



NORTH DAKOTA SPORTFISHING CONGRESS

Fall Meeting • Agenda

Saturday, November 19, 2016 • 9:30 a.m.

Jamestown • Game & Fish Office

Present: President Rick Brueckner; Vice President Ken Cumber; Past President Duaine Ash, Treasurer Rick Eagleson; Board Members Paul Haug, Jeff Herman, Don Schick, Ed Sweeney and Keith Witt; Club Member Rick Mohan; Game & Fish Representatives Terry Steinwand, Greg Power, and Jessica Howell; and Secretary Marie Hoerner.

President Rich Brueckner called the meeting to order.

1. A motion to approve the minutes of the April 23, 2016 minutes was made by Keith Witt, seconded by Ed Sweeney and passed.
2. Treasurer Rick Eagleson presented the financial reports. A motion to approve the reports was made by Paul Haug, seconded by Rick Mohan and approved.
3. ND Game & Fish Reports:
 - Greg Power provide an update of the ND Game & Fish Department – He said fishing license sales have gone up the last four year, with every year setting a record for license sales. Sitting in good shape in terms of the lack of both recent summer and winter kills. Dickinson Res (Patterson Lake) and Heart Butte and 20+ other lakes had blue green algae advisories this past summer. Devils Lake, Lake Oahe and Sakakawea are in great shape and should be great for next year. Hatcheries had another record or near record year of production. Put four new pond liners this past year at GDNFH, which are expensive. Fishing lakes should be in great shape for ice fishing. The had 175 fishing tournaments permits this year, which is the most ever. Rich Brueckner said he would like to see more tournament results in newspapers. Greg said that 10 percent of gross proceeds (with a \$5,000 limit tournament) goes back to the G&F which than is disbursed to fisheries conservation. Greg Power said probably around 80% of the 10% goes to boat ramp, with 20% going toward education. Ice fishing for the first time will have a free fishing weekend in December 31-January 1. The first week in June is also a free fishing weekend. G&F doesn't see any reason for any new fishing regulations as it's going well right now. Online electronic fishing license sales has gone over well. Terry Steinwand said the biggest issue is the 3% credit card processing fee and that legally, the ND vendors cannot charge the 3% extra fee to those purchasing licenses. However, they plan to address this issue during the 2017 legislative session. Boat registrations will begin a new three year period starting Jan. 1, 2017). Boat registrations have also increased dramatically in the past ten years. Rich Brueckner said he will be meeting with the new Governor and will let you know when they meet.
 - Jessica Howell, ANS Coordinator – ANS Summer Findings. Jessica said there were no new ANS found in ND this year. Curlyleaf Pondweed and Silver Carp were not found in any new water. Red River has the Zebra Mussel, but no new findings and they don't see them going away. The G&F keep educating people on how not to spread ANS. There were over 230 waterbodies searched for ANS this year; 32 waterbodies specifically tested for Zebra mussels and the results that have been received so far (8 of the 32) were negative. There was Silver Carp monitoring in August and October. They are checking the boat docks for ANS as the boats come out of the water. There were outreach efforts this year from printing (signs, posters, brochures, billboards) and digital media

