



# North Dakota

## SPORTFISHING CONGRESS

North Dakota Sportfishing Congress  
 Box 2472  
 Bismarck, ND 58502-2472

**North Dakota Sportfishing Congress  
 Annual Meeting Agenda  
 Bismarck AMVETS CLUB – 2402 Railroad Avenue  
 April 22, 2023  
 Meeting Minutes**

1. Call to Order
  - a. The meeting was called to order by President Brueckner at 9:30 AM.
2. Roll Call & Introductions

Officers

President – Brueckner	P		Ed Dosch	P
Vice President - Gilmore	P		Rob Holm	P
Treasurer - Jeff Herman	P		Keith Witt	
Past President - N/A				
Duaine Ash	P			
Corey Paryzek	P			

Delegates

Wayne Blohm	
Chad Engle	P
Terry Fleck	P
Michael Gunsch	
Keith Seidlinger	P
Michael Wenstad	P
Jeff Pifferding	
Josh Holm	P
Tom Miller	
Mason Bosch	P
Terry Steinwand	P
Perry Kapaun	P
Corey Paryzek	P



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3. Approval of minutes
  - a. December 22nd Meeting Minutes
    - i. Moved to approve minutes by Director Dosch.
    - ii. Seconded by Director Holm.
    - iii. Motion Passed.
  - b. February 15th Meeting Minutes
    - i. Moved to approve by Delegate Kapaun
    - ii. Seconded by Delegate Freezik
    - iii. Motion passed
4. Treasurer's Report – Jeff Herman
  - a. See addendum attachment.
  - b. Note that the new record will start on April 19th
  - c. Ending balance \$21, 099.32
  - d. Moved to approve by Delegate Fleck
  - e. Seconded by Director Ash
  - f. Motion passed.
5. Club Membership and Individual Membership – Jeff Herman
  - a. 8 member organizations have paid
  - b. Reminder that fiscal year is April 1st - March 31st
  - c. Treasurer Herman is in contact with clubs that are needing to follow up on their dues. He stated that as a reminder, when clubs pay their \$100 dues that two delegates are included in that membership separate from if a member is an NDSFC officer.
  - d. Received individual memberships from Lake Region Anglers, Dakota Anglers, BisMan Reel & Rec, and a variety of others.
  - e. President Brueckner stated the importance of individual memberships. He stated that gathering emails will allow us to have better communication to the members in our organization.
6. For the Record
  - a. President Brueckner requested that a formal statement be given to accept the resignation of the former president and two directors.
  - b. Move to approve by Delegate Fleck.
  - c. Seconded by Director Gilmore.
  - d. Motion passed.
  - e. Delegate Fleck requested that a note be made that every officer and delegate present in person and online vote. President Brueckner confirmed that all online and in person individuals voted in the affirmative.



7. Old Business

a. Review our ANS Legislative Strategy

- i. President Brueckner reviewed a strategy packet that was developed for legislative impact efforts. He stated that he believes NDSFC did not meet the goal of developing an overall vision or connecting with the local legislature. He noted that this was of special importances for a variety of reasons but one being that there were many new legislatures this year who weren't as familiar with key issues that impact ND fishing.
- ii. Vice President Gilmore moved to create a committee to focus on legislative strategy.
- iii. Delegate Piatz seconded.
- iv. Delegate Fleck stated that he believes the time frame for the committee needs to be moved up to begin immediately stating concerns that current leadership are not as aware of all the aspects of North Dakota's natural resources.
- v. Further discussion among delegates on the support of the need for immediate efforts by NDSFC to educate current legislatures and advocate for the needs of North Dakota. Specific notes were given about water use in the state being in danger. Some delegates mentioned frustrations on their legislatures not communicating with them.
- vi. Motion passed.

8. Discussion items on Old Business

a. President Brueckner went through the meeting minutes from the last year and pulled out items that warranted further discussion.

