

Minutes of the NY BASS Chapter Federation Executive Board Meeting

Date: Sat, Jan 29, 2011

Location: Bass Pro Shop, Auburn, NY

Meeting called to order at 10:00 a.m.

Present: Mike Cusano, President
Chris Flint, Vice-President
Lori Haney, Secretary
Kathy Bonanno, Treasurer
Pam Bliss, Past President
Tom Presnell, Marketing/FISHLINES
Burnie Haney, Conservation/Public Relations
Dominic DiGirolamo, Scholarship
Ted Barth, Web
Jeff Edgerton, Tournaments/Membership

Club Roll Call – Clubs Present:

After Breakfast Bass Anglers – Ron Williamson
Albany Area Bassmasters – Paul Pflieger
Barge Canal Bassmasters – Bill Terry
Black Rock Bass Busters – John Agro
Capital District Bassmasters – Tom Larose
Good Ole Boys Bassmasters – Fred Chilluffo, Paul Hudson, Dick Hyde
Iron Hill Bassmasters – Tom Presnell
NNYBII – Jim Moore
Oak Orchard River Bass Anglers – Em Seefeldt
Oneida Lake Bassmasters –
Rochester Bassmasters – Mike Wall
Salt City Bassmasters – Patrick Grady
Southern Tier Bassmasters – Ted Barth
Watershed Rod & Reel – Gary Menchen
Westchester Rod & Reel – Chris Gore

1. Minutes of the December 4, 2010 meeting were presented for approval.
Motion to approve (Hyde) seconded (Agro), carried.

2. President's Report - This is an election year for the Federation and priority is to find officers and new leadership for the 2012-2013. President Cusano will not be accepting a nomination for the upcoming year, in addition there will be other key positions opening up: treasurer and tournament director. Mike asked for volunteers to be on the Election Committee. Scott Bliss volunteered to serve on the committee; we still need two more, for a total of three. Board members were asked to take the information back to their clubs to find two more individuals interested in serving on the committee. Criteria is that the committee members must know the federation, know the responsibilities of the

officer positions being solicited, be comfortable soliciting the membership and finding new officers, and be able to relay that information to potential nominees. Election Committee must be filled at the Feb meeting.

Question posed: What are the duties of members of the Election Committee?

Answer: Mike read the By-Laws description "There shall be a Federation Election Committee appointed by the Federation President to come from the general membership, and shall consist of three(3) members, none of which shall be a candidate for a contested office, nor an immediate family member of a candidate, nor a current member of the Executive Committee. It shall be the responsibility of this committee to record any and all nominations presented for Federation Office and to insure a fair and impartial appraisal of the candidates. Following the election, this committee will oversee the proper transition of the Federation's assets and duties to the new officers of the Federation. This committee shall be appointed and approved no later than the spring meeting of the Federation in an election year."

3. Treasurer's Report - Treasurer provided annual report 2010. Federation had a net loss of \$6,571 for the year.

3. Old Business: Two questions from last meeting were addressed:

Are FISHLINES sent to statewide Chambers of Commerce to get our story out there?

Answer is yes, to those that we feel can use the information and could potentially host an event.

Can clubs have more than one representative listed on the Club Directors Board?

Answer is no, Executive Committee discussed and clubs may only have one member with access, however, the clubs can determine and appoint anyone they feel would best serve the position.

4. Committee Reports:

a. FISHLINES: Tom Presnell reported on themes and topics covered in 2010 including youth activities, tournaments, angler of the year and professional interviews. Plans are to continue similar coverage in 2011 and pro interviews with Mike McClelland, Fred Roumbanis, and John Crews are expected. He is hoping to do some "on the water" features with the anglers of the year, product reviews, and human interest pieces. Tom thanked those who contributed articles in 2010 and reiterated that open submissions are welcome, either stories or story ideas.

b. Marketing: Tom Presnell reported on the advertising trends for FISHLINES from 2007 to 2010, showing that advertising dollars have almost doubled. He will attend the Bassmaster Classic to see what new opportunities are available. Bass Pro Shop has

made some changes at the corporate level which will affect their advertising and sponsorship budget for our federation so will be looking to fill that void. Tom reminded everyone of the importance of thanking sponsors when you use a product. It gives them an incentive to continue and allows them to see the geographic reach the federation provides. Tom then demonstrated the Lasso Net which folds down into its own handle. Retail cost is \$35, the sponsor is giving our federation five of the nets, plus a discount code which takes \$5 off and for each net sold, they are giving \$5 to the federation. The demonstration model will be offered at the banquet silent auction.

c. Conservation: Burnie Haney presented information (slide package attached) on:

1) Aquaculture proposal (S6502) being considered in the NY Legislature to make Black Bass a registered food source to third party vendors. In Dec, Clubs were asked to take this information back to membership and return in Jan with thoughts / recommendations for a Federation position on the proposal. Clubs were asked to share the results. Comments returned included concerns about fish being taken from contaminated waterways and the inability of NYDEC to enforce the law. Consensus was that all support a stand against the proposal. Burnie encouraged clubs to make their position known with their local political representatives. He will prepare a basic template letter that clubs may use to express their opposition individually and he will prepare a letter of response from the NYBCF.

2) NY DEC proposal to change to the Temporary Revocable Permit policy. The proposal would raise processing and administration fees per use to an undetermined and arbitrary amount up to \$1,000. Essentially, depending on who is asking and how the region office determines the value of the use, the fee could be anywhere from the current \$25 to \$1,000. The proposal was quietly released in mid-Dec but not received by federation until Jan 7 with a response due date of Jan 14. Burnie responded on behalf of the federation against the proposal.

