

NEW YORK BASS CHAPTER FEDERATION
EXECUTIVE BOARD
DECEMBER 3, 2005
Gander Mountain Lodge, Cicero, NY

The Executive Board was called to order by President Wayne Tomassi at 12:40p.m.

Officers present were President Wayne Tomassi, Treasurer Pam Bliss, Secretary Susan Good, Tournament Director Stephanie Muira, Marketing Director Dominic Maio, Conservation Director Joe Koetting, Conservation Lobbyist Mike Cusano, Fishline Editor Tim Carini, Webmaster Ted Barth, and Promotions Chair Mike Kreloff. Due to lack of an American flag, President Tomassi proceeded with his welcome.

Club Roll Call: Present were: Adirondack Bass, After Breakfast Bass Anglers, Crown City, Hudson Valley, Indian Lakes, Long Island, Morris County, Niagara Frontier, Oak Orchard River, Port City, Salt City, Southern Tier, 1st B/M of Sullivan County, Thousand Islands, Washington County, Watershed, and Westchester Rod&Reel

Election Committee:

- Chairperson Mike Cusano stated nominees for each position as follows: President Pam Bliss, Vice President Ted Barth, Secretary Susan Good, with no nominee for Treasurer.
- With no further nominations received from the floor, Mike moved to close the nomination process. Seconded and passed.
- Mike Cusano cast one vote for each position.
- According to by-laws, Pam Bliss may appoint a new treasurer. This appointment must be approved by the executive committee.
- Wayne thanked new officers for stepping up especially Pam Bliss for her combination of past Federation experience, Ted Barth for excellent support, and Sue Good for stepping up as a fill-in and continuing.
- Wayne apologized for his recent lack of participation due to new job constraints and guaranteed a smooth transition beginning with a “passing of the gavel” at the evening’s banquet.
- Pam stated there are many issues to address especially standardizing of some NY Federation procedures, improving communications with use of technology, revamping Fishlines, and aiding our Youth program.

Treasury Report

- Pam Bliss handed out the current update of the budget (copy included [not the final report]) with a commentary (included).
- Bring suggestions for format change to January meeting.
- Fed. is cash positive with help of Lowrance Award (2004) and budgeting error.
- Need all Sportsmen Raffle tickets turned in to cover further expenses.
- Raffle suggestions: 1) Make sure clubs receive tickets in time to sell at all club meetings before the banquet. 2) Go to a cheaper ticket price: \$5.00. 3) Consider a ticket deal: 5 for \$20.

- **Club reps: collect and bring ideas ticket-selling ideas to the January meeting.**
- Pam states that all records are open for inspection.
- **Wayne** states that by motion and vote the no-show member of the Divisional Team is to have his membership in the NY Federation rescinded for life. This will be followed by legal proceedings to reclaim expenses from this member.
- **JR. Fed.** has a separate checking that now includes no dues from SR. Fed. Treasure report shows money from clubs to JR. Fed. that came into SR. treasury and went out to JR. Fed. Jr. Fed. needs accountability and registration with BASS. Does JR. Fed also have to pay \$5 increase to BASS? Pam recommends the Scholarship Program be administered by SR. Fed. Wayne plans to work with JR. Fed. to become non-profit. Wayne thanked those who supported the youth program.
- **JR. Fed.** dues go to Stephanie and through the SR. Fed accounts (\$5 nat'l.-sent directly from the club to National, \$10 state- to Stephanie)

Membership

- Stephanie state BASS rosters should be coming soon.
- 832 members, 45 paid clubs
- Stephanie has membership packets.
- **Request:** Clubs please compile all club info **before** sending to Stephanie. Do not send individual memberships. Fill out the National roster, make a copy and send that to Stephanie with the fees. Please update phones of all members.
- **Suggestion from the floor:** We need a Membership Chairperson. The TD should not be doing this. **Step up!**

Website:

- **Please inform Ted Barth of any new club reps, addresses, phone numbers, or any other updates.**

Conservation:

- Director Joe Koetting handed out his Activity Report.
- Updates will be on the website and will be compiled.
- Black Bass Workshop is important for information, opinions, and plans
- Grants are available through BASS. Joe has a “weigh station” idea.
- Catch and Release Season supported by Joe and Mike Cusano after much self-education and debate.
- Mike Cusano stated there will be a 45-day public comment period on C&R Season. Comments need to be strongly worded, not just petitions.
- Mike requested **all anglers be observant of catch in the Seneca River area.** He has caught fish with large, round, pink lesions. Please photograph if possible and report lake and location to the local DEC or to Mike or Joe.
- Wayne congratulated Joe and Mike on their awesome work stating the need to keep current on conservation issues to keep the sport for our children’s future.

