



**NORTH DAKOTA SPORTFISHING CONGRESS
WINTER MEETING
SATURDAY, JANUARY 21, 2012
ND Game & Fish Office, Jamestown, ND**

MINUTES

Members Present: President Clark Williams; Past President Duaine Ash; Treasurer Rick Eagleson; Board members Mike Anderson, Paul Haug and Ed Sweeney and; Members Ken Cumber, Rick Mohan, Nathan Selchert and Tony Splonskowski. Others Present: Greg Power, Gene Van Eeckhout and BJ Kratz, G&F; and Executive Secretary Marie Hoerner.

President Clark Williams called the meeting to order and later in the meeting everyone introduced themselves.

The minutes of April 9, 2011 annual Board meeting were approved as distributed. Motion by Paul Haug; second by Duaine Ash and passed.

Treasurer Rick Eagleson distributed the "Treasurer's Report" which revealed the income and expenses as of January 21, 2012. The report also included a financial report from the 2011 Fundraiser. A motion to approve the financial reports was made by Mike Anderson, seconded by Paul Haug, and unanimously passed. Rick was thanked for his excellent job in preparing and handling the finances of the Congress.

Secretary Marie Hoerner reported there are currently 542 on the membership list. She indicated that of the total only half have paid membership dues since 2005 or have attended an annual fundraiser. President Clark William has updated information on the membership list, including email address, for the Lake Region Anglers Association and he encouraged other clubs to do the same. He will be forwarding a membership list to the club delegates to do the same. Clark will ask the clubs to submit information to him (shadrap@gondtc.com) on their current officers and calendar of events.

OLD BUSINESS

Game and Fish Reports

Greg Power

- Greg Power said that Director Terry Steinwand would have liked to attend, but his schedule is filled.
- The pending changes to the 2012-2014 Fishing Proclamation were discussed this past fall at the eight advisory board meetings. Greg said the proclamation will not have many changes for the next two years. The more significant changes include five daily limit for northern pike statewide and opening up dark house spear fishing. There will also be one more day of snag and release only in the Williston area. A few southeast North Dakota walleye lakes may also have a 14" minimum.
- ANS – The Game & Fish has put a lot of emphasis in the last 5-6 years on ANS and in particular with all the permitting and licensing issues related to wholesale and retail bait vendor industry and private stockings. Greg said the Department continues to struggle with managing around the number one ANS problem in North Dakota, the common carp. He mentioned that with the high water the past few years has made carp management even more challenging. More recent ANS findings of Zebra Mussel and Silver Carp are troubling.
- Greg noted that there are currently over 350 active lakes in North Dakota, including approximately 15 new lakes. Missouri River flooding was an issue this last year - with maybe as much as \$1.5 - \$2 million needed in 2012 for the Missouri River boat ramp damage. Greg said that Spillway Lake is down

20-25 feet and they are working with Corps and the FWS on increasing the level of this lake so the hatchery ponds can be filled. Greg also mentioned the Department has a lot of catching up at the smaller lakes across the state as they too have been impacted by flooding.

- Regarding oil development in North Dakota, Greg said that everything is good or bad depending on your specific situation. Three issues of concern are: 1) water depletion in western North Dakota, 2) potential for major spills; and 3) People – There is a tremendous amount of strain with the influx of people who fish and camp. Greg said that G&F staff are beginning to be lost in Williston and due to no housing, but the G&F is looking at moving in their own housing for their employees. Dickinson may also require attention.
- Flooding is a big concern with water turning over, which causes fish loss. A lot of fish were lost (smelt, salmon, walleye) from the MRS Dams but the Game & Fish won't know the number until next years. The biggest concern is the smelt lost – Lake Oahe is estimating a 70% loss of smelt. It is easy to determine the lost of a boat ramp, but the fish loss cannot be immediately determined.
- Duaine Ash asked how we can increase the number of staff and funds at the G&F. Greg said that South Dakota has more staffing than North Dakota. Mike Anderson asked how we tell the story; message it. Greg said that if you look 10-15 years out, there will probably be fewer Department staff and maintaining what they have will be a challenge.
- Greg said the G&F needs to keep a \$15 million balance and they still have \$10 million over in the bank, so the Legislature will ask “why do we need to increase license fees?” Part of our job as the NSDFC is to help the G&F with funding.
- There was discussion on the ANS regulations and violations – plug in boat, weeds on boat. Ken Cumber said there have been fishermen snagging fish, which is illegal. There are recreational fishermen that are not aware of the rules. Greg encouraged Clark to invite G&F employee Bob Timian, Enforcement Division Chief, to the April 14 NDSFC Board meeting to address ANS enforcement. Greg said the help from sportsmen is also needed to enforce the regulations, since there are not enough G&F staff to cover all of the areas. Clark Williams said the LRAA has been pushing hard ANS for the last 3-4 years.
- “Clean water, lands and outdoor heritage Amendment” is seeking signatures to be on November ballot. The fund would receive 5% of the total revenues generated from taxes collected from the production and extraction of oil and gas. The purpose of the fund includes protecting water quality, improving flood control and conserving habitat for wildlife and people. The Department has no position on the issue.

