

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
NEW YORK STATE BASS CHAPTER FEDERATION
DECEMBER 5, 2004**

The meeting was called to order by President Wayne Tomassi at 11:05 AM. Officers present: President, Wayne Tomassi; Vice-President, Burnie Haney; Treasurer, Pam Bliss. Committee Chairpersons present: Tournaments, Sharon Rice and Stephanie Muira; Youth, Mickey Fortunato; Conservation, Joe Ketting and Mike Cusano; Marketing / Sponsorship, Dom Maio.

Wayne welcomed all that were present, thanked everyone for attending, and then asked the youth representative from Salt City Jr. BMs to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Club Roll Call: The following clubs were present: Adirondack BMs, After Breakfast Bass Anglers, Capital District BMs, Crown City BMs, Finger Lakes BMs, Hudson Valley BMs, Indian Lakes BMs, Orange County BMs, Port City BMs, Salt City Bassmasters, Salt City Jr BMs, Statewide BMs, Team Bass.

NATIONAL FEDERATION ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- BASS HQs will relocate to Orlando Florida in April 2005.
- The new name of the Bass Federation is now International Bass Federation.
- 2005 Federation Championship currently is a three day event. The 2005 Championship will be a one day practice, 2 day pre-cut and 2 day final on two different bodies of water. First two days are on Lake Toho, then the top three anglers in each division will fish the final day on Bay Lake @ Orlando Disney
- 2005 Eastern Division Split; Seven (7) states remain and the other seven form the Mid-Atlantic Division, however for the 2005 season all 14 teams will fish the event already scheduled on Lake Cobb in Maine.
- With the split in the Eastern Division the good news is this means our state Champion now has a 1 in 7 chance for a Classic Slot
- Bad news is due to population density in the Eastern Division the payoff is substantially less and it will cost us more for each Divisional Team due to the geographic area we'll be fishing
- ESPN/BASS Weekend Series: Wayne asked all to please support our Federation Tournament dates when scheduling events, and be patient with BASS, right now they have not scheduled any events that conflict with our dates so that's good. And he asked what people's feeling were about the co-angler side of the weekend series. Most responded they didn't like it and felt BASS was making a big mistake with it.

Announcement: Meg Corbett-Bates has resigned as Federation Executive Secretary due to her busy schedule. In a phone call to Sue Good Saturday night after the Executive Committee meeting, she accepted the Executive Committee's request to assume that post immediately.

Federation Committee

Chairpersons Introductions: Wayne introduced the Committee Chairpersons.

- Tournament Director: Sharon Rice departing and Stephanie Miura assuming the position
Wayne informed all that Steph was the primary candidate two years ago but was considering a promotion and re-assignment in Germany and could not commit. Due to what has happened since 9/11 and the cost of Euro in Germany, Pat and her are no longer considering relocation.
- Youth: Mickey Fortunato
- Marketing/Sponsorship: Dom Maio
- Conservation Director: Mike Schmitt departing due to College, Joe Ketting assuming the position
- Conservation Lobbyist: Mike Cusano
- Publicity: Bob Green departing....need a replacement
- Membership: Vacant
- Scholarship: Kathy

Disbanding the following Committees:

- Tournament Operations:
- Left On Shore
- Guides Association

Committee Changes

- The Executive Committee is very actively seeking a Fishlines Editor as well as a new publisher for our Federation's publication. The new Editor will not be the 'typesetter' for the publication but control the

content for the publication and manage the publication's schedules and distribution. Anyone interested in this important position should contact Wayne.

Reports:

1. Scholarship: Kathy discussed the need for a change in timeline for applications. The current schedule is very confusing, has had many miss-conceptions, and delays in payments after successful course completion. The change will be that applications shall be submitted no later than Aug 31st prior to just starting college and requests for payment and reapplication can be done between June and August the following summer. Wayne reminded all that the Program Bylaws cannot award no more than ½ of the total funds received during any calendar year during our first five years; so donations are needed and should be turned in no later than December.

2. Membership: 49 Active Clubs 888 Active Individual Members

3. Tournament Director:

a. Announced the 2005 trail:

Date Location

19 June 04 Seneca Lake

17 July 04 Champlain North (Plattsburg)

31 July 04 Oneida Lake

11 Sept 04 Champlain Metro (Ticon)

b. Insurance for 2005 is now 300K liability instead of 100K

c. Looking for two new TAB Members after resignation of Dennis Smith and Mark Ventra. Stephanie will also be contacting the other TAB members soon.

d. Questions and Answers:

(1) Will Champlain event require Vermont License for all (possible reciprocal agreement)? Answer: *Stephanie will review with TAB and issue guidance to all at a later date.*

(2) Can a viewing device be used during official practice periods? Answer: *NO*

(3) Will the practice period remain the same? Answer: *YES, the official practice period this year is noon Friday until 4 PM Saturday. Reminder that Region 8 has a Catch and Release Season so one can fish at Noon on Friday before our opener on Seneca Lake*

4. Treasurer:

a. Reviewed the Activity Based spreadsheet depicting funds transactions for the 2004 year to date. Pam made a proposal to Club Representative that we raise the tournament entry fee from \$65.00 to \$75.00 to help off set our net loss for tournaments from this year. The extra \$5 will go toward operating expenses and the other \$5 goes into the payout.

b. Discussed the benefits of paying entry fees on line via charge card and the cost associated to initiate the service on a seasonal basis (probably May – Sept). Dave Suttle motioned "*We purchase the initial equipment required for charge card processing*" and Joe Matt seconded the motion. All in attendance voted **YES**.

c. Discussed Federation Presidents reimbursement for attendance at the Club Team Championship.

