

NY BASS Chapter Federation Executive Board Meeting
January 30, 2010
BASS PRO SHOPS in Auburn, NY

The Executive Board Meeting was called to order by President Mike Cusano at 9:58 AM.

Attendance: Officers present; President- Mike Cusano, Treasurer- Tim Morrison/Kathy Bonanno-Fortunado, Secretary- Ed Flick, Past President- Pam Bliss. Also present were Tournament Director- Jeff Edgerston, Fish Lines Editor/ Marketing- Tom Presnell, Conservation Director/Public Relations- Bernie Haney.

Club Roll Call: Adirondack Bass, After Breakfast Bass Anglers, Atlantic Bassmasters, Black Rock Bass Busters, Camden Bassmasters, Capital District Bassmasters, Constantia Cove B/M, Iron Hill Bassmasters, Northern NY Bassmasters II, Oak Orchard River Bass Anglers, Rochester B/M, Salt City B/M, Southern Tier B/M, State Wide B/M, Watershed BM of Westchester and Westchester Rod and Reel.

A total of 31 people were present representing 17 clubs.

Old business:

1. The old minutes from December 2009 were discussed and approved. Emm Seifelt motioned and seconded by Jim Moore.

Mike had asked the Club Reps to solicit their membership for how they would like the tournament participation prize payout drawing for anglers that fish all 3 points events in 2010 and don't qualify for divisional team awarded after the 2010 Season. The results of that polling are:

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| a. \$1,000 and \$500 (first drawn b/nb; second drawn b/nb) | 0 Votes |
| b. Six \$500 payouts (3 boater; 3 non-boater) | 11 Votes |
| c. Ten \$300 payouts (5 boater; 5 non-boater) | 3 Votes |

New Business:

1. **PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:** Executive Committee – still missing a VP –.

Need to get membership thinking about the next leadership team – Mike stated he will not be running again as president. It takes time to learn the ropes and there are only 2 years remaining on the current leadership's term.

Many thanks to Tim for his tenure as Treasurer – welcome to Kathy Bonanno-Fortunato.

Mike encouraged everyone to attend meetings in their local area and get involved in any issues that affect our sport. Invite the DEC to your meetings. Join your county Sportsman's Federation and provide input at that organization.

B.A.S.S. Federation Nation – \$10 dues increased for 2010 – now \$30.

In recognition of her past and ongoing efforts in support of the Federation Mike awarded Pam Bliss with a Lifetime Membership to the NYS BASS Chapter Federation.

2. TREASURERS REPORT- Tim reviewed the financial report for the past year and his projections for the upcoming year. In review he felt that he had accomplished the goals that he had set out to do. In the past year the projected loss of \$2500 for the year was significantly less than originally thought. During his tenure the membership numbers have increased and the payouts for the tournaments have increased significantly. Both of these factors have a direct effect on the bottom line for the Federation.

Tim did propose an increase in the stipends that are paid to the Volunteers and the Officers. Given that these people volunteer their time he felt that they should not be in a position where they have to pay their expenses out of pocket too. He proposed a volunteer stipend equivalent to \$125 times the number of points tournaments held during that year. For the Officers he proposed a stipend equivalent to \$200 times the total # of tournaments held in the year. It was noted that this would not require a by-law change, but it was something that the Executive Committee could put in place, but it should be transparent to the membership.

Tim and Kathy are working to transition the responsibilities over to her.

3. MEMBERSHIP – Jeff reported that BASS corrected the Roster System and it seemed to be working pretty well this year. We have seen an increase in membership of 8-10 people already.

4. YOUTH – Mickey Fortunato – Youth –For 2010 the Jr. Tournaments will start at 7:30 so as not to interfere with other Tournament Trails utilizing the same launches.

Dates:

| | | |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------|
| July 31, 2010 | JWC | Onondaga Lake |
| August 1, 2010 | Jr Partners | Oneida Lake |
| August 28, 2010 | 6-Man Teams | Ononadaga Lake |

New this year the participants at the JWC will have to bring their own boaters. This will not be a draw tournament.

Scholarship – Only \$105 was put in the Scholarship Fund in 2009. The program cannot continue without support of the clubs.

5. TOURNAMENTS (Jeff and Mike)

2010 EVENTS are as follows - 6/20 Champlain out of Ticonderoga
7/18 1000 Is. (Clayton) out of French Creek
Marina (Canadian License Required)
9/12 Oneida Lake out of the County Park in
Brewerton.

8-22/23- CTC on Owasco Lake

2010 – NYBCF Tournament Trail Promotion Program (BONUS)

EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2010 -

- 1 – Participation Prize drawing for anglers that fish all 3 points events
- 2 – Offering 100% payback of all entry fees collected for 2010
- 3 – Super Bonus Payout at all points events for 2010 only
 - a. \$2,500 First Place Boater
 - b. \$1,500 First Place Non-Boater

SPONSORSHIP STATUS – LUNKER and AOY – We were able to secure a commitment from Bass Pro Shops to provide these awards again for the 2010 season. Instead of cash payouts they will be providing merchandise (Reels and high quality 100 MPH Rain Suits)

2011 – SCHEDULING- To help with future Tournament Sponsorship Solicitation we need additional information to be collected at registration

– Hotel/motel, number of days.

- Product sheets – boat, motor, trolling motor, electronics

We are working with someone to be the VOICE OF THE FEDERATION for our tournaments this is in the final stages. Confirmation due by the February Meeting.

STATE TEAM – Need to get contracts mailed out to team, signed and collected
ALTERNATE – is typically boat captain for YOUTH
Mike will book rooms this week
Working to put together “team” clothing shopping cart

SPONSOR PROGRAMS -

Alliance Program – ****ANGLERS MUST REGISTER THEIR BOATS, MOTORS, ETC to be eligible....