BJ Kratz talked about the limits on Crappies, indicating that the last age class was 2005. The G&F tagged 1,289 crappies this spring. BJ said the statewide limit on crappies is 20, with Pipestem’s limit being at 10. He also said that a 10-to-11 inch crappie is a good size fish and that a lot of fishermen are fishing crappie, since they are catching less perch and walleye. He noted that pike and walleye eat crappie. BJ said that “tagged” fish can be reported by mailing in the tag, dropped it off at the G&F office or reporting it online. He also said that a Creel survey will be going on through the winter.

Gene Van Eeckhout provided a local Jamestown area report. Put signs up “Wanted information on tagged fish”. Had hot perch fisheries in Sweetgrass and Mud Lakes by Woodworth and west of Fredonia, by Ellendale. Southeast North Dakota from Hankinson and west to Lidgerwood has a lot of new waters/young fisheries and there is no history on fishing. They are collecting information on the fish being caught. Clark asked Gene if he would provide him with the names of clubs in the southeast area to see if they are interested in membership with the NDSFC.

- The ND Sportfishing Congress Annual Board Meeting will be Saturday, April 14th, Mandan Eagles Club beginning at 10:00 a.m., which is prior to the annual fundraiser social and dinner that evening. President Clark Williams will prepare an agenda for the meeting, as well as invite guest speakers – i.e. G&F, Corps, Fish & Wildlife, Hatcheries and legislators.

- Board positions up for election are: Vice President: Lynn Schlueter; Board Members: Paul Haug, Ron Kraft and Ed Dosch. Ron Kraft has indicated he will not be running for re-election. Ken Cumber noted he is interested in serving on the Board.

Duaine Ash said that we need to get younger people involved in the Congress. It was suggested that President Clark William could mention the importance of active members in the NDSFC and participation on the NDSFC Board at the April fundraiser. Mike Anderson said people think the NDSFC is about politics and we need to educate fishermen what the Congress does. It was suggested to include an article in Dakota Country (Bill Mitzel). Greg Power said he could visit with Bill about an article. Duaine feels that education needs to start at the club level. Paul Haug suggested having Terry Steinwand and/or Greg Power of the G&F speak at the fundraiser regarding the value of NDSFC membership.

- The Nominating Committee will consist of President Clark Williams, Ed Sweeney, Ken Cumber and Mike Anderson.
- Clark Williams and Marie Hoerner will update the NDSFC information pamphlet to be distributed to clubs and at the fundraiser in April. A PDF copy of the pamphlet will be provided to the clubs to send electronically to their members.
- Fundraiser report by Mike Anderson:
 - Banquet tickets will be available to sell in the next couple of weeks. An ad will be put in Dakota Country promoting the fundraiser.
 - Gun Raffle tickets are being tickets printed and will distribute to clubs to sell. Scheels did not give Mike a break on the cost of the guns, but said they would give a donation for the fundraiser if someone would contact them and request one. It was suggested that possibly a letter from G&F to Scheels would help with getting a better price on prizes for the fundraiser.
- We would like to get a newsletter out prior to the annual meeting/fundraiser. Articles should be submitted to Marie (sportfishing@bis.midco.net) by February 20th and the newsletter is to be mailed by March 1. The fundraiser will be promoted in the newsletter, along with club information.

