

Agenda

SD GFP Central Regional Advisory Panel

4/28/2016

9:30 AM – 2:30 PM

Ft. Pierre Wildlife District Office

Type of Meeting: General
Facilitator: Stone
Note Taker: Knippling/Stone

Time	Agenda Topic	Person(s) Responsible	Product
9:30 AM	Welcome & Introductions	Stone	
9:40 AM	Panel Member Updates/Issues	All	Information
10:15 AM	Missouri River Fisheries Update/Issues	Longhenry/Fincel	Information/Discussion
11:30 AM	SD BUI Overview	Gates	Information/Discussion
12:00 N	Lunch		
1:00 PM	Mule Deer Radio Tracking Project/Update	Baker	Information
1:30 PM	Management Plan updates	Spomer/Broome/Stone	Information
2:00 PM	Wrap Up	Stone	
2:30 PM	Adjourn		

GFP Staff:

Cliff Stone – CS
Bob Hanten – BH
Nathan Baker – NB
Jason Sorensen – JS
John Lott – JL
Geno Adams - GA
Dale Gates - DG
Sandi Knippling – SK

Panel members (10):

Jack Broome – Burke – **PRESENT** JB
Dr Fred Hubbard – Miller – **PRESENT** FH
Keith Krull – Harrold - **PRESENT** KK
Herb McClellan – Mobridge - **PRESENT** HM
Danielle McGee-Campbell - Onida – ABSENT DMC
Lyle Perman – Lowry – ABSENT LP
Leonard Spomer – Pierre – **PRESENT** LS
Kevin Swenson – **PRESENT** KS
Bill Waeckerle – Akaska – **PRESENT** BW

9:30 AM Welcome & Introductions

Stone

Welcome everyone. Lyle is not here due to calving and mud. Same with Danielle.
Substitutes on the agenda.
Handed on 2015 GFP Annual Report
Pamphlet on Zebra Mussels

9:40 AM Panel Member Updates/Issues

All

Herb: several comments; fishing not to great yet at home. 47 lb NP caught using herring. Shared pictures of new indoor cleaning station. Was funded half state and half tourism at home (monies from fishing tournament). The new station has air conditioning in the summer and is heated in winter. The water pressure was too high at first use but got that adjusted. Indian Creek: article out of Aberdeen paper that fishing is getting a lot of publicity. At home Tourism put together a pamphlet with fishing tournaments all over. **Championship of all tournaments, all meeting for a championship. ?** Depends on spot place previously with a possible \$25,000 prize. Big things: Cabela's going to have their national fishing tournament here this year, August 2nd. It will be a big time. 3B tax: results have really been big, money from \$25,000 to \$125,000. City passed resolution to take the \$25,000 for the city business. Caused lots of problems. Passed a motion to vote and it was 400+ to 100+ vote with a resounding NO. We are figuring on a really good summer up in the Mobridge area with spawning. Not much fishing going on but seining the Grand fish were quite a bit bigger than last year.

Deer wise, seeing more deer now and mule deer starting to come back.

Kevin: mostly fishing. Lake Francis Case: spring started a month early. There has been a tremendous amount of pressure. It started out below the White River. A million (?) saugers caught and most boats were now north of town. Changing conditions with spring. It's been an odd year.

Good population of geese and June bugs. Saw lots of night crawlers going south. One road was covered for miles on the highway. You could hardly see the road.

Cliff: said shore fishing not taking off.

Fred: local fishing holes are not fishable. Lake Louise has Norther Pike and occasionally some big perch. Jones Lake had some nice perch. Deer population is overwhelming right now. The quality of deer is unbelievable right now. If EHD goes through local people will be disappointed. Pheasant numbers are down. But it got better throughout the season. Have seen pheasant eggs in the nest. Local people said birds disappeared. Still pretty good but we are spoiled from past years. Kids fishing on the FREE weekend and will have 45-80 kids, depends on weather. This will be held at Lake Louise.

In our area they "plowed up" pasture and will be a plus for our wildlife. More interest of people signing up for CRP, it should be good.

Keith said, still grass biting the dust.

Bill: exciting around our little town of Akaska with deer capture going on. Everyone was very impressed. Good reviews from the locals with the informational meeting. Staff did a wonderful job. Pheasant population is up and dodged them coming down here. Walleye have been really healthy, nice size 17-23" range. But it's been tough to get out there. Kids ice fishing tournament and went

good. Nice awards and prizes. Deer populations are getting better, especially mule deer. We have an over population of white tail deer. While hunting counted 300 to 400 WT deer. A nice Northern Pike caught on Swan Bay, 2.5 lbs. Big senior fishing tournament event July 13 and had a 92 year old man last year just before the WAE classic, July 22-23.

