

NEW YORK BASS CHAPTER FEDERATION  
EXECUTIVE BOARD

January 28, 2007

Gander Mountain, Cicero, NY

**The Executive Board was called to order at 11a.m. by President Pam Bliss.** Officers present were President Pam Bliss, Vice President Ted Barth, and Secretary Susan Good. Also present were Products Coordinator Dom Maio, Tournament Director Stephanie Miura, and Conservation Director Mike Cusano.

**Club Roll Call:** After Breakfast Bass Anglers, Albany Area B/M, Barge Canal B/M, Crown City B/M, Good Ole Boys B/M, Hudson Valley B/M, NNYBII, Oak Orchard River Bass Anglers, Orange County B/M, Salt City B/M, Southern Tier B/M, 1<sup>st</sup> B/M of Sullivan County, Team Bassmasters, Washington County B/M, Watershed B/M, and Westchester Rod & Reel.

Mike Cusano moved to accept the minutes as posted. Seconded. Carried.

Clarifying membership registration:

- Each new member must fill out a data sheet.
- For members previously in National send only need National roster from the web page- no data sheets.
- Only send a data sheet for a previous member if there is a major change in information.
- Each club administrator should send a request to BASS to be able to access information from the web page
- **Members and clubs are responsible for making sure all info is updated.**

President Bliss opened nominations for officers. The following have accepted:

President- Mike Cusano

Vice President- Ted Barth

Treasurer- Pat Ryan

Secretary

Nominations are open until September 2007.

**Committee Updates:**

- 1) Opening for Marketing Director: **much needed.**
  - May need professional firm
  - Consider college intern
  - **Please check your club for volunteers**
  - Proposal for March meeting: Checking options and cost for a professional firm
- 2) Opening for Promotions ( saleable product)
- 3) Opening for Publicity ( tournament write-ups for publications)
- 4) Job descriptions for the above positions may be placed on the web.
- 5) Kerry Rice will cover publicity along with Fishlines info. John Siejak expressed interest in Fishlines editor.
- 6) Youth- John Viele
  - March 17, NE Expo in Albany, Casting Kids will be held at Empire State Plaza, 10a.m.-1p.m. Contact Mickey Fortunato 3 weeks ahead as free passes are available
  - September 15, Casting Kids State Championship, Auburn Bass Pro. Cut-off is August 30 for sending in paperwork. John sill send reminder letters to SR. clubs
  - **Contact Mickey if your club's Casting Kids Competition is cancelled.**
  - **Send all paperwork to Joy George at BASS and send copies to Mickey.**
  - **Need boats for tournaments: July 8/ Oneida, July 22/Oneida**
  - BASS is funding travel expenses (\$590 each) for Jr. World Champ- Brandon Hill from Southern Tier and Kenny Knapp from Orange County)
- 7) Sponsored Product- Dom Maio
  - Can take requests for Lowrance units. **A NY Fed.member is allowed 2 mounted units, 1 handheld, and 1 car unit. 2006 Divisional competitors get State Team discount through March 2007.**

- Minn-Kota is all set for product 2007 prices- upgraded motors, lowered prices. Must now pay NY State tax.

8) Fishlines- Kerry Rice

- Not enough input. Waiting for articles.
- Ted will send Skeeter layout.

9) Conservation- Mike Cusano

- **VHS containment must be preached!** Anglers must be aware of connected waters. DEC states anglers cannot catch fish in one body and release in another. DEC realizes difficulty with definition of “body of water”, but it will take time to remedy. By Federal Law, there is no interstate transport of fish.
- **Check NY website for info from Mike re: 45 day public comment period and step-by-step process for disinfecting livewells.**
- Requested support for reservoir anglers to have increased use of boats in open water period- increase 2 weeks on either end of the time period. All present agreed to have Mike voice our support to the DEC.
- Release Boat Protocol on Oneida: This year, Oneida Shores plans to require tournaments of 125 boats or more to have release boats. By next year, plans will require release boats for tournaments of 75 boats or more.
- Clubs should apply for permits to allow extra fish in livewells for release boats.
- Needs: 28 ft. pontoon boat and welders
- Working for funding from politicians and DEC for release boat stations at each major launch.
- **Remember: we are a large group. Focus and direction by our group can bring change.**

10) Tournament- Stephanie Miura

- TAB had a conference call. Suggested lakes for 2008 will be posted.
- CTC format will continue
- Discuss change in payout to 1 for every 8.
- Will be flagging boater/boater. Boat guarantee is out.
- Plan for on-line survey to collect reasons for participation and non-participation.
- Off-limits ends at noon on the Friday before a tournament.
- Use on-line registration.
- **Non-BASS members cannot join at tournament site- would not be covered by insurance.**
- **Membership forms need the club #.**
- Pam addresses payout issue. Currently paying 1 place for every 6 anglers in a tournament = more places paid, but less money per place. If we change to 1 place for every 8 anglers, then fewer places would be paid but more money would be in each place. **Discuss with your club: Are we paying top places enough? Are we paying enough in all places? What ideas do you have for increasing payout?**

