



NORTH DAKOTA SPORTFISHING CONGRESS ANNUAL BOARD MEETING

APRIL 14TH, 2012 – 10:00 AM
ND Game & Fish, Bismarck ND

Members Present: President Clark Williams; Past President Duaine Ash; Treasurer Rick Eagleson; Board members Mike Anderson, Don Baasch, Dave BeMent, Paul Haug, Ed Sweeney; Members Ken Cumber, Brian Dahlin, Richard Fink, Rick Mohan, Tony Splonskowski, and Joe Vetter, Jr. Others Present: Terry Steinwand, Greg Power, Bob Timian and Fred Ryckman, G&F; Rob Holm, USFWS; and Executive Secretary Marie Hoerner.

President Clark Williams called the meeting to order at approximately 10:30 a.m. and thanked everyone for coming. (The meeting originally scheduled for the Mandan Eagles was moved to the Game & Fish.) Those present introduced themselves.

Treasurer Rick Eagleson distributed the "Treasurer's Report" which revealed the income and expenses as of April 14, 2012. A motion to approve the financial reports was made by Don Baasch, seconded by Brian Dahlin, and passed.

Reports/presentations were provided by the following guest speakers:

Rob Holm: Project Leader, Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery

- In spite of all the water last year, 2/3 of hatchery production is from the Spillway Lake. They were still able to do much of the walleye production last year with help from the ND Game & Fish Department. They build dikes last year due to the flood and Rob showed pictures and a video of the dam during the 2011 Missouri River flood. G&F brought pumps to help with the flood issues; saving the walleye in the ponds.
- To give you more information on the Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery report by Rob Holm, attached to the minutes is Rob's PowerPoint presentation from the meeting. Highlighted was:
 - Request for Walleye stockings (2011 Hatchery production);
 - New Mitigation Policy;
 - Fisheries Improvement Act of 2006;
 - 2012 FWS budget could fund 2,675 ND hatcheries, while only 3% of the F&W Service budget is for the Fish Hatchery System. The only department to see a decrease. 10 years ago there were 13 employees and today there are only 5 employees for FWS hatchery.
 - 2013 Budget -- \$3.3 million shortfall in the budget for mitigation hatchery operations and critical supplies. FWS 2012 budget is \$1.7 billion. The Fish Hatchery Systems takes 3% (\$64 million).
 - Primary objective of the Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery historically is to produce fish for the Missouri River Reservoirs;
 - "Take Home Message" from Rob Holm for FWS;
 - Becoming a "Friends Group" -- There is not one organized in ND, but Rob would like to organize one. They could not do what they do without the help of the G&F;
 - The Garrison Dam NFH still has the best hatchery in the nation!

ND Game and Fish Presentations

- Greg Powers, Fisheries Chief (Attached to minutes is Greg's PowerPoint presentation from the April 14 meeting.)
 - Access – As of today, only the Rifle Range's boat ramp is out of commission. They are hoping to get back to the ramps in the district areas.
 - Sources for ANS information for SFC and others??? Survey asked of fulltime Fisheries Division staff – ANS 17%; Water Quality Deterioration-43%; Access-17%; Other-23%.
 - SD ANS Risk Assessment – Intentional stocking and planting were the two vectors most-commonly associated with introducing and spreading ANS. Boats, barges or equipment were the 2nd, with bait being the 3rd. ND is ahead of SD in ANS rules and regulations.
 - Your online licensing doesn't expose non-residents to the rules. ANS is both a resident and non-resident issue. ANS regulations are posted in other states' publications.
 - Department of Tourism sends out packets to nonresidents and they have information about ANS on their website.
 - Lake Eric (Ohio) has a large zebra mussel issue.
 - Greg Power said that since the January 2012 NDSFC meeting, the G&D had over 300 phone calls and emails regarding ANS rules; 150 were from complaints. ANS is of concern to G&F as well as the NDSFC.
 - Addressing the Challenges – projects needing public involvement, which includes ANS. G&F will continue to expand the monitoring, inspection, permitting, education and enforcement of ANS.
 - Transparency –Greg said ANS use to be call the “Bait bucket transfer”.

Bob Timian: Chief Enforcement – Comments and open up for questions. When ANS first started coming into North Dakota, the State Legislature enacted rules about enforcement. If the public doesn't buy in, it will never work to enforce the rules. In 2009 G&F started establish some check stations and did risk assessment to monitor what the compliance rate was and up the exposure to the public. Did check stations in the fall for waterfowl hunters. The standard now is the obvious (weeds) ANS on their boat. Need to warn and inform. Compliance check with the new livewell enforcement – moving water. Have not encountered a lot of actual ANS (plant or animal) and have written very few violations. Start transition from the warning into the situation of ANS violation. Based on information from people, the acceptance is pretty general. Need to reach the fisherman who travel around doing a lot of fishing in different areas. Duaine Ash asked about accessing prior violation records immediately. Timian said Smart phones can access records from the Bismarck system, but no system like the Highway Patrol. The cost to transition to a more complex system is costly, but they have a records management system to keep track of warning and violations. Verbal warnings do not go into the system, only written warnings. Violation of transporting ANS is charged more heavily then if you were not carrying ANS in your livewell. Clark Williams asked if more emphasis could be placed on people being inspected before putting their boat in the water. Bob said they are doing pre-insertion checks as well as boats coming off the water. Transporting fish in ND in a livewell without water is legal. The livewell needs to be drained at the location the boat came out of the water, not down the road. Timian said RAP can also be used to calling in potential fishing violations (report violations to your local wardens or G&F). Call-in fishing violations is no where close to the number of call-in hunting violations.