Keith Krull: been busy. Things look good at home. Welcome rain. Have seen lots of pheasants already. Been by some leks. Deer look good. Coyotes healthy. Lodge extremely busy last fall and again this year. Will have dog trials for Drahthaar dogs in a few weeks. Got my first gator in Florida. Haven't eaten yet! Country is going to get pretty when warms up. The dams are full. We've had a lot of good rains. Wife has been on some hunting trips.

Jack: pretty consistent. I'm still driving the school bus for retirement. Seeing more pheasants where he hasn't seen in the past and seeing a lot of hens. Seeing birds where no preserves are. Believes the numbers are up. Grouse and chickens have booming grounds. Great educational for kids. Still out there in the rain now but mowing around bit. Recent rain has been a God sent. Rancher friends concerned about stock dams. Hwy 47 saw most dams filled up. And seeing waterfowl. Also a lot of ponds with Canadians nesting. As for turkeys, seeing lots of hunters around. Seeing lots on his bus right now. Morrel's are making good meals. Really took off with this rain. Good deer population. Friday got a phone call: couple ranchers talking about the trophy buck. Talked to people who want more tags for bucks.

CS: have these people talk to Bob Waterbury – member of the stakeholder group.

Jack: I will pass that own. Walleye have been slow this spring. Guys going out every day but things haven't taken off yet. Bull Creek, Whetstone, White River are really rolling. Rain is what the doctor ordered.

Keith: seeing lots of Canadians.

Jack: June bugs crazy.

Leonard: haven't seen any June bugs yet! Pheasant numbers looking really good. Hopefully rain won't disrupt the nesting. Deer are stable; big wintering group southwest of Harold. Had lots of deer wintering north of town. Fishing on Oahe has had some really nice Northern Pike caught. Spotty in other areas. Not much walleyes on lower base right now. Lake Sharpe walleye are now hot. That started late Feb/early March. Ft George, Stoney Point, Antelope Creek area with plugs and jigging. Bite moved up along the Bluffs by Downs Marina and LaFramboise. Since rain came, the fish are biting just above the ridges. Lots of boats: could walk "boat to boat." Fished from shore and got a 26" spawned out WAE. Tuesday night fish league: seven walleye were over 25". A lot of nice fish caught. **Good year class, 17" year four.** Caught my fish in one hour. The weather could really affect this. Kids fishing tournament coming up that the local High Plains Assn put on and GFP Fisheries participating. Pretty good event, 90 kids average.

Cliff: waterfowl comments. Will be proposed later in the year. Changes in Feds are doing earlier now. Doing away with the August Management take except area in Pennington County airport area. Early September season will still be around.

Herb: Pheasants Forever are planting native grass back in there. East of Mobridge they wiped out weed areas and planted to the right kind of stuff.

Leonard: City put in 1% for tourism.

Herb: yes but wording is confusing. Bed Booze already giving to a new pool. Pool will be named after Denny Palmer. A lot of money is involved and fishermen bringing in lots of money. 20-30 states of people participate to fish and freeze.

10:15AM Missouri River Fisheries Update/Issues Jason Sorensen & Bob Hanten

KS: are you looking going to one over 18"? Since I've been on this committee my job is to listen to people. Old friend told me long time ago about the concern. Cliff told him about the abundance.

One or over 18" 2006 meeting at GFP, proposed – guides, fishermen – opposed; have an even standard limit. Rossow and Ohm comments 2006 are the same today. John Lott mentioned it could be a social limit. Can you tell me, real science but correction conditions, small number of females; tremendous amount on LFC 18-22" spawning. JS said 15-16" females spawning. Tremendous amount of fish last fall the fishing techniques have changed. Last fall pulled tons of the females out of the channel and this year I do it too.

Pretty easy to change. Lake Mitchell example: takes one person to change. "The Charlie Thompson rule..."

A lot of culling going on and CO's can't enforce that. Put a drone over the boat. Has friend from Yankton that won't do it with his friends anymore.

JS: what are you hearing?

KS: they just feel it's not right. A lot of pressure. Guide from down south catches lots of fish. Just concerned. We live in neat area where we can fish year round. Last 4-5 winters, no winter harvest. This is Lake Francis Case. Generally didn't have spring falls.

JS: a couple things to keep in mind, winter and spring harvest when you are there it gives an illusion of numbers. Chamberlain is just two boat ramps. But then consider all the boat ramps. We've looked at this before; female harvest is in June of all the most. Fishing use, more people more fish caught.

Jack: I know common people talked to specifically wonder what it would be like to drop to 18"? Is the science there, no.

JS: it's not going to protect the other fish. It saves some but not a lot of fish. I don't foresee us going back to 18".

John Lott: I struggle with this. If there isn't a biological need I don't see it.

JS: explained more on catching and anglers. Like Kevin and Cliff said: you don't need a lot of females to spawn. Warming trends, etc. , spring snow storm throws things off.

CS: Lake Francis Case: compare to other fisheries, the upper Midwest are pretty unique, I don't think we've seen any years we've never seen no spawning. Reservoirs create "walleye factories."

