

**New York State Bass Chapter Federation
Executive Committee Meeting
March 6, 2005
BassPro Shop, Auburn, NY**

The Executive Committee meeting was called to order by President Wayne Tomassi at 11:00 AM. Officers present: President Wayne Tomassi, Vice President Burnie Haney, Treasurer Pam Bliss, Secretary Susan Good, Tournament Director Stephanie Muir, Marketing Director Dominick Maio, Conservation Lobbyist Mike Cusano, Fishlines Editor Tim Carini, and Youth Director Mickey Fortunato.

Due to lack of an American flag, President Wayne Tomassi proceeded with his welcome.

Club Roll Call: Present: After Breakfast Bass Anglers, Hudson Valley Bassmasters, Long Island Bassmasters, Orange County Bassmasters, Salt City Bassmasters, Salt City Junior Bassmasters, Southern Tier Bassmasters, and Team Bassmasters.

Announcements: Wayne Tomassi

- Bass Nationals will be moved to 2nd week in January.
 - Need to move our banquet?
- Bass Classic will be moved to late February.
- Good money was made from the boat raffle to put toward the Divisional Team. Expenses are up. Could have made more. Need to think futuristically about fund-raising. More clubs need to sell more raffle tickets.
- Minutes will have a letter attached from Wayne explaining various boat company program information regarding prize money, also requesting club presidents to caution members not to mention Lowrance's and MinnKota's Federation discount programs when pricing items at BassPro shops.
- Banquet Awards need submissions well before the banquet. Send club newsletters to the Executive committee.
- **Please update club contact information for Fishlines and for the website so all mailings can be accurate.**
- **Banquet:** Send feedback to Joe Koetting regarding food, scheduling... possibly no auction next year due to a \$500 loss of income. Looking for a new site in Syracuse to seat 130-200 people. **New date proposed** for 2005 season banquet: 1st weekend of December to be discussed. **Need feedback from clubs. Need to lock in date soon due to holiday bookings.**
- **Divisional 2006:** At Champlain, out of Plattsburgh, paying \$10,000, centralized location, 2 NY qualifiers are from Champlain.
 - Need date to be set
 - Must contact Mid Atlantic President to coordinate
 - Thinking 3rd week of September
 - Hosting costs \$10,000-\$12,000 (our team and BASS team)

Tournament Director: Stephanie Muir

- **TAB is filled. Details need to be firmed up for CTC.**
- **Need correct member information for all clubs. Send fees with forms.**
 - 24 clubs have paid

- 416 members to date (25 new members)
- Tournament entry forms will be sent after fee is set.
- Proposal to raise entry fee to \$75 per tournament, or \$290 for all 4 tournaments if paid up front.

Mike Cusano moved tournament entry fee be raised to \$75 per tournament, \$290 for all 4 if paid up front, \$5per fee added to payout, \$5 per fee added to expenses, and withdrawl refund to be \$65. Seconded by Ron Williamson. Motion carried.

Mike Cusano moved the Executive Committee stipend be increased to equal the new tournament entry fee for the 4 tournaments, not the CTC. Seconded by Ron Williamson. Motion carried.

- **Change in “no boat “ rule: When signing up at a tournament, registrant CAN be a boater.**
- **Boat Insurance is now \$300,000 limit (17ft. with 110 HP)**
- **TAB:** Agenda and issues will be posted on the website so clubs can contact TAB with ideas before decisions are made.
- **New data base:** seen by Pam, not by Stephanie
 - Front end programming is done
 - Back end programming is in progress.
 - Usable by the end of the month for testing
 - May not be ready for the tournament season
- TAB to discuss and make decisions regarding late fee of \$25 for tournament registration and cancellation fee.
 - Need application for refund
 - Investigate other trails’ policies.

Treasury: Pam Bliss

- Checks for raffle rebates were handed out to club reps. Pam will send a list for the minutes. \$2636 went back to clubs. Membership dues and free banquet went to individual who sold the most tickets.
- Discussion of June raffle: If Wayne gets Skeeter to donate boat (April- National meeting), ticket sales will start in May.
- Raffle profit: \$19,000 with \$16,500 to SR club and \$2,500 to JR club
- Auction: \$2,500 with none going to Scholarship
- Banquet: \$480 above collected fees.
- December 31, 2004 balance: \$11,989 in scholarship, \$42,000 in cash
- February 28, 2005 balance: \$54,000 in cash
- Highlights: 2004 tournament cost \$4690 with ½ of 2005 hotel prepaid
 - State team expenses going up.
 - CTC is not funded, all \$ is paid out....need funding!
 - Fishlines cost \$14,300 for 6 issues (5 plus annual)
 - Youth: net is \$2000 with clubs’ donations and quilt raffle
 - Conservation: \$76 left
 - Marketing: \$771 spent
 - NONE Club: Had \$220 increase
 - Scholarship: Had \$850 increase

- Will send report copy to secretary to include with minutes.
- Split out of \$20 member fee: **\$5 to general fund, \$1 to membership, \$2 to marketing, \$2.50 to Div. Team, \$7 to Fishlines, \$2.50 to Conservation.**
- Decreased amount to Youth treasury went to Conservation.
- Mileage change approved so non-fish care mileage will be \$.35 per mile for approved Federation business (fish care rate is federal rate).
- State Team: Cost approx. \$18,000 for 2004
 - need to be self-sufficient
 - 10 tickets to each state team member: if \$ is turned in, member gets \$200 reimbursement for expenses including \$15/day for food, round-trip mileage for driver, ½ boat gas at \$40/day.
 - anglers must submit all receipts
 - Pam issues reimbursements up to the limit, then no 1099 forms are needed.