(radio, YouTube, TV segments), as well as personal contacts – G&F staff talks and boater surveys/inspections. Boater survey/inspections were new this year. They wanted to encourage the compliance through demonstrations. The boat plug law was enacted this year and boaters inspections were voluntary. There were over 430 surveys; 72% of boaters surveyed were ND residents (Devils Lake were 52%); 97% of boaters had heard of zebra mussels, so the G&F outreach is working. 73% of boaters had heard of other ANS, while 8% had been affected by ANS other than zebra mussels. There were two crews: Devils Lake had over half of the surveys, 60-70 surveys from Lake Sakakawea. Future Efforts-Missouri River – Montana finding: MT did put out a press release on ANS. Minnesota uses a few zebra mussel smelling dogs; NDGF response: Increased sampling, adult searches, press release. ND has an ANS committee and there is a little more interest from the Health Department, ND DOT and Parks & Rec. Next year the G&F will increase the sampling to look for ANS. Don Schick asked if the G&F could put something about ANS information (check box before accepting license). Greg said information is online, but not required to check in order to purchase a license. Future efforts-Marinas: Marina engagement and assessment, work with marinas to assess risk of ANS. Future effort-Vegetation: vegetation sampling (non-fishing waters and out-of-state hunting pressure); Working with Department of Health's Lake Assessments – They pick 50 random lakes statewide each year; looking at water quality, plankton and inverts; vegetation sampling addition. Dept. of Health will report back to the G&F on their findings, but G&F will do some of their own work in these areas. Future efforts-Pet store – Partnership with Invasive Species Action Network (MT) is working directly with pet store owners in ND, provide informational materials for distribution and “don't let it loose!” campaign already in use (MT). Jessica said that the ND Century Code lists how to get appointed to the ANS Committee and that anyone is welcome to attend their meetings. Duaine Ash said he would like to see Suzie from Devils Lake Chamber serve on the committee.

4. Club Reports:

- Jeff Herman – Bis-Man Reel & Rec went over the various events coming up in 2017, which are listed on the NDSFC website. Greg Power said G&F would provide some education part for the kids if the clubs contact them.
- Rick Mohan – FM Walleye will be celebrating their 40th anniversary. Their club has over 300 paid members and they are very active with four tournaments in the summer. They are involved with two youth tournaments, as well as one in conjunction with Devils Lake. They acquired a new event trailer this year with a sound system. The club is involved with community events.

5. Lobbyist for upcoming legislative session

- Rich talked to Friends of Sakakawea and they are also looking for a lobbyist. Terry Fleck said to contact him after Thanksgiving. Rich Brueckner said we don't know if we need any representation in the 2017 Legislature depending on what issues come up. Duaine Ash said he talked with Todd Porter and he said as of now there is nothing on his agenda relating to fishing. Terry Steinwand said there may be some regulations addressed during the Legislature. If you know someone in Bismarck that wants to do some part-time lobbying on fishing issues, please let Rich Brueckner know.

6. Elections – Board of Directors: Up for re-election in April 2017 are President Rich Brueckner, Treasurer Rick Eagelson, Board Members: Mike Anderson, Don Baasch, Ed Dosch and Jason Kohlman. Elections will be held at the April 22nd meeting in Bismarck.

7. Banquet/Smoker Report Update – Saturday, April 22, 2017, AMVETS, Bismarck

- Raffle Permit will be obtained in December.
- Tickets (banquet and cash raffle) will be mailed in February.
- Dinner format will be Prime Rib, sit down dinner.

- Will apply for \$1,000 Gaming donation from AMVETS
- Prizes: \$1.00 Raffle Drawing – Rich Brueckner will go with Rick Eagelson the week before the fundraiser to get the raffle drawing prizes. Jeff Herman and Marie Hoerner will visit with Jerome's Distributing regarding their possible donations for the fundraiser.

8. New Business

- Life Time Fishing License – Rich Brueckner got a call from Terry Steinwand about the interest in life-time fishing licenses. Mike Martin from Ellendale plans to introduce a bill on Life Time Fishing Licensing. Terry said that life time licenses have to provide revenue as if they would buy a license every year. He also said that about 40 percent of residents buy fishing license and the average age is 35. G&F is not in favor of this, since it would be an administrative nightmare and would lose significant revenue.
- Legislation on increasing ND guide fees will be investigated by Rich Brueckner and then with Terry Steinwand on getting legislation and bill written for the 2017 Legislature.
- Licensing fees for guides. ND charges \$100 annual fee for fishing guides.
- President Rick Brueckner plans to visit all of the ND Sportfishing Congress member clubs prior to the April fundraiser. A motion to reimburse Brueckner's gas expense to attend the meetings was made by Duaine Ash, seconded by Rick Mohan and passed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 12 noon.

Date Submitted: November 20, 2016

Submitted By: Marie Hoerner