



NEW YORK B.A.S.S. CHAPTER FEDERATION
EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES – MARCH 8, 2014
Bass Pro Shops, 1579 Clark Street Road, Auburn, NY 13021

TIME: Meeting called to order at 2:33 pm

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Fred Blom – President
John Stoughtenger – Vice President
Tom Presnell – Secretary
Ken Christie – Treasurer
Chuck Rowlee – Past President

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS IN ATTENDANCE: Tournament Director – Bill Kays
Tournament Data Management – Pam Bliss
Membership Director – Paul Hudson
Conservation Director – Barb Elliott
Public Relations – Duane Poole
Webmaster – Ted Barth
Youth Director – James Moore
Scholarship Director – Dominic DiGirolamo
Sergeant At Arms – Brian Eisch

SPECIAL GUESTS: DEC Representatives, Phil Hubert and Ed Woltman

CLUB ROLL CALL:

- 1) After Breakfast Bass Anglers – Ron Williamson
- 2) Albany Area Bassmasters – Paul Pflieger
- 3) Barge Canal Bassmasters – Bill Terry
- 4) Chemung Valley Bassmasters – Scott Bliss
- 5) Crown City Bassmasters – Todd Covert
- 6) Good Ole Boy Bassmasters – Duane Poole
- 7) Hudson Valley Bassmasters – Alice Christ
- 8) Niagara Frontier Bassmasters – Ken Christie
- 9) Northern NY Bassmasters II – James Moore
- 10) Port City Bassmasters – Chuck Rowlee
- 11) Rochester Bassmasters – Mike Wall
- 12) Salt City Bassmasters – Brian Eisch
- 13) Southern Tier Bassmasters – Ted Barth

A sign in sheet was distributed and 45 members were in attendance representing 13 clubs.

Sergeant At Arms, Brian Eisch presented the flag and the National Anthem was played.

An announcement was made indicating that the last meeting's minutes were available on the NYBCF website for review. A motion was made by Paul Pflieger to accept the January 18, 2014 minutes, seconded by Paul Hudson.

- a. All in favor, carried.

SPECIAL GUESTS & PRESENTATION:

- 1) The Berkley Conservation Award was officially presented (locally) to Conservation Director, Barb Elliott, along with representatives from Bass Pro Shops and the New York DEC. This cash award was applied for and based on the NYBCF's Ramp Monkeys Program, weed pulls, fish care and education activities.
- 2) Special guests, Phil Hubert and Ed Woltman from the New York DEC were given the floor for a brief presentation.
 - a. Discussion was held on the success of the Ramp Monkey Program and the institution of the "Clean, Drain and Dry" regulations in order to curtail the spread of invasive species.
 - b. The Ramp Monkeys might be invited to the Bassmaster Elite Series event on Cayuga Lake in 2014.
 - c. A printed list of new activity was distributed to all attendees.
 - d. They are very concerned about invasive species and are trying to come up with a balanced approach to DEC regulated ramps. The DEC reps were very candid and open to NYBCF members' questions.
 - e. The public comment period has ended and proposed regulations may become policy as early as late spring 2014.
 - f. Club outings will be accountable for any new regulations.
 - g. Also mentioned were new DEC ramp projects in process.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- 1) An update was given on Take A Soldier Fishing Day.
 - a. Co-chairperson, Brian Eisch, reported that more boats have signed up than last year.
 - b. Donations have been overwhelming and a list of donating parties to date was read off.
 - c. Confirmation of Fort Drum providing tents for use was mentioned.
- 2) An update on the Fund Raising Raffle (approved at January meeting) was given by Fred Blom.
 - a. Raffle tickets have been distributed to clubs and Divisional Team members for sale.

SPONSORED PRODUCTS UPDATE:

- 1) Four (4) Minn Kota and four (4) Humminbird units were sold so far.
- 2) One Minn Kota unit and one Humminbird unit are left and still for sale.
- 3) One 8' Minn Kota Talon is left for sale – Asking price is \$1,000.
- 4) Mercury oil can be purchased through the NYBCF at the approved price of 50% off.
- 5) Rigid Industries also has a B.A.S.S. Nation discount program for any interested parties.

2015 AWARDS BANQUET:

- 1) Fred has booked the awards banquet for 2015 at the Auburn Hilton Garden Inn on January 17th.
 - a. Rooms were negotiated for \$85 per night and the banquet will be \$30 per person.
 - b. There will also be ample room for any sponsors to set up product displays.