3) Catch and Release on Oneida Lake – The Onondaga County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs have stated support of implementing catch and release in Region 7. Mike Cusano added that if/when NYDEC puts this initiative out for public comment, this will be a NYBCF "line in the sand" moment and needs to have full support. If we don't make our voice heard in a big way, it will have a big impact on our effectiveness and credibility.

4) Take A Soldier Fishing is scheduled for Sat, Apr 30 from Oneida Shores Park. Still seeking boater and shore duty commitments. We have 25 boaters signed up, need 50-55, deadline to sign up is Mar 15. We have 7 signed up for shore duty, need 10-12, deadline is Apr 15. Contact Mike Cusano or Burnie Haney to sign up. Donations are coming in.

d. Public Relations: Burnie Haney reported that throughout 2010 NYBCF was spotlighted on Team E Outdoors television show and all tournaments were publicized in regional newspapers, websites, and several message boards/forums. Club and

individual achievements were also covered in Bass Times, Bassmaster, and NY DEC Conservationist magazines.

Question posed: Team E gave great coverage of tournaments, but would a sit down interview with Team E, or another media outlet, to talk about the NYBCF be beneficial?

Answer: Mike is not opposed to it, but Team E controls the content and direction of the show. They have a limited time slot and we are thankful for the opportunity they are providing the NYBCF. There are other outlets that might lend themselves to a more informative NYBCF interview vs straight event coverage. PBS station in Watertown has a live show that is panel/interview driven. YNN does informative pieces. Not sure of the need or value, but will keep the option open.

e. Youth: No report.

f. Scholarship: Dominic DiGirolamo reported that Katie Knapp is the recipient of a \$500 scholarship.

g. Web: Nothing to report.

h. Sponsorship: Mike Cusano reported that new national contracts have been signed for the year (Alliance package and Humminbird/MinnKota.) We are always looking for other major sponsors.

i. Membership: Jeff Edgerton reported that as of meeting, 23 clubs have paid Federation dues, total of 250 members. The online roster system is up and correct, so if dues have been paid, they are reflected.

j. Tournaments: Jeff Edgerton reported that all tournament fees remain the same from last year. Discussion of payout amounts will take place at Feb meeting.

Tournament dates for 2011 are:

- June 19, Lake George (registration at elementary school, launch at Mossy Pt)

Reminder, boaters will need a Lake George pass.

- July 24, St. Lawrence River, Massena (launch site off Rt 37) Reminder all will need an Ontario license and Sportsman's Card (Thousand Island Bait Shop is good source) and double check safety equipment requirements, Canada requires some additional items. Still working to resolve the customs reporting process.

- 20-21 Aug, Club Team Event, Hudson River at Dutchmans Landing, Catskill.

There is a 15" limit.

- 2 Oct, Cayuga Lake (registration at Bass Pro Shops, launch at Union Springs)

(Reminder this tournament will require a 2012 license)

Suggested that boaters double check their boat insurance to make sure tournaments are covered, some apparently don't. Also, some tournaments are held on bodies of water that are considered international waterways, which might need to be identified to insurers.

5. New Business:

a. Mike Cusano reported that the Executive Committee reviewed and updated the Stipend Policy to allow mileage reimbursement for individuals conducting Federation business.

b. Proposal from Ted Barth to revisit holding four tournaments a year instead of the current three, and include a western site. When the Federation moved from four to three, it was understood that it was not necessarily a permanent change but an attempt to determine which schedule had best participation.

Outgoing tournament director, Jeff Edgerton and outgoing president, Mike Cusano explained some of the factors that the Board of Directors and new leadership would want to take into account when making a decision - the financial burden on anglers (rising gas prices, hotel, etc.), strain on the volunteer tournament staff, that host sponsorship is the reason we are able to run programs like 100% payout, guaranteed first place prize money, participation prizes, etc.... scheduling is already very tight trying to work around the other trails our members participate in, and ultimately member participation may fall again. Club representatives were asked to take the proposal back to their members and come to the February meeting with their club position. Ultimately, the new tournament director and Federation leadership has to be willing to

c. Pat Grady, Salt City Bassmasters (SCBM), presented an opportunity for the Federation to move forward with procurement of a Catch and Release vessel. Onondaga and Oswego Counties have received a grant to support hand pulling of water chestnuts in the Three Rivers Area in 2011 and 2012. Based on successful pulls in previous years, the SCBM have been approached by the counties to fulfill the deliverables of the grant (pulling of water chestnuts in designated locations) and receive reimbursement up to the full value of the grant.

SCBM proposes that the NY Federation purchase a pontoon boat that can be used to conduct the pulls in a more effective manner (carry heavier load, doesn't impact volunteers personal boats) and also provide a catch and release boat for tournaments.

The boat could also be used for other conservation projects, as a platform for youth events, and be contracted out in support of other tournament trails as we may see fit. Discussion as to cost of boat, weight requirements, towing responsibility, volunteer commitment to the pulls, cost of maintenance and operation, and ways to recoup investment by researching other grant opportunities.

Motion made (Bliss) that Pat research the pontoon boat options and costs and bring the information for consideration at Feb meeting, seconded (Haney)
Motion carried by show of hands (13 Y/0 N)

Next meeting is Sat, Feb 26 at 1000, Bass Pro Shops Conference Room

6. Motion to adjourn (Haney) seconded (Agro), carried.

Meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.