



## NORTH DAKOTA SPORTFISHING CONGRESS ANNUAL MEETING

APRIL 9, 2011 • 10:00 a.m.  
MANDAN EAGLES CLUB

Members Present: President Clark Williams; Past President Duaine Ash; Vice President Lynn Schlueter; Treasurer Rick Eagleson; Board members Paul Haug and; Members Randy Anderson, Miles Bobb, Ken Cumber, Brian Dahlin, Rynee Kellar, Ron Kraft, Ron Sahr, Tony Splonskowski, Ed Sweeney, Gene Van Eeckhout. Others Present: Terry Steinwand and Greg Power, G&F; Rob Holm and Steve Krentz, USFWS; Garth Zimbelman, Corps; Rep. Kent Onstad, ND Legislature, and Executive Secretary Marie Hoerner.

President Clark Williams called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and thanked everyone for coming. Those present introduced themselves.

Treasurer Rick Eagleson distributed the "Treasurer's Report" which revealed the income and expenses as of April 9, 2011. A motion to approve the financial reports was made by Paul Haug, seconded by Ed Sweeney, and passed.

Reports were provided by the following guest speakers:

- **Steve Krentz**, Project Leader; USFWS-Missouri River Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office – The Bismarck office is working on a number of fishery issues within North Dakota. They are continuing to provide technical assistance to the fisheries resources for ND refuges and Tribes. One highlight is the stocking of northern pike into Lake Ilo near Killdeer. About two years ago, a renovation project to eliminate the common carp and unfortunately, last year, carp were found again. It's hoped that the northern pike will provide some suppression on the recruitment of the carp.

Pallid sturgeon activities continue with the assessment information showing excellent survival on the stocked fish. We are working together with a number of State and Federal biologists to assess the recovery efforts throughout the Missouri River from St. Louis to Ft Peck, MT.

Another effort they're working on is the implementation of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan. This is a national effort to reverse the continued decline in aquatic habitat quality throughout the nation. Despite the individual efforts of several agencies and entities, habitat for aquatic species continues to decline in quality risking numerous species and fishing opportunities. This is a local based effort and the effort of the Great Plains Fish Habitat Partnership is focused on the rivers and streams of the Great Plains. There are two other FHP's that have efforts in North Dakota; the Midwest Glacial Lakes FHP and the Reservoir FHP. As their names imply, the Midwest Glacial Lake FHP is focused on the natural lakes of eastern Dakotas and the Reservoir FHP is concentrating their efforts on the reservoirs of the nation.

One last thing to mention is the efforts they as the Service are taking to minimize the spread of ANS species. Since our assessment work is a potential pathway to transfer species between lakes, we take our nets and equipment back to our home base to hot pressure wash and clean before launching into another watershed.

- **Garth Zimbelman**: Natural Resource Specialist, US Army Corps of Engineers – (presenting in place of Linda). So far this year, the spring forage fish spawn is to favor Garrison this year. Snow pack as of April is 42% of normal; is above normal in Garrison. Reported on the snow pack. Forecast as of April for the Lake Sak the peak at 1848.6 in July. Low peaking at 1843.9; July 1850.2. Currently, there are eight shoreline access locations on Lake Sak, with driving access. Added one from last year – just south

of Garrison. There is an online boat ramp calculator. There are currently 49 ramps on Lake Sak that are usable. High water can have bad side effects. Missouri River – One ramp on the down steam boat ramp. The Corp has very little to do with other boat ramps. At Garrison project, most ramps should be usable unless the water rises. On the Garrison project, he is not aware of any new ramps. April for Lake Oahe – normal range is 1616 in April and then slide down to about 1612 in August. Check the Corps website for these forecasts and additional information @ [www.nwo.usace.army.mil/](http://www.nwo.usace.army.mil/).

