

Minutes of the NY BASS Chapter Federation Executive Board Meeting

Date: Sat, Dec 4, 2010

Location: Bass Pro Shop, Auburn, NY

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

Present: Chris Flint, Vice-President
Lori Haney, Secretary
Kathy Bonano-Fortunato, Treasurer
Pam Bliss, Past President
Tom Presnell, Marketing/FISHLINES
Burnie Haney, Conservation/Public Relations
Mickey Fortunato, Youth/Scholarship
Ted Barth, Web
Jeff Edgerton, Tournaments/Membership

Absent: Mike Cusano, President

Club Roll Call – Clubs Present:

After Breakfast Bass Anglers – Ron Williamson
Capital District Bassmasters – Tom Larose
Good Ole Boys Bassmasters – Fred Chilluffo, Paul Hudson
Iron Hill Bassmasters – Tom Presnell
NNYBII – Jim Moore
Oak Orchard River Bass Anglers – Em Seefeldt
Oneida Lake Bassmasters – Brad Ostrander, Bill Baldwin
Rochester Bassmasters – Mike Wall
Salt City Bassmasters – Patrick Grady
Southern Tier Bassmasters – Ted Barth
Westchester Rod & Reel – Chris Gore

1. Minutes of the February 27, 2010 meeting were presented for approval.
Motion to approve (Ron Williamson) 2d (Pat Grady), carried.
Minutes approved.

2. Treasurer's Report - Treasurer provided an oral report, as she is still transitioning with former treasurer and working with the computer program. A full report to be provided at the January 29 meeting. Current balance in General Fund is \$102,627.19, Scholarship Fund balance is 10,436.95, and Tournament Weight Record balance is \$1,000.92 for total of \$114,065.06

3. Old Business: None.

4. Committee Reports:

a. FISHLINES: Tom Presnell reported that the latest issue is out, thanked all contributors and encouraged anyone with a suggested topic or interest in submitting to let him know, he is open to any and all ideas. Interviews he has scheduled for 2011 issues include Mike McClelland and Tommy Sanders. Tom was contacted directly by Mark Zona, who is now doing marketing for BASS and had seen a copy of FISHLINES, to offer his assistance in marketing/publicity efforts as he wants to support Federation efforts. Tom also confirmed that Jerry McKinnis, new owner of BASS, has accepted the invitation to speak at the annual banquet. Jerry also said he would like to attend the board meeting Saturday morning.

b. Marketing: Tom Presnell reported that he is updating the ad rate sheet, no increase in pricing, just making the material look different so is not dated. Tom asked if there were any sponsor contacts that had been made by clubs that required his follow up or direct contact, there were none. The Federation was provided one ticket to the Bassmaster University in Boston, MA in Jan. Ticket is a \$225. Value and was given by Pete Glusek, partner with Mike Iaconelli in the Bassmaster University program. Raffle was conducted, all members present who were interested took part, names were put in a hat and Secretary drew the winner, Ron Williamson. (Following the meeting, Ron reported that he had passed the ticket to Barb Elliott)

Question posed – How many copies of FISHLINES are printed each time?

Answer – 1000 (copies are mailed to all members, President is given a few to share as needed, and a few are shared for Marketing purposes.

Question– Are FISHLINES sent to statewide Chamber's of Commerce to get our story/word out there ?

Answer – Not currently, but could be considered. Suggested that if so, areas with large bodies of water be targeted, but that is an item for discussion/decision by Executive Committee.

c. Conservation: Burnie Haney presented information on:

1) An aquaculture proposal (S6502) being considered in the NY Legislature. NY Fish Farms are lobbying to make Black Bass a registered food source to third party vendors (target sales are in NYC.) Since 1999 this group has lobbied to obtain legislative support. In 2010 a bill passed the House, but it never cleared the Senate. On Nov 18, he and Mike Cusano attended a meeting at Morrisville College with DEC Chief of Fisheries, NY Aquaculture Members, Cornell University & Morrisville College Aquaculture Department chiefs. There is another meeting planned for mid-month Feb. Primary concerns we raised are the ability to manage and monitor the process, particularly the distinctive marking of fish and level of enforcement by NY DEC. Follow on issues of identifying depletion of fish population due to poaching and how replenishment and recovery of the population would be conducted. Clubs were asked to take this information back to membership and return in January with thoughts or recommendations for a Federation position.