Fishlines

- Tim Carini stated difficulty in maintaining schedule set for layouts when materials were not submitted by officers and members in a timely fashion.
- Current Treasurer's report shows loss of \$911.
- Wayne stated Exec. Comm. **proposal:** Fishlines could be moved to a web-based system. Suggestions: Members without access could get Fishlines copies at club meetings. Key mailings could go to club reps which might include tournament rules, locations, ramp sites, entry forms, hotels, results, TD message, and Top Fives Tips. Local sponsors could cover the cost of a bulk mailing to be done by local club. Instead of reducing dues, the extra funds could be used to help support the State team. **Please discuss with your members. Bring feedback to January meeting.**
- **Would need Editor for website to use PDF link to print out in a magazine format. Be ready to step up!**

Tournaments:

- **Schedule is on the website.**
- **No boater is to fish alone.**
- **Proposal to be discussed:** Have the computer flag the non-boater in each boater/boater draw to ensure that non-boater will not get another boater/boater pairing for that tournament season.
- **Comments:** Could both be flagged? Boater and non-boater should get their 4 hours on the water. Boaters want to be guaranteed use of their own boat and equipment; it's time to fix that. Flagging eliminates the randomness of the draw. Flagging guarantees at the most one turn for a boater as a non-boater per season. Could the non-boater be flagged for the next 3 consecutive tournaments regardless of which season? Could the system be set up to draw ahead of time so partners can communicate and agree before tournament day? Then what about cancellations? Breakdowns? Late registrations? Anyone can practice on their own boat; everyone is entitled to 4 hours; honest sharing should make it win-win. Can boater bring non-boater to ensure both boat and partner? Has pro-am format come up at National Presidents meetings?/Wouldn't that format have to go all the way down?
- **Wayne:** Reps must take proposal to club members. Send ideas to TAB members: Stephanie Muir, Kerry Rice, Keith Cleary, or Joe Matt.
- **Stephanie:** Need TAB members. Taking self-nominations on website or by phone.
- **St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce wants** to sponsor NY Federation tournament. Phone number given to Pam Bliss by rep.
- **Proposal to be discussed:** Increase tournament participation by replacing the Partners Tournament with a "Last Chance" tournament for 1 spot on the State team. Eligibility: any anglers who have fished 3 or more NY Fed. Points tournaments, top angler from each club that finished the CTC. Possible: no payout- funds raised by tournament used to sponsor State team, give out prizes donated by sponsors, and a chance for a State team spot.

- **Proposal to be discussed:** Pool of non-boaters who fished all 4 NY Fed. events, draw a “non-boater of the year” to get free entries for next season events.
- **Stephanie thanked Dominick Maio for all his excellent effort and support for each tournament.**

Positions open for 2006:

- Treasurer
- Marketing Director
- Public Relations
- Promotions
- Membership

No Old Business

New Business

BASS dues and reps issue explained by Wayne:

- Dues increase of \$5 announced by BASS
- NY Fed. responded with “no response until after January 2006 meeting”.
- TBF, Inc. asked states to meet Jan. 7th and to collect and hold dues until Jan. 7th.
- BASS responded that TBF had no right to make request and rescinded memberships of TBF. States who support TBF and do not comply with BASS membership guidelines will not be able to send their contender to the national event and charters could be revoked.
- Wayne:
 1. Bass can rescind memberships.
 2. Don’t know why Bass raised dues.
 3. Don’t have the right to ask BASS where the money will go as it is a stockholders company.
 4. Recommended that we sign with BASS to keep options open.
 5. NY Fed. is more than just tournament trail. We promote bass fishing in NY State through the youth program and conservation.
 6. Only thing BASS gives that can’t be done alone is 6 Classic spots.
 7. Possible that the 6 spots will gradually move to Weekend Series.
 8. We must support Matt Sphar for this year by legally joining BASS.
- Comments:
 - \$5 is not the issue, mandate and corporate manipulation from BASS are.
 - Pay the minimum to be legal; demand TBF reps get membership back.
 - Are all clubs represented today willing register on the minimum 6 and pay \$15 by Dec. 30th?
 - What happens if your club has an event, something happens, and only 6 are covered by BASS insurance?
 - Some clubs have all dues collected and are waiting for rosters. Which 6 should be registered? How does rep pick if no meeting is scheduled?
 - It’s a marriage in trouble. For some, it’s broke. Corporate structure does not recognize representation like TBF.
- Options by Wayne and Pam:

1. Not do anything.
 2. Continue normal relations for 2006.
 3. Register minimal membership.
 4. Bail out of BASS now.
- Comments:
 - What might consequences be to minimal membership?
 - Not fair to make decision in 90 days that affects life of NY Fed.
 - Where will protection come from if BASS pulls something next year? (TBF is financially stable with corporate sponsors.)
 - Recommendations: Gather more info before deciding anything about BASS. Pam will go to National Conference, Jan.8-13. Have Jan.21-22 meeting in Syracuse and pursue use of technology to get more input from membership.
 - Wayne offered to attend National Conference with Pam. Expenses except for flight would be covered by BASS. Pam states Board should decide after hearing Pam's perspective. Discussion followed.
 - Wayne moved that Pam decide whether or not Wayne would attend National Conference with her. Seconded. Passed.

Issue: Wayne: Expenses for attending spouse/significant other

- Since President is using personal leave time to conduct Federation business when attending conferences (National, Classic), the NY Fed. should cover expenses for spouse/significant other if also attending.
- Moved. Seconded. Passed.

Issue: Mike Kreloff: What is NY Fed. position on regionalization?

- Discussed by TAB at length: absolutely against it.
- Info wanted re: NY Fed. position for club members.
- Pam will make sure regionalization is on January agenda if proposal is sent by a club rep to Exec. Comm. before the meeting.

Issue: Tim Lyons: Can NY Fed. get priority over other states for launch permits at state launches?

- Can be pursued but expect other states to treat us in kind.
- Mike Cusano took on further discussion with members.

Meeting adjourned at 4:15p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Good

Secretary