

NORTH DAKOTA
SPORTFISHING
CONGRESS

P.O. BOX 2472 • BISMARCK, ND 58502

NDSFC Fall Meeting

Saturday, October 26, 2019 • 9:30 a.m.

Jamestown – Game and Fish Office

MINUTES

Attendees: President Rich Brueckner, Vice President Ken Cumber, Past President Duaine Ash; Treasurer Jeff Herman, Secretary Marie Hoerner; Board members Cody Armstrong, Tom Boerger, Ed Dosch, Rick Eagleson, Rick Mohan and Keith Witt; Club Member Mark Curtis; Game & Fish Representatives Greg Power, Terry Steinwand and Jessica Howell.

1. President Brueckner called the meeting to order and introductions were made.
2. A motion to approval the April 27, 2019 minutes from the annual meeting was made by Keith Witt, seconded by Duaine Ash and unanimously approve as distributed.
3. Treasurer Jeff Herman presented the financial reports for the general fund and a five-year annual fundraiser statement. A motion to approve these two reports was made by Ed Dosch, seconded by Ken Cumber and unanimously passed. A summary of the income and expenditures from the Legislative Fund was also presented. Rich Brueckner thanked the clubs for their support and donations to the fund. A motion was then made by Rick Mohan, seconded by Ed Dosch, and unanimously passed to approve the Legislative Fund financial report.
4. A membership report was presented by Marie Hoerner. She said that all of the current 13 clubs have renewed their membership for 2019. It was noted that 15 of 786 individuals on the membership list have paid dues for 2019. Rich Brueckner said he tried contacting the Badland Bandits, but he had no success. Greg Power mentioned there is a new Minot fishing club. Rick Mohan said that in the Fargo-Moorhead area, there is interest in the high school fishing club.
5. Old Business:
 - A. Ken Cumber and Tom Boerger report on reviewing language on By-Laws and Constitution (discussion on membership fee structure – club and individual)
 - A motion was made by Rick Mohan, seconded by Ed Dosch and unanimously passed to accept the first reading of the NDSFC ByLaws with the proposed changes are shown on the attachment.
 - A motion was made by Jeff Herman, seconded by Cody Armstrong and unanimously passed to accept the first ready of the NDSFC Constitution with the proposed changes as shown on the attachment.

Cody believes we should get our name out to more individuals, since most of the LRAA members are not familiar with the NDSFC. He believes that once we get setup with Wild Apricot management software, we may get more exposure and individuals are of the Congress and what they do.

B. Marie Hoerner update on Website (Wild Apricot)

- On October 10th Marie signed up for a 30-day free trial and has gone through a few tutorials and an online webinar. Work developing a new website was started, but she has not figured out how to edit and create some of the pages. She will contact a F-M Walleyes member to see about getting assistance using Wild Apricot software.
- Wild Apricot Fees—\$40/month for groups with up to 100 email contacts; \$50/month up to 250 contacts; \$90/month up to 500 contacts; \$160/month for up to 2,000 email members.
- It was pointed out that of the 786 individuals on the NDSFC member list, only 270 have an email address.
- Rich Brueckner suggested adding additional value to our membership such as a free 5-month subscription to Dakota Country or other magazine with a paid NDSFC membership, if it can be arranged.

C. Fishing Outfitters Licensing requirements and fee structure recommendations – Cody Armstrong and Jeff Herman, along with Keith Witt attended a meeting in August hosted by G&F Advisory Board Committee meeting. Cody provided the following update – “The group agreed on the potential following changes to administrative rule. Require the name of the waterbody and county where fish were harvested on records. Require a copy of records to be sent to the Department yearly. The group agreed on the potential following changes to the century code (needs to be done legislatively). Require first aid and CPR for fishing outfitters. Require fishing outfitters to pass a written exam prior to obtaining a license. Would only need to be done once unless the person fails to obtain an outfitter license for two consecutive years. Other ideas brought up but not agreed to by the group and not forwarded. Requiring all guide boats/other equipment to be marked visibly to the public. Requiring outfitters to be registered with the Secretary of State as a business entity. Requiring outfitters to report all earnings, including tips, to Game and Fish. License fee increase.”