NEW BUSINESS

Hatchery Funding – Greg Power gave a brief explanation on the current status of the federal hatcheries in North Dakota and the GF desires the USFWS remain a viable working partner in North Dakota fish production for decades to come. For the short term, funding issues appear to be resolved and now the FWS needs to fully fund their open positions. Greg assured the group that if or when the time came the federal government backs away from their commitment to the hatcheries, the state would absolutely need to address. Clark mentioned he had email correspondence earlier with Rob Holmes, Garrison FWS manager that basically said the same.

License increase – the SFC had some questions and concerns about the cost of fishing licenses (too little). Greg passed out a comparison charts on “50+ Year ND fishing license fee trends” and “fishing license price comparisons” for resident and non-residents for North Dakota and neighboring states (attached as part of the minutes). He mentioned that the price of bait has increased substantially over the years and the cost of a fishing license is a very small portion of the overall costs to fish.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Submitted by: Marie Hoerner

Date Submitted: January 23, 2012

Fifty+ Year North Dakota Fishing License Fee Trends

	<u>RESIDENT FISHING LICENSE</u>						<u>NON-RESIDENT FISHING LICENSE</u>				
	Annual	Hus/Wife	Combo	Senior	Disabled		Annual	Hus/Wife	10-day	7-day	3-day
1968-71	\$3	\$4		\$1			\$5			\$2	
1972-77	\$4	\$5		\$1	\$1		\$6			\$2	
1978-81	\$5	\$8		\$1	\$1		\$10			\$2	
1982-83	\$6	\$10		\$2	\$2		\$15			\$4	
1984-87	\$6	\$10		\$2	\$2		\$20	\$35		\$8	
1988-92	\$9	\$13		\$3	\$3		\$20	\$35		\$13	\$8
1992-94	\$9	\$13	\$25	\$3	\$3		\$20	\$35		\$13	\$8
1994-95	\$9	\$13	\$25	\$3	\$3		\$25	\$35		\$15	\$10
1995-98	\$10	\$14	\$25	\$3	\$3		\$25	\$35		\$15	\$10
1998-04	\$10	\$14	\$27	\$3	\$3		\$25	\$35		\$15	\$10
2004-06	\$10	\$14	\$32	\$3	\$3		\$35	\$45		\$20	\$15
2006-10	\$10	\$14	\$32	\$3	\$3		\$35	\$45	\$25		\$15
1988 prices adjusted for inflation through 2007	\$16	\$23	\$38	\$5	\$5		\$36	\$63			\$14
Three State Neighbor Avg	\$23	\$26	\$44	\$8			\$57	\$57	\$54		\$29

NON-RESIDENT FISHING LICENSE PRICE COMPARISONS (2008)

	Annual	Hus/Wife	15-day	10-day	7-day	4-day	3-day	2-day	1-day	Youth
North Dakota (16)	\$35	\$45		\$25			\$15			
Montana ^a (15)	\$70			\$54				\$25		
South Dakota (16)	\$60	\$60					\$32		\$14	
Minnesota ^b (16)	\$41	\$53			\$30		\$25		\$10	\$18
Wisconsin (16)	\$50	\$65	\$28			\$24				
Iowa (16)	\$40				\$31		\$16		\$9	
Nebraska (16)	\$58						\$25		\$10	
Wyoming (14)	\$92								\$14	\$15
<i>Three State Neighbor Avg</i>	\$57	\$57		\$54	\$30		\$29	\$25	\$12	\$18
<i>Seven State Average</i>	\$59	\$59	\$28	\$54	\$31	\$24	\$25	\$25	\$11	\$17
() above indicates age when no longer considered youth										
^a - MT - includes conservation fees which are required										
^b - MN - also has addtl licenses for ice shelters, dh spear houses, trout stamps										
North Dakota (16)	\$35	\$45		\$25			\$15			
<i>Three State Neighbor Avg</i>	\$57	\$57		\$54			\$29		\$11	
<i>Seven State Average</i>	\$59	\$59		\$54			\$25		\$11	