

NORTH DAKOTA
SPORTFISHING
CONGRESS

P.O. BOX 2472 • BISMARCK, ND 58502

Special Board Meeting

February 15, 2023

7:00 PM

Via Zoom

Meeting Minutes - DRAFT

Agenda

1. Call to order
 - a. Meeting was called to order by Treasurer Herman at 7:07 PM.
 - b. Treasurer Herman resided over the meeting due to the resignation of President Mohan.
2. Introductions & Roll Call

Officers & Directors: Officers & Directors:

President –			Ed Dosch	X
Vice President -			Rob Holm	X
Treasurer - Jeff Herman	X		Keith Witt	X
Rich Brueckner - Past President	X			
Duaine Ash	X			
Corey Paryzek	X			

Delegates:

Wayne Blohm	
Chad Engle	
Terry Fleck	
Michael Gunsch (A)	
Keith Seidlinger	
Michael Wenstad	X
Jeff Pifferding	
Josh Holm	
Tom Miller	
Rod Gilmore	X
Terry Steinwand	X

3. Call for President nominations, discussion, vote and appointment
 - a. Treasurer Herman opened the floor for Presidential nominations. He noted that this individual would only hold the position until the Annual Meeting in April.
 - b. Hearing no immediate nominations, Treasurer Herman nominated Past-President Rich Brueckner.
 - c. No further nominations were requested. No additional discussion was had.
 - d. A roll call vote was called. All those in favor are designated YES, all opposed are designated NO, abstentions are designated A.

President –		Ed Dosch	YES
Vice President -		Rob Holm	YES
Treasurer - Jeff Herman	YES	Keith Witt	YES
Rich Brueckner - Past President	YES		
Duaine Ash	YES		
Corey Paryzek	YES		

- e. Motion passed.
 - f. Past President Brueckner will reside as President until the April Annual Meeting.
4. Call for Vice President nominations, discussion, vote, and appointment
 - a. Treasurer Herman opened the floor for Vice President nominations.
 - b. Director Ash nominated Delegate Gilmore.
 - c. Delegate Gilmore stated he would accept the position for two (2) months.
 - d. No other nominations were made.
 - e. No discussion was submitted.
 - f. A roll call vote was called. All those in favor are designated YES, all opposed are designated NO, abstentions are designated A.

President –		Ed Dosch	YES
Vice President -		Rob Holm	YES
Treasurer - Jeff Herman	YES	Keith Witt	YES
Rich Brueckner - Past President	YES		
Duaine Ash	YES		
Corey Paryzek	YES		

- g. Motion passed.
 - h. Delegate Gilmore will reside as Vice President until the Annual Meeting.
5. President Brueckner began presiding over the meeting.
6. Legislative Update
 - a. HB 1538
 - i. Dani provided the following update. The bill was heard by committee. Since then Game & Fish and the Chair of the committee Representative Porter have been in discussion on what changes could be made to the bill in order to make it more palatable.

- ii. Concerns around the bill included youth and non-profit tournaments and the conservation fee.
- iii. Some edits requested by Director Jeb Williams of ND Game and Fish were the need to better define “youth” in the new administration rules and some of the non-profit tournaments would be exempt but want a better definition here as well. There is also an offer from G&F to reduce the conservation fee to 5% if necessary.
- iv. Conversation with Representative Porter leaned towards a tiered system where they would be charged a 15% fee on the first \$100K then drop to a 5% fee on the remaining money. G&F concerns here were on the management of this solution on both the tournament coordinators and the G&F. G&F stated that they would rather have a flat fee than a tiered fee.
- v. Friday is the day to decide whether bills move forward or not. Dani suggested that if you are looking to provide any more feedback, it needs to be done before 8:00 AM tomorrow.
- vi. President Brueckner stated that he was in discussions with Director Williams and that they feel comfortable moving forward with this bill. He stated that last year the smaller tournaments only brought in about \$5900 of conservation funds. The documentation and processing may have taken more time and effort than the impact this would make.
- vii. President Brueckner did reiterate that if you wanted to move forward and connect with your representatives to do so. His recommendation was to keep this out of the Century Code.
- viii. A question was raised about why this hasn’t been addressed in the past. President Brueckner stated that this concern hasn’t been elevated by tournament organizers before. Further discussion with the Board continued with a note that the concerns seemed to be regional based. Delegate Steinwand gave a historical testimony on the conservation fee and addressed that he would be requesting a “kill the bill” movement from his representatives. Director Witt gave some context with the Governor’s Cup and CBB groups. President Brueckner stated that tournaments used to provide great marketing opportunities for small communities but social media has taken the place of that need and increased exposure. Director Dosch also stated his opinion to “kill the bill” and keep this decision out of Century Code.
- ix. Vice President Gilmore requested that NDSFC submit their position of opposition to SB 1538.
- x. President Brueckner called for a motion.
- xi. Vice President Gilmore moved that in spite of the amendments, NDSFC continues to oppose HB 1538 and that the Board’s position is that changes should be made through the administrative rule process.

