

**NY BASS Chapter Federation Executive Board Meeting**  
**January 24, 2009**  
**BASS PRO SHOPS in Auburn, NY**

The Executive Board Meeting was called to order by President Mike Cusano at 10:23 AM.

**Attendance:** Officers present; President- Mike Cusano, Treasurer- Tim Morrison, Secretary- Ed Flick and Past President- Pam Bliss. Also present were Tournament Director- Jeff Edgerton, Fishlines Editor/ Public Relations/ Marketing- Tom Presnell, Conservation Director- Burnie Haney,

**Club Roll Call:** Adirondack Bass Club, After Breakfast Bass Anglers, Atlantic B/M, Capital District B/M, Crown City B/M, Morris Co. B/M, Oak Orchard, Port City B/M, Rochester B/M, Salt City B/M, Southern Tier B/M, State Wide B/M, Watershed B/M and Westchester Rod and Reel.

A total of 25 people were present representing 13 clubs.

**Old business:**

1. The old minutes were distributed.
2. **Scott Bliss** led a discussion regarding the **Nomination Committee** and the process for identifying potential people to run for office. Thus far no one has been identified for nomination.
3. **Tim Morrison** provided the **Treasurer** information and reviewed the 2008 Financial Statements. He discussed the need for a 5 year plan that he is currently working on. He indicated that he envisions the potential for a substantial deficit this season, depending on sponsorships, the tournament pay back proposal for the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and the increased cost of the Divisional Team.

Pam proposed an increase in the boat gas and food allowances for the Divisional Team. This will be looked into. No specific amounts were mentioned.

Fish Lines advertising revenue went from \$1800 in 2007 to \$6800 in 2008, however, production costs still exceed revenue generated.

Membership increased by 40 people in 2008.

4. **Mike Cusano** reminded people that the Divisional Tournament would be in Canada July 20 -24<sup>th</sup>. People will be required to have passports.

This will be the last year for the Casting Kids to be sponsored by BASS. 2009 Federation Nation Championship will be the last Casting Kids Championship. In the future, clubs can hold their own casting contests and are encouraged to do so. Just keep in mind there will no longer be state or national level events.

He discussed the BASS Insurance information and the misinformation that BASS had previously provided. Some recent boating accidents have brought this issue to the forefront. Clubs must have 100% BASS memberships, 100% BFN Membership, and must be properly affiliated with the state Federations to be compliant.

He discussed the changes at BASS to include the departure of Don Corkran. Stacy Twiggs and Jon Stewart are assuming many of his previous roles.

There was a question from Chris Gore regarding waivers of liability that had been sent to their club.

**5. Tom Presnell** said the annual issue of **Fish Lines** was due out in late February. He made mention of some of the upcoming features to include interviews with Mark Zona and Ray Scott.

He said that **Marketing** was going to be challenging and he reviewed the marketing package for the Classic and the year going forward.

Under the heading of **Public Relations** Scott Bliss suggested placing an ad in the NY Sportsman in addition to the planned article about the NYSBCF.

**6. Burnie Haney** provided a status on the request to have a tournament waiver allowing anglers to keep 12" fish on the Hudson River.

- Black Bass have a 15" MSL in effect
- We requested a tournament waiver down to 12" MSL
- Region 3 Responded last week stating they are conducting a Black Bass survey that runs through the 2012 season to see if the 15" MSL achieved its goal.
- Region 3 can not approve our request for a tournament waiver until their study / data collection is complete.

The DEC Budget Proposal for 2009 Funding was reviewed.

On 7 Jan the DEC presented these proposals for legislative approval

- Annual Trout / Salmon stamp .....**\$10.00**
- Lifetime Trout / Salmon stamp.....**\$110.00**  
(added to the lifetime license as of 1 Oct 2009)

- A Marine License for salt water species to include (Striped Bass, American Shad, and other types of Herring)

Resident	Annual .....	<b>\$19.00</b>
	Seven Days.....	<b>\$12.00</b>
	One Day.....	<b>\$5.00</b>

Non-Resident	Annual.....	<b>\$45.00</b>
	Seven Days.....	<b>\$25.00</b>
	One Day.....	<b>\$12.00</b>

- Fishing License changes

Resident one day freshwater license.....	<b>\$5.00</b>
Non-Resident one day freshwater license.....	<b>\$5.00</b>

There was a brief discussion regarding VHS and bait sales. Burnie said that he did not envision any changes to the current regulations.

