



## NORTH DAKOTA SPORTFISHING CONGRESS

Annual Meeting Minutes • April 23, 2016 • 10 a.m.

AMVETS Club, Bismarck [2402 Railroad Ave.]

Present: President Rick Brueckner, Vice President Ken Cumber, Past President Duaine Ash, Treasurer Rick Eagleson; Board Members Mike Anderson, Ed Dosch, Richard Fink, Paul Haug, Jeff Herman, Don Schick and Ed Sweeney; Club Members Barb Ash, Bruce Hagen, Marlin Schick, Clayton Schumaker. Tony Splonskowski, Keith Witt and Dave Zuck; Game & Fish Representatives Terry Steinwand, Greg Power, Bob Frohlich and Jessica Howell; Rob Holm, Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery; Terry Fleck, Friends of Lake Sakakawea, and Secretary Marie Hoerner.

President Rich Brueckner called the meeting to order and everyone introduced themselves.

- A motion to approve the minutes of the December 5, 2015 minutes was made by Duaine Ash, seconded by Ed Dosch and passed.
- Treasurer Rick Eagleson presented the financial reports. A motion was made by Ed Sweeney, seconded by Mike Anderson and was approved.
- ND Game & Fish Reports:
  - Greg Power – Update on the States Fisheries – There currently are 425 fishing water bodies and 804,000 acres (added 250 more lakes and 250,000 more acres in the past 25 years). He said the fishing lakes have likely plateaued. Record number of fishing license again sold – that marks the fourth year in a row.  
What's happening to our lakes – Drainage projects are on the rise and they have impacts on fishing lakes. Designs vary as do the potential impacts on fishing lakes. Some projects simply rely on gravity while other include pumping. Half of these lakes have a public boat ramp, while all have good winter fishing access. Projects generally intend to drain 3-7 feet from the lakes. If/when this occurs, many will experience fish-kills. Spring spawning at Devils Lake is complete for this year. G&F moved thousands of catfish and perch to the lakes. The weather this past winter was great with little snowfall thus we experienced very little in terms of winter kill – this makes two years in a row. Downside is that there is not much run off. Overall 2016 should be another good fishing year statewide.
  - Bob Frohlich –Overview of Fisheries development program. Busy with facility development and dock construction (working with Wahpeton College to build the dock frames); fishing pier docks are being built by the Game & Fish, since Bachmeiers Mfg went out of business. About 450 boat ramps around the state, so there is a lot of reconstruction in the spring. Toilets and lights are the primary target for vandalism. About 60 fish cleaning stations around the state and are put in the main fishing areas. Stations run \$50-60,000 and maintenance each year can run \$4,000-5,000 annually. \$500,000 is currently approved for WMA road improvement projects in 2016. Individuals counties normally do not maintain these roads. For 2016, the Missouri River System is in pretty good shape and have only about four projects to work on. Devils Lake has been the “hot spot” for the Game & Fish for boat ramp improvements, but the state is in pretty good shape. There are 10 ramps in the Devils Lake area. In 1990, there were only five boat ramps on Devils Lake, so they have doubled. There is a new dump ground site in Minnewaukan. Pelican Lake generates the most phone calls for boat ramp access. Building the ramp is easy, but getting the paperwork to get it approved is difficult. Terry Fleck asked if there was low water ramp plan in place for Lake Sakakawea. Terry Steinwand said he didn't think they would need to build more ramps, but make sure there is access.

- Jessica Howell, new ANS Coordinator – ANS is a non-native plant or animal that threatens waters and cause negative impact. Four species in ND – 1) Curly leaf pondweed – introduced to the US in early 1800s and found in 3 to 6 feet of water, 2) Eurasian Watermilfoil – typically found in 1-15 feet of water and introduced in the US in 1880s; 3) Silver Carp – introduced to the US in 1973 typically found in large rivers, can be transported as bait and at this time only found in the James River; 4) Zebra Mussels – introduced in the US in the 1980s via ballast water and are typically found attached to hard surfaces. Believe they came over from the Black Sea to Lake Erie via ballast water and spread to the other Great Lakes. In ND they are found in the Red River. To prevent ANS spread; Clean, Drain and Dry your equipment that went into the water. There has been an ANS program since 2005, regulations since 2008 and current regulations changes were updated this past winter. The intent is to prevent the spread of organisms or water. New regulations for 2016 – Drain plugs must be out during transport. Class I Waters (Red River only) cannot transport bait in water away from the water body. Going to have summer watercraft educators/inspectors from the end of May through mid-August. Surveillance plans – Red River and many other water bodies monitored this summer. Ongoing ANS work – equipment inspection, bait vendor inspection and periodical coordination meetings with representatives of other agencies. Report anything out of the ordinary to NDG&F (800-472-2121) or Jessica Howell at [jmhowell@nd.gov](mailto:jmhowell@nd.gov) or 701-368-8368. For more information on ANS, go to the ND Game & Fish website: <http://gf.nd.gov/> Greg Power said that Devils Lake and their community are far ahead of ANS education and getting the word out to the public.

Terry Fleck, Friends of Lake Sakakawea Chairman, replaced Duaine Ash who was the first chairman of Friends. Staff representing all three congressional delegates were at the Friends' last meeting. June 27, 2006 letter from Hoeven was read regarding the transfer of excess lands. There is no clear cut understanding what is occurring. September 2014 Letter from Gov. Dalrymple had a lot of concern. Went away because the Corp was unwilling to fund it. Last summer President Obama came to Standing Rock. Jim Mosset is the tribes representative regarding the transfer of land to the Three Affiliated Tribes. In the meeting, Jim changed his position and said there is nothing to worry about and will do everything the way it was done. The land is owned by the people of the US, not the Tribe. They initially wanted to transfer the land back to the original owners. The day the Governor signed it, the Three Affiliated Tribes made their move. Friends want to have access to lands that you don't have to ask permission for hunting, fishing, etc. It is going to cost the American people thousands of dollars, although nothing will happen. There was a lot of people upset with the federal government. The President found money that is being put in the Corps' budget. NDSFC and every group in the state need to come together to make sure – this is one of the most critical positions in the state – the land should go to the Corps and not back to the tribe. Need to get the federal and state support.