- **Rob Holm**: Project Leader, Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery, US Fish and Wildlife Service – Different on presentation is US Army Corps of Engineers look as this is the first year they are looking to the Corp for funding. Talked about Mitigation – referring to the change -- In the interest in serving the public, it is the policy of the US FWS to seek to mitigate the losses of fish, wildlife and their habitats, and uses thereof from land and water developments. Mission Statement is “working with partners to restore and maintain fish and other aquatic resources at self-sustaining levels and support.” New Mitigation Policy -- The Department of Interior is that the service will be reimbursed by the agencies responsible for these fishery mitigation activities or we will not continue to perform these activities.” The 2010 COE mitigation stockings totaled \$270,000 (over half in Lake Sak), as they have a lot of new water to stock. The primary objective of Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery has historically to been to produce fish for the Missouri River Reservoirs. Rob reported on past stocking results and 2011 stocking requests and talked about the impact of stocking depending on the water levels. In addition to walleye and pike production, they requesting stocking for 20,000 12” Paddle fish. He said there are five staff working at Garrison Hatchery today and it takes about \$120,000, above salaries, to run the hatchery. Rob encouraged the NDSFC and clubs to pass the information on the impact and necessity of funding of the Garrison Dam National Fish Hatchery. Need for habitat improvements and stocking – maintaining the hatchery. Garrison is one of the nine facilities mentioned of the 73 F&W Service hatcheries nationwide considered to be closed. Rob thanked the NDSFC and G&F Department for their support. Terry Steinwand of G&F said there will be federal cuts. Greg Power said the hatchery bashing needs to go away, as hatcheries have done a wonderful job providing services. If the hatchery did close, Terry Steinwand said the G&D would be forced to take over part of the Hatchery; however, he wasn't sure how they would do it. Electricity costs annual is about \$50,000.
- **Rep. Kenton Onstad**, ND Legislature – District 4, Parshall (6<sup>th</sup> session in the ND Legislature) He has spent most of his time with easement work. It did pass both chambers and on its way to the Governor. House Concurrent Resolution 3032 is asking to improve the infrastructure on the shoreline and fix the roads. The purpose of HCR 3032 is to look at and study the impact that it has. Each group and yourself participate in the process and Rep. Onstad encourages NDSFC members be part of the hearing process. He assumes it will go to the Natural Resources Committee. Some thoughts were – Why we need to put additional dollars into the roads in the Devils Lake area. Need to provide statistics on how improved roads can increase the traffic and the benefits to the community and the state of ND, which can create future developments. Who will maintain these road and maybe the state needs to be responsible for maintaining the roads – this would be a major accomplishment. Last, anything we can do to increase the benefits of the Devils Lake, but we need to show all of the benefits. He recommends that the NDSFC or G&F notify ND.gov – Legislative assembly and the interim committees. The HCR 3032 meetings will begin in June and should be held about every 2-3 months. You will have 2-3 weeks to notify legislators. Terry Steinwand / Clark Williams will notify the clubs/members with the details on who to contact to provide input regarding the necessity of the study on HCR 3032. It's hard to contact the legislators by phone, so at least email the legislators. We need to make sure that this legislative study is chosen.

- **Greg Power:** Fisheries Division Chief, ND Game and Fish Dept – Concerns that we need to be aware of
  - Greg Power provided a report on “What's Hot, What's Not”
    - Need to be aware of ANS and Zebra Mussels (found last year in Wahpeton); Have new ANS rules (2010 October) is the live well/bait well issue – Free of water and vegetation when leaving a ramp. Public interest – 2/3 of the public support the ANS (the older were more supportive). Oil and water issues – Demand for water supply in oil fracking; Concern about the water coming from the small fishing lakes. Concerned about oil spills and affecting the fisheries. Red River Diversion – flood control around Fargo. Fish bypass so they can go from the Red. Dry Dam Expansion – Maple River Dry Dam (store water a short time). Paddlefish Reproduction – It's been since 1995 that we had a good year class and not seeing good recruitment. Changing Farm Policy – Concern about the landscape, since this ends up in the lakes. Devils Lake Access – Ramps and road issues need to be addressed. Another Bad Winter – Increased the likelihood of winter kills, but only know of a couple in the state to date and will know more as the ice comes off the lakes.

“What's Hot” – License sales continues to go up; there are a lot of new lakes and people like to fish. Eastern two-thirds of the state have a number of new lakes. Up to about 340 lakes in North Dakota and it continues to go up. There are going to be a lot of Pike opportunities. There are more than 20 new walleye lakes established in the past 10-15 years totaling more than 25,000 acres. Fish production is back on line and we have a home for the fish being hatched. Keeping carp out of Devils Lake; Loma Berm is finally finished (getting a road in). Expect good things this spring with reproduction. Salmon are short-lived (1-3 years) and are stocking more salmon into the Lake Sakakawea. Only about 25 G&F employees in the entire state. Appreciate help from ND fishing groups – NDSFC, FM Muskie Inc., Williams County Water Board. The next couple of years should show good years for fishing.