Salt City Bassmasters was recognized for their Conservation efforts with the Water Chestnut Abatement Project.

Mike Wall said that the Onondaga County Sportsman's Federation encourages bass clubs to join and participate in their Federation meetings. Mike said that most counties would welcome this participation and encouraged individuals to look into this when they returned home.

**7. There were no Youth or Webmaster Reports.**

**8. Tournament Director, Jeff Edgerton** discussed eliminating Membership Cards and the clubs supported this.

There was a suggestion from the floor to create a disposable paper with the boat number, flight times and emergency contact information to be handed out at the tournament draws. – This will need to be looked into for cost.

There were several topics discussed pertaining to the tournament trail:

- 1) Off-Limits: Jeff collected feedback from the clubs regarding the off-limits period for 2009. Based on that overwhelming support and the fact that no off-limits falls in line with the Federation goals of flexibility and value, Jeff is proposing that there will be no Off-Limits for the 2009 season pending executive committee approval.
- 2) Several members had contacted Jeff about the boat size restriction of 17' boat length and a 90 hp motor. After a discussion of the pro's and con's of the current restriction and alternate options offered, and based on the overwhelming support from the clubs, there would be no change for 2009 and it will remain at 17' with a 90 hp motor.

A. There are also some logistical changes on the paperwork end of the tournament trail.

- 1) The early registration deadline is the Sunday two weeks prior to the tournament date.
- 2) All entries after that date are subject to a \$40 late fee (pending executive committee approval).
- 3) Once the early registration deadline has passed, there is no changing of your link without contacting the tournament director first.
- 4) Those not linked by the early registration deadline will go into the random draw for the ability to use their boat/ fish for the day, depending on our numbers tournament day.
- 5) Refunds will need to be requested prior to the "two week prior" deadline. Any refunds after that point will be at the discretion of the tournament director.

A few reminders.....

For the Ogdensburg tournament everyone will need a Canadian license! If you have a passport or an enhanced driver's license, bring it with you. You are able to fish all water as long as you do not anchor or go ashore on the Canadian side. Additionally, you will **NOT** be allowed to fish east of the Massena locks. The DEC still has the "no transport of fish over an impassable barrier" in effect for 2009.

**New business:**

Mike Cusano

He discussed the financial status of the Federation and wanted the membership to know that we heard their desires to distribute some monies back while making sure the NYBCF stays in a strong financial position. Mike discussed for 2009, offering a 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tournament Bonus Program. Under this program the payouts would be set at 100% of the entry fees received for the 2009 Tournament Season.

Discussion ensued. Pam Bliss proposed holding off on the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tournament Bonus Program until after the Divisional Teams expenses had been determined. She also felt the \$\$ should go back to the local clubs in support of their long term support of the Federation and not to the individuals that happen to place well in the three tournaments. After the discussion, Mike asked for a poll of the clubs to determine support. The 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tournament bonus Program was overwhelming supported. This will be added to the 2009 Budget.

In addition the NYBCF would once again be looking to offer the \$3,000 participation prize payouts (\$1,000 (boater/non-boater) and \$500 (boater/non-boater)).

Scott Bliss suggested as part of the long term budget planning that the NYBCF purchase and posting of signage at local boat ramps providing information on various key topics (ie. Catch and Release and information about Invasive Species) as a way to raise awareness of these issues and about the NYBCF.

Mike made some comments regarding the current political landscape and how other groups like Ducks Unlimited, Trout Unlimited, and the NRA are able to significantly influence the direction and spending of the conservation funds. He mentioned the need for the NYBCF to be the strongest group possible in order to deal with these political issues and he discussed the advantages of having 100% State Federation Membership from all affiliated clubs. He asked the representatives to take this issue back to their respective clubs for discussion to determine ways to grown and protect the NYBCF.

The proposal to adjourn was made by Mike Wall and seconded by Greg Pavlic. Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 1:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ed Flick  
Secretary