



# NORTH DAKOTA SPORTFISHING CONGRESS

## Annual Meeting • Agenda

Saturday, April 22, 2017 • 10:00 a.m.

AMVETS Club • Bismarck, ND

Present: President Rick Brueckner, Vice President Ken Cumber, Past President Duaine Ash; Board Members Mike Anderson, Ed Dosch, Richard Fink, Paul Haug, Jeff Herman, Dave Odin, Don Schick, Ed Sweeney and Keith Witt; Club Members Barb Ash, Dave Magnuson, Clayton Schumaker, Tony Splonskowski and Dave Zuck; Game & Fish Representatives Terry Steinwand, Greg Power, Jason Lee; Rob Holm, Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery; and Secretary Marie Hoerner.

1. Call to Order – Rich Brueckner called the meeting to order and everyone introduced themselves.
2. A motion to approve the November 19, 2016 minutes was made by Ed Dosch, seconded by Ed Sweeney and passed.
3. Treasurer's Report – Rick Eagleson – Rick was unable to attend the meeting; however, a motion was made by Mike Anderson, seconded by Duaine Ash and unanimously passed to approve the Treasurer's report distributed at the meeting.
4. Club Reports:
  - Don Schick—Reel & Rec event in May with 80 teams to date; Ice Derby was the largest participants; Take a Kid Fishing is coming up in June.
  - Mike Anderson, Great Planers – Chili feed in March; Derby; handicap kids fishing in September;
  - Paul Haug, Muskies Inc. – Raised \$39,000 for fundraiser with over 280 attendees; \$1,000 will be donated to a Muskies program with the Game & Fish.
  - Ed Dosch, LRAA – Their annual meeting was held March 31 with a good turnout; docks were put in last week; and a courtesy dock will be put in at 6 Mile Bay. Working on Handicap access, but delayed due to snow damage, but should be accessible within a week. Big handicap project at Heneger Landing; had an access meeting with Chamber and coming in under budget for the handicap project. They have a new Facebook page for Lake Region Anglers and website at [LakeRegionAnglers.com](http://LakeRegionAnglers.com). Events are all on the website.
  - Ken Cumber, Dakota Anglers – No ramps at Jamestown Reservoir due to high water; June 3 is Kids fishing tournament; 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Walleye/Northern Tournament will be held on June 17-18 with enhancements.
  - Tony Splonskowski – Voices for Lake Oahe – Fundraiser was held May 6; will be holding an outing at Rice Lake; summer outing in June at Cattail Bay; will be putting ramp in at Cattail Bay; working with G&F to get a new fish station at Beaver Bay by next year. 123 current members.
  - Barnes County Wildlife Club in Valley City – Rich spoke with Perry Kapaun to get them involved with NDSFC. Don Baasch is no longer active and Rich will continue communication with them.
  - Ken Cumber said Ron Saar may be active in Fargo club.

5. North Dakota Fishing Hall of Fame, Keith Witt – Received a call from Devils Lake Tourism and they are nominating LRAA. Any club or organization would qualify as an award to the ND Fishing Hall of Fame. A motion was made by Jeff Herman, second by Ken Cumber and passed that the Congress send a letter of recommendation to nominate LRAA for the ND Fishing Hall of Fame.
  
6. ND Game & Fish Reports – Greg Power
  - Greg Power gave an update for the G&F reporting on the northern pike tagging study, and background on closing spring fishing in the Devils Lake area, license fees, boat gas tax. 108 tournaments and 270 bait vendors, which are both records. They hoped to have more runoff this spring, but are still okay and there wasn't nearly the amount of winter kill this year. Finished Pike spawning about a week ago; walleye won't start for about another week.
  - There are 438 fishing water bodies; 260 more than the lake 1980s; 63 of these are new walleye lakes.
  - Ingredients for “Good Fishing in ND” – water, fish production from hatcheries; day-to-day management decision, and landowner agreements for public access. The G&F has hundreds of agreements with landowners at no charge.
  - Walleye tagging study on Lake Oahe is finished, but still report any tagged walleye.
  - Northern Pike Tagging Study – tagging only 40 inches and larger through the Missouri River System this year and next.
  - Lake Metigoshe Walleye Project – Jason Lee, District Fisheries Supervisor, Riverdale
    - Since 2012, moved adult walleye from Lesmeister Lake and stocking into Lake Metigoshe after many are first tagged (metal jaw tag). Main reason for tagging is to get an estimate of angler harvest. Anticipate this being a long-term project. Lake Metigoshe netting surveys are being conducted.
  
