

Date: February 6th, 2000

SUBJECT: Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting, January 29th, 2000, at Red's in Coxsackie

The Executive Committee meeting was called to order by President Wayne Tomassi at 11:00AM.

Those present were: Wayne Tomassi, Joanne Davis, Mike Zasuly, Matt Draxler, Burnell Haney, Ken Charbonneau, Mike Kreloff (representing Mickey Fortunato) and Rose Maher. Chalie Jedlica could not make it and Pam Bliss is expected.

Wayne submitted the following appointments to the Executive Committee for approval:

- Due to the resignation of Susan Johnson, Rose Maher was nominated for Secretary and approved unanimously.
- Due to the resignation of Woody Henyan, Charlie Jedlica was nominated for Membership Secretary and approved unanimously.
- Due to the resignation of Scott Keller, Mike Zasuly was nominated for the office of Past President and approved unanimously.

Per Matt Draxler, formal letters of resignation will be forthcoming to be placed in the Federation's files.

The following Committee Directors were appointed by Wayne and approved by unanimous vote:

- Burnell Hanley - Conservation Director
- Ken Charbonneau – Marketing Director
- Pamela Bliss – Tournament Director
- Ted Barth - Webmaster

VP: Bus Trip To Classic: Joanne reported that B.A.S.S. does not have the information ready at this time. Bus Company wants mileage from hotel to Soldier's Field (Convention Center) to launch. Joanne will check with Chamber of Commerce regarding hotels and mileage. Hotels in the Chicago are very expensive and it could be better to check outlying areas. Six people have expressed an interest so far (40 possible).

March Board Meeting: Executive Committee meeting planned for March 18th following Casting Kids State Finals. Federation Board Meeting planned for March 19th the following day. Rose will set this up and all will be advised of time and place. Similar to January Meeting, coffee will be there upon arrival, and deli platter for lunch. A 50/50 will be again organized to offset the cost of the platter.

Sponsorships: Wayne reminded the Committee members and Chairpersons about the Federation Bylaw that states that no one should use their positions for personal gain, i.e. sponsorships. He suggested that any personal sponsors that anyone had prior to these appointments are grand-fathered and that anyone that is approached for new ones should notify Rose as to what was communicated and a record be made. All agreed.

Treasury: Wayne turned in \$79.50 from the 50/50 held at the January Meeting to defray the cost of the deli platter. Matt reported that there was no financial report ready as yet, but there is as much money in the coffers as in previous years and possibly a little more. There are two checkbooks, Matt has one and Susan the other. Only one signature is needed on checks. Wayne asked for a detailed audit to be performed once the financial report is done just to close out the records and start fresh. The financial report will be done by the March meeting and hopefully before so that it can be reviewed by the officers and the audit team before the meeting. Rather than having financial reports just once a year, Wayne asked Matt to have them quarterly. Stipends were then discussed and approved as they were in the past. They are:

- \$60.00 per executive officer per tournament attended.
- \$0.19 per mile for meetings and other Federation business.
- Fish Care Hauling: \$65.00 per tournament and the going federal rate for mileage from home to the tournament and back home. (Current rate believed to be \$0.32/mile)
- Tournament Director: \$150 for each regular tournament, \$250 for Lake George and CTE, and \$150 per month for 6 months during the off season.
- Fishlines Editor: \$200 per regular issue, \$400 for the annual.

Reimbursements: Form used to request reimbursement from the Federation was reviewed. In the past, the "voucher" with appropriate receipts is sent to Matt for approval and check issue. Because of the current federation account freeze by Wayne pending the audit, after the voucher is approved by the President or Vice President, Matt will cut a check for payment. this will process will continue until at least after the audit is completed. To be discussed later.

