

South Dakota Walleye Classic

Meeting Minutes

May 21, 2026

The meeting was called to order by Gregg Yonkovich. The following members attended: Marissa Gilyard, Steve Mann and Bob Heier. Bryan German and Mike Valster attended via MS Teams Meeting.

A copy of the April minutes was handed out to those in attendance. Bob Waeckerle made a motion to approve and seconded by Steve Mann. Motion carried.

Steve gave a Treasurers report. Recent expenditures included down payment for Gunnar Latham Concert, cost associated with preparation/filing annual income tax and Avid Hawk for SDWC web site maintenance. Treasurers report approved by all in attendance.

New Business

1. 2026 Tournament updates & follow up items:
 - a. 84 entries YTD.
 - b. Mike indicated formal advertising will begin in June.
 - c. Group discussed start time for Gunnar Latham concert Saturday evening of the tournament weekend at the Community Center. Settled on 8:30 start time. Allows time for participants and support staff to complete tournament stuff, eat and clean up prior to concert. **Gregg to get advertising information from Gunnar's team and forward for Mike to use with radio, social media, etc. We'll need to update tournament schedule on SDWC website.**
 - d. Bryan has insurance lined up with Marin Biel. Cost \$965.15. Not yet paid.
 - e. Discussed surveying participants at registration regarding 2027 tournament date format Fri/Sat vs current Sat/Sun format.
 - f. Have Swag packs shipped to Akaska this year, rather than Aberdeen. Gregg talked to Dave Heuer about receiving and storing pallets of swag when they arrive. **Gregg to get Dave Heuer's Akaska address to Mike prior to shipment.**

g. Friday and Saturday meals for tournament workers will be paid by SDWC via Steve and seek reimbursement from AFTCO. Friday: Shag-in-pit , Saturday: Jim Houck prime rib. **Gregg to verify AFTCO reimbursement is OK with Mike V.**

2. Discussed certified scale located at Sportsman's. Failed recent calibration. Need to work with scale vendor to repair, or discard. Also suggest relocating to Schillings business, once they're open, if they are willing. **Revisit at next meeting, due to limited attendance at this meeting.**

Old Business:

- a. Bob Heier reported that 11 guide pontoons confirmed for Senior Fishing day (Wednesday June 17). Has inquiries out to a dozen additional boats waiting for a response. 25 participants signed up thus far. Hoping for 14 pontoons total.

General schedule for event:

6:30 AM: registration opens

7:45: Depart town for dock

8:00 – 1:00pm: fishing

2:00: Lunch

3:00 : done

Assignment list as follows:

- I. Boat Numbers : Steve M. to provide, once Bob has number set
- II. Ice packed for boats: Bob H.
- III. Snacks packed for each boat: Becky & Steve
- IV. Breakfast at Community Center: Becky & Helpers
- V. Hold harmless sheets and other sign up materials: Bob
- VI. Participant sign ups: Becky, Deb, Madonna, Jane
- VII. Get ice, water, snacks, worms, boat numbers and participants lists to boat captains: Steve/Gregg/Vance
- VIII. Photo's at river and Community Center: Bernie Bisbee. Gregg to provide/captain boat for on water photos. Bill W. organizing Community Center group photo.
- IX. Bus for transport to/from River: Shonda. Dana to drive bus.
- X. Help at River loading/unloading boats: Craig, Vance, Dana, Gregg, Bill, Steve, Peyton, Bob
- XI. Gift certificates for captains: Steve

- XII. Newspaper advertising: Becky (Ad's place in Hoven, Gettysburg, Bowdle & Selby papers). Group said 'no' to radio advertising, other than Mobridge community calendar ad's.
- XIII. Lunch: Jim Houck, Becky & helpers.
- b. 2027 Calendar Update: Marissa working with QQP on the calendar photo arrangement. Gregg provided QQP with gun list. Lisa German gave update on calendar sponsors. Several sponsor checks received from Northern Dewatering and Oahe Wings & Walleye. Heartland Waste, Marin Biel, Jensen Rock and Bank West are committed. **Marissa to talk to Sportsman Bar. Need help contacting Dave's Marine, Mobridge Livestock and Next Gen Gaming to get a Y/N answer.** Sponsor trades include Helm Marine, QQP, Big Bass Bash. Group decided to continue with 800 Calendar count. **Would like to review final copy for edits in mid-June, for publication and sales at 2026 tournament.**
- c. LOWC Update: No update available.

New Business from the floor:

- a) Marissa gave overview of social media contest to guess winning weight of Mobridge NWT event for two entries in 2026 tournament. Event concluded shortly before this meeting 46 lbs 12 oz was winning weight. Marissa to review social media posts/shares/etc. to determine winner.
- b) Steve presented request from Bowdle Healthcare system to sponsor lab equipment purchase. Group agreed to sponsor at \$500 level, same as in 2025.

Next meeting- Tuesday, June 17 following Senior Fishing Day @ 7pm.

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by: Gregg Yonkovich, President