

Minutes of the NY BASS Chapter Federation Executive Board Meeting

Date: Sat, Jan 19, 2013

Location: Bass Pro Shop, Auburn, NY

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

Present: Chuck Rowlee, President
Fred Blom, Vice President
Lori Haney, Secretary
Kathy Bonanno, Treasurer
Mike Cusano, Past President
Tom Presnell, Marketing/FISHLINES
Barb Elliott, Conservation
Burnie Haney, Public Relations
Jim Moore, Youth/Scholarship
Peter Knight, Tournaments/Membership

Club Roll Call – Clubs Present:

After Breakfast Bass Anglers – Ron Williamson
Barge Canal – Rob Jensen
Capital District Bassmasters – Bill Davis
Chemung Valley Bassmasters – Scott Bliss
Good Ole Boys Bassmasters – Jack Wilson
Iron Hill Bassmasters – Tom Presnell
Northern NYBassmasters II – Jim Moore
Oak Orchard River Bass Anglers – Em Seefeldt
Port City Bassmasters- Peter Knight
Rochester Bassmasters – Bob Manley
Salt City Bassmasters – Brian Eisch
Southern Tier Bassmasters – Don Hallock
Team Nitro – Burnie Haney
Watershed Bassmasters – Gary Menchen
Southern Tier Jrs. – Estes family (Don, Jeanine, Don Jr, Kayleen)

Others in attendance: Greg Pavlick, Rich Mattison, Pam Bliss, Paul Caldwell, John Stoughtenger, TJ Valle, Micky Fortunato, Mark Bonk, Tom Larose, Ed Brabon, Don Corkran (B.A.S.S.)

1. Minutes of the December 2012 meeting were presented for approval. Motion made and seconded to approve (Cusano/Stoughtenger), all in favor, carried.
2. Treasurer's Report – Kathy reported cash on hand is \$78,000. Sr. Federation shows a net loss of \$7,200 for 2012. Fishlines cost \$6,600, State Team cost \$12,000, Scholarship cost \$1,400. Currently have 724 individual members, 41 clubs. Anticipate receipt of \$4,200 in sponsorships for 2013, with loss of anticipated \$12,000 grant

reimbursement. Motion to accept Treasurer's Report (Cusano/Williamson), all in favor, carried.

3. Old Business: Two items carried over from last meeting:

a. Aztec package (sponsor provided fishing trip to a resort in Mexico) - Tom has been working to finalize the details with them since last meeting. President will auction the package online (message board) from 5:00 p.m. on Jan 21st to 7:00 p.m. Jan 31st.

b. Tournament Weigh In Question - Pete was to take the issue of opening the scales early for an angler who was concerned fish were going to die to the Tournament Advisory Board for review and determination of how future situations should be handled. Pete reported he has not had opportunity to bring it to them yet.

5. Committee Reports:

a. FISHLINES:

- Tom Presnell reported that issues for 2013 are planned for May, mid-Aug, mid-Oct and Feb 14.

- Member generated articles or ideas are always welcome as well as Rod Bender photos. Also any leads on advertising possibilities or solicitation ideas.

- Printing costs are lowest ever. Mailing list will be culled however postage has gone up in past year. Tom is also working on collecting payment for ads still outstanding for 2012.

b. Marketing: Tom Presnell reported that he is seeking corporate sponsorships, looking toward partnering with nontraditional/non-industry companies. Hoping to reach out to current sponsors for equal or better offers. Still considers our ability to email blast advertising to our members as a valuable tool.

- Tom announced he will step down from both Fishlines and Marketing as of Dec 2013. He is willing to assist/advise in future. He is confident that John Sejak and Bud Sipoletti have the experience and skills to maintain the publication and recommends them to carry Fishlines forward.

c. Public Relations: Burnie Haney reported on Take A Soldier Fishing Day scheduled for Sat, April 27th. Deadline for boaters to sign up is March 22. Importance of sign up by deadline is to ensure we know how many Soldiers we can invite. All information is on the message board, any questions call Burnie Haney at 315-786-8897 or Mike Cusano at 315-695-4969.

