

**NORTH DAKOTA
SPORTFISHING
CONGRESS**

P.O. BOX 2472 • BISMARCK, ND 58502

**Spring Annual Meeting
Saturday, April 23, 2022, 9:30 AM
AMVETS
2402 Railroad Ave., Bismarck, ND**

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to order
 - a. President Mohan called the meeting to order at 9:36 AM
2. Introductions & Roll Call - President Mohan

Officers & Directors:

President – Rick Mohan	X		Ed Dosch	X
Vice President -			Rob Holm	X
Treasurer - Jeff Herman	X		Don Schick	X
Rich Brueckner - Past President	X		Rob Shepard	X
Tom Boerger			Joe Solseng	
Duane Ash	X		Jared Pokrzywinski	X
			Keith Witt	X

Delegates:

Wayne Beyer	X
Chad Engle	
Terry Fleck	X
Keith Seidlinger	X
Michael Wenstad	X
Tony Splonskowski	X

Guest/Speakers:

Terry Steinwand

Ben Holen

Greg Power

Dani Quissell

Joe Nett

3. Approval of February 7, 2022, Zoom Board Meeting Minutes (previously distributed)
 - a. Correction to the minutes. Item number seven with the meeting for Jeff. Rob Holm was present and not Rob Shepherd.
 - b. Delegate Fleck moved to accept the minutes as corrected, Director Dosch seconded, motion passed.

4. Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Herman
 - a. Beginning Balance as of 10/13/21: \$18,040.25
 - b. Total Income: \$2271.01
 - c. Balance Before Expenses: \$20,311.26
 - d. Expenses: \$3526.76
 - e. Ending Balance as of 4/23/22: \$16,784.50
 - f. See attached Treasurer's Report for more details.
 - g. Director Shepherd moved to accept, Director Ash seconded, motion passed.

5. Membership Report
 - a. The Board is currently in the process of contacting clubs to renew their membership. There are currently 8 out of 13 clubs who have paid. Discussion was had on clubs that have not been active and whether or not they will be in the future. Treasurer Herman will reach out to these entities. Blair Emils (sp?) and Mike Anderson from the Great Planers are soliciting feedback to see if their club will reconvene. A note was made to check back with them towards the end of the year. There has been no communication from the Southwest Anglers at this time.
 - b. The Congress welcomed the United Sportsmen of Williston to the NDSFC.
 - c. Treasurer Herman reminded everyone that individual memberships are \$10 now. He also stated a reminder that each club membership comes with two paid delegate positions.
 - d. President Mohan reminded the delegation that we will be working with Wild Apricot over the next year with an updated website and database for the organization.

6. Old Business
 - a. Open Vice President position
 - i. President Mohan has opened up the nominations for Vice President. Please contact him with any nominations.
 - b. 2022-23 Budget Presentation
 - i. President Mohan provided an overview of the budget for 2022 - 2023 including segments in administration, executive secretary, spring banquet, spring raffle, communications consultant, membership, and donations/sponsorship. He requested that attending members go back to their clubs and ask them to support the legislative efforts with Dwyer-Hanson and consider seeking NDSFC sponsorships in their own areas. In the future, there will be tools to help members have this conversation in their respective communities. The goal is to have a small carry over budget in order to begin the next year's initiatives.