Question posed - Is there any background on how it is handled in other states ? and is there a viable market ?

Answer - Thirty-three states allow farming of black bass and the market is primarily in urban Asian businesses and communities.

Question - Is the DEC expected to enforce ?

Answer - Yes, but with the cuts anticipated for Jan and the already stretched-thin staff, strict/active enforcement is unlikely.

2) Regional Representatives to NYDEC from the Federation are still needed. Currently, Regions 2, 3, 8 & 9 are vacant. Representatives are asked simply to establish communications with your regional office and provide periodic reports to us on any activities, projects or other actions that impact the fishing or habitat within that region. Issues might involve access, new or revised boat ramps, proposed regional angling rules or regulations. Barb Elliot was recognized and thanked for her efforts as a representative and for her efforts in fish care and support of conservation. She has done a great job staying engaged with Region 7 and is a good source to explain how she does what she does, with that office. Barb offered that she has joined the Oneida Lake Association.

3) 2012 NY Fishing Regulation Cycle was explained. DEC Regions accepted public proposals from May thru Aug 2010. Regional Directors have until Sept 1, 2010 to submit those proposals they feel should go forward for the open public comment period. NY DEC assembles Regional Proposals for public comment to be released in the spring of 2011. DEC officials review public comments in the fall / winter of 2011 and all decisions are made on any regulation changes. In Oct 2012, new fishing regulation is issued with the sale of each fishing license. On May 5th, NYBCF submitted proposals for both Region 6 and Region 7 to implement the state-wide Catch and Release season for Black Bass. Burnie provided the DEC with tournament results from American Bass Anglers and other club tournaments to demonstrate the five fish limits caught in the areas involved. The DEC's new Chief of Fisheries stated that he was aware of the issue and was keeping an eye on it. Burnie will post contact information on the Message Board for clubs to send letters of support for the proposals. He also asked that clubs to provide any comments or confirm their support at the Jan meeting.

Question posed - Any revisit of the Hudson River issue?

Answer - No, there is really nothing to do, the reported limits don't support any further action, but if anyone can provide background on quality or quantity of fish which would support, let him know.

4) Conservation Projects: Clubs were reminded that as they do projects, provide the 5Ws so we have a running record of who is doing what. Doesn't have to be huge, all projects are important. Paul Hudson, GOB Club, was asked to outline their efforts in adopting boat ramp areas for cleanup and placement of ten fishing line recycling tubes. DEC would like to put up a sign stating "Good Ole Boys Fishing Club is taking care of this area". Fishing line recovered is turned in to Berkely and recycled into fish habitat.

5) Take A Soldier Fishing is scheduled for Sat, Apr 30 with an 8:00 a.m. launch (from 9:00 a.m. last year) at Oneida Shores Park. Seeking prize donations and boater commitments. Information will be posted on Message Board, deadline will be mid-March.

d. Youth: Mickey Fortunato reported that Junior Tournaments dates are 30 Jul for the Junior Qualifier (to determine who will represent at the Divisional) and 31 Jul for the Junior Partner on Oneida Lake. Guaranteed \$2,500 prize to winning boater, Jr. receives a gift card to BPS. Anyone can sponsor youth participants, Juniors are ages 11-14 yrs, Junior Pros are 15-18 yrs and all must be members of a club to participate. Junior Club Team Championship is on Aug 27 on Saratoga Lake, Leeds Park. Mickey relayed that during the Youth National Championship in Shreveport, LA Stacy Twiggs asked if there were any questions for Jerry McKinnis, as the new owner of BASS. Consensus question from Youth representatives there was regarding the return of the Casting Kids program. Answer is that it is on the table, BASS is looking at options. Mickey also relayed that the Salt City Jrs has been absorbed by the Good Ole Boys Jrs.

e. Scholarship: Mickey Fortunato reported that donations from clubs fund the program. They plan to award a scholarship at the Jan banquet, so the fund will need replenishing and donations are welcome.

f. Web: Ted Barth reported that clubs can send him any updates to contact information, etc.