Also brought up at the meeting:

- Boat landing and people leaving things blocking access. Talked to local guides about increased fees and how you can be a guide when you are handicapped.
- Tom Boerger said he talked to some guides. SD & MN have no requirements, although MN requires a Coast Guide license in some places. There was quite of diversity of fee increase, including the cost of commercial liability insurance for guides.
- Jeff Herman – (first aid trained) for all areas such as hunting, fishing guides.
- Terry Steinwand said Cody Armstrong did an excellent job at the outfitters meetings. The G&F needs to draft language for Administrative Rules, however, license fee increase is a relatively small issue and \$100 is nothing. NDSFC was asked to make recommendations to the G&F. Terry will consider recommendations when drafting language. Don't allow fishing guides on certain smaller lakes. Current guide fees are \$100, with \$400 for non-resident guides.
- Rick Mohan said he does think we should take an official position at this time.
- Duaine Ash asked if the increase can be earmarked for docks, but Steinwand said he likes the flexibility of using the increased fees in areas where needed.
- Greg Power said Antelope Lake has a lot of local heart burn about the fishing guides from Devils Lake.

New Business:

- A. Greg Power talked about the extreme wet conditions, which have increased the number of lakes. There will likely again be a record number of fishing lakes in a few years. Greg discussed every two year the G&F develops a new fish proclamation, so in late November-early December the G&F will be sharing the proposed changes but there likely will be nothing significant. Regarding tournaments – they continue to mediate between the proponents and opponents of fishing tournaments. Given a lot of public complaints in 2019, they will be tightening up a bit for the number of tournaments on Lake Sakakawea.
- B. Just for the Fisheries Division adm. assistant and chief of the G&F, they received over 1500 direct public phone calls in the past year, mainly relating to docks/ramps, stocking, tournaments, private stocking and items dealing with bait and bait vendors. Only a dozen or so of these were ANS related phone calls.
- C. Regarding Legislative update SB 2293 and ANS, Greg Power said an additional game warden was hired (located in Finley). There is more emphasis statewide by enforcement staff on ANS rule compliance. They made 226 warning/citations on ANS, with most being citations (172) for matters as simple as not pulling one's boat plug. Greg also stated that the G&F hired a new ANS biologist who will work with Jessica Howell in Jamestown starting November 15. Surcharge on resident and non-resident licenses becomes effective next year and all motorized watercraft. Greg circulated a sheet on the G&F's internal draft on ANS fee communications plan for generating awareness, acceptance and compliance with ANS.
- D. Valley City Hatchery status – Jessica Howell reported on the Zebra Mussel findings and the precautions being taken at Lake Ashtabula and downstream on the Sheyenne River including the hatchery at Valley City. Tentative plans for fish production in 2020 will be normal, but there will be a number of additional steps taken to ensure the hatchery product is totally clean of any Zebra Mussels. This includes a holding house where the water is filtered and treated to kill young mussels and even viruses and bacteria. Also new protocol testing and process sampling will occur. The G&F and FWS will take all necessary precautions. 2020 production may focus on northern pike but still uncertain at this time. Rich Brueckner asked what the G&F has heard about the "Texas Bomb", which is supposed to wipe out ANS, but Jessica said she has not heard about it.
- E. Watercraft Gas Tax – new approach
Rich said (SB 2293) was to get money out of the DOT to use on ANS, but had no success. He said he still is not giving up on the gas tax. He said on 2-lane highways, there is no place to pull over boats to inspect boats. He has been communicating with a few legislators to build turnouts on highways to do inspections and the dollars could be used for highway construction. Terry said he has not heard anything from game wardens but can do inspections at rest areas. Terry said he is not excited about turnouts. Ken Cumber said the Highway Department widened highways to make traffic stops. Rich would still like to get legislation to get tax gas taxes back and he will continue on this issue. Terry said he will be working on upcoming legislative issues within the next six months, and he can put this into the mix.
- F. 2020 survey opportunity – resident and non-resident watercraft registration (open discussion)
Rich said going forward we are going to need a lot more money to continue with ANS testing and enforcement and to do studies to address ANS. MN has over 1,000 ANS identified and it continues to

grow in the lakes. Greg said it would be very easy to get data on where ANS comes from. There is IT/programming issues and we would need to know where we are going with this information. Rich said going forward we are going to need a lot more month to continue with ANS and do studies to address ANS. Problems were not solved in SB 2293. Greg said NDSU did an expenditure survey, but gas tax income was not part of it. Rick Mohan doesn't think we are going to get anywhere with the DOT. Greg said the SD G&F wrote a letter to their Governor saying ANS issues are everyone's problem and costs of solutions should be shared by many user groups. A brief option mentioned was to include North Dakota water user groups to help fund the ANS strategies.