- **Bob Frohlich:** G&F Department Fisheries Development Supervisor – Fisheries Development Program. Success of projects is due to the cooperation of landowners, help from clubs, etc. North Dakota is one of the few states (6-10 state region) that work with clubs. Work with any fishing or boating related facility is something that can be cost-shared (ramps, cleaning stations). The dollars come from G&F (license fees) and local entities provide a percentage as well. Boat registration is a 3-year cycle. In 2009 the G&F did a lot of work on the Missouri River system (boat ramps), looked at the 2010 expenditures as well as projected 2011 expenditures. Looking at road projects – If they don't do anything at Devils Lake this year, they would lose all boat ramps. Look to have six ramps in 2011. Bob talked about how they repair and construct boat ramps. He said it's more expensive to put in metal ramps than cement, which is the preferred and cheapest method of installing a boat ramp. There are a lot of maintenance issues to deal with in maintaining the ramps. He said they put in 400-500 courtesy docks and that they now build their own courtesy docks which cost about \$3,000 per dock. They also build skid docks, which are heavier than wheel docks. Local entity provides 25% of cost share on the docks. Provide docks for ADA compliant to load individuals onto boat. Fishing Piers (Underdahl donation to G&F) – they targeted floating fishing piers. Now have about 150 floating fishing piers. Vault Toilets (pre-cast concrete is the most vandal/maintenance free). It is more critical today as to where they put toilets in – need to be maintained. Fish Cleaning Stations are very expensive – \$40,000-50,000 to build plus maintenance to keep them clean. He said that with the live well regulation, more fish cleaning stations will probably be installed. Up until two years ago, G&F never provided funding for maintenance, but now gives a \$2,000 grant to help with maintenance. G&F also gets involved with “signing” with directions on how to get to the lakes. Roads & Parking Areas – Department usually doesn't have a lot of funding to get involved in these areas. Public Assess Easements – most of the easement are on public landowners and they work with these individuals to develop a boat access on their land. The landowners and clubs in the state are great to work with and are supportive of the fishing industry.

Greg Power said that in time – spend time on the Fisheries webpage ([www.gf.nd.gov](http://www.gf.nd.gov)) and it may answer your questions (Fisheries, ANS tab). They keep adding questions. Two-year fishing proclamation in North Dakota (changed about 15 years ago). But over time, something comes up in an emergency and the fishing guide may not be correct. They are considering going back to an every year proclamation. If you have input, please provide it to the G&F. Clark said the G&F seem to find a way to do the project development cheaper (i.e. docks, fish cleaning) and thanks the G&F.

**The following committee reports were provided:**

- Fundraiser: Setup for the fundraiser will be immediately following the annual business meeting.
- Membership: Marie Hoerner reported that only three clubs had not paid their 2011-12 dues. There are currently 550 individuals on the mailing list and of these 47 have never paid dues or attended the annual fundraiser. For lobbying reasons, we would like to have as many members as possible.  
Action Item – Email clubs to find out how many members each of the clubs have to have a larger total membership. A motion was made by Duaine Ash, seconded by Miles Bobb and passed to keep the 47 members who have not paid on the member list, but to not send them a newsletter, unless they are with a member club.
- By Laws Committee consisting of Paul Haug, Rick Eagleson and Ron Sahr had no recommended changes.
- Club Reports:
  - In 2011, FM Walleyes was inducted into the National Fresh Water Hall of Fame.
  - Ron Kraft handed out copies of House Concurrent Resolution 3032 directing the Legislative Management to study the needs of, economic values of, and methods to improve access roadways to recreational, tourist, and historical sites in North Dakota. A copy of the resolutions can be found at <http://www.legis.nd.gov/assembly/62-2011/documents/11-3072-02000.pdf>. Ron talked about the importance of the resolution and encouraged everyone to get involved in supporting the special road projects. Clark Williams and Terry Steinwand will get information out to the members. Duaine said that he did not have direct contact with Ron. It's a study group and he told the bill carriers that the NDSFC wanted to be involved in any studies. Local entity (like Emmons County) has to request the money). Ron also talked about how to apply for the Special Road Fund (SRF). Reiny Kellar said the DOT gets money from the State of ND for road improvements, but it has to go through a government entity to apply for the fund. DOT does not get involved with local/county roads. Ron would like the NDSFC to be involved in the development of 3032; however, Clark said he dropped the ball on writing a letter of support on 3032.

