

# NORTH DAKOTA SPORTFISHING CONGRESS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup>, 2013  
JAMESTOWN GAME AND FISH OFFICES

Call to Order: 10:05 AM

Present: Richard Fink, Rick Eagleson, Ed Sweeney, Paul Haug, Ken Cumber, Duaine Ash, Mike Anderson, Dave Bement, Clark Williams, Gene Van Eeckout, Greg Power

Minutes of Annual Meeting, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013 were distributed for review (no vote on approval)

## **Game and Fish Reports: Greg Power**

Electronic License will be totally required by 2016. Still some paper licenses so data information is delayed. License sales were record setting in 2012.

Big 3: Sakakawea is good, Devils Lake is good, the Missouri River/Oahe is down and looks to be that way for a while. The rest of the state is great shape. In 1988 there were 168 fishing lakes, now there are 418.

Walleye stocking: no stocking on DL except for Stump and some in East Bay. Lots of need for our small lakes and some for Sakakawea.

Perch numbers are good throughout most of state and pike are essentially everywhere.

Proclamation: not a lot of changes, crappie limits were reduced from 20 to 10, they are slow growing and we don't have a lot of crappie lakes. Paddlefish will not have a lottery this year, will try some tweaking to reduce the craziness, hopefully.

Advisory Boards: mostly deer stuff. There will be eight meetings around the state later this winter to discuss deer specifically.

Development: most of the Missouri River ramp repairs from the flooding is done. River channel is about 1-2 ft deeper so there may need to be some ramp extension work done down the road. Working on smaller lakes.

ANS: more emphasis

New Lakes Process: for Game and Fish to get involved at all there must be public lake access. Then they will look at stocking - perch first if they will survive, sometimes walleye. Often there is demand for possible ramp development if the walleye introduction takes hold but they must have the support of the area and landowners.

Hatchery: the support for hatcheries at the highest levels of the Fish and Wildlife Service continues to dwindle. Recreational Fishing is the last item on their priority list and non-native fishes are at the absolute bottom. Right now Riverdale and Valley City are not threatened but that could change any time. Game and Fish subsidizes a significant portion of the operations now and doesn't see that will be changing any time soon.

## **Club Reports**

Dakota Anglers: Ken Cumber brought up the issue of ethanol in the gas. Those who want non-ethanol regular gas available are fighting the refineries and the agricultural lobby. If you want this issue looked at by the Legislature let your representatives know. We will continue to distribute info as it comes available. There was much discussion, it was not fully agreed that ethanol was bad for boats.

Lake Region Anglers: LRAA has been working for a few years to get the F&W to open Lake Alice to ice fishing. The proposal is now open for public comments until December 20<sup>th</sup>. Comments can be submitted by email or snail mail. Email Clark for more info.

## **Membership:**

Clark presented a synopsis of our membership data from Marie:

CLUBS: We have 12 clubs listed statewide at present. About 8 or 9 are active with the Congress at all and only 5 have regular representation and presentation. Don't know how many are current on dues.

We have a club trying to get off the ground in Minot and a very active group in the southeast part of the state. Gene Van Eckout is very familiar with the group in the southeast.

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS: Marie has 599 on her list, 127 have current paid dues. Most are from Lake Region Anglers. The bread down on paid members is as follows

LRAA	72
Dakota Anglers	12
Bis-Man Reel & Rec	7
Great Planers	7
FM Muskies	3
FM Walleye	2
Barnes County	2
Voices	1
Red River Sportsman	1
Lure Em for Life	1

Email Addresses: we had discussed going electronic totally. Below is a bread down of what we have for emails address and not sure how many are correct

599 listed total	209 have email addresses
127 currently paid	65 have email addresses

If we want an e-tree to work we have work to do.

**PUBLICITY:** Mike Anderson stated that our organization is a very specific group interested in working with the Game and Fish to influence the political process and help the department formulate policy.

Most fishermen are not interested, turn off when they hear "politics". We need to publicize more what we do and why it's important. We will try to utilize the media to get the message out.

Clark will contact Bill Mitzel (Dakota Country), Kim Fundingsland (Minot), Brad Dokken (GF Herald), and Jason Mitchell to see if we can get some free publicity.

Richard Fink will contact Jon Mitzel (Dakota Country)

Other Board Members should see who they might contact for publicity in Fargo and Bismarck.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Treasurer's Report(see attached) as of 4/20/13 was distributed and discussed. Rick reviewed the costs of last year's Annual Fundraiser and said that if we could get back to the attendance and costs of the past few years we would be OK. This was why we have moved the Fundraiser from the Mandan Eagles to the Bismarck AMVets.

## **FUNDRAISER AND ANNUAL MEETING April 5, 2014**

Fundraiser Committee is Paul Haug, Rick Eagleson, Dave Bement and Richard Fink (Mike Anderson will serve as a consultant)

Dave Bement and Richard Fink will be the local Bismarck contacts for the fundraiser

Prizes: Paul Haug and Muskies Inc. have already picked up the prizes from Leech Lake Distributing(Reeds in Walker, MN). Paul will bring over for the Fundraiser. He would get the trailer from Lake Region Anglers a few weeks before. Muskies Inc. has footed the bill at this time.

Meal: Rick Eagleson presented the costs for various menu items: it was decided to go with two meats and buffet style. The AMVets needs two weeks notice on the number of attendees.

Raffle Permit: Dave Bement will see about the Raffle Permit with Bismarck. A cash raffle will be included in the application. All ticket distribution, both the banquet tickets and the raffle tickets will be coordinated through Bismarck(Dave and Richard).

Rods and Reels Combo: Clark will contact both Jason Mitchell and Johnnie Candle about three rods for a bucket prize. We want a trolling, baitcaster and jigging rod and reel.

Annual Board Meeting: Dave Bement will check with AMVETS to see if they have a room available to have a morning Board Meeting and what the costs will be otherwise we will see about having the Board Meeting at Game and Fish Offices as we have had to do in the past.

## **LOBBYIST**

Duaine has done a superior job for past few Legislative Sessions and enjoys doing it but it is expensive even though he does not charge us for his time, only expenses. But since his expenses include travel from Devils Lake and lodging it adds up. A search committee was formed of Duaine and Mike Anderson to review the situation. Rick Eagleson said that if we can make our fundraiser work right we should have enough to keep Duaine as lobbyist if he is interested. Mike Anderson commented that Duaine does such a good job and has such credibility in Bismarck that if we can we should try to keep him.

Friends of Lake Sakakawea is losing their lobbyist and will be looking for same. Some discussion was held about sharing costs but it was agreed that we don't always have the same agenda. This was a conflict at times in the past. Discussion will continue with Friends and Terry Fleck.

## **PRESIDENT**

Clark is moving out of state in the spring/early summer. His term runs until 2015 so a search needs to be held on how the Congress will fill that position for 2014-15 and beyond. A Search Committee was formed of: Duaine, Ken Cumber, Paul Haug and Dave Bement.

## **ETREE**

Marie has agreed to help maintain the email addresses for an e-tree to contact clubs and members. Clark will share his email contacts with her.

## **NEXT BOARD MEETING**

Another Board Meeting was tentatively set for Jamestown again on Saturday Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## **NOTES**

Gene Van Eeckout was recognized recently for 38 years of service on Spiritwood Lake in particular. Congratulations Gene.