

Minutes of the NY BASS Chapter Federation Executive Board Meeting

Date: Sat, Feb 26 29, 2011

Location: Bass Pro Shop, Auburn, NY

Meeting called to order at 10:15 a.m.

Present: Mike Cusano, President
Chris Flint, Vice-President
Lori Haney, Secretary
Burnie Haney, Conservation/Public Relations
Ted Barth, Web
Jeff Edgerton, Tournaments/Membership
Mickey Fortunato, Youth

Club Roll Call – Clubs Present:

After Breakfast Bass Anglers – Ron Williamson

Albany Area Bassmasters – Paul Pflieger

Good Ole Boys Bassmasters – Fred Chilluffo, Paul Hudson, Dick Hyde

NNYBII – Jim Moore

Oak Orchard River Bass Anglers – Em Seefeldt

Rochester Bassmasters – Mike Wall

Salt City Bassmasters – Patrick Grady

Southern Tier Bassmasters – Ted Barth

Westchester Rod & Reel – Chris Gore

Don Hallock

Brian Weygand

Mike Elrod

Joe Maloof

Dominick Maio

1. Minutes of the January 29, 2011 meeting were presented for approval.

Motion to approve (Hudson) seconded (Barth), carried.

2. President's Report – Mike reiterated that volunteers were needed for the Election Committee and that nominations were open. Ted Barth nominated Burnie Haney, but Haney declined in favor of his current federation duties. Based on the lack of volunteers to be on the Election Committee, and lack of interest shown in officer positions, Mike emphasized that if there are no candidates for office then there will be no choice but to begin proceedings to shut the federation down.

3. Treasurer's Report - Treasurer is absent, but provided projected 2011 budget for review which shows a net loss of \$17,431. Complete report will be available on the Club Message Board for review. Kathy wanted to recognize Tim and Pam for their assistance.

Question: Will there still be Participation Awards in 2011?

Answer: Yes same level as 2010.

Question: Will State Team apparel be paid for?

Answer: Each team member will receive a \$100/stipend towards clothing as was done in 2010.

Question: Under State Team, what is "Miscellaneous Expense"?

Answer: Boat permits, launch fees, licenses

Question: What is "General Expense"?

Answer: "Bad" checks, bank fees.

Discussion: Clubs should be informed when a member has done something, but legally the federation can't discuss a personal financial matter. The Treasurer can, however, notify a club when a member is "not in good standing" with no reason given.

Motion made (Williamson/Grady) and carried: A member who submits a check that is returned should be considered a "member not in good standing" and the Treasurer will notify their club of that status.

4. Committee Reports:

a. FISHLINES: Tom Presnell provided report, via President. Attendance at Classic didn't produce any direct results, but he does have many contacts to follow up with. Photos needed for the Rod Benders section, send them in.

b. Conservation: Burnie Haney presented information on:

1) Aquaculture proposal (S6502) is moving forward in the NY Legislature. Web links are available to view each. A general letter of opposition is available on the message board, clubs and individuals can customize and send in to their representatives. Information has been relayed to BASS Conservation Director, they are monitoring.

2) State of the Lake Meeting will be held on March 2, Mexico, NY. Attended primarily by lake fishing folks, but we would like to have a bass fishing presence there. Barb Elliott and Mike Cusano will attend.

3) 2012 Fishing Regulations/Public Comment: Region 7 will include Catch and Release season in their public comment period. Suggest letters of support include reference to Region 6, noting that decision is not based on science but on random comments from fishermen. Enough comments may raise the issue within DEC for attention.

4) There is a petition on the web in support of "Save Sampson Park Marina", was brought to our attention by Scott Bliss. If you are able to check it out, please show support as you see fit.

5) Catch and Release Vessel: The Federation was presented with an opportunity to purchase a fully rigged, release boat configured pontoon boat. We only need to have it checked for any repairs (anticipated to be minimal, brakes, tires, etc.) and coordinate transportation from southern US location to NY. It was an amazing opportunity and we are pursuing, with anticipation to be able to use this season.