1. Responses from the floor:

- Increase payout by no longer funding the State Team.
- Use “payout sponsors”.
- Stop tournament trail and just run State Qualifier
- Regionalize
- Reinstate fundraising for State Team: raffles, auction
- Increase participation in the trail
- Find or hire Marketing Director
- Publicize what NY Fed does/has done for all anglers
- Need active Membership Director
- Solicit membership from BASS member in NY

11) Treasury- Pam Bliss

- No change since December report other than banquet expenses and income from Plattsburgh.
- 1099's were sent.
- \$60,000 cash available

- Discussion of 2008 budget allocations. Current member dues : \$6 to Conservation, \$7 to Fishlines, \$7 to General Fund. Proposal: \$4 to Conservation, \$8 to Fishlines, \$6 to General Fund, \$2 to Youth
- **Motion by John Viele: To allow up to \$500 to have an intern begin marketing. Seconded. Carried**
  1. Pat Ryan has access to a pool of possible interns.
  2. Responsibilities to include ads for Fishlines and a focus on advertising information about what NYSBCF does for anglers, conservation, and youth.
- Skeeter boat is ordered(2007 SX180, red 18 ft.w/115 hp.Yamaha, tournament ready) based on 2006 contract. To be offered to NY members in a bid program. **Motion by Ron Williamson to set \$12000 as minimum acceptable bid. Seconded. Carried. Only NY FED members as of 2006 may bid by e-mail to Ted Barth. Info with picture will be posted as soon as NY FED has possession of the boat.**
- **Motion by Mike Cusano to close bids to NY FED members as of April 28, 2007. Seconded. Carried.**

#### Old Business

1. BCWC- 6 NY clubs have confirmed. BASS wants full field so likely 8 teams will be able to go to Great Sagendaga Lake, July 17-21, \$1500 entry fee. Registration is through Fed. President. **Due to Pam Bliss by June 1. Add an alternate to your roster so your team doesn't go short.**
2. NE Region has only 6 of 36 teams so far. BASS wants a full field. May be able to send NY club teams if our regions is full first.
3. CTC Team Funding- Pam roll called the clubs for their responses to this discussion.

**Motion by Em Seefeldt that NY FED.not fund teams for BCWC through CTC. Seconded.**

**Carried by weighted vote.**

**Motion by Mike Cusano to leave CTC entry fee as is (\$210). Seconded. Amended: and keep 5 paid places. Seconded. Voted down by weighted vote.**

**Motion by Ron Williamson to raise CTC entry fee to \$300 and pay 6 places. Seconded. Carried.** Stephanie notes total cost per team will be about \$400 with Lunker, meals, and Calcutta.

**Motion by Mike Kreloff to eliminate payout to top 3 individual places. Seconded. Carried by weighted vote. Note: plaques to individual top 3 will continue.**

#### Please discuss with your club:

1. **Should 2 slots for the State Team come from the CTC?**
2. **Should a percentage of income from CTC fund the State Team?**
3. **Should clubs be able to send more than one team?**
4. Fish care- Scott Bliss presented options:
  - Use BASS tank system. Approx. cost \$500 and more work for tournament crew to set up.
  - Use Aerated weight bags. Approx. cost \$450 plus cost of AA batteries. (Member commented that his bag didn't last the year. Motor died before the batteries.)
  - Use of holed bags to weigh bag and fish. Need cost check.

#### **Pre-scale fish care is important!! Check live well and fizz on board!**

At weigh-in, a two-tank system will be used with only NY FED weigh bags to control number of anglers at the tanks. NY FED will purchase new bags. Mike Cusano and Scott Bliss will work out a stackable system with a sink valve to refill bags.

- Fizzing fish- Scott gave out directions from BASS TIMES and showed supplies needed to make a fish fizzer for your boat. Supplies are available at Tractor Supply. Scott will send link to Ted Barth for posting.

#### New Business

1. NY FED won Excellence in Marketing Award from Lowrance with a check for \$1500.
2. "Pure Fishing" is returning as BASS sponsor. No FED program for 2007. Can get discounts on product for Youth FED.
3. 2007 National Tournament will be late October or early November. September 2007 Top Angler will fish National event.
4. BASS changed Divisional Team payout. 1<sup>st</sup> place is a boat. Pam proposes FED takes possession of boat to auction and then divide proceeds with the team. **Please discuss this idea for the March meeting.**

5. Wilson Frazer did Lowrance Electronics Class at National. Pam attended and was very impressed. This would benefit our anglers. Cost is approx. \$5000. Should we seek a co-sponsor (Bass Pro, Gander) to help offer this education?
6. ABA Nation President talked to FED. Presidents about Weekend Series. Many Fed. Presidents expressed not being happy with how BASS handed this trail to an outside organization. ABA has offered to help (use of release boats and personnel) and to work around NY FED dates. **Discuss with your club any possible benefits to partnering with ABA.**

Motion by Mike Cusano to adjourn. Seconded. Carried  
Pam closed with raffling of give-aways from National.  
Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Good  
Secretary