- Anything clubs are doing now, would like to get the story out, so keep information coming.

d. Youth: Jim Moore reported the Jr. World Championship will be in Bridgeport on June 29th, Jr. Club Team Championship will be on Aug 4, Southern Tier Jrs. Will announce location at the banquet. Sign up for both will be on the message board.

e. Webmaster: Ted Barth not present, President reported that changes are being made to the web page to update and make it better.

f. Scholarship: No report, winner will be announced at the banquet.

g. Tournaments: Pete Knight reported that tournament dates and locations are set for 2013. All information and registration deadlines are on website.

16 Jun - Chautauqua Lake

28 Jul - Lake Champlain

17-18 Aug – Oneida Lake

8 Sep – Cayuga Lake

- Request made that parking passes be obtained for those needing to go in and out of tournament parking areas through the day. Pete will look into it.

g. Sponsor Products: Pete Knight is the point of contact for the programs. Details on all programs are still being worked out and as soon as we are notified, information will be posted on members board and/or directors board as appropriate.

h. Conservation: Barb Elliot reported that the newest controversial issue is the NYDEC allowing sale of live largemouth bass. Market is for 12"-14" fish for sale in mainly urban areas.

- No environmental/conservation issues are expected on Chautauqua Lake. Lake George lake association has petitioned their Region DEC for requiring boat washing and are proposing raising permit and launch fees significantly. Did not pass this year, but likely will be raised again.

- Barb is available to assist anyone needing fozzling kits or instruction.

6. New Business:

- President reported that in addition to the Aztek package, other limited availability sponsor products may be auctioned in the future.

- We are looking for a person to fill the Marketing Chairperson position. Stipend will be performance based, a percentage of value of sponsorship brought in.

- Federation financial status is a concern and changes must be made to ensure stability and reduce loss. We will discontinue participation prizes and save \$3000. Need to

alleviate losses incurred by Fishlines so clubs are asked to consult their membership as to preferred option: (1) Federation dues are raised \$10 and Fishlines is published as is, four hardcopy issues per year.....or (2) dues stay the same and Fishlines is published in hardcopy twice (spring and annual editions) and only online for two.

Clubs are requested to be prepared to vote on this at March meeting.

On this topic, Pam Bliss offered that she felt, historically, membership changes seem to flow with Fishlines existence. Previously when Fishlines was discontinued, membership dropped and when Fishlines was brought back into production, membership increased.

- TJ Valle invited members of the Executive Committee to attend the Rochester Bassmasters annual fund raiser on March 24th to see if there were any activities or portions that the Federation might be able to replicate or modify and use as fundraiser.

- Executive Committee is considering a tournament payout scale based on number of boats, no decision on change to payout scale yet.

- The release boat is currently in for repair to trim switch and trailer brakes.

- Banquet is this evening, we have 92 attendees, door opens at 5:00 p.m.

- Don Corkran, B.A.S.S., guest speaker for banquet, addressed the Executive Board in advance of the banquet.

- He stated that B.A.S.S. members are the most visible users of public waterways. As was mentioned earlier regarding Lake George, local lake associations and support organizations are gaining financial and political power and it will affect fishing access.

- National product sponsor programs are based on sales (real and projected) so we need to show their value to us by purchasing.

- Reference Fishlines discussion...the majority of states have gone to digital magazines, not publishing hardcopy.

- NY is the second largest federation, AL is largest.

- Attendance at annual meetings by the president and youth director is very important, as well as the bi-annual conservation meeting.

- Bassmaster.com website is being updated, all references to Bass Federation will be changed to Bass Nation.

- Structure for divisional payouts being addressed, looking at identifying ways to improve or progress the tournament structure.

- Next meeting is Sat, March 2 at 10:00 a.m., Bass Pro Shops Conference Room

7. Motion made, seconded (Williamson, Stoughtenger) to adjourn, all in favor, carried. Meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.