7. Rob Holm – Project Leader, Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery --
  - Hatcheries manager in Valley City left and not able to fill the position due to a hiring freeze, so Rob will be running both facilities.
  - 5% cut is being projected for this year and 12% in 2018. G&F is providing Garrison Dam Fish Hatchery and Valley City NFH with 3 interns to help out with production.
  - New things – Garrison Dam NFH produces more walleye than any other hatchery in the US. Met production goal for Pike. Lake Sakakawea should be good for Salmon this year based on jack returns last fall. Will be stocking over 430,000 salmon smelts this spring.
  - Tried a presentation using video format.
  - 2016 record walleye production at both ND hatcheries; 10.4 million at Garrison Dam NFH and 1.6 million at Valley City NFH.
  - Valley City Hatchery didn't have any request for crappie in 2016; 150,000 requested this year.
  - Brought tanks from Garrison to Valley City for lake sturgeon production and stocking efforts on the Red River. Will be looking at stocking about 4,000 eight inch fish again this year.
  - Rob showed the process of stocking hatchery ponds and draining bonds and loading them to be distributed to the various lakes/ponds in the state.
  - Have a Kids Fishing Derby at the Hatchery co-sponsored by the Great Planers Trout and Salmon Club.
  - Salmon Spawning and egg collection numbers were exceptional in October of 2016 with surplus eggs and fingerlings provided to SD and MT. In the fall of 2015 not enough eggs were taken to meet stocking goals.
  - Pallid Sturgeon – recovery efforts are continuing with the stocking of 4,500 yearling sturgeon. Over 280,000 pallid sturgeon have been released in the Missouri and Yellowstone Rivers from the hatchery since 2002.
  - Hoping to expand the Visitor Center to also allow for classrooms at the Fish Hatchery in Garrison.

- Baldhill Dam NFH and Valley City NFH will be producing walleye, pike, bass, crappie and lake sturgeon this year
  - There are 82 federal hatcheries in the US, but not all functional. Due to budget cuts several are in 'caretaker' status. North Dakota has three; Garrison Dam NFH, Valley City NFH and Baldhill Dam NFH.
8. Legislative Results – Rich Brueckner asked Rob Holm how we could get support for the Garrison Dam Hatchery. Rob said it may have helped to have representatives from the Congressional staff attend the NDSFC board meeting. Rich will try to set up a meeting with Congressional delegation and invite members to attend. It was decided the best approach would be to invite Congressional staff to attend our meetings, so they can see the presentations by the Hatchery and G&F. Anglers spend \$425M on fishing in ND annually.

There were very few bills introduced in the ND Legislature this session relating to the fishing industry. Lifetime fishing licenses – need to have at least 80% of the income and will probably come up next session. Terry Steinwand said the Governor signed an increase in the G&F budget bill. Also 3% fee for credit card fees for licenses can be charged by vendors passed this session (previously it was 50 cents).

9. Discussion Items:

- ANS – Documentary on Drain the Great Lakes. Flow-through plugs are legal in ND. Over 130 ANS tickets in North Dakota this past year. Lake Sakakawea will be included this year for ANS inspections.
- Closed season north of Hwy 2 (March 31 to first weekend in May) near Devils Lake – Brought to Rich's attention by LRAA. Two issues are considered - biological and social. Terry said what would be the expectation of closing the season. Rich said a consumer's perception of preserving the resources.
- Boat Tax – Current tax was put in place in 1996, \$2.50 per boat registered in ND goes to G&F from DOT. Rich did research to increase the tax, but didn't get the support. Rich will work with G&F to put numbers and support together for the next session to increase the tax.
- Outfitters and Guide Fees – Terry said G&F they are outfitters and not guides who get paid. It's hard to regulate those outfitters without licenses. A comment was made that outfitters are using ramps, cleaning stations at no charge, so their fee is very cheap. Mike Anderson said we don't know enough today to put something in motion, but it's worth pursuing and work with the G&F on the outfitters license fee. Rich said he would be glad to work with G&F this summer and get numbers on what other states are doing.
- License Fees for Resident and Non-Resident – Fees in ND has not changes since 2014. Rich asked if the G&F wants us to collect data for increasing fishing license fees? NDSFC would like to pursue numbers on the need to increase fee and increase the number of employees.
- A motion to give a \$500 bonus to Secretary Marie Hoerner was made by Duaine Ash, seconded by Ken Cumber and unanimously passed.

10. By-Laws Committee Update – No changes

11. Election – Board of Directors:

- The following current board members were re-election for an additional two-year term – President Rich Bruechner, Past President Duaine Ash, Treasurer Rick Eagelson, Board Members: Mike Anderson, and Ed Dosch. Newly-elected members were Joe Solseng from Grand Forks and David Odin from Jamestown. A motion to accept the above slate of officers/board members was made by Ed Dosch, seconded by Ken Cumber and unanimously passed.

12. Membership Update – Marie Hoerner reported that all 12 club members have paid their dues for 2017-2018.

13. Banquet/Smoker Report – Jeff Herman, Richard Fink – There are currently about 200 banquet tickets sold, which is about 30 more than last year. Following the meeting, everyone helped set up for the fundraiser.

14. Other Business

- Ken Cumber gave an update on the Ronald D. Liudahl Endowment. He said Dakota Anglers received 10 applications for the \$1,000 and there is approximately \$28,000 remaining in the Scholarship Fund.
- No date for the 2018 Board meeting and Fundraiser has been set yet. However, you will be notified with available dates in April within the next month (available dates are April 14 or April 28).

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mike Anderson, seconded by Ed Sweeney and passed.

Date Submitted: May 26, 2017

Submitted by: Marie Hoerner, Secretary