- i. Feb. 7 th 2022 – Corp. Donation Letter & Marketing
  1. No action has been taken to this point.
- ii. April 23 rd 2022 - NPO Status to a 501C3 - (Committee Terry Fleck and Rich Brueckner)
  1. No resolution has been made.
  2. The primary objective was to find a way to have donations made to NDSFC but still be able to lobby on key issues.
  3. Delegate Fleck noted that our 50C3 status doesn't inhibit individuals from lobbying on behalf of the club. The restraints come from the organizations lobbying itself.
  4. Delegate Seidlinger offered caution and further investigation is needed because in his experience qualifications can be more stringent.
  5. Further discussion was had on different anecdotal situations other members have faced on this issue.



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- iii. April 23 rd 2022 – Charity organization donation
    - 1. President Brueckner asked the Congress to reconsider what this may look like for the future.
  - iv. September 12 th 2022 – Engagement postcard
    - 1. Follow up with Executive Secretary Elizabeth on WATER (Working together, Access, Threats, Education and Resources). Elizabeth, asked the members to provide their key talking points under each area.
    - 2. See addendum attachment.
  - v. October 26 th 2022 – ANS citation fines. Open discussion on changing from class 2 to class 1.
    - 1. President Brueckner reminded the Congress on the discussion that was had in relation to this point noting that the price for non-compliance wasn't thought to be a big enough deterrent.
    - 2. Mr. Power stated that he had a discussion with the Chief Enforcement officer about doubling these fines and was told those initiatives were voted down.
  - vi. A note was made about potential schools to help new anglers.
9. New Business
- a. Election of officers
    - i. President
      - 1. President Brueckner opened nominations for president.
      - 2. Delegate Fleck asked President Brueckner to stay on with the delegation as the Congress works to get a younger group of individuals interested so that long time members can enjoy being involved without having to take on all the additional duties.
      - 3. Delegate Kapaun moved to nominate President Brueckner to be President for a two-year term.
      - 4. Delegate Fleck seconded.
      - 5. Motion passed. President Brueckner will be the NDSFC president for the next 2-years.
    - ii. Vice President
      - 1. Vice President Gilmore stated that he would not want to return as Vice President due to his heavy load in other organizations.
      - 2. Director Ash nominated Ed Dosch
      - 3. Director Dosch noted that many of the recent NDSFC presidents have come from the Devils Lake region and that he would like to see members from other clubs take on these roles as well.

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4. Treasurer Herman noted that this term for Vice President should only be a one-year term so that President and Vice President are elected on opposite years.
  5. Delegate Kapaun seconded Director Dosch's nomination.
  6. Director Dosch accepted the nomination.
  7. No further nominations were put forward.
  8. Discussion was had about actively recruiting for other members to take on officer positions. A charge was put forth to look around the room during the banquet to find others who can get involved. Consider mentoring another individual that you feel will make an impact. Individuals stated that they are having similar issues in their organizations. It was noted that NDSFC has to do a better job about showing people why membership matters. Also noted was getting into
  9. schools to help future anglers understand the importance specifically when it comes to ANS.
  10. Motion passed.
  11. Director Dosch will be the Vice President for the next year.
- iii. Treasurer
1. Delegate Fleck moved to keep Treasurer Herman as Treasurer.
  2. Delegate Kapaun seconded.
  3. No nominations or discussion was noted.
  4. Motion passed. Treasurer Herman will be the Treasurer for the next two-years.
- b. Board open positions
- i. Director Ash would like to stay active with NDSFC as a delegate but not as a director. Director Dosch will be moving into the Vice President's position. There are now two open positions on the Director's team. President Brueckner noted that it is required to have at least 7 of the 10 Directors according to the by-laws. It was noted that there are no restrictions on the number of Directors from any one organization. Vice President Gilmore will also return to being a delegate.
  - ii. Two-Year Term
    1. Director Paryzek moved to nominate Delegate Wenstad as a Director for the two-year term.
    2. Delegate Kapaun seconded.
    3. Motion passed.
    4. Delegate Wenstad will hold the position of Director for a two-year term.



