

NY BASS Chapter Federation Executive Board
January 19, 2008

The Executive Board Meeting was called to order by President Pam Bliss at 10 AM.

Attendance: Officers present President/Treasurer Pam Bliss and Secretary Susan Good. Incoming Officers, President- Mike Cusano, Vice President- Paul Tomeo, Treasurer- Tim Morrison, Secretary- Ed Flick. Also present were Tournament Director- Jeff Edgerton, Youth Director- Mickey Fortunato, Sponsored Products Coordinator- Dominic Maio, Fishlines Executive. Editor, Public Relations, Marketing- Tom Presnell, Conservation Director- Burnie Haney, and Fishlines Managing Editor- John Siejak

Club Roll Call: Adirondack Bass Club, After Breakfast Bass Anglers, Crown City B/M, Constantia Cove, Good Ole Boys B/M, Morris Co. B/M, NNYBII, Orange County B/M, Rip Van Winkle B/M, Rochester B/M, Salt City B/M, Southern Tier B/M, State Wide B/M, 1st B/M of Sullivan Co., Team Bassmasters, Watershed B/M and Westchester Rod and Reel.

A total of 51 people were present representing 17 clubs.

Old business:

1. Pam made mention of the preparation for the banquet by Sue Good and reminded people that they would need checks or cash to pay for the auction items at the banquet. She also mentioned the Participation Awards would be handed out at the banquet and that people needed to be present to win.
2. The old minutes were read and amended to reflect the fact that Mike Cusano- Conservation Director had attended the 12/2/07 Executive Board Meeting. Also, old business item #2 of 12/2/07 was amended to reflect the fact that the proposals sent to the clubs as a result of the December meeting were not meant to be voted on, but were for the club representatives to discuss with their club members. Mike moved to approve the amended minutes and it was seconded by John Siejak and carried.
3. Pam handed out and reviewed the Financial Statements. It was noted that she had added a section to list the physical assets of the club that should be accounted for periodically and especially when there was a turnover of Officers. Pam will formally transfer the books to Tim Morrison once she is able to get the taxes completed for 2007. There were questions about Free Dues which are authorized for the following people; Divisional Team (14 ea.) Life Members (5 ea.) and the Permanent Tournament Crew. John Badman was identified as a Life Member of the Federation.
4. The 2008 Officer nominations were discussed and it was noted that each position only had one nominee. Since no other nominations were received during the 10 day waiting period the slate was closed. The slate consisted of President- Mike Cusano, Vice President- Paul Tomeo, Treasurer- Tim Morrison, and Secretary- Ed Flick. Pam cast a single vote and formalized the election of the new officers. Pam introduced Mike Cusano and turned the meeting over to him. At this point Mike Cusano introduced the new Executive Board members and then recognized Pam for her stellar service to the Federation. This recognition was met by a standing ovation by all present.

5. Mike Cusano went on to introduce his appointed Committee Members. Conservation Director- Burnie Haney, Tournament Director- Jeff Edgerton, Youth Director- Mickey Fortunato, Web Master- Don Florczyk, Fishlines Executive Editor, PR and Marketing Director- Tom Presnell, Fishlines Managing Editor- John Siejak, Sponsored Product Coordinator- Dominic Maio, New Club Coordinator- Ed Flick, Scholarship – Kathy Bonanno

6. Mike reviewed the status of the boat sponsors for 2008. We had hoped to get a renewal on the Skeeter Package that the Federation has had for the past few years. Unfortunately, Skeeter has signed with BASS and will not be continuing its sponsor relationship with the individual Federations going forward. As such we are already looking at other sponsor opportunities for a Federation Boat Deal.

7. Other sponsor deals were reviewed, Evan Williams- the opportunity to get product in 2007 was missed, need to finalize for 2008, Purolator- the youth organization is going to pursue this opportunity of collecting UPC labels and receipts to earn rebate dollars. Ramada- this is a National Sponsor Ship and is available to any Federation Member simply by calling Ramada at 1-800-272-6232. You need to use the 1-800 number as it is likely that the local hotels may not be aware of the program discounts.

8. The Divisional Dates for 2008 were discussed. The tournament is Sept 14-19, 2008 on Lake Winnepesaukee and the host state is the NH Federation. Paul Tomeo will be coordinating the Divisional Team.