- G. Fund raising options – Relating to Legislative Fund without tapping member clubs for funding. Ken Cumber said that their club would continue to contribute to donate to the Fund for the next legislative session. Duaine Ash said that we should send letter to the groups/boards that donated to the Legislative Fund (i.e. DL Basin Joint Board). Rick Eagleson said clubs could put this funding on their annual budget to contribute each year. It was also mentioned to seek sponsors, rather than doing a raffle. Cody Armstrong recommended going to the Devils Lake Chamber for funding. It was determined that a starting point would be for clubs to go back to their clubs and see what they would be willing to fund on an annual basis.
- H. Election of Officers/Board members at April Meeting – The Nomination Committee consists of President Rich Brueckner, Vice President Ken Cumber and at-large member Duaine Ash.
6. Report from Game and Fish – Greg Power
1. Zebra Mussels – Lake Ashtabula
It is not going to be a minor deal. Jessica said it has been a lot worse than predicted. No ANS was found last year but this year zebra mussels can now be found in many places including the docks that came out. Given this new mussel infestation, Jessica has sampled 115 lakes this year. Also, she has added adult traps/searching to 55 waters. Did a lot adult searching at DL and nothing showed up. They have protocols in place, like adding clean water to ponds, so low risk from spreading ANS from the Hatchery. Also found bighead carp in the James River, which was the first time ever in North Dakota. They are very similar to silver carp. With the flooding, there likely will be more Asian carp. The easiest time to catch carp is June when they spawn. G&F have gotten more reports from the Red River that zebra mussels are expanding.

Rich Brueckner said ANS is Clean Drain and Dry - asking if Dispose could be added. Jessica Howell said Dispose bait would be difficult to add.
7. Annual Meeting & Fundraiser • Saturday, April 25, 2020 at Bismarck AMVETS
- Banquet Committee – Rick Mohan will help Rick Eagleson with the purchase of merchandise from Walker for the \$1 raffle prizes.
 - Cost of Banquet Ticket will again be \$30
 - We will continue to have the \$5 raffle ticket
 - The application for the Raffle Permit will be requested next week
 - Advertising in Dakota Country Magazine – We paid \$199 in 2019 for 1/3 page ad, promoting on KFYZ 550 radio, on website and 3 Facebook pages, along with poster and 2 banquet tickets. At the request of Jon Mitzel, the cost will increase to \$229 for 2020. The increase was approved by all.
 - Distribution of tickets – Banquet and \$5 raffle tickets will be mailed to members in early January

- Duaine Ash made a recommendation that we screen the \$1 raffle ticket sellers, so we get more aggressive sellers.
- Baskets – We will again put together baskets to be included in a raffle
- Gun Raffle – We will have two riffles, rather than a shot gun and riffle.
- Having a 50/50 was discussed, but no action was taken

8. Other Items

- Main Street Summit is in Bismarck in November – to get the Main Street revitalized in late October. Terry Steinwand is going to talk about the economic value of fishing, hunting, etc. Currently about 1,200 people are registered for this event. Rich will be attending the Main Street Summit.
- 16-29 year old's are buying fewer fishing licenses.
- Jeff Herman attended a meeting on limited easement refugees – they want to open them to public comment for people to hunt and fish. Right now, they have to go through landowners to get to lakes. Greg said some of this is likely part of the Trump initiative for public access to public lands.

9. Next meeting will be held the morning of Saturday, April 25, 2020, followed by the annual banquet and fundraiser.

10. There being no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ed Dosch, seconded by Rick Mohan and unanimously passed. The meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

Submitted by: Marie Hoerner

Date submitted: November 3, 2019

**BYLAW OF THE
NORTH DAKOTA SPORTFISHING CONGRESS**

Article I - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: There shall be three (3) membership classifications in the organization:

- a) Organization Membership, which shall include ~~all members~~ club delegates of each organization which becomes a member;
- ~~b) Individual Membership, which shall include all single persons joining without benefit of organization membership;~~
- b) Individual/Family Membership, which shall include an adult male and/or female as well as all children under the age of 18 years while residing at the parent or parent's home joining. ~~without benefit of organization membership.~~

Section 2: Active Member shall mean any membership classification whose dues are paid.