- xii. Director Dosch seconded.
- xiii. No discussion was had.
- xiv. A roll call vote was called. All those in favor are designated YES, all opposed are designated NO, abstentions are designated A.

President –		Ed Dosch	YES
Vice President -		Rob Holm	YES
Treasurer - Jeff Herman	YES	Keith Witt	YES
Rich Brueckner - Past President	YES		
Duaine Ash	YES		
Corey Paryzek	YES		

- xv. Motion passed unanimously.
 - xvi. President Brueckner asked that everyone send a quick and direct email to their representative. Delegate Steinwand noted that there is still time after the committee to contact representatives as well.
- b. Senate Bill 2017 Update
- i. Dani provided updates on the budget bill for the Game and Fish Department. There were preliminary decisions made line by line. Discussion included looking at all of the ANS requests. All of the Governor’s requests were added in. The \$1.5 Million as well as the \$850K for the Jamestown lab. The division will need to vote on it and then it will go to the floor and then over to the House.

7. NDSFC Voting Process

- a. Vice President Gilmore provided a description on the voting rights for NDSFC members. Under the Bylaws he stated that there must be a quorum of Directors at Board meetings in order to do business. It is not clear whether representatives from the clubs can vote during board meetings. He suggests that this portion be clarified either through a lawyer or the wording altered for clarity by the Congress itself.
- b. President Brueckner stated that the group will ask someone to review it now, then make the changes needed, bring it before the entire membership, and move forward with the Bylaw changing process. Vice President Gilmore stated that through his research with the state Century Code and non-profits in order to change the by-laws it has to be at an annual meeting with a majority vote of those members present. There is a requirement to send the changes out before the meeting so that individuals can review the changes. Treasurer Herman stated that the process could be done quicker than two years, since there are two annual meetings for the NDSFC.

8. Board Member Resignation

- a. Three members resigned their positions, Rick Mohan, Jared Pokrzywinski, and Rob Shephard.

- b. President Brueckner asked that Board members go back to their clubs to see if they can help fill those positions. Treasurer Herman also stated that there are some other clubs that do not have Delegates currently including Dakota Anglers, FM Muskees, FM Walleyes, Red River Sportsman Club, and Lure 'Em for Life, and Voices for Lake Oahe. SW Anglers have not communicated in recent years. The Great Planers wanted to slowly come into the NDSFC.
- c. Director Ash asked if the Board would see benefit in asking any of the individuals that opposed the bill to join and hear what NDSFC does. Treasurer Herman said that he has been contacted by Jeremy Olson but hasn't connected with him yet. President Brueckner asked everyone to clarify to these clubs that Director positions are different from Delegates.

9. General Topics

- a. Vice President Gilmore asked individuals to be aware of the privatization of fishing tournaments similar to that of the current coyote tournaments.
- b. Treasurer Herman provided a quick update on the Annual Banquet. He asked individuals to continue to push ticket sales and for help finding give-a-ways. He asked that every club try and provide at least one basket for the auction.
- c. President Brueckner gave a thank you to Treasurer Herman, Dani Quissell, and Elizabeth.
- d. President Brueckner asked about discussion from the Board about contracting hours with Elizabeth. Treasurer Herman stated that the Board needs to pay Elizabeth out her contract for November & December and then the additional hours from off contract January and February time.
- e. Treasurer Herman moved to contract Elizabeth for an additional two (2) months to not exceed 20 hours as an hourly contract. Vice President Gilmore seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- f. Director Dosch requested to please note when an item is donated for the Annual Meeting so that he can properly recognize them during the Banquet.

10. Motion adjourned by President Brueckner at 8:05 PM.