

NY BASS Chapter Federation Executive Board Meeting
February 28, 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. Also present were Tournament Director- Jeff Edgerston, Conservation Director- Bernie Haney, Youth Director- Mickey Fortunato, Web Master- Don Florczyk.

Club Roll Call: 1st B/M of Sullivan County, Adirondack Bass Club, After Breakfast Bass Anglers, Albany Area B/M, Capital District B/M, Constantia Cove B/M, Crown City B/M, Good Ole Boys B/M, NNYB II, Oak Orchard River Bass Anglers, Predators Bass Club, Rochester B/M, Salt City B/M, Southern Tier B/M, State Wide B/M and Westchester Rod and Reel.

A total of 30 people were present representing 16 clubs.

Old business:

1. Motion to accept old meeting minutes from Jan 20, 2009 was made by Ron Williamson and seconded by Brian Weygand
2. **Nomination Committee** (Ron Williamson) reported that so far no one has been identified for nomination. Present Treasurer Tim Morrison indicated that he would not be seeking a second term. He will serve his current term thru **January 2010**.
3. Mike asked people to consider stepping up to the plate and becoming involved in the operation/functioning of the Federation. People are needed to help solicit sponsors and advertisers, help with projects and assist with the weigh-ins at the tournaments.

He discussed the goal to achieve 100% State Federation Membership for the Bass Clubs in the NY BCF. He had previously asked the Reps to go back and discuss this issue with their membership. There was a discussion regarding this topic. Some people mentioned the resistance to paying another \$20 fee. The conservation aspect of the Federation was stressed to include the strength in numbers when lobbying for issues with DEC. Also mentioned was that many people are not aware of all the benefits of belonging to the Federation. Mike offered to come out and speak to individual clubs regarding this issue. Em Sefelt suggested a 2 for 1 membership drive. Another idea was a new member drive to help fund a Catch and Release Boat.

4. **Tim Morrison** provided the **Treasurer** information and discussed the 2009 Budget proposal. He discussed the need for a 5 year plan that he is currently working on. He indicated that there were several known changes to the budget on the down side. These

include the changes to the Alliance Package, the loss of the Kistler Deal, the 35th Anniversary Payout and the loss of a divisional Payout other than for the first place finisher and the increased cost of the Divisional Team.

He addressed P&R for Tom Presnell who was not able to attend.

Burnie Haney passed out a draft tri-fold informational sheet that he developed for the Federation. Again it was emphasized the importance of telling our story to the masses. Burnie will be working on various other avenues to promote the NYBCF – ie. The NY Outdoor News

5. Mike Cusano reminded people that the Divisional Tournament would be in Canada July 20 -24th at Lake Simcoe, Orilla, Ontario. All participants will need passports and by now should have contacted Paul Tomeo. Team Captain – Randy LaManche is trying to get all members and contact information to start preliminary work – check message board to contact Randy.

Federation Nation Championship 2009 and 2010 will be on the Harris Chain of lakes in Tavares, FL. Oct. 28-30, 2009, October 2010 (dates not yet finalized)

Update from BASS meetings this past weekend: BASS will be changing their policy on requiring members belonging to MULTIPLE CLUBS to pay MULTIPLE DUES. ** NOT YET CORRECTED ** Until it is corrected, you are still requested to NOT submit secondary club member dues to BASS thru the FEDERATION NATION ROSTER

35th Anniversary Bonus Payout for 2009 – 100% payback of entry fees in both the boater and non-boater divisions. (see meeting power point for information)

\$3,000 Participation Awards – fish all three events and don't qualify as for the Divisional team, we will award \$1,000 to first drawn boater and first drawn non-boater; \$500 to second drawn boater and second drawn non-boater.

BASS PRO SHOPS LUNKER AWARDS for 2009 – adding \$250 to boater and non-boater Lunker payouts for each of the three points events. In addition for the CTC – BPS will add \$250 to the Day 1 and Day 2 big fish caught.

Last year the NYBCF averaged 78 boats an event – this qualifies our anglers for many boat contingency programs as well as the Toyota Bonus Bucks program. (check your boat manufacturers rules)

PLEASE HELP PROMOTE YOUR TOURNAMENT TRAIL!!!!

6. Burnie Haney discussed the Appropriations, Revenues and Expenditures for the Conservation Fund for Fiscal Year 2007. He went into detail regarding the revenue stream and the expenditures.

He also discussed to need to increase the Federation Membership to assist with his lobbying efforts. He announced DEC Public Meetings and encouraged all the members to attend the meetings in their area and to identify themselves and speak out on behalf of Bass Fishermen regarding conservation issues.

Mike Wall echoed Burnie's statements regarding individual participation in local conservation clubs and meetings.

Burnie discussed the Conservation Fund Advisory Board (CFAB) and their 2009-10 License Fee Increase Proposals. (see meeting power point for information)

He discussed Corps of Engineers (COE) Proposals for restricting fishing in and around marinas on the COE impoundments in the TVA. BASS is actively challenging these COE efforts.

7. Youth Director- Mickey Fortunato discussed the need to set up more Youth Clubs in conjunction with the adult clubs through out the state. He receives calls weekly regarding kids that want to join a club. The distance to the nearest active club is the greatest challenge facing the youth organization at this time.