Casting Kids State Finals: Will be March 18th in Albany at the Empire Sportsman Show. Competitors will receive a straight \$0.20 per mile from their homes calculated using a PC based map program just like it was done in 1999. Next year it was suggested to give the winners prizes instead of money. Issue raised regarding hardship cases who may need the money to attend. This will be looked into and discussed further. Only eight clubs have sent in their

results to Mickey. A reminder will be sent to Clubs to get this information in as soon as possible. Mickey also has to send in the list to Matt so that he can calculate the mileage so that the checks could be prepared before the event. Ken is going to use the Casting Kids space to also set up a Federation Marketing Booth and hand out flyers. Booths are \$125 for three days, therefore, it was decided to only set the booth up during the Casting Kids event. Helderberg also has a booth and will be asked to hand out Federation flyers.

Tax 1099s: Matt prepares and sends Fed Tax 1099s for anyone who has won over \$400.00. They will be sent out January 31st. Officer stipends, the Senior Trail and Calcutta were not included in the past to calculate the totals for the 1099. It was questioned whether this was proper, especially since the Calcutta and Senior Trail results have always been posted in the Federation's Fishlines. Discussion turned to what the 10% should be used for that was gained from the Calcutta. It was noted that taking 10% from the Senior Tour was putting a burden on a select few which may not be appropriate. Decided to discuss these issues at the March Board Meeting.

Credit Card Payments: Discussion on whether or not to provide a means for anglers to pay their dues and tournament entries by credit card. It costs 3% to do so, and it is not allowed by law to pass this cost back to the angler. No further action planned on this at this time.

Membership: Matt indicated that Susan was proposing organizing the N.O.N.E. members into a recognized and sanctioned club of the federation thereby allowing them to fish the Club Team Event. Mike explained the background on N.O.N.E. which fluctuates between 10 to 50 anglers. N.O.N.E. members should not be able to participate in the CTE. The objective of N.O.N.E. is to allow anglers to fish the Federation tournament trail until they find a regular club to join. N.O.N.E. will therefore remain as it has been in the past.

Discussion then turned to how membership would be handled. Mike indicated that a bylaw change this early would not be good or understood. Mike was reminded by some of those present that Wayne proposed during his campaign the redefining of the Membership Secretary position into that of a 2nd VP and that it appears that the membership liked the idea. Wayne then indicated that although he has submitted a bylaw change, he understands Mike's concern and offered a compromise that we would not actually do a bylaw change at this time. It would be done later after we finished the reorganization of the duties of the Membership Secretary thereby having a better definition of the proposed duties to proceed with renaming it as 2nd VP of the Federation. In line with this, Wayne proposed that Pam Bliss maintain the membership database during the off season. Also, since the database would be the basis for the tournament draw system it would be better if the duties were combined. One of Charlie's responsibilities would be to oversee membership and be the major focal point for the recruiting of new clubs and members and to provide assistance to the starting of new clubs as needed. All membership dues and tournament fees will be sent to Pam and she will deposit them in a local branch of the Federation's bank so that no checks would have to go through the mail to Matt. This will reduce the amount of time it takes between receipt and deposit. Pam will provide reconciliation and deposit slips to Matt through regular mail, instead of priority overnight mail. All agreed that this works until the proposed bylaws can be rewritten with reference to membership secretary duties. Pam is to keep track of the time it takes for this assignment in the off season.

A proposed new membership data sheet was passed out. Everyone can be in three clubs, but the club listed in the #1 slot is the one they are recorded as belonging to for voting purposes, club tournament weight, etc. Certain items on the sheet need to be enlarged. Question regarding giving permission to allow angler's names in a federation directory that would be sent only to federation anglers. There is no intention to sell our membership lists. It is important that for the angler to be in the Federation directory, they have to be paid members by a specified date. This directory proposal will be brought up at the March meeting. Apparently, there are members who have paid but are not listed as Federation members. This is due to the fact that there are two lists – if an angler's B.A.S.S. Membership lapses, then they are dropped from the Federation list. The database being proposed will show these expiration dates and members will be notified through their club reps.

