



NORTH DAKOTA SPORTFISHING CONGRESS BOARD MEETING

DECEMBER 5, 2015 • 10:00 a.m.
JAMESTOWN GAME AND FISH OFFICES

MINUTES

Present: President Rich Brueckner; Vice President Ken Cumber, Past President Duaine Ash, Treasurer Rick Eagleson; Board Members Ed Dosch; Club Members Wayne Beyer Dave Schmidt, Tony Splonskowski, Doug Vannurden; Game & Fish Representatives Greg Power, Fred Ryckman and Brandon (BJ) Kratz and Secretary Marie Hoerner.

Rich Brueckner, President called the meeting and everyone introduced themselves.

The minutes of the April 18, 2015 meeting were approved as distributed. Motion by Ken Cumber, seconded by Ed Dosch and unanimously passed.

Rick Eagleson presented the Treasurer's Report. A motion to approved the report was made by Ken Cumber, second Doug Vannurden and unanimously passed.

Club Reports:

- Lake Region Anglers – Ed Dosch reported that the first of three handicap fishing ramps will be ready the spring of 2016 in Devils Lake and will then work on two more handicap ramps. Lake Region Anglers recently launched their own website -- LakeRegionAnglers.com.
- Voices of Lake Oahe – Had an awesome fishing year. Project received a grant from ND Outdoor Heritage Fund to improve the boat ramp at Cattail Bay and they may be looking for additional funding. Annual raffle is in May in Linton. Also received \$250,000 from the DOT – application needs to be submitted.
- Wayne Beyer – handout (attached) on what their club is doing in Wahpeton. Rich complemented Wayne on what their club is doing for kids in their area.

ND State Game and Fish Update – Greg Power

- Gene VanEckhout replaced by BJ – Fred is retiring at the end of the month (started boat ramp program in 1986) and will be missed.
- Commended Wayne on the things he does in Wahpeton, as well as LRAA and Morton County (great work on boat ramps) are top supporters.
- No real change statewide, still 400+ fishing lakes. Fish population is very good. South of the interstate is drying out fast as well as southcentral North Dakota. Big 3 Fisheries (Lake Sakakawea, Missouri River/Lake Oahe and Devils Lake) are in good shape. Natural reproduction hasn't been great since 2011 and thus may have fewer Pike.
- This winter looks like a lot like last year – good fish population and access. Lack of snow is good for lack of winter kill. Bad news is the decline in spring water levels if we don't get snow and rain in the spring.
- Recap – nothing on the horizon for the next legislative session. Just completed the Advisory circuit last week. Potential Proclamation changes for 2016 (attached).
- There was a good handout on walleye (facts). There is a place and time for regulation change (but the place isn't here and the time isn't now.)
- ANS provisions are being looked at. “Pull your plug” effective April 1, 2016.

- Stocking/hatchery – Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery is okay. There continues to be issues between the states and the FWS with the value of recreation – politics at the highest level. In ND so far so good. We continue to assist with funding for the hatcheries and the ND FWS staff do a great job providing the fish to meet our needs. Garrison has 64 ponds that includes 40 newer ponds that are unlined. Next summer they are going to start lining some of these ponds.

Fred Ryckman, Game & Fish Department – ANS Report

- Red River became infested with adult Zebra Mussel this year. In 2009 their young (veligers) were found in the Otter Tail River.. 2013 Manitoba found adults in Lake Winnipeg. 2015 adults have been found throughout all of the Red River. Threat are very real and can move very easily. One adult can produce up to a 1M eggs. Due to the abundance of Zebra Mussels in the Red River, the following rules were enacted: All plugs must be removed when enter ND and leaving the Red River. No bait water can be moved from the Red River.
- Public comments – general theme was that we should simply do more. ND is relatively ANS free and many believe non-residents pose the greatest threat.
- Do More Process – educate anglers and more monitoring and stronger rules (statewide with plug removal, as well as more enforcement. There are more inspections and water sampling for ANS).
- Silver carp came to ND in 2011 and only in the James River into South Dakota.
- Few invasive species and limited negative impacts to date, based on a survey done in 2013.
- Educate anglers – Approximately 330 new signs were put up last year and the work was incorporated into the field work. G&F website is maintained with current information.

Lobbyist/Partnership with Friends of Sakakawea – Ed Dosch and Duaine Ash talked about lobbyists, saying that Friends has good cash flow for a lobbyists, so it will cost a lot of money for the NDSFC to partner with them. Duaine suggested to hire Ed Dosch and pay him for his time/mileage to lobby on issues of interest to the fishing industry. Rich Brueckner said we could talk to Friends and see what our costs would be if we had a joint lobbyist and then report back to the committee. Voices may also be interested in a joint effort with Friends and NDSFC. Rich will begin the communication with Friends and report back to the Board at the next meeting.

Annual Meeting & Fund Raiser – Saturday, April 23, 2016 at AMVETS Club in Bismarck

- Committees / Election of Officers and Board Members (Vice President Duaine Ash; Board members Paul Haug and Ed Sweeney) will take place at the April 23rd meeting.
- Fishing merchandise – Duaine Ash said he heard comments at the 2015 fund raise that people wanted quantity and would like more prizes. It was decided that we will do quantity, considering quality and stay around \$4,000 retail again in 2016.
- Fundraiser Tickets – Duaine suggested to keep track of the people who bought banquet tickets in past years and that list should be sent to the individuals receiving ticket books to sell.
- It was decided to continue with the Dakota Country ad (about a \$225 cost), listing Rich Brueckner at the contact.
- Incentive item in 2015 was a box of 22 shells, which seemed to go over well. We will consider doing the same for 2016.

