

# South Dakota Walleye Classic

## Meeting Minutes

February 23, 2026

The meeting was called to order by Gregg Yonkovich. The following members attended: Becky Randall, Steve Mann, Bill Waeckerle, Vance Peckham, Marissa Gilyard and Sady Gilyard. Members attending via teams meeting; Bryan German, Mike Valster & Bob Heier.

A copy of the January minutes were handed out to those in attendance. Bill Waeckerle made a motion to approve and second by Steve Mann. Motion carried.

The financial report was read by treasurer Steve Mann. Steve said that the only bill that we haven't received was from SD GFP for the fish cleaning station, but Bill Waeckerle had the bill so Steve will get it paid. Vance Peckham made a motion to approve and Bill Waeckerle second. Motion carried.

### New Business:

- 1) 2026 tournament updates were given by Mike Valster; as of today we have 24 entries. Mike stated that we are 2 weeks ahead of schedule from last year. Midwest Fish Tournaments is handling all the registrations on their website. Gregg requested that he get a list of the entries once they start coming in so he can get the names for Calcutta. Mike V. was going to relay the message to Midwest.
  - a. Mike also stated that an email went out to all the participants from last year. Mike says that the info going out should get to about 75-80,000 people.
  - b. Within 2 weeks we will have posters, large size and (100) 8x10 size. Posters were also being mailed out to Mike's contact list for

- businesses. Bill W. will ask SDGFP if we can put up a poster in fish cleaning station out at Swan Creek. Radio ads will start in May-June.
- c. Mike reminded everyone that new truck is in escrow and the winner's name will be the 1<sup>st</sup> person on the title of the vehicle. We will get the vehicle on display in an Aberdeen parking lot; Becky will get permission from some businesses. We will also have it in Akaska for the Senior Fishing Tournament and also for the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July.
  - d. The last day to register for tournament will be June 30<sup>th</sup> to guarantee a swag pack but, if need be, we will extend it out another week. Shipment will come into Akaska.
  - e. Bill W. will also get vehicle passes for Swan Creek for all the workers; we will get the number of passes that are needed as it gets closer.
- 2) Tournament rules have been updated and will be on website and Marissa will also have a link available on Facebook so it will direct participants to website.
  - 3) Fish donation applications are complete. Hoven and Akaska will split the weekend. Potter County Sportsman's will take care of Whitlock's weigh station.
  - 4) Bryan has Brady at Marin Biel working on insurance. Bryan inquired about the coverage amounts staying the same as last year and everything can stay the same.
  - 5) Fish tags: we will give each participant 4 tags for both days
  - 6) Bill W. stated that there is a Karst family reunion out at Whitlock's the same weekend as our tournament so Gregg was going to visit with Ryan to let him know that it wouldn't bother our tournament.

7) Shagan-Pit will provide the meal for all the workers on Friday night and Jim Houck will make a prime Rib dinner for Saturday night. Becky got ahold of Jim and he said “yes”.

#### Old Business:

- 1) Kids Fishing Tournament- Not as many kids show up anymore so it was suggested that the time be from 10:00am-3:00pm. Bill W. was going to talk to Tony about this. Next year’s tournament is scheduled for February 6, 2027.
- 2) Weekley Calendar Gun drawing- Gregg is still getting some inquiries about why an email doesn’t go out. Gregg told them that it is on Facebook and on our website. We have 3 unsold calendars, so Bill W. took those. Thanks to Marissa for the wonderful job she does updating the SDWC Facebook site and the website.
- 3) Marissa is working on the 2027 calendar. We have received pictures from QQP, Dana gave Marissa his old calendars and Steve Mann has old calendars so Marissa will scan some of those pictures. Ideas to name our calendar were thrown out, “Blast from the Past”??? Marissa will come up with something; she plans on having things ready around the end of May for QQP.
- 4) Bill W. gave us an update on LOWC; full speed ahead for renovations for Bluedog as funding has been collected. Walleye Fishing has now surpassed the hunting numbers in SD. Bill’s goal is to have 14-16 million fingerlings to stock all lakes in SD.

#### New Business from floor:

Bob Heier shared the date for Senior Fishing Tournament will be June 17<sup>th</sup>.

Bryan asked if we want to have the polygraph available for 1<sup>st</sup> place winner and then maybe a few more random participants. Everyone agreed that we should have it available this year.

Bryan also wondered if we wanted to change the boundaries of the tournament and it was decided by the group to leave as is for this year.

Bill W. also said that he received a message back from Mike Rounds, he would not be available to attend the last day of the tournament.

Marissa asked how many Midwest travel guides we would like so she will request around 25 for tournament weekend. Marissa also needs to know what we want on the two ads for the Lake Oahe Map that we committed to for 2 years. She was thinking of putting the QR code so that when people scan it will take them to our SDWC website. She will get ahold of Mike and see what AFTCO wants for their ad.

A motion to adjourn meeting by Steve Mann and a second by Vance Peckham. Motion carried

Next meeting: March 26<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by: Becky Randall, Secretary