PURE FISHING BENEFITS:

- 1) The closing date for discounted products from Pure Fishing was announced as March 15th.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

- 1) The annual financial audit committee convened on January 18 and their findings were presented by Treasurer, Ken Christie.
- 2) A copy of the audit with the committee's recommendations was distributed to all members in attendance.
- 3) See **APPENDIX – B** at the end of this document for the complete audit.
- 4) The committee consisted of Ken Christie, Pam Bliss, Anthony Talarico and Don Hallock.
- 5) A motion to accept the audit was made by Dominic DiGirolamo and seconded by Ron Williamson.
 - a. All in favor, motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS: No actionable items were indicated from the January 18, 2014 minutes.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1) Fred Blom presented his updated per Diem and stipend policy via Excel Spreadsheet.
 - a. In the interest of transparency, a copy of the policy will be made available to clubs upon request.

- 2) Fred Blom submitted his budget for 2014.
 - a. The projected budget is based on 34 clubs and 700 paid members.
 - b. Increased monies from key sponsors have been added to balance the budget.
 - c. The NYBCF reimbursement policy has also been streamlined to help balance the budget.
 - d. All activities included, as it stands as of March 8, 2014, the budget is projected to break even.
- 3) A motion to accept the budget was made by Barb Elliott and seconded by Paul Hudson.
 - a. All in favor, motion carried.

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON REPORTS:

- 1) Fishlines Magazine – Bud Cipoletti absent. Winter issue was reported near completion.
- 2) Marketing – Fred Blom acting, Facebook and Team-E Outdoors are being investigated as avenues for future marketing. Fred reported there may be potential for an additional \$7K in revenue.
- 3) Conservation – Barb Elliott mentioned the continuation of the Ramp Monkeys Program and the Clean, Drain and Dry policy.
- 4) Website – Ted Barth, reporting. Updates are reported to be more timely. He requested some additional sponsor logos and links.
 - a. Ted was presented with the “Chairperson of the Year Award” from the January banquet.
- 5) Sponsored Products – Fred Blom acting. (see earlier report)
- 6) Tournaments – Bill Kays reporting.
 - a. Bill wants to make a difference by improving the draw and speeding up awards presentation.
 - b. Venues were reported as locked in for the season.
 - c. Minor changes are to be made to tournament rules and policies.
 - i. Off limits on Saturday is changed to 3:00 pm.
 - d. Bill announced that anglers will be required to have Vermont and Ontario licenses for this season.
 - e. There will be no late fees for the CTC event, due to early submission of customs forms.
 - i. Paperwork will allow a “no call in” event for the CTC.
 - ii. The form will only be good for one event (St. Lawrence River).
 - f. Anglers will need to call customs for the Henderson Harbor event if they fish Canadian waters.
 - g. A \$5.00 bank processing fee will be added to tournament entries paid by credit card.
 - h. There will be a cutoff for credit card payments one week before the events.
- 7) Public Relations – Duane Poole reporting.
 - a. Duane is working with Team-E Outdoors, YouTube and Facebook to increase promotions.
 - b. He should be able to dedicate significant time to promoting the NYBCF and its events.
- 8) Youth – James Moore reporting.
 - a. The NYBCF Youth division is going to be brought back under the senior management.
 - b. Based on the B.A.S.S. model, this includes youth and high school aged kids.
 - c. This will not affect any existing youth clubs monitored by senior clubs.
 - d. New York will need to qualify a high school team for the Divisional.
 - e. The team will have to exist within the current budget.
 - f. All club contacts have been emailed information about the high school team.
 - g. High school students from 9th grade to 12th grade and not over 18 years old may qualify.
 - h. James encouraged anyone interested to contact him for more information.
 - i. A motion to dissolve the subordinate organization and fold it back into the senior organization was made by James Moore. Three minor changes to the NYBCF bylaws were submitted in accordance with NYBCF policy. See **APPENDIX – A** for the complete bylaws changes.
 - j. Mike Wall seconded James’ motion to make the bylaws changes.
 - k. A club roll call was made by Secretary, Tom Presnell, to count votes for the bylaws changes.
 - l. The clubs voted 13 yes and 0 no in favor of the changes.

No further business was brought to the floor.

A motion to adjourn was made by Scott Bliss, with Ron Williamson seconding. All were in favor, carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:02 pm.

The minutes are respectfully submitted by Tom Presnell – Secretary.

APPENDIX – A (Submitted by James Moore on February 18, 2014)

Proposed New York B.A.S.S. Chapter Federation by-law changes.

In order to correct the by-laws with regard to non-adult program references, I propose the following by-law changes:

Under Article III

Change from current

Section 3: Junior Member

Any youth who is a member of an organized Junior Chapter as part of the New York State Junior B.A.S.S. Federation affiliated with NYBCF, and members in good standing with the National B.A.S.S. Federation and B.A.S.S.

