

Minutes of the NY BASS Chapter Federation Executive Committee Meeting

Date: Fri, Jan 28, 2011

Location: Bass Pro Shop, Auburn, NY

Meeting called to order at 6:05 p.m.

Present: Mike Cusano, President
Chris Flint, Vice-President
Lori Haney, Secretary
Kathy Bonanno, Treasurer
Pam Bliss, Past President
Burnie Haney, Conservation / Public Relations
Jeff Edgerton, Tournaments
Scott Bliss, member

Mike Cusano thanked the Executive Committee for assisting with the agenda for the Dec meeting while he was taking care of a family medical emergency.

- 1) First order of business was a proposal that current volunteer Committee Director positions remain filled as is for the 2011 season. There was no discussion, all agreed.
- 2) Need to appoint an Election Committee at the Executive Board meeting to establish the 2012 slate. Nominations must be presented at the Dec 2011 meeting.
- 3) President and Tournament Director positions are open to shadow by potential candidates. Any other volunteers who are thinking 2011 is their last year should extend the same invitation to anyone interested.
- 4) Treasurer: Kathy provided a full printout of annual budget for review. No discrepancies/issues noted. As discussed at last meeting, Kathy contacted various financial institutions to determine if we could get a better interest rate on savings. All were under 3% and not worth tying up assets for, will not be pursued further.
- 5) Membership Committee: Jeff Edgerton provided a list of the 20 Chapters (Clubs) who have paid their annual dues. Current membership is 230 individuals.
- 6) Youth Committee: No report
- 7) Scholarship: Katie Knapp is recipient of \$500. Scholarship.
- 8) Tournament Committee: Schedule is the same as previously reported, with the addition of the site for the Club Team Championship. Contract is pending for the Hudson River, Dutchman's Landing. Full details on the schedule and locations will be provided to Executive Board at tomorrow's meeting. Mike outlined the monetary sponsorships for the scheduled tournaments plus the Alliance program. Discussion on whether there was a need to make changes to 100% payout, participation prize, guaranteed first prize, lunker awards, etc. Consensus was to continue all programs as is, to determine feasibility annually based on NYBCF financial position. It was noted that NY Federation is scheduled to host the 2014 Eastern Divisional Tournament, which will entail some financial requirements.

Agenda was suspended due to the arrival of Salt City Bassmasters representative, Pat Grady, to introduce a proposal which he would like the opportunity to present at the Executive Board meeting. Onondaga and Oswego Counties have received a grant to support hand pulling of water chestnuts in the Three Rivers Area in 2011 and 2012. Based on successful pulls in previous years, the SCBM have been approached by the counties to fulfill the deliverables of the grant (pulling of water chestnuts in designated locations) and receive reimbursement up to the full value of the grant. SCBM proposes that the NY Federation purchase a pontoon boat that can be used to conduct the pulls in a more effective manner (carry heavier load, doesn't impact volunteers personal boats) and also provide a catch and release boat for tournaments. The boat could also be used for other conservation projects, as a platform for youth events, and be contracted out in support of other tournament trails as we may see fit. Discussion as to procurement options, cost of operation/maintenance, fee for use options, etc. Consensus was the Executive Board should hear the proposal and determine how to proceed. Mr. Grady departed.

9) VP Report on 2011 Divisional Team: Eastern Divisional is 14-16 Sep on Lake Champlain out of Colchester, VT. Chris is gathering all contact info for team members and coordinating clothing, accommodations, license requirements, etc. All is on track to date.

10) Awards: Burnie requested a \$400 check be prepared for presentation to winners of the Conservation Award (Good Ole Boys) at the banquet along with the plaque.

11) Conservation: Burnie reported that B.A.S.S. has announced a new Conservation Director, Noreen Clough, so waiting to see what changes may occur. Also, NY DEC proposed a change to the Temporary Revocable Permit (TRP) process by sending out a notification which was received on Jan 7th, with responses due by the 14th. The proposal would allow raising administrative and processing fees in an undefined and arbitrary manner up to \$1,000, based on the DEC Region and requesting organization. He submitted a response on behalf of the Federation against the proposal and will report on this at the Executive Board meeting.

12) Fishlines: Mike asked for comments on putting one edition of Fishlines solely on the webpage. All agreed that regardless of the number who would not have a problem with it...a large portion of the membership would still want their hard copy. Consensus was that we would discuss adding an electronic version of each edition of Fishlines to the webpage, in addition to the hardcopy. Need to confirm technology with webmaster and exec editor. This can provide an opportunity to reach a broader audience and potential to attract sponsors/advertisers with little or no cost. Also we can see how the membership likes/uses it. Question was posed: Can we track hits? We believe so, will ask Webmaster.

In response to question from last meeting – Fishlines is mailed out to Chambers of Commerce throughout the state that we have dealt with in the past or that we have targeted as potential event sites.

13) Web: Mike responded to question from last meeting about clubs having more than one rep on the club board. Answer is only one per club, but they can identify who it is, doesn't have to be the president.

14) Sponsor Programs: The Alliance Program contract was signed for 2011. Also signed up with Humminbird and MinnKota. Still waiting on B.A.S.S. to release other programs.

Bass Pro Shops is unable to commit sponsorship without having funds fully available. They will be host sponsor of the Cayuga Lake event and will be providing discounted product for the banquet silent auctions. We are actively pursuing other options. .

15) Banquet: Banquet social hour starts at 5:00 p.m., dinner at 6:00 p.m. Total of 91 have signed up, Jerry McKinnis will speak and assist with the awards presentations.

16) Next meeting will be in Feb 25-26.

17) Meeting was then closed to all individuals not receiving a stipend, to review the stipend policy.

The following items were presented, discussed, and agreed to by all.

a. Under "Stipend Amount" - current policy needs to be updated to reflect a previous EC decision changing the Officer's stipend for attendance at a tournament from "boater entry fee including luncheon" to "\$200."

b. Under "Stipend Amount" – add appointed standing "Committee Directors" - (conservation, youth, and webmaster) to receive an annual stipend equal to three boater tournament entry fees, including luncheon.

b. Under "Expense Reimbursement Mileage" Comments - change to read "Individuals required to be at Federation meetings (at specific request of executive committee) will be reimbursed for mileage at federation rate (.35/mi) unless first being reimbursed by their Club."

c. Under "Benefit" "Free Dinners" – add Recipient Class "Officers and Committee Directors"

d. Add to "Benefit" category – "Officers", "Annual Dues", "Pay NYBCF dues for officers."

e. Secretary will make updates as above and provide copies to Executive Committee.

No further business, meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.