaebe as lobbyist). Following discussion and due to the proposed length of contract and cost, Brueckner will pursue additional options from Clearwater – 1) other lobbyists; 2) shorter contract from December to end of session; 3) termination fee; and 4) client conflicts of interest.

- 2020 Fishing Outfitters License Fees and Licensing requirements. Aaron Abbot and Cody Armstrong, the two people on the committee, were not at the meeting, so President Brueckner decided to table this until the next meeting.
- Election Nomination committee (3 members committee) – President Brueckner will visit with individuals and find members to serve on the committee and report back at the next meeting.
- Greg Power – Update from ND Game and Fish – 180,000 fish license sales for 2018, and we continue to go up some, especially for non-resident sales. Still no new ANS found this year which is a great thing. ANS compliance is okay. Fishing tournaments – 160 statewide are permit, with Lake Sakakawea having the most. Some non-residents continue to bring their own aquatic bait into ND which is illegal, so we need to get notices up in business establishments. Greg will email a PDF of postures, so clubs can put them in their newsletter. He also provided a handout on “fishing effort and harvest comparisons between neighboring states on major walleye fisheries”.
- Rob Holm provided an update on the Hatchery and held a tour prior to the meeting. He showed a slide presentation on 2018 hatchery production on various species at the Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery. He noted that the Walleye request was 8,327,000; Northern Pike-649,000; and Chinook Salmon 400,000 to name a few, with the total for all species at 9,709,350. He said the Valley City Hatchery stocked a total of 2,056,000, with Walleye at 1,385,000 and Northern Pike 669,000 requested and 2018 production at 2,189,740. They stocked 127 lakes in ND with walleye fingerlings and 11 lakes in Wyoming. Valley City NFH tied for the second highest walleye production. He said the Hatchery partnered with Great Planers in the Kids’ Fishing Derby.
- New Business – Ken Cumber commented that he believes “fizzing” works to keep fish alive.
- The next meeting will be held later this fall, possible in November. It was noted that the Annual Meeting and Fund raiser is set for April 27th, 2019 at the AMVETS in Bismarck.
- There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 5:00 p.m.

Submitted By: Marie Hoerner

Date Submitted: October 9, 2018