- ii. Past President Brueckner stated his view that NDSFC will be the lead organization when it comes to protecting ND resources and so finding sponsors will be imperative to meeting those goals because they will be costly.
 - iii. There was discussion on our NPO status and how much and what kind of funds can be collected for certain purposes. The director team will look further into this matter.
 - iv. Delegate Splonskowski is on the Bismarck Eagles Charity Committee. He has asked the NDSFC to request funds from their organization. Treasurer Herman will be following up with Tony in the future.
 - v. Delegate Fleck gave an update on the law for gaming clubs and the money they have. He stated that these organizations need to either use the money they have or lose it and that many are looking to give the money to a supporting cause. He also informed the group of a new entity called the Missouri River Joint Water Board who he feels would work in parallel with the NDSFC.
 - vi. Delegate Witt discussed how the ND Fishing Hall of Fame received a state lottery tag for big game and raffled it off to raise funds for the organization. He stated that the application process is easy but you need to be a 501C3 in order to apply.
 - vii. Delegate Fleck moved to create a committee chaired by Past President Brueckner to consider moving the NPO status to a 501C3. Director Witt seconded. Discussion: Delegate Fleck thanked Brueckner for being willing to take on this issue. Motion carried.
 - viii. Director Dosch representing the Lake Region Anglers challenged the delegates and officers to go back to their respective clubs and urge them to join the NDSFC.
 - ix. Discussion was held on using the Annual Banquet to solicit for more members including MC announcements, potentially adding the membership price into the ticket price, and making individual asks. It was noted to add this to our overall increased marketing strategy with emails, social media, handouts, text messaging etc.
- c. Engaging policy/communication advisor (lobbyist)
- i. Dani Quissell stated that she is excited to be working with NDSFC again.
 - ii. The contract would engage Dwyer Hanson from December 2022 through May 2023.
 - iii. Director Ash made a comment to keep Dwyer Hanson active all the time.
 - iv. Treasurer Hermen requested to postpone signing the contract until the October meeting to have a better understanding of where the legislation is at.
 - v. Delegate Fleck requested a committee to sit down with Dwyer Hanson to discuss the NDSFC non-profit status and specific legislative concerns.
 - vi. Past President Brueckner brought attention to the fact that there are several legislators that voted “yes” on key NDSFC issues in the past that may not be running again and that special consideration should be used to ensure the NDSFC is aware of those individuals taking their place

- vii. President Mohan tabled the discussion on the Dwyer Hanson contract and requested that Past President Brueckner and Delegate Fleck follow up with Quissell.
- d. Policy initiatives for the 68th Legislative session
 - i. Delegate Fleck stated the importance of helping legislators and other entities understand the difference between tourism and recreation within the state of North Dakota. He continued to state the importance of establishing a unified approach as it relates to water quality, infrastructure, ANS damage, fish hatchery health, etc.
 - ii. Past President Brueckner would like to explore the possibility of requesting a standing invasive species committee be developed in the state legislature for North Dakota as a whole.
 - iii. Delegate Fleck stated that it is imperative to find out who the individual representatives are in your area from the Association of Counties and League of Cities and make sure concerns are being heard.

7. New Business

- a. Election of officers (4 open seats + VP)
 - i. Director Pokrzywinski, Director Ash, Director Witt, and Delegate Paryzek will be on the ballot to renew their director positions.
 - ii. Rich nominated Delegate Splonskowski to take a Director position. Delegate Splonskowski declined.
 - iii. Delegate Fleck asked Delegate Splonskowski if he would ask anyone from his club to take over a delegate spot. Delegate Splonskowski reflected that he had asked but there were no volunteers at that time. It was confirmed that any club member is eligible to be a delegate to the NDSFC.
 - iv. Past President Brueckner moved to nominate Director Ash, Director Witt, and Delegate Paryzek for two year terms on the NDSFC. Director Shepard seconded. Motion passed.
- b. Reauthorize Elizabeth Phares Oren 6-month engagement
 - i. Director Shepard moved to approve another 6 months. Past President Brueckner seconded. Motion passed.
- c. Other items?
 - i. Delegate Fleck asked that the NDSFC give careful consideration about the insurance that the club carries. President Mohan stated that he and Treasurer Herman will look into the concern.
 - ii. Director Shepard noted that the NDSFC should be concerned with not only staying in communication with state legislatures but ND federal legislatures as well.

8. ND Game & Fish Update: Greg Power, Ben Holen

- a. Update from Greg Power, Budget and Funding
 - i. Power provided an update on a variety of areas with the ND Game & Fish specifically on the budget. Powers explained that they use the "Clean Lake" work

in various areas. There will be new district lake boat ramps going in during mid-summer. Work will be done on priority one boat ramps. Funding has been a major issue for a while. Fisheries are coming out of winter in both good and concerning conditions. Pike eggs are a challenge currently. Walleye are in good shape. They have been struggling filling all their positions. Powers explained the general structure of the ND Game and Fish Department including fisheries, Wildlife, Enforcement, Conservation and Communications, and Administration. He explained that there are five sources of funding for fisheries including the federal excise tax on fishing equipment, electric motors, and motor boat fuel tax, ND fishing license sales, ANS fees, ND licensed motorized watercraft, and a miscellaneous category of donations, tournaments, etc. Most of the national sources of funding come from gas tax for motorboats (49%). "The fuel tax is by far the most significant revenue source, generating more than two-thirds of SFR funds each year. More than one-third of SFR funds are not generated by anglers. The amount the state receives is determined by the following: 60% on a state's number of licensed anglers and 40% on its geographic size." (Presentation - Slide 7 & 8). ND is getting near the minimum from the federal government. Additional conversations were had on the fishing license for in and out of state entities. More information can be found on the attached ND Game and Fish PowerPoint.

