

South Dakota Walleye Classic

Meeting Minutes

July 9, 2026

The meeting was called to order by Gregg Yonkovich. The following members attended: Becky Randall, Bill Waeckerle, Dana Randall, Steve Mann, Vance Peckham and Marissa Gilyard. Bryan German, Mike Valster, Bill Shepke and Sherry from Midwest Fishing were via Teams Meeting.

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

Steve Mann gave the treasurer's report. We have received 5 sponsorship payments thus far. Steve also received a bill from Webster Scale to be paid and Becky has the report from the findings of the scale. A final check was mailed to Gunnar Lathum for \$2500.00.

The Bank West CD came due, after receiving the information from Gregg, Steve Mann made a motion to do another 13-month CD at the rate of 3.8% interest, with a second my Marissa Gilyard. Motion carried.

Gregg was also asked by ADC chairman Cody Ritter if SDWC would be willing to donate \$500.00 for the fireworks for 2027. Marissa Gilyard made a motion to donate \$500.00 to ADC for the 2027 fireworks, second by Dana Randall. Motion carried. Marissa Gilyard made a motion to approve the treasurers report and second by Dana Randall. Motion carried

New Business

1. 2026 Tournament updates & follow up items:

- Number of entries is 345- Mike reported that 344 swag packs are about completed and will be shipped directly to Akaska. Dave Heuer will be contacted when the packs arrive so he can unload with forklift.
- Advertising status- radio ads are live and emails are being sent out to everyone on list from last year as one last push.
- Mike V. shared with the group that AFTCO's customer service received some emails from a distraught individual referencing the tournament.

Gregg contacted the Walworth County Sheriff's office. Deputy Ren was present at the meeting last night and reported that they may know who the individual is but not enough evidence for a warrant so they will watch this individual. Mike V. will let the Sheriff's office know if AFTCO receives anymore disturbing emails.

- Mike V. will have "BIG" check, and Sherry will have the trophies.
- The Buckley award will be \$5,000.00
 - *Kent Kramer award- \$1,000.00
 - *Exact weight award for 3lb, 4lb, & 5lb. is \$1000.00 each
 - *Bi-hourly payouts up to 8th place but the SDWC will payout for 9th place for the Angie Marin award \$50
 - *Ladies award
 - *Youth award
- Mike V. said that the weigh stations will be set up around 6:30am on Saturday morning but the crew will take a ride out there on Friday to check out the location. Sherry stated that she will have 4 people for weigh-ins at Witlock and they will work underneath a tent. Gregg informed them that there is food available at convenience store close by. At Swan Creek the trailer will be set up like last year and Big Al will be reporting with live video. Sherry mentioned that their Trailer will be pulled back into town on Saturday night and brought back out Sunday morning.
- The crews from Gettysburg and Hoven were contacted to let them know what time to be at locks to clean fish. They will provide coolers for the fish.
- Set up more tables on Thursday and alphabetize swag packs, etc. Mike V. will arrive on Wed. evening, and Bill S. will arrive after lunch on Thursday.
- Gregg has the 'set up' mapped out for community hall. Volunteers have been contacted. Clothing sales will be in the firehall provided by Schillings. 2 food trucks will be present on Friday.
- Gregg will have 2 different colored envelopes stuffed with a flyer about rules, awards, Calcutta and Gunnar Lathum concert. Those that pre-registered will have their bid number and their name on envelope. The

participants that only register on the day of will get a white envelope so no swag pack. QQP will have all this printed out the week before. All participants will get an AFTCO T-shirt.

- Becky let Cody Ritter from ADC know the times that the bar was to be opened at Community Hall.

Friday- 2pm – till after rules meeting and Calcutta.

Saturday- 7pm till after Gunnar Latham Concert.

Sunday- 4pm till close.

- Bryan will make final call to Duven for lie detector testing. We will pay him that day. Becky will contact Jim Houck to see if we can use his room at community hall on Sunday for about 2 hours.
- Craig M. will get the auctioneer for Calcutta. Gregg has payouts as follows:
 1. 50%
 2. 25%
 3. 15%
 4. 10%

Bid numbers will be made available to the general public at one of the back tables.

Old Business: Marissa received the Oahe Maps and visitor guides. We will have them available to the fisherman on registration day. The maps are good for 2 years and very nice.

New Business from the floor:

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

Next meeting- TBD after tournament @ 7pm.

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by: Becky Randall, Secretary