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- iii. One-Year Term
  1. Vice President Gilmore moved to nominate Duane Ash for a one-year term as Director.
  2. Delegate Kapaun seconded.
  3. Motion passed.
  4. Director Ash will continue as a Director for one-year.
- iv. Elizabeth to update the directory and send it out.
- c. Financial Audit (Committee)
  - i. This committee would conduct a review of the income and expense items for the year.
  - ii. Treasurer Herman noted that there has not been an audit done since he has been Treasurer.
  - iii. Delegate Seidlinger stated that he would be willing to sit on a committee.
  - iv. Treasurer Herman would automatically sit on the audit committee.
  - v. Director Holm volunteered for the committee as well.
  - vi. President Brueckner appointed Treasurer Herman, Delegate Seidlinger, and Director Holm for the committee.
- d. Presentation and discussion on website - Executive Secretary Elizabeth
  - i. Elizabeth provided a tutorial of the website (<http://ndsfc.wildapricot.org>)
  - ii. Delegate Seidlinger stated that Lake Region has set WildApricot up with Paypal and that it has worked really well for gathering money from their delegates.
  - iii. President Brueckner stated that one reason we kept the membership offline was so potential members had to go through a local club in order to become a member of NDSFC.
  - iv. Delegate Seidlinger noted that they have seen success in adding an option to join the NDSFC with their individual club membership application. He stated with more numbers comes more potential legislative impact.
  - v. Executive Secretary Elizabeth also asked that if members are not a part of NDSFC on Facebook that they go out and like and share the group. (<https://www.facebook.com/NDSFC>)
  - vi. President Brueckner asked for both a black and white and color letterhead with the new logo.
- e. Discussion on Congress By-Laws (handout) related to voting rights
  - i. President Brueckner discussed that in January a few NDSFC members and himself looked through the by-laws and found that some discrepancies arose between what was written and current practice.
  - ii. The by-laws can be reviewed here: <https://ndsfc.wildapricot.org/By>
  - iii. Vice President Gilmore asked that the Congress review and bring any comments back to President Brueckner and Delegate Seidlinger.

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- iv. Vice President Girlmore specifically noted
  - 1. Article 4 - Secretary/Treasurer Combined Position
    - a. Consider splitting the secretary position as a board position
  - 2. Article 5 - Directors at Large
    - a. Considerations
      - i. How are these positions delineated?
      - ii. Do they need to be an NDSFC member? A club member?
      - iii. Stated duties - are these statements redundant? Should there be a statement about support?
      - iv. Election procedures
      - v. Number of Directors at Large - should there be regions?
      - vi. Do we need them at all?
  - 3. Article 6 - Board of Directors
    - a. Section Two
      - i. Eliminate (Directors at Large)
  - 4. Article 7 - Nominations and Election Procedures
    - a. Section Four
      - i. Place "Directors" back into the statement.
  - 5. Article 9 - Meetings
    - a. Section Two
      - i. Reconsider notification perimeters - maybe a shorter notice for Zoom meetings, especially during legislative years?
  - 6. Article 10 - Voting
    - a. Section One
      - i. Adding in Directors
    - b. Section Two
      - i. Make it clear that delegates can vote at any of the board meetings
    - c. General
      - i. The \$10 individual membership is not currently a voting membership. This needs to be clearly stated for individuals.



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- ii. Discussion was had on whether opening voting up to anyone who has a membership would be a good thing. Thoughts on the subject included ways to get more people invested in NDSFC, issues with one group of individuals “muddying the waters” for NDSFC, and ideation around allowing the Director at Large position to come from nominations of general individual memberships, and if Directors at Large need to be a ND resident especially for our border towns.
  - v. President Bruckner stated the process for review of these changes would be to receive the proposed edits 30 days before the annual meeting (first reading) and then at the annual Fall meeting (second reading) these could be adopted as new Bylaws. He also stated to check out Lake Region Anglers Bylaws for reference. (<https://www.lakeregionanglers.com/by-laws.html>)
  - vi. Delegate Engle asked NDSFC to reconsider the Club of Club framework. He is referencing MN Fish for ideation. They are an open membership club. They have a bunch of individuals coming in and giving their time that aren’t strictly in a club of clubs. He stated that there are small business owners, fishing guides, TV/radio personalities, legislatures, and more. He wanted NDSFC to think outside the box on how we can restructure for more representation from different areas.
- f. Development of Goals, Resolutions and Position of the North Dakota Sportfishing Congress (Committee)
  - i. Delegate Engle stated that as we get more involved with the legislature that we need to solidify what NDSFC stands for and where the organization is headed. This allows for not only good direction but also credibility. This can help build on our relationship with ND Game and Fish as well.
  - ii. Vice President Gilmore stated that NDSFC objectives are also listed in the Constitution in Article 2 - Objectives.
  - iii. President Brueckner asked everyone to review the constitution and bylaws as it pertains in this area as well and thoughts to Vice President Gilmore and Delegate Seidlinger.