Article II - FISCAL YEAR

Section 1: The fiscal year of this organization shall begin on April 1 of each year and end on March 31 of the next year.

Section 2: An audit of the fiscal year financial records shall be performed immediately following the close of the fiscal year and a report of the audit shall be presented at the next meeting of the organization.

Article III - DUES

Section 1: Organization Membership shall consist of individual members. Membership for each club shall be ~~\$50.00~~ \$100.00 per club per year effective ~~April 1, 1986~~ April 25, 2020.

Section 2: Individual/Family Membership shall be ~~\$5.00~~ \$10.00 per individual/family membership annually effective ~~April 1, 1986~~ April 25, 2020.

~~Section 3: Family Membership shall be \$7.00 per family membership annually effective April 1, 1986.~~

Article IV - OFFICERS

Section 1: The President shall be the principal executive officer of the organization and shall manage all of the business and affairs of the organization subject to the direction and control of the Board of Directors. He/She shall preside at general meetings and Board of Directors meetings, unless not able to do so. He/She with Board direction and approval, may contract in the name of the organization, countersign financial drafts, and serve as the official signature for any organizational documents. He/She shall in general perform all duties incident to the office of the President and such other duties as prescribed by the Board of Directors.

Section 2: The Vice President, in the event the Presidents absence, death, inability or refusal to act, shall perform all the duties of the President including the powers, responsibilities and restrictions as specified

in Article IV, Section 1 above. He/She shall perform such other duties which may be assigned by the President or Board of Directors.

Section 3: The Secretary/Treasurer, shall keep the minutes of the general and board meetings in acceptable minute books; provide each Board member with a copy of the minutes within thirty (30) days following the meeting, be custodian of the organization's records; and in general perform all those duties incident to the office of Secretary/Treasurer as well as other duties assigned by the President, Vice President (acting in a presidential capacity), or Board of Directors.

The Secretary/Treasurer, with the direction and approval of the President and/or Board shall be responsible for the funds and securities of the organization; be responsible for depositing of funds and issuing drafts to pay organizational expenditures; and in general perform all the duties incident to the office of Treasurer as well as such other duties which may be assigned by the President, Vice President (acting in a presidential capacity), or the Board of Directors.

Section 4: In the event that an officer is not able to perform or fulfill his/her duties or requirements, it shall be the responsibility of the Board of Directors to appoint a person to fill the unexpired term.

Article V - DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

Section 1: There shall be ~~a minimum of~~ up to three (3) ~~to a maximum of six (6)~~ Directors-At-Large of this organization.

Section 2: Each Director-At-Large shall be a resident of North Dakota.

Section 3: The Directors-At-Large shall assist the President in the discharge of his/her duties and shall also perform such other duties as shall from time to time be assigned to them by the President.

Section 4: The Directors-At-Large shall be elected.

Article VI - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1: There shall be seven to ten (7-10) ~~members of the Board of~~ Directors of this organization.

Section 2: The Board of Directors shall consist of the elected officers; the most immediate Past President and still remains an active member; **the Directors** and **up to** three (3) Directors-At-Large elected at the annual meeting.

Section 3: There must be a quorum of the Board (two-thirds of the directors) present at any board meeting to transact business and a majority action by the quorum shall be sufficient to pass or reject board business.

Section 4: The Board of Directors shall meet at least two (2) times a year and may meet as often as necessary to properly manage the affairs of the organization as determined by the President.

Section 5: The Board of Directors may appoint additional Directors as needed up to a maximum of 10.

Article VII - NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION PROCEDURES

Section 1: A nominating committee comprised of the President, the Past President serving on the Board of Directors, and at least one member at large appointed by the President, shall present nominations in writing to the general membership prior to the annual meeting of the organization.

Section 2: Nominations from the floor will be entertained and accepted.

Section 3: Elections shall be by secret ballot and be determined by a simple majority of those voting members in attendance at the annual meeting.

Section 4: The nominations and election of the Officers and Board of Directors shall be done in order starting with the President; Vice President; Secretary/Treasurer and Directors-At-Large. The President shall be elected during odd years, the Vice President during even years, the Secretary/Treasurer during odd years, and the Directors-~~At-Large~~ shall be elected alternately every other year. All officers and Board of Directors shall serve a term of two years.

Section 5: The newly elected officers and Board of Directors officially assume their duties and responsibilities at the conclusion of the old business portion, and prior to the new business portion, of the annual meeting.

