



Red River Area Sportsmen's Club
Wahpeton, North Dakota & Breckenridge, Minnesota

Jr. Wildlife Club

Thursday, February 24th - 'Indoor Archery' at Wahpeton Community Center, starting at 6 PM. Lunch provided. Call 642-2811 to register.

Thursday, March 17th - 'Wild Turkey Hunting' at Wahpeton Community Center, starting at 6 PM. Lunch provided. Call 642-2811 to register.

Next Sportsmen's Club Meeting

Thursday, March 17, 2011 - 7:30 PM at Wahpeton Community Center.

February 17, 2011

A Red River Area Sportsmen's Club meeting was held on Thursday, February 17th from 7:30-9:30 PM at the Wahpeton Community Center. 25 people, including Bill Straus, Randy Ehni, Roger Jensen, Greg Gerou, Jim Grawe, Joshua Barringer, Rich Truesdell, Kim Barringer, Brian Mahler, Curt Mund, Vern Shasky, Sharyn Bohn, Arvid Christensen, Cindie VanTassel, Brandon VanTassel, Kevin Manock, Jerry Oren, Larry Brunkhorst, Tim Phalen, David Meyer, Paul Sinner, Dave Langenwalter, John Langenwalter, Gene VanEeckhout and Wayne Beyer attended the meeting.

MSC (Motion-Second-Carried) – (Truesdell, Mund) to approve 1-20-11 minutes.

Gene VanEeckhout, NDGF Eastern Division Fisheries Chief made a Powerpoint and oral presentation on Mooreton Pond.

- He thanked Sharyn Bohn and Arvid Christensen, Richland County Park Board for their cooperation in installing a concrete boat ramp this past summer. Some of the loose rock needs to be compacted for the 12% shoreline slope.
- Alfalfa has been placed on two occasions. This approach models hatchery ponds near Garrison Dam and has proven to stimulate the food chain. The first time it was grinded, but winds switched and much of it ended up on the southeast beach. The second time, bales were staked next to shoreline cattails.
- The water quality is sterile, coming from an Artesian well. The water is salty, though similar to Devils Lake and other North Dakota fishing waters. However, it is low in phosphorus and opposite of most lakes that are nutrient-rich. The water originates from the Dakota Aquifer, actually coming from the South Dakota Black Hills.
- West end of the lake has a large area of 21' depth.
- A low-water siphon was installed to remove undesirable water but has not proven effective.
- The water is cloudy, probably because of salt crystals. Gene desires to lower the water's salinity levels. The water was clear for only 1.5' last summer, not allowing sunlight and oxygen to penetrate for aquatic plants.
- Elk manure compost was also applied, due to carbon and phosphorus content. Compost breaks down because of intense heat, killing harmful bacteria and there are no detrimental effects.
- Bottom samples are being researched by the ND Health Department. It is desirable to remove the bad stuff. Methods are being studied to accomplish same. Disposal would depend on the Health Department. Perforated pipes for dragging and vacuuming methods were shown.
- Some little red worms, larvae of midge and favored fish food, are showing up, perhaps from the alfalfa and compost efforts. The food chain needs to be effectively established to have a quality fishery.
- Freshwater sources are being checked on, including nearby ditches, run-off from tile draining, etc.
- He worked with Scott Elstad, NDGF Save Our Lakes (SOL) to get a 404 permit to place Christmas trees for structure. The project didn't materialize a year ago and this winter Gene did not want structure to affect any possible skimming of bottom materials.
- Largemouth bass were stocked in 2004 and a nice 17" bass showed in this summer's test nettings (June 22nd), along with yellow perch, bluegills (up to 6" only), catfish, walleyes, bullheads and carp. Perch are a fish species that can do OK in high salinity water. Trout will continue to be stocked as a put-and-take fishery.
- Gene thanked Larry Brunkhorst for the numerous occasions he's volunteered.

President's Report

- Greg, Dick Bell & Wayne Beyer attended the ND Wildlife Federation Convention. Items of interest include Report All Poachers (RAP), Conservation Camp, Theodore Roosevelt National Park and elk hunt, Executive Director search, etc.
- ND legislation can be checked on the NDGF web site. He said that legislators greatly appreciate hearing our views.
- Greg plans to help at the Baseball Benefit and encouraged others to volunteer. Larry Brunkhorst, if available, will help.
- Club awards nominations were encouraged, including Sportsman of the Year, Lifetime Membership and Lifetime Achievement
- The club received the Boy Scouts Community Spirit Award recently.
- No more entries were received for the Big Buck, Longest Pheasant Tail Feather and Longest Turkey Beard Contests.

Bill Straus reported the checking account balance is \$27,992.82. Expenditures included Econofoods - \$102.51 (Jr. Wildlife Club), POETS - \$40.31 (meeting), Dick Bell - \$35 (elk sculpture), Friends of Lake Sakakawea - \$100 (membership), ND Sportfishing Congress - \$50 (membership), U.S. Sportsman's Alliance - \$250 (membership) and Wahpeton Parks & Recreation / Dominos - \$41.57 (Jr. Wildlife Club pizza for fishing lures class).

MSC (Ehni, C. VanTassel) to approve treasurer's report.

MSC (Beyer, C. VanTassel) to approve \$1000 for youth archery equipment.

The SE Sportsmen's Club meets in Rutland on Thursday, March 24th.

The Three Rivers Archery Club will offer indoor archery to the Jr. Wildlife Club at the Community Center from 6-7 PM on Thursday, February 24th.

The Outdoor Adventure Foundation fund-raiser is scheduled in Fargo on Saturday, March 12th.

MSC (Brunkhorst, D. Langenwalter) to approve \$1000 donation to Outdoor Adventure Foundation.

Larry Brunkhorst will continue researching south-side levee access and the location of the fishing pier. There may be different levee restrictions, depending on the Corps of Engineers District Offices (St. Paul, MN vs. Denver, CO). He will contact City Public Works Director Randy Nelson.

The ND Game & Fish Department approved 75% funding for the Red River shoreline development project just east of the Kidder Recreation Area rock rapids. This is the third extension, due to high water the last couple years.

MSC (D. Langenwalter, Shasky) to approve \$500 scholarship for Brandon VanTassel, a Bemidji State University student.

Becky Truesdell is working on a new web site. The present address is rrasc.net. Rich said she could link other wildlife organizations. In addition, Becky can use pictures, minutes and other correspondence.

The banquet was rescheduled to Friday, April 29th at Hughes Shelter. Randy Ehni offered to help organize the event and arrange for catering.

Horizon Milling has expressed interest in getting backpacks for children attending the Vince Herding Youth Fishing Derby. They asked about listing other sponsors.

The Head of the Red Trap Club is having a fund-raiser at the Community Center on Friday, March 25th. They are also selling gun raffle tickets for the archery range.

MSC (Straus, Ehni) to donate a couple items for the Head of the Red Trap Club fund-raiser.

Prizes were drawn for hunters who donated deer hides to the collection dumpster at Wahpeton Auto Value.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 17th at 7:30 PM at the Community Center.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.