The Youth Tournaments are Sat 7/18 @ Onondaga Lake for the CTC
Sun 7/19 @ Oneida for the Jr. World Qualifier
for Conneticut JWC in 2010
Sat 8/8 @ Oneida Lake (Oneida Shores) for
The Jr. Partners Tourney

He also discussed the TrailBlazers Program being introduced to take the place of the Casting Kids Program which **is in its final season.**

8. Web Master Reports - No notes

9. Tournament Director- Jeff Edgerton

There were several topics discussed:

1. There are 60 new members signed up so far this year.
2. Several people have already signed up and paid the entry fees for all three tournaments. This is encouraged as it reduces the work load for him during the season.
3. He is looking at getting new patches made as nearly all the old ones are gone.
4. **Clubs must get their rosters updated on the BASS FED NATION online roster system; until the members are "active" Jeff cannot change the members state dues paid status.**

5. The Pre-Registration Deadline closes two weeks prior to the event. Be mindful of this change as the late registration fee is now \$40. Refunds are handled on a case by case basis.
6. There are no off limits this year for the three points tournaments – anglers should review the rules for the “Official Practice Days” (Thursday thru Saturday)
7. People are encouraged to get their linked entries lined up quickly. Jeff will not be linking people this year. Links must be in before the early entry registration deadline
8. For the Ogdensburg Tournament everyone will need a Canadian license! State Divisional Team Members (who are fishing in Canada in July) are encourage to buy the full season 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.

Please look at the website and review the rules. Better yet print a copy and keep it with your fishing gear.

New business:

1. **Mike Cusano-** Still trying to finalize what exactly the Lowrance contract gets us - from what he was told by the Lowrance Rep – all LCX and LMS units are no longer being produced.
 - a. WE ARE NOT ACCEPTING ANY LOWRANCE ORDERS AT THIS TIME! We have not received ANY information on their programs or changes Mike is exploring other options since his return from the Classic.
 - b. Kistler is not going to sponsor the Fed this season; as new options become available we will hopefully have something else to share.
 - c. MARKETING PERSON/INVOICING/COLLECTION – Mike discussed the idea of creating a Marketing position and a percentage from all money or product generated/collected would go to this person.

Bassmasters Classic – Mike attended this year with Burnie Haney and Tom Presnell

Former State BASS Federation Presidents Jon Stewart (Kansas) and Stacy Twiggs(Texas) have taken over co-leadership roles at BASS. This is good for us as Federation Members as these guys can understand the issues from our perspective.

BASS Federation – more emphasis on Conservation and Education –
Jon and Stacy –decided to share with us some cost numbers for the first time.

Bottom line: costs far exceed revenue and the most cost, not surprisingly comes from the Federation run tournaments

ESPN is charging Jon and Stacy and solicited the presidents opinions on how we can get costs more in line with revenue...

What the presidents came to consensus on:

CONSENSUS: doesn't mean we all like all pieces of it, however, in order to keep moving forward this was determined to be the most sustainable option.

1. No membership dues increases for 2009
2. Divisional Payouts will be reduced to a boat for first place (except for Southern Divisional which is in 3 weeks)
3. Each division can set their own payout schedule
 - a. Sell raffle tickets
 - b. Set an "optional" team fee – like a Calcutta
 - c. Host can raise their own Sponsorship (non-competing sponsors)
 - d. Basically as creative as we want to get
4. Potential for BFN dues increase for 2010

There is a website for information regarding ordering Optima Batteries. Go to www.fm3marketing.com/fednation for the special pricing.

The Youth Organizations will continue to have a \$15 annual Membership Fee.

2. **Tim Morrison** - He discussed many ideas that he will be considering for incorporation into his Proposed 5 Year Plan. They are as follows:

1. Release Boat
2. Change expense reimbursement policy for the Executive Committee and each Committee Chair.
3. State Team – increase the meal allowance and mileage rate.
4. Create a three person dedicated (not fishing) Tournament Committee and provide expense reimbursement.
5. Allow Clubs to bid on and host a Points Tournament on a body of water they select
6. Get away from focus as a tournament-trail and broaden our programs and reach to increase benefits to members who do not fish the trail
7. In order to increase revenue and capture the 500 people who are members of the Fed. Nation but not NYS:
 - a. Start a "new member drive" by offering a two-for-one for new members (only) - get two years for the price of one.
 - b. Increase dues or require 100% NY B.A.S.S. Chapter Federation for all members of Affiliated Clubs
 - c. Refund club dues to clubs with 100% individual membership in Fed.
8. Offer web version of Fishlines in lieu of hard-copy
9. Reduce number of issues of Fishlines each year
10. Seek out sponsor for Divisional NYS is going to host
11. Dedicated marketing person who gets a % of advertising / sponsorship revenues
 - a. Should coordinate Fishlines and web advertising, in addition to securing tournament sponsorship
12. Reinstitute 4th tournament, but as an open tournament

- a. Super-charged payouts; Fed. keeps portion as fundraiser
13. Offer “inactive” membership
14. Reinstitute a raffle as a fundraiser
15. Change participation to bonus awards which would include
 - a. First boater drawn
 - b. First non-boater drawn
 - c. First member drawn (participation in trail not required)
16. Discontinue 100% payout

He further discussed the Fishlines Magazine regarding whether it was cost effective in its present format, the yearly supplemented cost of publishing it and the effect its' loss would have on gaining future sponsors.

Mike encouraged people to sign up on the website. The Tournament Season starts shortly with our opener on Lake George June 21st.

The next meeting Nov/Dec will include Officer Nominations.

The proposal to adjourn was made by Ron Williamson and seconded by Mike Wall. Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 2:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Ed Flick
Secretary