Tournaments: Pam passed out her proposed Tournament Package. This will be passed out and voted on at the next meeting. During the introduction of the PC Draw system, angler registration will be via personal computer database and current paper method. Different state trails were discussed regarding the qualification of the state team. NYSBCF's is considered the best trail. Compensation for tournament crew will be formally published. Pam will set up a Anglers Tournament Advisory Committee, which will review the tournament rules for updating and be available for rule interpretation during tournaments. Any problems at the tournament are brought to the attention of the Tournament Director. The Tournament Director's decisions will be final. If the Tournament Director needs further assistance, the Angler's Tournament Advisory Committee and, if needed, the Executive Committee will be consulted and the matter will be closed at the tournament site. Issues of angler safety will be added under Goals in the Tournament Director's package. Proposed tournament budget was reviewed and discussed. Some amounts were off due to not having the information. Pam will correct and send it to Matt. Issues raised about the safe keeping of money at registration. It was decided that some type of lockable box or safe would be purchased.

The following issues were also discussed during the tournament discussion:

- **Off Limit Changes:** Issue discussed. Change favors non-working anglers. Is not good for the fish. Fishing near gas pumps is against the law.
- **Electronic Communications:** It was decided electronic communications, i.e. cell phones, radios or other transmitter/receiver devices would be allowed only in an emergency, to communicate with lock keepers, etc. Communications devices cannot be used by an angler to anyone for the purpose of receiving any type of fishing information.
- **Fish Care Trailer:** Job description, possible expenses and compensation will be listed. The person who hauls the trailer should receive the maximum IRS allocation for mileage and tolls. Mike Kreloff of Orange County offered to haul the trailer in 2000. All maintenance will be done before it is turned over to Mike.
- **Digital Display Clock:** Pam asked about the possibility of getting a large digital display clock to eliminate angler surprises when they are announced late. Pros and cons discussed, i.e. fog (clock unreadable) and battery failure. Only one official time and that is the tournament's director time. Anglers should set their watches in the morning when they are told the official time.
- **Local Club Assistance:** Local clubs will be encouraged to assist at weigh-in time to allow the Tournament Director to oversee the operation and assist in problems. Measurer and weighmaster needed and the local club will receive \$50.00 for their club.
- **Club Team Event Barbecue:** It was suggested to have a catered barbecue cookout during the Friday night partner draw at the Club Team Event. Anglers could eat during the registration, get to know each other, teams would be introduced and then partners could get together after the draw. Proposed to raise the CTE Team fee to \$240 to handle the cost of the caterer which is an additional \$10 per team member. If an angler is bringing a guest, they would pay separately prior to the tournament.
- **Tournament Sponsorship:** Champion Boats has been a long time sponsor of the CTE and desires to continue to do so. Between \$650 to \$1000 has been donated to the first place team for a number of years. Brook Cove has sponsored the Charity Tournament with approximately \$250 each year.
- **Fish Handling/Care:** Pam and Burnie to get together on this. There were many positive comments on how it was handled on Oneida Lake with the release boats bringing the bass to the main lake. Fish care is the direct responsibility of the Tournament Director and no one else.
- **Lake Champlain Redman and NYSBCF Tournament Conflict:** Redman Tournament is scheduled on Saturday the same weekend as the NYSBCF Points Tournament. The Redman practice days are scheduled during the off-limit period of the NYSBCF Tournament. Since Lake Champlain is a large lake over 140 miles long, it was decided that any angler practicing for the Redman Tournament cannot fish north of a line between Split Rock Point and Thompson's Point just below Whallon's Bay. On the Redman Tournament Day on Saturday, the angler can fish anywhere.
- **Lake George:** Discussion regarding limiting the number of entrants. The record is about 235. This will be discussed at the March Federation Board Meeting. Ideas were brought forward to change the tournament weigh-in site, but this is not possible because of local sponsorship requirements. The tournament director should get permission to again use the beach and remind the town to insure the residents are notified. Changing start time was discussed, but safety was stressed. It is too dangerous to start earlier due to the anglers who travel by boat to get to the launch site on tournament day.