- b. Update from Ben Holen, ANS Program 2022
 - i. Holen gave a recap from 2021. There was added ANS monitoring on over 150 lakes plus a large digital marketing push for education. The marketing campaign has generated over 20K extra clicks on the website. 2021 saw the most boat inspections ever with 77% being residential and 23% being non-residential over 87% were from fishing vessels. Twelve vessels were found with zebra mussels (ZM). A concern was brought up from the delegation that more communication about what is covered under the license is needed to ensure people are being held accountable for failure to comply. Holen continued on to state that out of the boaters surveyed only 6.5% came from ZM infested waters, but none of them were found with ZMs. They also found that commercial equipment were 400 times more likely to have ZM than recreational watercraft. Holen described the increased measure to ensure equipment coming into the state has been thoroughly inspected. He works with/will be working with the Corps of Engineers, additional game wardens, and potential ZM sniffing dogs in the future. Most of the boats coming from ZM infested areas into ND are from Cormorant and Pelican, MN. Last year they installed seven different prevention devices throughout ND including wash stations, ILIDs, and CD3s. Holen then discussed the 2022 plans including federal funding that includes bringing the Missouri river system into a cost share program with a 50/50 cash share opportunity. They will also continue their digital media education and ANS outreach program. They have brought Jackie Ressler on board to help with this outreach. Inspections this year will be similar to 2021 including 6 roving crews, 11-15 inspectors, starting earlier, tournament inspections, Warden roadside checkpoints, commercial equipment inspections, and a new camp inspector

program on SAK. Holen noted that they are still struggling to find and keep employees. New Prevention devices will be ILIDs on Lake Elsie and Lake Sakakawea, CD3s at the Kidder Recreation Area on the Red River, and Wash Stations on the Jamestown Reservoir (2X). Holen asked us to note that May 15th - 21st will be ANS Awareness week. ND Game and Fish will get monthly updates about legislative issues that are pertinent to the ND area. There was discussion on potentially getting Game and Fish individuals to come to club meetings on a more frequent basis from the delegation.

9. Department of Environmental Quality, Watershed Management Group Update: Joe Nett
 - a. Joe provided a presentation on lake water quality, harmful algae bloom surveillance, ambience river and stream monitoring, and a variety of water assessments. He and others were asked to speak to help inform the congress on the state of water in ND including contents, fishing capacity, dam and structural issues, sediment testing and removal, watershed, etc.
 - b. National Lake Assessment Overview
 - i. Both managed and private lakes are assessed. Water quality, enterococci, algal toxin, macroinvertebrate, phytoplankton, zooplankton community, habitat, human impacts, and slope are some of the items assessed. The most recent data from North Dakota showed poor conditions in nutrients, riparian vegetation, riparian disturbance, benthic macroinvertebrates, and cyanobacteria. In good condition are littoral cover, zooplankton, dissolved oxygen, and atrazine.
 - c. National River and Streams Assessment Overview
 - i. Over 50 are tested and the assessment is broken into a two-year sampling process. Water quality, enterococci, algal toxin, fish, macroinvertebrate, periphyton community, habitat, human impacts, and slope. The most recent data has shown that in poor condition is nutrients, salinity, benthic macroinvertebrates, and fish community. In good condition are bed sediment, in-stream cover, riparian vegetation, fecal bacteria, and mercury in fish tissue.
 - ii. Current additional projects they are working on include Section 319 Water Quality Improvement Projects, Total Maximum Daily Load, and other water quality assessments with Lake Ashtabula, Blacktail Dam, and Bowman-Kaley Reservoir.
 - iii. Joe answered participant questions and stated that anyone could contact him if they need additional information at jnett@nd.gov or 701-328-5227.

10. Adjourn

- a. The meeting was adjourned at 1:33 PM.