Basically cost associated with being their –Vs– the traditional entry fee stipend he's paid. All agree the President is required at this event for the best visibility for any newcomers to our trail. Mike Cusano made a motion: "*The President or his designated representative be reimbursed for attendance at the Club Team Championship*". Rick Gulla seconded the motion... All in attendance voted **YES**

d. Discussed the possibility of a *Federation Charge Cards* issued to select individuals, after some discussion it was felt that cash advances, when required, will best protect the Federation and reduce any liability a charge card might present... *no further discussion needed.*

5. Marketing:

a. Dom – Discussed sponsorship for the trail.

- Two points events have signed contract (2K support for each).
- The other two points events are awaiting final signature, but the feels confident all will sign official agreements.
- Partners Event and Club Team Championship awaiting final decision from sponsors.

b. Reviewed the *VIP Programs* with Lowrance & Minn Kota, Wayne asked all to support these sponsors when possible. Also asked clubs to submit the Lowrance angler profile sheets because Lowrance was very happy with the information and we believe it helped us win the 10K for promoting Lowrance products.

c. *Exclusivity:* Wayne discussed a post on our message board, and highlighted we do not want to turn anyone away if they want to support of sponsor our Federation and if we avoid exclusivity then we can continue relationships with everyone willing to work with us. This is very important and becomes a win-win proposition for all involved.

d. Wayne mentioned the NY Boat show and how this year is the first year a freshwater boat (bassboat) will be on display there. Anderson Boats is designated local Triton Dealer for the event. Also while we have Skeeter / Yamaha as our title boat/motor sponsor we still appreciate Anderson Boats for all the support they've provided us.

e. Wayne asked all to think about ways to sell our Federation to new members such as our benefits- Vs- other trails/ organizations:

- Rights of the Non-Boater
- Lower Entry Fee
- Friendly competition
- Product discounts, etc...

6. Conservation:

a. Joe Ketting discussed weed control at Lamotka / Wanketa Lakes; DEC has approved use of *SONAR* on Lamokta but not Wanketa. The biggest concern is the assistance in the return of native vegetation by the owner's association. They seem to be a little behind in that department. Joe's attended a very heated meeting representing BASS interests, ensuring all in attendance understood we seek the best possible lake / habitat management through science...not emotion

b. Mike Cusnao discussed a *dredging project* on Onadaga Lake that Honeywell is funding 450 million and the county is funding 4.5 million through a grant form a federal super fund. Project is probably 4-6 years away and the basic scope of work is removing lake bottom and refill with 6 ft of sand and gravel/rock to improve the lake. A Public hearing is planned for 12 Jan 05, 7-9 PM at the NYS Fair Ground, Martha Eddie Home Center building.

c. Mike Cusano – Reviewed the *Catch & Release* proposal. A Bill is approved to allow the NYS DEC to implement it, however the program will be controlled by the Regional Directors, so work directly with them in your area of the state.

7. Banquet Committee:

a. Joe Ketting introduced the members of the committee:

Noel Good, Lou Rizatti, Mike Cusano, Mickey Forunato, Craig Nels, Dom Maio with Scott Bliss & Paul Tomeo doing the Auction.

b. Still working the exact sequence of events, but looking at:

- Social hour/ Dinner
- Federation Awards
- Silent Auction Results
- Raffle Drawing
- Auction
- DJ & Music

c. Mike asked for any photos or historical data for a possible power point display for our 30th Anniversary.

d. Pam Bliss is now collecting all money for Banquet Tickets

8. Youth:

a. *Casting Kids*: Mickey made a motion that, "Casting Kids State Finals and the March Meetings be held at 9 AM on 5 March 04 at the BASS Pro Shop in Auburn. Joe Matt seconded it . All in attendance voted **YES**.

b. *Youth Tournaments*:

- 10 Jul 04 – Jr Partners event on Oneida Lake, Boater with one youth per team. Working details now: NYSBCF membership required, proof of insurance etc...
- 21 Aug 04 – Jr BMs Club Team Championship on Oneida Lake, same format as the adults, Top 6 anglers per club compete. Again working the details
- Need to determine the best way to qualify our two youths for the Jr. World Championships, would like to do it during the CT Championship this year, a tournament within a tournament. Discussion resulted in, It is a workable option need to find three boaters and the kids fish as a team with a boat captain. More to follow at the March Meeting.

9. Election Committee: Wayne announced this is an election year and our by-laws require we appoint and Election Committee, and remember if you're on the committee then you can not run for office too.

a. Mike Cusano volunteered to Chair the Election Committee..looking for two more members.

b. Positions Available for elected office are:

- President

- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer

10. NYSBCF Annual Awards Nomination:

a. Nominations are open for the following categories:

- Spirit Award
- Youth Award (individual & club)
- Conservation Award (individual & club)
- Community Project Award
- Sponsor of the Year Award
- Sports Writer of the Year
- Rose Mary Murphy Award

b. Also remember Burnie is putting together our Federation Packet for submission to the National Competiton, its due 15 Jan 05. Anything you have at the club level send to him; youth, conservation, etc...

Old Business- None:

New Business –

a. Scott Bliss presented a weigh-in bag announcing Paul Tomeo had worked a deal last year for production of 200 of these bags. The provider missed the scheduled delivery date, so our Federation now has these bags we can sell as a fund raiser.

b. After a short discussion it was decided we'll offer the first 100 bags to the clubs that want them and the second 100 bags we'll sell. Clubs must place their order no later than the January meeting.

c. Scott will look into the price of Silk Screening the bags with a BASS type logo and if successful we'll do it and sell the bags for \$15.00 each.

A **MOTION** was requested by Wayne to adjourn the meeting, "**So Made and SECONDED by all**", and the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM. The next meeting will be held January 15th, 2005, at LaMoyné Manor.

Submitted By
Burnie Haney, VP