BH: walleye collected in eastern part of the state. Don't even put back in the Missouri River.

KS: Good I guess. **Said John's comment again.**

JL: consideration of regulations to keep simple on a particular body of harm. Likes standards.

KS: there is 120 miles of lake.

Jack: ice fishing regulations. First four fish, you are done. Lyman County example. Biggest feedback is our panfish limit down in his areas. SD/NE line – you know where anyone is. Jack fishes Berry Lake, completely different regulations below as Tribal. Our landowners trust us to manage their stock dams. Fish the way you want to fish. Ice fishing has exploded in my area.

JS: not familiar in Jack's area, in terms of Missouri River that has nothing to do with fishing Jack's area.

JB: west side of Platte Winner bridge, lots of people fishing. Looks like a city going north.

Herb: referenced article in Dakota Outdoors, a lot of guys fish and release are killing more fish than anyone.

JS: increase in pressure.

Herb: artificial bait better than live bait.

Fred: Joe Creek fishing, do fish survive when pulled up and let go?

JS: probably mortality, Nature of the beast.

FH: concern of friends stating this.

JL: what type of compliance are we getting where you have to keep the first four? Misc comments on pros and cons. Realistically we can only do what we can. It depends on the anger.

Bill: have some schooling.

JS: we have some of those regulations. Issue for Law Enforcement staff to keep them in compliance.

Gates: agree with ___?___ concern on LE, are we restricting when we don't have to?

11:35 Lunch

1230 AM SD BUI Overview

Gates

HM: do you have problems with not being the driver?

Gates: occasionally. In order to be prosecuted you must be the one operating "underway." Have had people do the "switcheroos."

Jack: story: with two buddies at Whetstone, Joe Head Mule Ranch. Saw the "end" of a boat. Went to check it out, he's got boat troubles – opposites of the river. Boater had a brain bleed, went downstream by himself and hit area edge in the water (like a finger out). Incident with ambulance and boater at ramp.

1:00P Mule Deer Radio Tracking Project/Update Baker

HM: why was there less survival on fawns than does?

NB: high mortality rate on fawns. Why – could have died from something, coyotes...
Coyotes cause of mortality?
BW: talked about netting by Akaska. Saw lots of twins.
NB: there were quite a few.
CS: explained license numbers available.
JB: timeline for tag numbers for example: EHD
CS: provisions used right now for tag allocation; commission meeting next week.
FH: EHD questions
NB: explaining
JB: we had wet fall, inhibits the diseases.
FH: midge moves in
NB: different periods (wet, dry,) landscape or waters
FH: deer congregate
NB: explained weather during these periods; have gotten better documenting EHD
LS: procedure of tagging these animals, what does it cost per animal? Funding from?
NB: PR funding Pittman Robertson; grad student working on survival. Per deer - \$300-350 per deer they capture. \$150 for the collared monitor. Collars with GPS cost more. Hopefully will become more feasible.
KK: do you return them to where caught?
NB: try to keep them with-in 3 miles of where they were caught.
BW: someone in his area seen a collared deer.
NB: showed video of deer captures
KS: helicopters from
NB:

1:30P Management Plan Updates

Spomer/Broome/Stone

Leonard: Turkey – missed first email due to email issue so didn't make first meeting.
A lot of stuff established in the first meeting. Very interesting. Can't even begin to tell you.
Suggested to go to GFP website: home, hunting, big game, turkey. 165 pages
- rifle is out of the question for spring – not management as safety
- eliminating the taking of hens in the fall to boost population
- populations are off but on the rebound
- encourage everyone to read through
- elk was a good plan
- also many different groups just like the goose meeting
- the GFP staff has to be complimented also for all the work that has been put into this project.

Jack: Goose

-Same as Leonard – to go GFP website.
Very diverse group. RAP members, USFPS, Delta Waterfowl, GFP staff, Spencer Vaa, Chris Hesla.
Little more contentious than the turkey. Very concerned about the eastern part of the state. Especially with the Canadian goose.
L/O concerned about crop damage and hunters concerned with hunting.
Farm Bureau and Stockgrowers want numbers lower.
Range of population of 150,000 geese.
Transects goofy- doesn't know why they do this. Set by USFWS
Very interesting and listening to professionals. Was a learning experience.
Applaud the state for doing this.
CS: it is important for public comment. Our Commissioners read a lot of paperwork before they decide on these. Talked about elk and one comment ref caliber of airguns. Be equipped to value the data.

JB: Commissioner Dennert been thru pheasant, deer and now geese.

CS: commend our staff to let landowners take part.

JB: we sit out here in rural SD. We kind of lead the nation in the leadership roles they have taken.

2:00P Wrap Up

Stone

- Announced retirement to group.
- Thanked everyone over the years.
- Jack hopes it continues

2:30P Adjourn