New Business

- Accept Richard Fink's resignation on the Board of Directors and recommendation to appoint Jeff Herman for the remainder of his term ending in April 2017. Motion by Ed Dosch, seconded by Ken Cumber and unanimously passed.
- Doug asked with the NDSFC would consider joining the Voices (\$25 annually; \$250 life time). Rich said that the NDSDF supports the club on the state legislative basis as well as supporting the fishing interests on the state basis. Rich said he doesn't want to Missouri Stakeholders Advisory Group. Tony Splonskowski will provide Rich with information on its membership.

Membership Update – All of the clubs have renewed their 2015 membership and the 2016 dues statements will be mailed in late February.

The next meeting will be Saturday, April 23, 2016 in conjunction with the annual fund raiser, unless President Brueckner feels it's necessary to hold a conference call meeting prior to then.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjournment.

Date Submitted: December 20, 2015

Submitted By: Marie Hoerner

ND Sportfishing Congress Report – 12-5-15

Youth Fishing Derbies

- Neil Heitkamp Ice Fishing Derby on Mooreton Pond or Heitkamp Pond – 1st March Saturday – 262 Participants.
- Vince Herding Fishing Derby on Red River – 1st May Saturday – 173 Participants.
- Dick Bell Catfish Tournament on Red River (youths & adults) – 1st June Saturday – 25 Participants.
- Carp & Sucker Derby on Red River – 1st August Wednesday - 34 Participants.
- Prizes' sponsor of Long Lake, MN Summer Fishing Derby; Lake Elsie Ice Fishing Derby and Silver Lake Ice Fishing Derby.
- Rod & Reel Loaner Program.

Red River Partnership / ND Game & Fish

- Four fishing piers (Bois de Sioux River (1) and Red River (3) - Chahinkapa Park near Ottertail River confluence, Golf Course and Kidder Recreation Area.
- Kidder Recreation Area – new fish cleaning station and its annual maintenance, boat ramp maintenance, boat dock placement and lighting a rock rapids area.
- ANS support (fishing tournament inspections, signage and checking steel dock and pier structures for zebra mussels – four adults found this fall).
- Shoreline fishing development projects (annual) – erosion control, rock rip-rap and steps access over past three years.
- Brushvale ramp / dock annual placement and maintenance (eight miles north of Wahpeton).

Mooreton Pond

- Boat ramp & fishing pier (structure + rock jetties) annual placement and maintenance.
- Ongoing water quality, fish stocking and access projects.

SE Sportsmen's Club

- Support fishing piers, public access, fish stockings, boat ramp projects and shoreline fishing at Grass Lake, Kraft Slough, Bisek Slough, Gully's Slough, Horseshoe Lake, Buffalo Lake, Consolidated Lake, Alkali Lake, Lake Tewaukon, Tosse's Slough, etc.
- 14" minimum walleye creel study.

MN Department of Natural Resources

- Bois de Sioux River development, including concrete plank boat ramp and ice fishing access in Breckenridge, MN.
- Sponsorship of walleye rearing pond.
- Club members participate in annual fishing roundtable meetings in Twin Cities.

Memberships

- ND Sportfishing Congress, Friends of Lake Sakakawea and Voices for Lake Oahe.

Jr. Wildlife Club

- Monthly meetings – activities include making fishing spinners, fishing the Red River, fly fishing, cooking fish, making fishing flies, using spinning / spin-casting / bait-casting equipment, seminars by fishing professionals, spear fishing, making spear fishing decoys, outdoor photography, year-round club fishing contest and taxidermy.



2016-18 North Dakota Fishing Proclamation

Potential Changes (effective April 1, 2016)

Opens some/all of Lake Alice, Silver Lake (Benson Co), Rose Lake and Lake Ardoch National Refuges to some seasonal fishing.

- The USFWS pursued and received approval to permit recreational fishing on a few northeast North-Dakota refuges. Most notable was the opening of Lake Alice to ice fishing.

Reduction of the statewide possession limit of bluegill, yellow perch and white bass from 80 to 40 each.

- The statewide standard is for possession limits to be twice the respective daily limits. However, currently yellow perch, bluegill and white bass are four times the daily limit. Reducing their respective possession limits to 40 would address the desires/requests of many resident anglers fishing rural lakes, as well as normalize the possession limits with the statewide "double the daily" standard for other species.

Opens Sweet Briar Dam and Braun Lake to Dark House Spear Fishing (DHSF). Closes Larimore Dam and Wood Lake to DHSF.

- In all cases, these changes are due to the absence or presence of muskie. Lakes that have muskie populations are off limits to DHSF due to the potential for improper identification.

Eliminates largemouth bass and northern pike length restrictions on Red Willow Lake and largemouth bass length restrictions on North and South Golden lakes.

- Despite minimum length restrictions for these species being in place for years, fish surveys have not yielded positive results and thus the removal of this restriction.

Silver carp can now be harvested by any legal means.

- Silver carp and common carp are treated the same. Both are aquatic nuisance species that may be harvested.

Snapping turtle harvest is allowed between July 1 and November 15 but only one daily and in possession.

- There is some evidence that snapping turtle populations are declining. This rule provides some reasonable safeguards, preventing an individual from excessively harvesting too many snappers in one area in one outing, including the closing to harvest during their breeding season.

Clarifies that it is illegal to introduce anything into waters of the state for the purpose of enhancing the direct observation of fish in the water - underwater cameras are excluded.

- This has been a 'grey area' for the fishing public. Based on other government agency regulations, this practice is considered prohibited thus this proclamation addition simply formalizes it as an illegal practice while fishing and dark house spear fishing.