- Push this with membership!!

PRODUCT PURCHASE PROGRAM –

Mike stressed that these programs are **CONFIDENTIAL** and for the exclusive use of current NYS BASS Chapter Federation Members Only.

Mike is finalizing details and will release them at the February meeting – **one rule is 2010 NYBCF dues must be paid to be eligible**, program will start March 15th, this will give clubs/Jeff some time to get information in and updated

Berkley – has not released their program details – Mike has been following up with BASS weekly Skeeter – has not updated their program details

Evan Williams – \$5,000 “Shoot Your Own Evan Williams Commercial” **The new deadline for submission is March 13th.** Information posted on website.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. **Tom Presnell – FISHLINES** –The next issue is going to be the Year in review. He asked the reps to solicit the clubs for articles. The Club Profiles that they are filling out for BASS would be a good source of info for the Fishlines as well. He said that the Fall Edition of Fishlines generated over \$2000 in advertising revenue, but he needs new leads as we have lost some sponsors going into 2010.

Marketing- He made mention of the upcoming trip to the Classic and highlighted some of our advertisers for 2010 to include Rapsody Rods, Kieteck, Andy’s Custom Lures, Susquehanna Fishing Tackle and Castaway Rods.

2. **Burnie Haney – Conservation –**

Jan 14 Meeting with DEC Commissioner

State of the Conservation Fund

Marine License Sales –Vs- DEC Enforcement - Colonial Rights
Dispute

Boat Ramp Projects- Bernie needs to know about these and needs people to assist in a letter writing campaign.

Conservationist Magazine

- **DEC Request for NYBCF Assistance**

Region 6 Fisheries request any tournament creel data we have for Lake Ontario (2005-2009) They have the results of two studies with erroneous and conflicting data. Hopefully, we can supply some accurate data.

DEC Outreach Coordinator is seeking clubs interested in sponsoring a DEC boat ramp similar to the adopt a highway program.

DEC Region 4 requests participation for a multi-year Angler Diary Program on the tidal

Hudson River

Grannis said that the license fee increase should hold us for the next 4-5 years. The NY BASS Chapter Federation position is that we do not support the repeal of the Marine License Sales. The 6000 Licenses sold represent about \$1 million in income that the state has for fisheries and outdoor sportsman's expenditures.

There was a question/comment from the floor regarding the \$70 fee for out of state fishermen when NY has a closed Bass Season. People from other states are avoiding NY in favor of Connecticut and other surrounding states where they have nearly year round fisheries.

PUBLIC RELATIONS-

There was discussion about trying to use the Federations clout in an attempt to negotiate lower ramp fees for tournaments when we are using them at 5 am and not interfering with the general public. The fact is that we are still occupying parking spots and during the prime months most all ramps are heavily utilized. The use/purchase of Temporary Resource Permits (TRP) was discussed briefly.

TAKE A SOLDIER FISHING EVENT

Date: April 24th Time: 9 am – 1 pm

Where: Oneida Lake Launch: Oneida Shores

Objective: To host 100 Soldiers from the 10th Mountain Division Fort Drum, for a day's fishing at no cost to them.

- Why: Our way of saying thanks for what they do for our Nation every day.
Soldiers/Boaters arrive 8 a.m.
 - (1) Receive Safety Brief
 - (2) Paired with a Boater
- **Fish from 9 am – 1 pm**
 - (1) Fish for anything that is in season (live or artificial baits)
{*Blue Gill, Crappie, Drum, Perch, Rock Bass, Bowfin, Carp, etc.* }
 - (2) Weigh-in
 - Prize Categories – to be determined and finalized
 - a. Heaviest Drum b. Pan fish – (state limits apply) c. Heaviest Rock Bass d. Other – bowfin, carp, catfish, bullhead, etc...or whatever else is in season

Artificial lures, live bait, and prepared baits allowed

Lunch served right after weigh-in, day complete

- **NEED SUPPORT FROM NYBCF MEMBERS AND CLUBS**
50 Boaters for Soldiers and two boats for media

(boaters to provide life jacket and tackle)

Prizes from Lucky Craft & US Reels, *donations are pending corporate approval.*

- **Any and all prize donations welcome**
- Club or Clubs to sponsor coffee/donuts (am) & lunch
 - a. Burgers, Hotdogs, Chips & Soda/Water
 - b. Grill, Ice, Cups, Plates & Trash bags
 - c. Ketchup, Mustard, Relish & Buns

Contact, Burnie Haney (315) 786 - 8897, conservation@nybassfed.com or Mike Cusano (315) 695 – 4969, president@nybassfed.com

Burnie also mentioned that for a \$50 yearly membership in the Professional Anglers Association (PAA) the Federation Anglers would be eligible for a \$500 prize for finishing first in a Federation Points Tournament.

3. WEB MASTER Ted was recognized for stepping up to the plate at the last moment and keeping this vital communications tool functioning.

Stipend Discussion –

DO WE LOOK TO:

Increase officer position stipends (President, VP, Treasurer, Secretary and Past President)

Increase of current stipends for FISHLINES and TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR

Create following categories and add Stipends for following:

Core Committee Personnel (Core Values and business purpose) –

- Webmaster -
- Conservation Director
- Youth

Essential Committee Personnel

- Marketing
- Public Relations
- Scholarship
- Sponsored Products Coordinator

AWARDS – clubs are not putting in for these awards and are missing out on them.

NEXT EXEC COMMITTEE MEETING DATE is February 26, 2010 @ 6:00 pm

NEXT BOARD MEETING DATE is Saturday February 27, 2010 @ 11:00 am

Both meetings are at BASS Pro shop in Auburn, NY

The proposal to adjourn was made by Ted Barth and seconded by Mike Wall. Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Ed Flick
Secretary