Question posed - Can clubs have more than one representative listed on the Club Directors Board email list ?

Answer - Technically possible, however that is a decision for Executive Committee as the original direction was that clubs submit one representative. Executive Committee will discuss and clarify club contact allowance of people/email addresses.

g. Membership: Jeff Edgerton reported that the BASS corporate office move is complete and they are up and running to accept club and individual membership dues. Jeff recommends that clubs send in their NYS Federation dues at the same time as their club dues. Reminder that the National dues are \$30, NYS Federation dues are \$20, and Club dues are \$35. There are no changes to the national web page, likely won't change for a year or so. Our Federation has 864 members, 54 clubs.

h. Tournaments: Jeff Edgerton reported that he and Rita will support the 2011 season and then they have personal commitments that will not allow them to continue as Tournament Director and crewperson respectively. Jeff encouraged anyone who is interested in taking the Tournament Director duties on could shadow him through the summer to learn first-hand what is involved. There will be an announcement made of the vacancy on the web page. One option to support tournament crew is for clubs to provide a couple of people to assist with tournaments in their area and earn a stipend for their club. Bill LaManche is still (haven't heard otherwise) the tournament emcee.

Tournament dates for 2011 are:

- June 19, Lake George (registration at elementary school, launch at Mossy Pt)
- July 24, St. Lawrence River, Massena (details pending, need Canadian License)
- 20-21 Aug, Club Team Championship (details pending)
- 2 Oct, Cayuga Lake (registration at Bass Pro Shops, launch at Union Springs)
(Ron Williamson reminded all that the 2 Oct will require a 2012 license)

It is expected that Bass Pro Shops will sponsor luncheon awards and tournaments will have a 100% payback. Jeff relayed that 70-75% of the membership is on the eastern side of the state; however it might be time to reevaluate to see if moving tournaments more central/west might encourage participation from other areas.

Comment from the floor: All should double check their boat insurance to make sure tournaments are covered, some apparently don't. Also, some tournaments are held on bodies of water that are considered international waterways, which might need to be identified to insurers. Jeff will post a reminder on the Message Board.

Jeff is working on the border crossing/check in issue for Massena and he will have resolution for the tournament.

Question posed - Can we get something in writing from Canadian authorities?

Answer - Will try, maybe providing a list of boats/numbers ahead of time, he is working options.

Question - Is it true that boaters should plan to "carry a jug" (not relieve themselves in the water)?

Answer - Fine is \$150 in Canadian waters, might be a good idea.

For the Massena tournament, there are plenty of hotels/motels, but check carefully as parking is not always boat trailer friendly.

Discussion ensued regarding substitution policy for Club Team Championship. Some confusion over who can fish with what club. Pam Bliss interjected to explain that the Club must exist for one year prior to the CTC and be a member of the Federation prior to the preceding 30 Sep. Individual team members must be Federation members in the preceding year (prior to 30 Sep) and a member of the club in question. Changing the policy is not needed; just need all clubs to understand the rule the same way.

5. New Business:

a. Awards: Nominations for Federation awards are due. Clubs should submit nominations to Secretary by December 17. Award list will be posted on the Message Board, but basically nominations are due for Sportsmanship, National Sponsor, State Sponsor, Youth, Conservation (Club or Individual), Chairperson of Yr, Club of Yr, and Rosemary Murphy.

b. Participation Prize Draw: Participation Prizes of \$500. Winners are:
Boaters: Tom Luciano, Bill Alexander, Mike Kozell
Non Boaters: Jack Campbell, Dominic DiGirolamo, Joe Zwijacz

c. Banquet: Annual banquet will be on Jan 29 at The Point at Sand Beach (same location as last year) Cocktails at 5, Dinner at 6. Cost is \$25 and Jerry McKinnis is the guest speaker. Facility capacity is 140 and deadline for attendance is 14 Jan. Information will be put on Message Board as well.

d. Next meeting is Sat, Jan 29 at 1000, Bass Pro Shops Conference Room

6. Motion to adjourn:

Motion to approve (Em Seefeldt), 2d (Ron Williamson), carried.

Meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.