- Rob Holm – Project Leader, Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery – Walleye Spawning is average about 50,000 eggs per female. The 2015 hatchery production was 91% (8.6 million) of request (9.4 million) for all species. Hatchery looks to stock out about 9 million fish in 2016. Walleye stocking for 2016 is at 8.2 million; 140,000 fingerlings per pond. Hatchery is working with Wyoming on sauger restoration. Continue to get additional federal funding due to the special restoration projects. Looking at a Larval Drift – Intake Diversion Dam project on the Yellowstone River. Mussel Propagation Workshop – Inject water in the gill tissue of the mussel (infesting gills with Glochidia). Runoff in the Missouri River Basin during March 2016 was only 60 percent of average.
- Lobbyist – Question brought up at December meeting. Approached Friends and they will get back to us after their next meeting to see if there was interest in sharing a lobbyist. Terry Steinwand said it is a little early to know if there would be any legislation affecting the fishing industry in the 2017 legislative session. Rich will report back to the board after the Friends meeting.
- By Laws Committee – Paul Haug and Ken Cumber had nothing to report or recommended changes.

- Club Reports –
  - Ed Dosch (Lake Region Anglers) – Wheelchair access on floating ramp in May; East ditch area will have the next handicap fishing pier and playground (by new Walmart). Henegars fishing pier will have wheelchair lift to get into a boat. All of the docks are in at Devils Lake already.
  - Marlin Schick (Great Planners Trout & Salmon) – Club is involved with handicap fishing at the Hatchery. The last couple of years their derby has been rained out.
  - Tony Splonskowski (Voices) – All of ramps are owned by the Corps, which have no funds to maintain so they are on their own.
  - Jeff Herman (Bis-Man Reel & Rec) – 192 participants in ice fishing derby; spring Cabin Fever in May; Walleye derby in May and Take a Kid Fishing in June.
  - Ken Cumber (Dakota Anglers) – 40<sup>th</sup> annual walleye tournament in May.
  - Keith Witt (Fishing Hall of Fame) – Nominations for inductees is due May 1 and applications are still being accepted. Limited budget and appreciate donations. Display “fishing hall of fame” is in Garrison.
  - Rick Eagelson (FM Muskies) – ANS will have education at the VFW in Fargo.
  
- Membership Update – Marie Hoerner – We maintain the same number of Club members, but paid individual dues has dropped.
  
- Elections – Board of Directors:
  - Up for re-election – Ed Sweeney, Paul Haug. Both are willing to accept another. Motion by Mike Anderson; 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed Dosch, and passed.
  - Vice President – Ken Cumber. Motion by Duaine Ash, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed Sweeney, and passed.
  - Formally elect Jeff Herman (replacing Richard Fink). Motion by Ed Dosch, 2<sup>nd</sup> Don Schick and passed.
  - Resignation of current Board member Dave Bement; replacement is Don Schick with Bis-Man Reel and Rec.
  
- Banquet/Smoker Report
  - Tickets (banquet and cash raffle): 180 were guaranteed. Jeff Herman & Richard Fink
  - Prizes: Rick Eagelson
  - Changes to Fundraiser: Prime Rib (sit down dinner); AMVETS Gaming donation; Jerome’s Distributing donation. These changes were a result of Jeff Herman and Marie Hoerner meeting with the AMVETS and suggestions from Jeff.
  - Club members volunteered to help with selling tickets at the raffle tables.
  
- Other Business
  - 1) G&F RAPP line – Is there a way to make the process similar with a 3 or 4-digit phone number? Terry Steinwand said they would probably have to coordinate with the State Radio and it may or may not make a difference to report. Terry said they would discuss it internally if they need it and if it is even possible to get a 3-digit phone number.
  - 2) How do we bring the younger anglers into the NDSFC? Don Schick said that people join their club in order to participate in their fishing derby. Mike Anderson said the Great Planners had the similar conversation to get younger people involved. There is no simple answer and it comes back to personalities and individuals.
  - 3) Rich Brueckner volunteered help to design a brochure to get more people involved in the clubs, NDSFC and activities.

- 4) Development of a Facebook page – Jeff Herman volunteered to put up a Facebook page. A motion was made by Mike Anderson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed Dosch, and passed to support Jeff's efforts.
- 5) Mike Anderson said we should have a conversation with Jon Mitzel, Dakota Country Magazine, about interviewing the individuals and clubs and publish it in Dakota Country Magazine.

Mike Anderson feels we need to support the Friends joint lobbyists – Need to sit down and talk to Friends to determine the details: Rick Eagleson said our lobbyists costs have been around \$6,600 per session. A committee was formed to visit with Friends – Mike Anderson, Duaine Ash and Rick Brueckner -- to discuss the steps to move forward with joint lobbying efforts. Duaine said we may be able to do what we did the last session and monitor issues that come before the Legislature.

- New Business:
  - A board from the Congress will get more information from the membership (via email correspondence) and then get back to Friends.
  - Next Year's Annual Meeting & Fundraiser is set for Saturday, April 22, 2017 at the AMVETS in Bismarck.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Date Submitted: May 10, 2016

Submitted by: Marie Hoerner