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- g. Growing your local club membership and engaging members. Barnes County Wildlife Club – Perry Kapaun
  - i. Delegate Kapaun stated that they have seen an increase in membership and involvement recently. He stated that it is important to show people what is at stake and how it impacts them. He also stated that you have to make board meetings fun and not having as long of annual meetings. He stated that clubs and organizations need to change their mindset for the next generation in order to get them involved. He recommends having a committee that is designated for membership growth.
  - ii. Further discussion on ideas included moving the annual meetings and banquets to different spots within the state. The thought on this was to keep clubs involved and to not burn out one club or a group of people. How do we get the banquet to move from a huge fundraising opportunity specifically to more of an engagement and learning opportunity.
- h. Banquet-Fundraiser – setup and workers
  - i. Jeff has your assignments.
- i. Set date and location for fall meeting
  - i. The tentative date for the Fall meeting will be September 30th in Garrison.

### Speakers

- 10. Speakers: Danielle (Dani) Quissell Lobbyist – (confirmed) - (15 minutes)
  - a. President Brueckner stated that we could hire Dani's firm in one of two ways. Since NDSFC didn't have a bill specifically sponsored we opted for reporting activity.
  - b. Dani stated that the legislatures are packing a lot of items into a small amount of time. There was a record number of new legislators, new House and Senate leaders, and new financial leaders. Funding was cut in many areas throughout the state. Delegate Fleck asked about the \$3.5 billion dollar surplus that was supposed to occur this year. Dani stated that there were adjustments that needed to be made from the current year and accommodations that needed to be made for the 2023-2025 years. She said that the session started out on a high level of optimism which made many groups increase their asks leading to eventual cuts that needed to be made as a whole. This session has been mainly focused on social issues, there was a lot of time on these issues and didn't leave as much for natural resources issues.
  - c. Bill 1538 - Fishing Tournament Bill
    - i. This bill went to a conference committee. They came to a resolution. The biggest change was to add a surcharge on out of state fishing licenses that would go to a conservation fee fund. This bill will go back to the House and Senate. They will need to agree on this before it goes to the Governor.



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- d. Bill 2017 - Budget Bill - ANS
    - i. Good discussion had with the house committee members. It seems that they have acknowledged and understand the importance of ANS. They provided funding for an ANS Lab in Jamestown and additional authorization for an ANS line item from federal funds.
  - e. Further discussion was had about concerns that individual members had with Bill 1538 including questions on how this bill even got brought up. Dani confirmed that the group of individuals had a really good story and the legislature that sponsored the bill was well positioned to make it happen. Dani believes the other side of the story got lost even when Jeb and his team provided information. Legislatures are going to listen to their constituents the most. Dani stated that to engage more we need good handouts with key talking points and individual sit down opportunities with legislatures in their community. NDSFC members discussed anecdotal situations that they have had when trying to interact with their legislatures specifically about this content.
  - f. Delegate Fleck asked Dani what she believes the challenges will be for NDSFC moving forward. Dani replied that working with local CVBs is an option moving forward. Does NDSFC want to build some bridges in this area? Delegate Fleck asked if NDSFC should get involved with tribal communities. Dani stated that legislatures love compromises. It was noted that it was highly unusual for testimony to be taken in a conference committee which did occur during this session. Dani noted that there is still an opportunity for the Governor to veto the Bill.
11. Director Jeb Williams – (confirmed) – (20 minutes)
- a. This is Jeb's first session as Director during a legislative session. A couple of items to bring up again are ANS and some bills. Should give yourself a pat on the back, education is not at the level that we want it at yet but there is a lot more than there was in the past. We got an additional ANS personnel and adding a structure in Jamestown. We appreciate partnerships with this organization and we are continuing to make progress. As for the legislative issue there were some quick changes that were made from the overall 10% that was discussed at first. From the public access perspective some of the additional dollars will be helpful. One of the challenges from the Federal side is that there are not as many dollars we can match on this side.
  - b. Further discussion was had on what the unintended consequences of the bill may be including local entities not wanting tournaments because they may not see as much of a benefit anymore. Additional talking points were discussed including impacts on youth, non-profits, economic development, and effects on access and water. Suggestions also came in on how specific needs in local areas are being hindered because the level of impact isn't there as individual units. Suggestions were to come together to have a larger voice.