Article VIII - COMMITTEES

Section 1: This organization shall have as standing committees an Audit Committee, a Bylaws Committee, a Membership Committee, a Publicity Committee and a Nominating Committee. The Chairman of these committees shall be appointed by the President.

Section 2: This organization may have as many ad hoc committees as required to cope with short term needs as issues as determined necessary by the Board of Directors. The chairman of each such committee shall be appointed by the president.

Article IX - MEETINGS

Section 1: Meetings shall be held semi-annually with date and place of meeting to be determined by the Board of Directors at each prior meeting. The organization may meet at other times as deemed necessary by the Board of Directors.

Section 2: Notification of members of all meetings shall be made thirty (30) days prior to each meeting.

Section 3: The annual meeting shall be held in accordance with the organization's constitution.

Article X - VOTING

Section 1: Voting at the annual meetings on policy, programs or other organization business, including election of officers, shall be composed of the officers, immediate Past President, Directors-At-Large, and two members of each dues paying sportfishing club.

Section 2: Each dues paying sportfishing club shall designate, by name, two representatives and one alternate to serve in a voting capacity in this organization. The alternate so named shall vote only if one of the two representatives should be absent from the annual meeting.

Article XI - AMENDMENTS

Section 1: Any amendment to these bylaws must be proposed and discussed at one meeting prior to any vote on the amendment.

Section 2: The adoption of a proposed amendment requires a majority vote of the members present at the time the vote is called for on the amendment proposal.

North Dakota Sportfishing Congress Constitution

Article I – NAME

The name of the organization shall be North Dakota Sportfishing Congress, Incorporated and shall be operated as a tax exempt, non-profit organization based in North Dakota and incorporated under the laws of the State of North Dakota.

Article II – OBJECT

The object of the North Dakota Sportfishing Congress is to preserve, promote and improve quality sportfishing in North Dakota.

Section 1. To protect and uphold the rights and privileges of citizens to pursue sportfishing.

Section 2. To unite the manpower and other assets of member organizations and individuals to support selective environment, research and fish management programs agreed upon by formal action of the Congress.

Section 3 To form effective lines of communication between members, governmental agencies and private organizations.

Section 4. To provide information on legislation to promote and support bills, directives, and appropriations that are in the best interest of sportfishing.

Section 5. To support and promote fair and just fishing regulations for all and to support strict enforcement of such regulations.

Section 6. To establish public awareness of the problems and challenges facing sportfishing.

Section 7. To promote the education of all people in the rewards of sportfishing and the importance of boating safety.

Section 8. To organize public support for appropriate government and private programs for the enhancement of sportfishing.

Section 9. To promote sportsmanship and respect for the aquatic resource.

Section 10. To support conservation efforts of all sportsmen and/or sportsmen organizations.

Section 11. To support efforts of appropriate government agencies such as the North Dakota Game and Fish Department, ~~State Health Department~~ **Department of Environmental Quality**, etc., when working to accomplish aforementioned objectives, **as long as Congress agrees with the objective.**

Article III – MEETINGS

This organization shall meet semi-annually with date and place of meeting to be determined by the Board of Directors at each prior meeting. The annual meeting shall be held no earlier than February 15, but no later than May 1st.

Article IV – MEMBERSHIP

This organization shall be open to any fishing organization or individual subscribing to the objectives as provided in ARTICLE II in the organization's bylaws.

Article V – DUES

Members of this organization shall pay annual dues. Specific information regulating annual dues shall be specified in the organization's bylaws.

Article VI – OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Section 1. The officers of this organization shall be a President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer, and Directors-At-Large. These officers shall be elected at the annual meeting and shall serve until the next annual meeting. Specific information regarding the authority, responsibilities and election procedures shall be specified in the organization's bylaws.

Section 2. The business and affairs of the organization shall be managed by the Board of Directors. The exact composition, authority and responsibility of the Board of Directors shall be specified in the organization's bylaws.

Article VII – AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Any amendments to this Constitution must be proposed and discussed at a general membership meeting one meeting prior to any vote on the amendment.

Section 2. The adoption of a proposed amendment requires a two-thirds vote of the voting members present at the time the vote is called on the amendment proposal.

Section 3. The Board of Directors is required to give prior notice to the membership about the general membership meeting when the amendment will be proposed and discussed as well as when it will be up for vote.