SB 2200 – Voices of Lake Oahe sponsored bill to support the Cocktail Bay Road improvement project (almost \$2 million project). Ron Kraft said they needed to go to the state to ask for money that was not earmarked. Emmons County does not have money for the road project and the State DOT didn't support because it is a county road. Said he did not get support from the NDSFC. Duaine said he did not testify (was not available), but he did talk to the legislators on the committee on this bill. Ron Kraft expressed his disappointment with the NDSFC that he did not get their support of this bill. Ron said that Voices did secure all of the grant applied for in the Phase one of the project.

- Dakota Anglers, Ken Cumber reported on the status of the Ron Luidahl Scholarship. There was \$15,799 in the fund as of January 1, 2011, with their annual banquet in early 2011 which put it over \$16,000. A \$525 scholarship was given in 2010 and they have eight applicants this year's scholarship. Ken said that if a club doesn't have any place to donate their profit, that they consider donating it to the Ron Luidahl Scholarship fund.
- Lobbyist Report: Duaine Ash said there were two bills of interest in the 2011 session – SB 2200 and House Concurrent Resolution 3032. He said he would like to get the recommendation of the club for 3032. Lynn would like to discuss with the clubs on how the money should be divided and spent. Everyone should get back to their individual clubs and then communicate with Clark on the specifics they would like to be implemented in 3032.
- The Nominating Committee consists of President Clark Williams, Past President and Ed Sweeney. Following are the election results for 2011-2013:
  - President (Clark Williams) – A motion by Lynn Schlueter to cast a ballot for Clark Williams for President for an additional two years, seconded by Miles Bobb and unanimously passed.
  - Treasurer (Rick Eagleson) – Rick Eagleson graciously accepted another term as treasurer – A motion to close nominations and cast a vote for Rick Eagleson as Treasurer for 2011-2011 was made by Paul Haug, second by Clark Williams and passed.
  - Board Members: (current members Don Baasch, Mike Anderson, Dave Bement) – Paul Haug nominated Bryce Anderson, but Bryce denied the nomination at this time. Duaine Ash nominated Ed Sweeney as an additional board member for 2011-2013. A motion was made by Paul Haug to move that nominations cease and call for a ballot for Board members consisting of Don Baasch, Mike Anderson, Dave Bement and Ed Sweeney. The motion was seconded by Clark Williams and passed.
- Clark Williams pointed out that club secretary Marie Hoerner had done a great job in creating a new website for Lake Region Anglers Association, which went live towards the end of 2010. The LRAA presented Marie with plaque for an honorary lifetime member of LRAA, as well as a check for the extra work she did on the LRAA website. Marie mentioned that she was almost finished with the Dakota Anglers new website and then hopes to start on the FM Walleyes site. If other clubs are interested in redoing their website, they should contact Marie at [sportfishing@bis.midco.net](mailto:sportfishing@bis.midco.net). A motion was made by Lynn Schlueter to increase the secretary's monthly fee by 10 percent, effective immediately. The motion was seconded by Ron Sahr and passed.
- Newsletter: Articles for the next newsletter should be submitted by Friday, April 29, with the newsletter mailed in mid-May. The articles should be emailed to [sportfishing@bis.midco.net](mailto:sportfishing@bis.midco.net).
- **New Business:**
  - 2011 NSDFC Annual Meeting and Fundraiser: A motion to hold the 2012 NDSFC annual meeting and fundraiser on Saturday, April 14 at the Mandan Eagles was made by Duaine Ash, second by Ron Sahr to hold the 2011 fund raiser. This date should not interfere with the Frozen Four or Easter.
- There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by: Marie Hoerner  
Date submitted: April 17, 2011