LUNCH BREAK: ½ hour

Fishlines: Tim Carini (tim@nybassfed.com)

- Passed out proposal to Executive Committee as to printing cost comparison
- Will go back to Prestige for change in paper to affect mailing cost
- 1st Edition out by middle of April
- Cut-off date for 1st issue is 3/18/05

Conservation: Mike Cusano

- Catch&Release season is making progress due to support from anglers.
- Concern is impact on bed fishing.
- Members should contact DEC members, ask for support, does not have to be all waters.
- Data from other regions may help.
- Doug Stang(DEC) and Cornell biologists are supportive.
- **Stress to members: hand-written letters sent to show support are most effective.**
- March on Albany: week of March 12, 2005, NY BASS FED asked to on NYS Conservation Council panel; Joe Koetting looking into going/ Mike C. can't go.
 - Discussions to include vegetation control and Catch&Release seasons
- **Promote to members:** removal of Water Chestnuts as soon as seen, can be hand-pulled esp. in June, contact local DEC.
- Waneta/LaMoka issue is on hold for results of 2nd year of study of weeds at request of homeowners.
- Budget increase should help send reps as contacts for NYS issues.
- NY Conservation Education Workshop: \$350 fee is authorized and a list of member educators has been generated to contact for interest in attending at Raquette Lake, July 2005.

Executive Committee awards free tournament fees to Mike Cusano for all his efforts on behalf of Conservation.

Marketing: Dominick Maio

- Passed out proposal to Executive Committee regarding use of members' address labels by sponsors for advertisement mailings.
 - Modifications: One use per year by "key sponsors" (contracted for full page ad, all 6 issues of Fishlines, prepaid) providing their own postage; pre-posted mailings go to Federation member-in-good-standing who will apply labels and mail the package (member info is never in hands of a sponsor)
- Mailing proposal will be added incentive to sponsors for 2006 contracts for full page ads.
- Only 7-8 sponsors have contracted for full page ads for 2005: don't worry about extra junk mail!
- Prototype package for anglers
 - Trial package at Plattsburgh tournament for 1st 50 committed!
 - Example: 3-day package includes use of a secure marina slip with power, driver to help unload and launch, sign up for breakfast/lunch boxes at registration, list of sponsor facilities to patronize
 - Dom met with panel of city officials to set this up. City is setting up temporary docking at launch site, 5 minutes from marina to protect DEC soil permit for new hotel.

Wayne praises Dominick as Chairperson of the Year 2004. Executive Committee awards Dom with free tournament fees for 2005. (He and Mike must still register on time!)

- Pam and Wayne are checking with Lowrance about Alliance Program for Division Team members.

Elections: Mike Cusano

- New committee members are Scott Mistowicky and Marcus Bolinor from Rochester club.
- Wayne Tomassi needs to decide whether or not to accept President nomination.
- Larry Good nominates Burnie Haney for Vice President. Dominick Maio seconds. Burnie accepts.
- Pam Bliss declined nomination for Treasurer.
- Sue Good accepted nomination for Secretary.

Youth: Mickey Fortunato

- Youth meeting was held March 5, 2005
- Organizing to have:
 - 3 meetings per year following SR club schedule (Dec., Jan., Mar.)
 - forming adult committee chairpersons for Webmaster, Fishlines, Raffle, Sponsors, Tournament Director, and Executive Committee (President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasury)
 - adults will then act as mentors for JR officers the following year.
 - Meetings for Miss/Mr. Tournament and CTE
- Casting Kids held March 5, 2005
 - 32 anglers participated

- Alex Willhide and Kevin Ritz, both from Orange Co. JR Bassmasters will go to Florida.
- Drawing was held for free CTC entry. Winner is 1st Sullivan County Jr. Bassmasters.
- JR Partners Tournament will be July 10th
 - \$60 entry fee, \$4000 cash and prizes based on 75 boats.
 - Brewerton Boat Yard, Oneida Lake
- CTC will be Aug. 21, 2005. Still need location.
- JR World Championship will be the end of July 2005.
 - Will be moved to February in 2006.
 - Will need a 2-day tournament to qualify with Miss/Mr. on Saturday, 2nd tournament on Sunday--- no dates yet.
- Request to SR clubs to schedule their event around JR events.
 - The earlier the JR schedule is out, the better chance of consideration by SR clubs.
- Have 6 JR clubs and NONE club
- Scholarship program (for JR members or SR members' kids) needs donations.
 - letters going to corporate sponsors and to SR clubs
- Wayne re: JR club independent Treasury
 - must formalize 2005 budget and send to Wayne
 - Wayne will set up telecom with Pam and Kathy.
 - SR club will provide seed money for checking.
 - Accountability will be monitored for the year, then balance of JR funds will be turned over to JR account.

New Business

- **Entry Fees:** Partners Tournament increases to \$150, CTC stays \$330
- **Website:** Needs easy access to Executive meeting dates, locations, and times
Needs up-to-date addresses for club reps
- **Ticonderoga and Plattsburgh Points Tournaments** will generate extra sponsor fees if there are over 200 anglers at each. Sign up and thank Dom!
- **New Weigh bags:** not yet silk screened
- **Wayne** to check Lowrance profile forms on his e-mail.
- **Wayne** to update voucher form.

**Motion to adjourn by Mike Cusano. Seconded by Scott Bliss. Motion carried.
Adjourned at 2:50 PM.**

**Respectfully submitted,
Susan Good**