Conservation: Burnie verbally reviewed his proposed budget, figures based on previous year's membership and number of clubs, with \$2.00 from each member's dues going toward conservation. He expects to have an excess of \$268.00. Burnie was requested by the Executive Committee to attend the Wrangler Nationals in Knoxville, Tenn. and the Bassmaster Classic with Wayne.

Burnie then covered some of the issues relative to Conservation that he is working on:

- **Chautauqua Lake:** Letter from DEC discussed. According to the letter, the situation does not appear to be as bad as first thought. They are only recommending not to have tournaments during July 15th to August 15th. Apparently the State Park Commission is the one closing the lake during this time and only allowing "small" tournaments. The local club rep has to get strongly involved as well as the Federation. The Federation plans to discuss this situation with the State Assemblyman/Senators from that area as well as the representatives from the parks department. Burnie will prepare a strong statement from the Federation to be sent or presented to the appropriate people. Idea suggested to have a "get together" between 7/15 and 8/15 at the lake just to go fishing, with a picnic following.
- **Saratoga Lake:** This was discussed and a letter from Frank Maher of Albany Area Bassmasters was distributed. A copy is enclosed.

- **Fish Tagging on the Hudson:** The Hudson River Estuary Study representative will be at the Orange County BM meeting in March. A group of Federation Members, Wayne, Mike Zasuly, Chris Olsen and Cliff Tienken, will be attending the March 7th meeting. Mike Kreloff will forward directions.
- **Open Season:** Idea proposed to seek the Governor's approval on this issue. It would be a catch and immediate release during the present "off season" time. This proposal could pass if the Governor was told of all the money leaving the State when New York Anglers go to other neighboring states which have no off season and it prevents anglers from other states from coming here. Paul Pflieger is willing to work on this with other members. This will be presented to the membership at the March meeting.
- **Clearwater:** Background on this explained by Mike. The issue of dredging the sandbar used by spawning bass was raised. Mike has spoken to two people connected with the Clearwater. They did not realize this was a spawning area. The sandbar will not be dredged. Clearwater wants to keep an open dialogue with the Federation and Mike will continue to do so and keep Burnie informed.
- **Riverkeeper:** This gentleman is paid to look out for the Hudson River. Background was again explained by Mike as well as the studies done by the Hudson River Fisherman Association. Mike will contact the Riverkeeper and keep an open dialogue on matters that concern the Federation and keep Burnie informed.

Youth: Mike Kreloff, representing Mickey asked the committee for the approval to form a Youth Committee consisting of three members, one to be Treasurer. This was approved by the Executive Committee.

- **Youth Checking Account:** This committee would like to have their own account. In it would go any contributions, raffle money raised by the youth committee, and the \$2.00 allocated from each Federation anglers' dues. Discussion followed. It was decided that since there was no need for regular checks to be written and that when needed they would be supplied in a timely fashion. Therefore a separate account is not needed.
- **Patch:** The Youth Committee would like to issue the Junior Bassmasters a Federation patch. Cost discussed. It was decided that since this was a costly matter and most other States use their own state federation patch for their youth, that New York would do the same. It was decided that when a junior angler joins a NYSBCF Affiliated Chapter, that he/she will pay a \$5.00 membership fee. For this he/she will receive a patch and membership card.
- **Fishlines Youth Page:** The committee would like a separate section in Fishlines for the Junior Clubs. It was decided to add this to Fishlines. Due to cost factors, the Fishlines will be sent to only the Junior Chapter Club President, not all members of the Junior Club.
- **Casting Kids:** Same information as listed on page one reviewed.

