

South Dakota Walleye Classic

Meeting Minutes

April 10, 2025

The meeting was called to order by Gregg Yonkovich. The following members were in attendance: Becky Randall, Bill Waeckerle, Steve Mann, and on team meeting was Mike Valster (AFTCO) and Dick Sorensen.

A copy of the March minutes was handed out to those in attendance. There were two corrections that were made, the minutes read January minutes instead of February and a misspelling was corrected. A new copy of the minutes was printed. Steve Mann made a motion to approve and second by Bill Waeckerle. Motion carried.

The financial report was given by Steve Mann. Bill Waeckerle made a motion to approve and second by Dick Sorensen. Motion carried. Steve also sent the payment for the 2nd half of the guns with Gregg for SoDak.

Old Business:

2024/25-gun drawing status- Levi Vandervorst was contacted and has credit for gun so 2024 year is closed; 2 winners have not claimed guns for 2025.

LOWC update from Bill W.- stocking will be taking place

LOWC Raffle Status- Bill W- one gun at TAV and only 24 squares sold so Bill will work on that.

New Business: Update of 2025 Tournament from Mike Valster

- i. Entry and website are up and running on AFTCO and our SD Walleye Classic website- we have 23 entries and positive start according to Midwest Fish tournaments.
- ii. Chad Schilling is going to redo the video that will be going live on SDWC website. Radio advertising will start in May on DRG and ad in Dakota Magazine has been completed. FAQ questions have been added to SDWC website. Bill will speak to Dawn at DRG radio to have them make announcements on live radio the weekend of the tournament.
- iii. Physical posters are being shipped in 2 weeks to SDWC PO Box so we can then distribute them. Mike sent a list of the locations of posters.

- Craig will receive them and then distribute to Becky & Dana to distribute in Aberdeen and Gregg will also get some.
- iv. Tournament has been approved through GF&P and insurance will be finalized in April.
 - v. Tags for fish: Bill W. will be receiving the other 1/2 tomorrow. AFTCO will provide the bank bags and fish bags and will bring them when they come.
 - vi. Bills Hinds gave Gregg contact for temp dock and it is Helms. Gregg contacted them and they will provide a FREE 32 foot dock for our use for tournament in exchange for advertising. We will get a banner made with their name on it.
 - vii. Fishing donations~ Akaska Dev. Corp (Cody) & Lake Hiddenwood Sports Club (John VonWald) have been approved by GFP to clean fish.
 - viii. Gregg reviewed notes from meeting with Midwest Fish Tournament folks~
 - ~fish station needs to be set up by low water with a dock from Helms Marina.
 - ~polygraph tester is \$1000.00 for someone to do, and we need to line that up.
 - ~Midwest writes all the checks to winners. We will purchase a large check blank from QQP for the winner for photo opportunity.
 - ~Midwest will need an angler list and tag list – Gregg is putting together a spread sheet
 - ~stage will be placed at the docks so we can announce winners when we do the 2-hour giveaways. A live leader board will be at the Community Hall for people to be inside and watch the winners throughout the weekend.
 - ~ we will also bring in the top 3 fish for audience to see. We will start the awards at 5pm at community hall in Akaska.

Other New Business:

We will do Calcutta on that Friday and will group the registrants together. Craig M. will ask his son-in-law & Lewis Reuer to be auctioneers.

We will also do a Big Fish Pot, fishermen can buy in for \$100.00 and we will payout 5 places.

Steve Mann wrote checks out to Selby Ambulance, Selby Fire Dept. and Akaska Fire Dept. for \$1,000.00 and Bill Waeckerle will deliver them. We received a thank you from the volunteer Dive Team in Pierre. With the funds we sent they purchased an Active Target Sonar Bundle and will use the remaining for future trainings and equipment upgrades. We had already purchased for them the new pressure washer that broke during the rescue.

Senior Fishing Day~ Bob sent a list of everyone's duties that day. He has 15 or 16 boats lined up. SDWC will pay for the breakfast at the TAV that morning, Becky will talk to Brandi about logistics. We are throwing around the idea to extend the fishing time from 8am-1pm. We will check with the volunteers that will be taking these folks.

New Business from the floor:

Craig is working with Avid Hawk to set up the program again to send out the emails on Monday mornings for the gun drawing. Ryan said it should be good to go this coming Monday.

Bill W. asked committee if we could pick the gun winners for the ADC gun raffle during the AFTCO Throwdown. Committee was in favor of it.

Craig will speak to Doris Kettering about the Craft Fair and that with the new layout she will have to have her vendors outside in the park.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Bill Waeckerle and Steve Mann second by. Motion carried.

Next meeting will be May 15, 2025 @ 7:00pm in Akaska. We will also have available Teams meeting for those that can't attend in person.

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by: Becky Randall, Secretary