12. Fisheries Chief Greg Power (confirmed)- (25 minutes)

- a. Greg discussed that winter kill was going to be pretty bad this year. They are going to lose a variety of lakes because of winter kill. When it comes to budget they are comfortable with the budget they have had and the one they are going into next biennium with. Big ticket items are developed such as boat ramps and the permitting process. The larger projects were the Yellowstone-Missouri Rivers Confluence Boat Ramp, Lake Williams, Alkaline Lake, and more. Spring activities include northern pike spawning, winterkill lake follow up, yellow perch TT, Pike and Catfish TT, trout stocking (is delayed), boat ramp ice damage, and walleye spawning. Late spring is really difficult for our spring activities. They decide what lakes to move fish from by looking at data from use of previous years. Greg discussed two studies that are currently going on specifically on data mining. The demographic that makes up NDSFC is actually only 9% of those who buy fishing licenses. There are 68.1% of millennials who buy licenses that F&G needs to consider. Another study is public input on fishing tournaments. We wanted to show that we are listening to the public by gathering opinions through phone calls, emails, drop-ins, advisory boards, and opinion surveys. Greg encouraged the Board to look through the data in the presentation. Areas include decisions on where to fish and distance, boating facility accommodations, fishing regulations, who is catching fish, species preference, and a variety of other topics. Greg discussed more about ANS and when it moves from prevention to killing them off. He said that it depends on the species and where they are located.

13. ANS Presentation – Ben Holen – (confirmed)(25 minutes) (See addendum for PPT)

- a. Ben provided an update on the ANS program and an SFC 2023 update. 2022 was their biggest and most diverse campaign to date. They looked at all aspects of reaching out to individuals across the state including traditional media, social media, digital marketing, and ILID messaging. They even hosted events for kids and pushed the message. Ben stated that they have a new marketing team and have been a significant amount of funding into spreading the message. There were no new ANS deductions in 2022. They sampled 248 bodies of water with 36 of those receiving enhanced surveillance. MN still had the highest number of boaters coming into the state with Wisconsin being second. Devils lake and Sakakawea had the highest inspection levels with fishing vessels still being the majority of vessels inspected. 2023 plans have been pushed back because of the late Spring. This can decrease detection probabilities. Ben noted that there were a variety of coordination efforts this year including an AISC meeting, ND ANS awareness week, and AISC meetings. They have completed a training exercise with SAK. The budget for the last biennium was all allocated and they are looking for a 50/50 cost share opportunity with WRDA to come for WID and monitoring efforts. There will be a new ANS commercial produced. Some updates on inspections for this year will be additional



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ones in Devils Lake, Bismarck, Tobacco Gardens, and Hazen. New prevention devices have also been added around the state.