SHORT BREAK (10 Minutes)

"Fishlines" Newsletter: Wayne nominated Melody Sanson as the Editor of the Fishlines at the same stipend as previous years. This was approved by the Executive Committee by unanimous vote. Mike Zasuly stated that he would be willing to write articles but not on a regular basis. Comment was made that Dave Hadley apparently wrote articles in previous years and they never made it into Fishlines. OMC sent articles written by their pros and some were put in and then they were no longer put in. It is felt that we could get more anglers to write articles if we keep the issues consistent. In order for a person to get a Outdoor Writer's Guild Card, he/she needs to publish 8 articles per year. If we have four Fishlines, one Annual, and then smaller periodicals around the tournaments, we could get more writers. The Annual is often used as a give away at sportshows. Postage issue raised. This has to be looked into. Committee desires to continue using 1st Class Bulk Rates to insure that members get their issues in a timely manner.

Awards Night: Turn out needs to be improved at the end of year banquet. It has almost come down to only those receiving awards are attending. Several ideas were presented.

Marketing: Ken Charbonneau was nominated for Chairperson and approved. More sponsors or advertisers are needed to pay for normal Federation business. The way to attract sponsors is to "sell" the Federation. To do this we have to get our name out there. An anonymous donor has contributed funds for a NYS B.A.S.S. Federation Banner and stand to be used at all Federation events. John Whaley has made the stand and a thank you letter will be sent to him. Proposed sponsor ad packages were presented for review, as well as the proposed Federation Marketing Brochure. Each was reviewed and discussed. An idea was made to add two pages to the annual, which is already used as a promotional tool, then the brochure would not be needed. The brochure is a better idea because it is geared to sponsors and individuals who may want to join the Federation. It outlines who we are, what we do, and our purpose. To do 2,000 four page brochures in black and white, the cost is estimated to be \$350. All will review the brochure and give the go ahead by 2/1 to Ken. Pre-print draft will be reviewed by the Executive Committee.

With regards to National Sponsors, Mike indicated that Wayne at the Wrangler Nationals President's Meeting will receive various proposal packages from the sponsors. Some from previous years were discussed. We do not want to jeopardize our relations with National Sponsors. Wayne will be the contact for them as Scott was in the past.

With regards to local NY sponsors, it was suggested that we try and maintain the current sponsor activities, and that new sponsors should propose new ideas, something different to do. For example, Champion Boats has given \$1000 towards the CTE, provides the weighmaster and sink man and buys shirts and jackets for the 12 Man State Team.

For example, there is a sponsor that may provide a boat discount certificate for the non-boater angler of the year.

This is something different. There is nothing in writing with Brook Cove and the Federation with regards to exclusivity. If Brook Cove feels they are being treated fairly, they will continue to support the Federation. Ken presented an ad rate package and indicated that every potential sponsor that he has approached was not put off by the proposed rates. Mike noted that we have to go after non-fishing industry sponsors, because the outdoor industry is tough. Wayne noted that to keep our sponsors, we have to properly acknowledge them and stress to our members to at least consider them when making purchases. He also noted that we have to be very careful that we are fair and equal to all sponsors.

Mike Kreloff and Wayne will check with the New Jersey B.A.S.S. for the possibility of sharing a booth at the Rockland Outdoor Show. Wayne also indicated that he would like to have a booth at the Bass Fishing Techniques Seminar at Pace University in March. Possibly local clubs could help out in both situations.

Web Site: Wayne noted that Ted Barth has done a lot of work on the site, and we are having a lot of hits. Something has to be put on the site regarding the elections and what happened later. People will begin to wonder what is going on. Something can be done after the official letters of resignation are received. Clubs are to be requested to contact Ted in order to give their permission to have a club rep added as club contact on the web.

Publicity: Wayne indicated that he planned to reappoint Melody Tenny for this position, pending talking to her first and coming to a mutual understanding of assignments and duties. Wayne received approval to appoint her after her return from Florida, and if he learns during their discussion that she still wants the job. (Note: Appointment has been formally made.)

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 4:50PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Rose T. Maher, Secretary