Fred Ryckman: New ND State ANS Coordinator – Review after 10 years of the program, the division continues to work on ANS issues. Look at barges and equipment coming to the state to makes sure they are not bringing ANS into the state. Need to get everyone involved in keeping ANS out. The goal is to have all fishermen on the G&F side in controlling ANS. Silver carp moved up the James River and they are trying to control this issue. The high river flows makes the issue harder to control.

Terry Steinwand, Director – Steinwand thanked the G&F and fisheries staffs. He said he has been involved with NDSFC for over 20 years. The G&F is not going to agree on everything and will disagree on

strategies, but need to work together. A fisherman needs to be able to access a lake by public means in order to fish legally. Steinwand said he has not heard anything on upcoming legislative bills for the 2013 session.

Committee Reports:

- Fundraiser: Mike Anderson
 - Fundraiser Tickets – Ticket sales are down from past years (155 sold so far this year). Need volunteers to help with special raffles.
 - 2013 Fundraiser Dates – Not yet determined. The date will be posted on the NDSFC website.
 - Prizes: Paul Haug – will need help with prizes. Has a lot of prizes and spent a lot of money.
- Membership:
 - Marie Hoerner provided a written membership report indicating that 5 of the current 13 member clubs have renewed their membership to date. There are currently 558 individuals on our mailing list and only 108 are paid-up members. We have emails for almost half of the members.
 - It was the consensus that the count for the total members of the NDSFC should be the total members from all of the member clubs, which will exceed the current 558 members. If you limit emails to only the clubs, the emails may not reach the individuals at all or not in a timely manner.

By-Laws: None per Paul Haug

E-tree: individuals, clubs – The member clubs are encouraged to delegate an individual or individuals who can forward emails to their members, rather than providing NDSFC with all the emails. NDSFC would like to communicate issues, especially during the Legislature, effectively to all fishermen. President Williams would like to make sure each club has a contact to distribute information to its members via e-tree.

ND Lobbyist – Duaine Ash has been the NDSFC lobbyist in past years, but prefers not to serve in this position for the 2013 session. If there is anyone in the Bismarck-Mandan area that you feel may be interested in serving as the Congress' lobbyist, please contact Duaine Ash. Richard Fink was given permission to include an “ad” for lobbyist in the next newsletter of the Bis-Man Reel & Rec. The most important criteria for a lobbyist would be effectiveness as the “face” for the Congress. If names for lobbyists are received, there would then be an interview and selection process conducted by the NDSFC Executive Board.

Club Reports:

- Barnes County, Don Baasch – August 10th – Kid's fishing at Garrison. Don said they need boats for this event. They are predicting 60 kids and would need about 15 boats. Barnes County Wildlife Federation would pay for bait, gas and some expenses for those providing a boat. Don will get the information together and give it to Clark Williams to distribute to the clubs via e-tree.
- May 5th is Voices of Lake Oahe's annual fundraiser in Linton.

Elections:

- Up for election effective April 14, 2012: VP (Lynn Schlueter), 3 Board Positions (Paul Haug, Ron Kraft, Ed Dosch) – Lynn and Ron do not wish to run for another term. At the January meeting, Ken Cumber expressed interest in serving. Following discussion, a motion was made by Duaine Ash nominating Ken Cumber as Vice President ; seconded by Don Baasch and unanimously passed. Ash made a motion that nominations cease; seconded by Ed Sweeney and passed. Ron Kraft's board position was not filled due to the limitations of the number of Board positions required per the By-Laws, so the seat was not filled. An additional position was added in 2011 and there will now be one less board member for 2012-2013.

New Business

- Clark Williams on behalf of the Lake Region Anglers Association presented awards to ND Game & Fish employees Wes Erdle and Bill Haase for the work completed in 2011 on the ramps in the Devils Lake area.
- The future of the North Dakota Sportfishing Congress – Mike Anderson asked if we should promote the NDSFC publicly in Dakota Country, etc. or interviewing the Congress' president in articles in order to get the NDSFC name out.
- Suggestions to get more people involved in the Congress were to double the number of delegates for each club for the Congress. Articles in Dakota Country interviewing President or Bismarck Tribune, Grand Forks, Fargo, Valley City writers.
- Clark noted that he is not planning to run for President next year, so we need to starting thinking of a candidate, effective April 2013.
- It was the consensus of the group that there will not be a newsletter after the fundraiser, but that news would be communicated on the website. A report on the fundraiser will be posted on the NDSFC website.

There being no additional business, a motion was made by Don Baasch, seconded by Brian Dahlin and unanimously passed to adjourn the meeting. Everyone was asked to help setup for the NDSFC annual fundraiser at the Mandan Eagles, which begins at 6:00 p.m.

Submitted by: Marie Hoerner
Date submitted: April 20, 2012