

December 12, 2020

President's Report – Greetings everyone! Just a few items for this report –

1. Another fisher and river otter season has come and gone. If you happened to get time out and set some equipment, I hope you were successful. Fisher season has been a week since its inception, and this will be the second time in river otter season history where the season only lasted 7 days. More to follow in future reports.

2. The Game and Fish advisory board meetings were held in late November and early December. I hope you had the opportunity to attend via internet, but if not, they will be held this spring too. It's important to be a part of this system of public meetings - these are our natural resources; we need to be informed; and need to be a part of the decision-making process. Watch these future reports about the spring schedule.

3. The Winter Meet is scheduled for Saturday, February 27, 2021 at the extension building across the highway from the Game and Fish Headquarters in Bismarck. Let me know what you would like to see for demonstrations or presentations. It is your event - what would you like to see or do? The caveat to the upcoming meeting will depend on the lock-down and just where we are with that. Watch the upcoming Dakota Skinner for details.

4. Planning ahead – Instructors should be thinking and talking about fur harvester education classes for this coming year. Dates, locations, soliciting help, and passing the information up the chain should occur in the next couple of months. I'll be looking for the information from the district coordinators in March – that will get the class information out to the public so everyone can plan accordingly. Hunter education classes are the best resource for potential students. Keep an eye out in your local area and make arrangements for a short presentation at a hunter education class. If you need help doing that, contact your district director. We have the resources to support those types of presentations. Fur harvester education classes are for everyone – experienced or not too experienced. We are looking for a few good folks to volunteer their time as instructors. If you are interested (and I hope you are), please let me know.

5. If you hear of anything negative related to trapping or fur hunting, please let me know. When you are trapping and fur hunting, do a good job out there. Be professional, responsible and a risk manager – there is no need to give folks from the anti-trapping and trap restrictions crowd any reason to limit our activities. The legislative session is upon us, and equally so, if you hear of anything in that arena, let me know as soon as possible.

6. Nominations will close at the end of the month for the following positions: Vice President; Secretary; District 1 (northwest) and District 3 (southeast) Directors. If you are going to nominate someone, please check with them first to make sure they are interested. Forward the nominations to me prior to January 1, 2021. Chris Tischafer volunteered and was appointed to the position of Secretary because no one stepped forward during the last election cycle. None of the positions are difficult. Please consider serving if you are interested.

7. As always, remember to keep your membership current so you stay informed. As we go about our business calling or trapping, consider sharing your travels and experiences

with someone who has yet to know these activities. Until next time, take care, be safe and responsible, and enjoy what Mother Nature and North Dakota have to offer. Chris and I extend to you and your families a Merry Christmas and our wishes for a safe and Happy New Year!

Catch 'ya, Rick