Change wording to

Section 3: Youth or High School Member

Any youth under the age of 18 who is a member of an organized Youth Club or High School Club affiliated with NYBCF and are members in good standing with B.A.S.S. and B.A.S.S. Nation.

Reason for the change, adding reference to High School Program and the New York State Junior B.A.S.S. Federation does not exist as a recognized organization by B.A.S.S. or NYBCF.

Under Article IV...

Change from current

Section 5: New York State Junior B.A.S.S. Federation

The Federation may establish a New York State Junior B.A.S.S. Federation and maintain a Constitution to govern it. This constitution and all state level Junior Federation activities must be approved by the Executive Committee. The NYBCF Youth Director shall keep the Executive Committee informed of all Junior Federation activities.

Change to

Eliminate this Section because B.A.S.S. will not recognize a Junior Federation and no Junior Federation has been established under the guidelines listed.

Under Article VII...

Change from

h. Youth Committee Director

This committee director shall be appointed by the Federation President to organize efforts and/or lend assistance to member Chapters in the endeavor to implement a Youth Bass Fishing Program to introduce youngsters to the goals of the New York State Federation and the Bass Anglers Sportsman Society, to give youth of the state a basis for respect for our natural heritage, an appreciation of the basic rules of honesty, integrity, fair play and of good sportsmanship, to teach them sound conservation practices and to give them an introduction to the sport of bass fishing. The Youth Director will oversee the New York State Junior B.A.S.S. Federation.

Change to

h. Youth and High School Committee Director

This committee director shall be appointed by the Federation President to organize efforts and/or lend assistance to member Chapters in the endeavor to implement a Youth Bass Fishing and High School Bass Fishing Programs under the guidelines provided by B.A.S.S. to introduce anglers 18 years old and younger to the goals of the New York State Federation and the Bass Anglers Sportsman Society, to give these anglers a basis for respect for our natural heritage, an appreciation of the basic rules of honesty, integrity, fair play and of good sportsmanship, to teach them sound conservation practices and to give them an introduction to the sport of bass fishing.

Reason for the change is to incorporate High School Fishing program within the by-laws of NYBCF and to eliminate the reference to a Junior Federation, which does not exist.

Respectfully Submitted to the Executive Committee

Jim Moore

Youth Director

APPENDIX – B (Submitted by Ken Christie on March 8, 2014)

2013 NYBCF Audit Committee

Pam Bliss

Anthony Talarico

Ken Christie

Don Hallock

The financial records of NYBCF were reviewed by the audit committee on January 18, 2014 with the following observations and recommendations.

Stipend Policy: The stipend policy is not up to date. There are stipends being paid by direction from Mike Cusano several years ago that were not updated in the policy. **Recommendation:** Update the stipend policy to reflect all stipends currently being paid.

Cash Withdrawals: NYBCF by-laws state that all disbursement of funds must be through check. There was one observation where this did not happen in 2013. The boater gas money for the TASF tournament was withdrawn directly from the accounts without an approved expense report. **Recommendation:** Follow stated by-laws at all times and ensure that all disbursements are by check with the appropriate back up documentation.

National BASS dues For the 2nd year in a row, National BASS dues that were collected were not all distributed to National BASS. This is a concern, as the people whose dues have not been distributed to BASS are not covered by the insurance and are a significant liability to NYBCF. **Recommendation:** Membership secretary should request a check to National BASS from the treasurer at a minimum of every two weeks once the tournament season starts to ensure that all anglers are covered when participating in any of our events.

Process change recommendations:

It is the recommendation of the audit committee that the following process changes be implemented.

Fishlines advertising - The advertising for Fishlines appears to not be collecting for all ads in a timely manner. The audit committee recommendation is that the Fishlines editor create invoices for advertising (including free product) and mail them to the advertiser and the NYBCF treasurer with-in two weeks of publication of the magazine. The treasurer will then be responsible for collecting the advertising dollars and ensuring that all appropriate product is received to ensure that all accounts are current. The treasurer will be responsible for the collections process as well as notification to the Executive Editor if payment is not received prior to the publication of the next Fishlines. This will ensure that we are not continuing to run advertising that is not being collected.

Check writing - In order to make yearend processing of tax documents easier, it is the recommendation of the audit committee that separate checks be written for reimbursement of expenses vs stipends.

Tournament payout - In 2013, there were several issues with check writing for tournament payouts. The audit committee recommends that with the close of registration, the tournament director give written documentation to the treasurer on the number of boaters and non-boaters registered for the tournament so that appropriate payouts can be calculated. Due to the way that the partner draw system creates the roster, it is not possible to tell how many boaters and non-boaters are registered, so there is a significant possibility of payouts being done incorrectly. This happened in 2013 and had to be corrected, costing the Federation additional payout money that should not have been paid.