

South Dakota Walleye Classic

Meeting Minutes

June 17, 2026

The meeting was called to order by Gregg Yonkovich. The following members attended: Becky Randall, Bill Waeckerle, Dana Randall, Craig Mehlhaff, Steve Mann and Bob Heier. Bryan German and Mike Valster were via Teams Meeting.

A copy of the May 21st minutes were handed out to those in attendance. Bill Waeckerle made a motion to approve and second by Bryan German. Motion carried.

Steve Mann gave the treasurer's report. The Bowdle Healthcare Sponsorship was paid in the amount of \$500.00, Cahill-Bauer taxes were also paid. Bob Heier made a motion to approve and second by Craig Mehlhaff. Motion carried

New Business

1. 2026 Tournament updates & follow up items:

- Number of entries is 113
- Advertising on the radio will start next week and the FB announcements will also start so participants can register to be eligible for the swag packs.
- Swag packs will be delivered here to Akaska and Gregg will get Mike V the address as Dave Heuer will help as he has a forklift.
- Participants that register the day of will have to pay with cash or credit card.
- Craig M. will ask his nephew if he can help with the auctioning at the Calcutta.
- Gregg went to Witlock's to check out the docks and placement of the tent to weigh the fish. The walk to the dock is a little jaunt from parking lot.
- There will be a generator at the Witlock location as there is no power.
- 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.

- The crew at Witlock's will clean fish on both days. Akaska fire dept. will clean fish on Saturday and Hoven crew will clean on Sunday.
- Set up tables on Thursday afternoon and display swag packs, etc. AFTCO clothing will be set up again in fire station. Bob Heier will bring his AC to cool the fire station.
- Tables will be set up for 'Guess the Biggest Fish' \$10 a ticket (anyone can join). Split pot 50/50, Gun raffle (Bill W. is getting tickets printed to start selling ASAP) 2027 Calendar sales. Volunteers to be contacted are Dana Randall, Karen Hampton, Bill Waeckerle, Jane Sorensen and Madonna & Bob Heier. Becky will ask these people to volunteer. These will be sold only on Friday during registration and Sunday during awards ceremony.
- "Biggest Fish" tickets will be sold on Friday for \$100 at registration for only the participants. Becky will ask Kim Peckham and Kristi Strivens to sell as they did a great job last year.
- SueAnn Yonkovich will sit at registration table to hand out the fish tags and bid numbers. Becky Randall and Lisa German will hand out swag packs and Deb Mann will hand out t-shirts.
- Friday we will provide lunch for all the workers. Becky will line that up with Jim Houck. Mike V. will get the number of volunteers from Midwest Fish etc. to Becky. Friday supper will be after Calcutta provided by Shagan-pit. Saturday supper will be at 5PM with a prime rib dinner provided by Jim Houck.
- 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.
- Gregg has been trying to get ahold of Gunnar Latham to get some advertising ideas to forward to Mike V so that we can advertise on the website and FB. Gregg was going to see what Marissa could find, and we will just get something put together.
- Gunnar Latham Concert- Doors open at 7PM~ free will offering (Becky & Dana) we will also sell calendars, guess the weight of fish and gun raffle. Concert will start at 8:30pm

- Sunday Awards ceremony starts at 5:30pm
 - Lie detector should be done around 3pm on Sunday- Bryan will get ahold of Duven Polygraph Services to let them know what time. The polygraph takes approximately 30 minutes. Up to 2 more anglers will randomly be picked to also do the polygraph test.
2. The certified scale at The Sportsman's failed all the calibration tests per the reports that Gregg received. Bill W. will get ahold of Webster Scale to see if it can be repaired within the next 2 weeks. Some discussion on possibly relocating the scale to the new convenience store but nothing was decided.
 3. The renewal of the Bank CD will be due within the next 2 weeks, and it was agreed by all who were present to place back into another CD along with all the interest that has accumulated.

Old Business:

- a. Senior Fishing Recap- Bob Heier- the senior fishing was cancelled on Monday per the weather. This was the 1st time since 2009. Bob got ahold of all the guides and participants and Becky was able to cancel the food order. Bob had 12 boats/guides lined up with 45 entrees. Thank you Bob for all your organizational skills.
- b. 2027 Calendars- Marissa is finalizing the 2027 calendars for QQP to print.
 - i. Lisa and SueAnn contacted all the sponsors- we just need to collect the money but Bill W. had the list to do follow-up. Kent Perkins asked if he could pay half of the sponsorship beings the pull tabs are located in the Sportman's but it was decided that we would not start that. If Kent can't pay the full sponsorship of \$500 then we will find another sponsor.

New Business from the floor:

Bob Heier has a Bounce House rented for July 3rd celebration for \$1500.00 that the SD Walleye Classic will pay for.

Bill W. informed everyone that there is a meeting for the Fish Hatchery at the Terry O'Keefe Education Center on Sunday, July 12, 7PM along with a fundraiser. Bill gave us some numbers that \$530,743,523 was spent on recreational fishing, \$410,574,232 was spent on walleye angler, and \$200,000 for residents and non-

resident licensed anglers fished for walleye in 2024. The Blue Dog Fish Hatchery has 700 walleye egg incubation jars, 8 exterior raceways, 128 vertical-flow trout and salmon egg incubation trays, 30 indoor rearing tanks and 36 rearing ponds, ranging from 0.5 to 2.0 acres (53 total acres). Bill also had numbers for increased stocking requests up to 2029.

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

Next meeting- Thursday, July 9th @ 7pm.

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by: Becky Randall, Secretary