- b. More discussion was had on the fines not being a deterrent. It seems that delaying production may be more of a deterrent and educating companies on how much time and money that can cost them may be a route to take. Ben stated that when it comes to one-on-one prevention, holding each other accountable is very impactful. Ben shared a variety of examples of how Zebra mussels are colonizing different parts of lakes.
14. Andrea Travnicek – Director Water Resources – Andrea is unable to attend -Clay Carufel will attend on behalf of the Department of Water Resources (confirmed) (20 minutes) (No PowerPoint)
  - a. Clay - Water Resource Engineer
  - b. Clay listed a variety of objectives Water Resources and NDSFC have in common including providing safe and fun recreational activities, fishing business and industry support, and advocacy. Advocacy specifically for the Missouri River and ANS education. They are prepared to help in case of water emergencies both acute and chronic issues involving ANS.
  - c. Additional discussion was had about a variety of wells to help educate others on ANS issues locally as well as statewide specifically how ANS will affect individuals even those outside of sportfishing. Suggestions were made to work more directly with local businesses and chambers. NDGF said that they could help put together additional material for local use. Special note was to keep politics out of these specific discussions and to make it more on education.
15. Aaron Von Eschen – National Fish Hatchery, (confirmed) – (20 minutes) (See addendum for PPT)
  - a. This is Aaron's first time being in front of the group. He wasn't sure what exactly to prepare and to let him know if he is missing anything for next year. For staffing they have 6 FTW's on the Garrison Dam, 3 FTE' in Valley City/Bladhill. Aaron provided a history of the Garrison Dam and Valley City funds. He gave an overview of the current species the hatcheries are hosting and what items are the most requested. The overwhelming majority is Walleye followed by Northern Pike, Chinook Salmon, and Advanced Walleye from the Garrison Dam with Walleye being number 1 at the Valley City one as well. Walleye is stocked in over 150 lakes in ND. The hatcheries have been able to keep up with requests, mostly except some time during 2020 and 2021. However, with chinook Salmon they have been able to fulfill recent demand completely. They are currently working on bringing up their Lake Surgeon numbers but had some bumps in 2020-2022 because of the international travel ban. Zebra mussels have been an issue in hatcheries as well. Aaron stated prevention methods include stocking limited in Zebra mussel waters, utilization of self cleaning backflush filters, and UV sterilizers. He stated that more efforts need to be made. When it comes to outreach they have had over 11,000 people visit their hatcheries of all ages. They have a specific Hatchery Fun Day.

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16. Greg Lang will be filling in for Ken Royce - Program Manager, Missouri River Joint Water Board (Confirmed) - Video (<https://vimeo.com/dncinematics/review/778499300/986d54a874>)
  - a. Greg Lang - secretary/treasurer for Missouri River Join Water
  - b. Greg discussed their new program EAE (Educate, Advocate, and Engage). They are trying to educate people how ND got treated when the dams were being created. He discussed the Pick Sloan Act and what North Dakotans should expect based on that act. North Dakotans are using less than 1% of the water that comes from the Missouri River. He gave an overview on increased MRI funding, increased irrigation, project power for irrigation, use of GDU facilities for MRI, favorable reservoir management, and unobstructed use of the system. Western Water Law is based on first come first serve. North Dakota needs more representation when there are meetings on the Missouri River usage.
17. Rod Gilmore – report on Training/Simulation event with the Corps of Engineers. First response plan if ANS (Zebra Mussels) are found in Lake Sakakawea. (No PowerPoint)
  - a. Vice President Gilmore gave a short presentation about the training simulation for emergency ANS response on Lake Sakakawea. He noted that the number of divisions in the Corps that needed to be a part of this exercise was amazing, including ND Game & Fish, Bureau of Reclamation, ND Parks and Recreation, US Fish and Wildlife Services, and the Friends of Lake Sakakawea. The scenario was to manage an outbreak of ANS at Fort Stevenson State Park in the west marina from a boat that had been in the water for about two weeks. Some of the highlights included understanding the complexity of what an actual outbreak would look like, how far up the waterways need to be considered, developing key communication strategies, how much estimated time this would take each entity, how it would impact anglers, families, and businesses. Rod specifically stated that almost 80% of people in North Dakota may be affected by this type of situation. He said that this specific message is what we need to get back to people in North Dakota, especially the legislators.
18. Meeting adjourned at 3:06 PM.

**END MINUTES**

**ADDENDUM BELOW**

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