6) Take A Soldier Fishing is scheduled for Sat, Apr 30 from Oneida Shores Park. Still seeking boater and shore duty commitments. We have 33 boaters signed up, need 50-55, deadline to sign up is Mar 15. We have 11 signed up for shore duty, need 10-12, deadline is Apr 15. Contact Mike Cusano or Burnie Haney to sign up. Donations are coming in. Any money, checks, etc. should be made out to "NYBCF" and sent to President at home address.

d. Youth: Mickey thanked all who donated to the scholarship fund. Reminder the dates for Jr. World Championship is July 30th, Jr Pro Tournament is July 31st. NNYBM Club is currently enrolling youth for a Jr. Club.

e. Web: Nothing to report.

f. Sponsorship: Mike Cusano reported that new national contracts have been signed for the year (Triton, Motorguide, etc.) Berkeley allowing discount for members, the codes and percentage discount information will be on the Club Message Board for use by members only. Do not share or discuss outside the Federation .

g. Membership: Jeff Edgerton reported that the membership data base is current. If all members return this year, we will have over 900. Anyone with a membership or renewal issue just let Jeff know.

h. Tournaments: Jeff Edgerton reported:

1) Information on Lake George is on the webpage, with a link for lake pass. Handouts have been made with lodging information on Massena and Catskill. The Thousand Island Bait Shop will be listed as source for Canadian license. Still working on border issue. Tournament registrations can start anytime, Active.com is available to pay by credit card. Fizzing needles will be available for sale at registration and there is a good instructional video on fizzing at BassFan.com.

2) Regarding discussion from last meeting concerning tournament locations. Sites for tournaments are not based solely on sponsorship, but receiving sponsorship makes 100% payback and participation prizes possible. Western lake communities just don't give the priority to bass fishermen that they give to other recreational groups. Also, size of the federation limits available locations. Need sites that can support launching and parking all the participants and provide quality fish limits. The federation created a "bid sheet" providing the hard figures on boats, people, and economic impact and offering communities the opportunity to host.. Communities who have something to gain will bid to get their credibility back as a fishery, like Massena did. Mike brought up

a proposal that had been tossed around in the past regarding regionalization. Three tournaments, each held in a different region (east, central, west) Anglers can fish the one event in their area, or all three. Total proposal explained and available on the message board.

Question: How do we decide between Lake George and Lake Champlain ?

Answer: Based on what other events are taking place at each, DEC ramp availability, where we have gone, etc.

3) Number of tournaments (4 vs 3) was discussed at last meeting and clubs were asked to provide feedback. Jeff received responses by email from Iron Hill, Watershed and a couple of individuals favoring three, based on additional expense, impact on family time. Consensus was three, but with one in West.

5. New Business:

a. Mike Cusano reported that Bass Pro Shop is not able to provide financial sponsorship in the same manner as previous years due to changes at their headquarters, but they can offer a fundraising opportunity by way of weekend hot dog sale. They provide all supplies, we just need to provide people to sell the hotdogs. They have offered March 5-6 from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Proceeds will be split, on Sat to go Take A Soldier Fishing and on Sun will go to tournaments. Need some volunteers to man the sale. For the 5th, Joe Maloof/Mike Cusano. For the 6th, Mark Bonk/Mickey Fortunato.

b. Team E Outdoors has asked for assistance in covering their expenses to film federation events this year. Based on the good exposure last year, one more year of shows gets us even more, and we can sell spots. Mickey asked if the youth tournaments could be included, with youth funding the extra cost to add it in. Motion made (Cusano) seconded (Fortunato) to offer Team E Outdoors \$1250 from Fed and \$250 from Junior Fed to cover their expenses in filming federation events. All in favor, motion carried.

c. Sponsor Program use – When sending orders in to Dom, please include full name, club, membership number. Individuals must be members of BASS and federation. If there are any questions or issues with product, get with Dom only, not the sponsor company.

Next meeting is in Dec, date to be announced.

6. Motion to adjourn (Maloof) seconded (Grady), carried.

Meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.