

South Dakota Walleye Classic

Meeting Minutes

February 17, 2025

The meeting was called to order by President Gregg Yonkovich. Meeting was held virtually via Microsoft Teams with attendees at various locations. The following were in attendance: Mike Valster & Bill Schoepke from AFTCO, Cherie Tueth from Midwest Fishing Tournaments; Bryan German, Bill Hinds, Gregg Yonkovich, Steve Mann, Vance Peckham and Dick Sorenson from the SDWC.

Gregg received a financial report from Steve Mann. Main expenses were Kids Ice Fishing event and dive equipment utilized to recover Brad and Kent. Income derived from calendar purchases, gun raffle and various donations associated with dive equipment purchase.

Emphasis of the meeting was reviewing tournament format (included pdf) for the AFTCO sponsored 2025 Walleye Classic and receiving input from attendees. Mike Valster led this discussion.

Discussion details noted:

- AFTCO page is built, including registration and rules pages.
- Chad Schilling has agreed to create short video explaining tournament format. Creation timing TBD.
- Gregg to send Mike Valster list of emails associated with previous SDWC tournament participants.
- Gregg to update rules and forward to Mike.
- Discussion of renting camp sites closest to north ramp to accommodate Midwest Fishing Tournament weigh in trailer to facilitate power needs. Bill Hinds to work with GF&P.
- Possibly utilize a temp dock to facilitate weigh-ins, without tying up main dock(s). Bill Hinds to contact NSU tournament folks to see where they get their temp dock.

- Weigh in location will need to be determined closer to tournament dates based on lake Oahe elevation levels. May need to use golf carts and/or UTVs to shuttle participants to/from weigh station.
- Need to purchase numbered fish tags for participants. Bill Wackerle to lead.
- Need to get copies of insurance from AFTCO and Midwest Fishing Tournaments. Gregg to work with Marin Biel on standard insurance.
- Gregg to follow up with GF&P on Tournament application submitted Jan 25.
- Goal of beginning advertising and registration process in early March.

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by: Gregg Yonkovich
President

2/26/25 Updates:

- GF&P Tournament Permit has been approved with AFTCO insurance listed. SDWC and MFT insurance pending.
- Rules finalized and forwarded to AFTCO.
- AFTCO to begin advertising and open site registration page March 4th.
- Gregg forwarded Mike list of emails for previous participants. Mike to use emails along with AFTCO fisherman contact list to notify potential participants.
- Bill Wackerle to order two sets of numbered/colored tags for up to 250 participants.
- Becky working with Avid Hawk on updating SDWC website.
- Bill Hinds contact at GF&P said reserving two camp sites shouldn't be a problem.

- Next Meeting planned for March 18, 2025 at Akaska Community Center, 7pm.