9. **Youth Director Report-** The Youth Program was discussed by Mickey Fortunato and he mentioned that the Classic Participation for the Youth Organizations had been changed yet again. The current plan for the 2007 Youth qualifiers is to have them come to Central NY while the Elite Series Pros are here for the Oneida Lake Tournament. There is speculation that the kids might fish on Oneida Lake.

The 2008 NY Jr. World Qualifier is planned for July 5/6 on Oneida Lake. The Qualifier winners will go on to the Divisional on Lake Winnepesaukee in September 2008.

Due to the early date (July) for the 2009 Youth World Championship and the fact that it is held in Ontario, Canada it was decided to hold the Qualification Tournament in 2008. The need for getting passports and the NY Bass Season opening in late June also played in this decision. Mickey reported that after considerable discussion in the Executive Committee Meeting on Friday evening it was decided that the 2009 World Qualifier would be held in conjunction with the Club Team Championship on July 20.

10. **Conservation Director Report-** Burnie Haney talked about a planned meeting with DEC in Region 7 on 1/27/08 to hear public opinion regarding the public access at the launch site on Cazenovia Lake. In addition to access issues there is a proposed \$30 fee.

He discussed the DEC Invasive Species council and encouraged people to get involved with these groups. Continuing with the “Get Involved Theme” he encouraged each club to contact the DEC Office in their Region and work together with them to get the Federation Voice heard.

He briefly mentioned trying to get a waiver to the 15” size limit on Black Lake during tournaments. He will be outlining future Conservation issues in the Fishlines Magazine. Mike discussed the Catch and Release initiative as an example of how grass roots involvement can make a difference in shaping the future of our sport.

12. Fishline Editor Report- Tom Presnell encouraged people to submit articles and ideas for articles that they would like to see. He also asked that people provide the names for potential advertisers for the Fishlines. If we give him leads he will be happy to follow up. All Fishlines advertising sales need to be coordinated thru him to ensure that we do not sell something that has already been committed.

13. Public Relations Director Report- Tom Presnell said that he needs local media contacts (newspaper and radio) for the areas where the clubs are located. These contacts will assist him with his attempt to raise the profile of the Federation and showcase local talent. Tom asked that the clubs invite a local sports writer to be a no-boater in at least one of their tournaments this year. He also asked that each club provide him with information regarding their local youth tournaments and casting kid's contests. Tom can be reached at PR@NYBASSFED.com.

14. Tournament Directors Report- Jeff Edgerton recognized the members of the TAB and said that they would have to find someone to fill his vacant spot. He said that the goals were to increase angler participation and sponsorship opportunities going forward. He hopes to do this by providing Value, Reward and Flexibility with the Tournament Format for 2008 and beyond.

15. Web Master Report- due to a previous commitment Webmaster, Don Florczyk, was not able to attend. Mike briefly summarized the planned changes to the website and emphasized the need for open, honest and professional communications.

16. Mike mentioned the banquet scheduled for later that evening and told the members that the guest speaker was Chris Horton, the Conservation Director for BASS.

17. New Business- Mike suggested having the Federation send a person to the Classic in Greenville, SC specifically for the purpose of trying to solicit sponsors and sell advertising. Without a boat deal in place we have a lot of lost ground to make up quickly. After some discussion a motion was made by Connell to appropriate funds to send an additional person to the classic and they would be reimbursed at the Federation rate. This was seconded by Bob Mabee. The vote was unanimous

18. 2008 Tournament Discussion- With the formal meeting business being concluded, and the Tournament Director leading the discussion, the Board took up the matter of discussing the numerous proposals that had been outlined in the December Meeting. During this nearly 2 hour time frame Club Directors and individuals brought up numerous view points regarding each of the proposals. People were recognized and spoke passionately about their club and personal views. The general consensus was that the Divisional Team is the Federations greatest asset and every effort should be made to advance that endeavor. Everyone agreed that future efforts should be aimed at increasing Federation Membership and increasing tournament participation. From this discussion and other discussion the tournament director will be providing a proposal to the Executive Committee for their review and approval.

Motion to adjourn by Mike Cusano and seconded by Ron Williamson. Carried
Adjourned at 4:16 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Ed Flick
Secretary

