

**Board of Directors Meeting
November 9, 2008
Minutes**

President Mike Pierro called the meeting to order at 8:02am and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was performed. Roll Call was taken and there were 31 of 42 clubs present. Leggett's Creek then made a motion to accept the Aug 10, 2008 minutes; seconded by Lunker Landers; passed unanimously. Borderline then made a motion to accept the agenda.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT
Mike Pierro**

The FLW Cup is being held in Pittsburgh July 31-August 2, 2009. We will need volunteers for that as well as the Kids who will be fishing the Kittanning Pool. More information will be coming in February. Right now it will be similar to what the Classic was; weigh-in will be at the Civic Arena and the show will be at the Convention Center.

Mid-Atlantic Tournament Report from Lake Erie

There were 2 near perfect days with 5 footers on the third day but everyone got back safe. The only injury was from a crankbait taken right between the eyes but after he was taken care of, he fished the rest of the day.

Finances for the Tournament

We were supposed to foot the bill for the banquet the night before but FLW stepped up and picked up the bill. We paid \$200.00 for the reservation of the room.

The weigh in site was \$281.00. We rented the cookhouse, which is a protected pavilion with dock space.

\$ 2400.00 – for workers

\$ 0.00 – rooms for the workers. This was negotiated with the Hotel.

\$ 900.00 – President Expenses (estimated) This included a jar of Rejuvenade for everyone on the team

Income:

\$ 2700.00 back from the Hotel for room rentals

\$ 1500.00 from the City of Erie for having the tournament there.

\$ 854.00 from the raffle that we ran during the tournament

TBF picked up the cost of the banquet

In all, we made around \$ 1400.00 instead of it costing us money. Mike thanked all of those who helped with the tournament.

Team hotel expense was \$ 3300.00 for rooms from Sunday through Saturday.

Policies and Procedures

Looking for volunteers for this committee. Since we have new by-laws, the old Policies and Procedures are null and void.

State Sponsors

We had the banquet last night and all of the State Sponsors were invited. RJ Marine brought a brand new 208 Ranger, B&B put out some flyers and Tim Gavek from TGIF, who is looking to become a State Sponsor. Tim has a display of product in the back and is also offering a discounted price for the Duncan weigh-in bags to the District and State TD's so make sure you check it out and talk with him. Susquehanna Fishing Tackle is still on board as they have been for many years but they were unable to attend.

These sponsors came from local contacts. So if you know of someone who might like to advertise with us get them in contact with us and we will see if we can't work out a deal.

Web Site Issues

We need to revamp for the 21st century. One goal is to have a Picture Gallery up and running for this year so if you have any pictures, get them to us. We would also like to include pictures for the BOD power point.

One of the recent issues encountered was that the TBF link was not working. Dave Ciarletta said that if a link does not work, email him with what link it was and what page it was on and he can get it taken care of.

Reminder - we are responsible for maintaining the pages such as the District pages. If you need passwords and a how to, contact Dave and he can help you. Post things like minutes, list of your clubs and any other stuff such as their websites.

Reel Kids

Last year, a lot of people said they wanted to do it so we asked Berkley to send us 60 kits. They sent them to us and the only requirement for this program is to fill out a report. These reports are very important to them so that they know the kits are being used. To date, there have only been 14 submissions so we need to find out how many of these we have left and where they are. We are not going to ask for more kits if we can't show where they were used.

For us this is a passion; for them it is just business. If the reports don't start going in, this program could end up getting dropped – it is already real close. They want the recognition for what they are doing. For them it is a matter of profit and loss. If they don't see a return on their investment, they are not going to continue to do it.

National Sponsors

We have on order, \$1200.00 in product from Lowrance at no cost to the Federation. From Ranger, the three boats that were purchased by members this year earned us \$2700 in Ranger bucks and \$1900 each from Yamaha and Envinrude. All of that product has been ordered as well.

The plan for all of this stuff is to put it into the programs – Youth, Conservation and Tournaments. Using it mainly as a fundraising tool; it worked out really well this past year. In fact, it was able to reduce a lot of our costs especially with Youth and Conservation. If you remember, we cut \$2500 off of each of their budgets for this year and told them to come back to us if they needed it and we would see what we could do then. They did need it but instead of asking for it, they went out and raised it on their own.

In reference to the Berkley deal, we weren't allowed to divulge what the actual discount was except to say that it was significant. The program was to be run through the President's and if the information did not get out to everyone that they would keep us on this program. (This deal was to us and the nation). This lasted about 3 months until vendors complained that people were trying to get them to give discounts because they could get a better deal through the Federation from Berkley directly. Because of this, it is now shut down. We did get one order through the program for the State Team before it was shutdown and it was a significant discount for what they received.

BOD Meeting dates for 2009

The following dates are Penn State proofed: February 8th, June 7th, August 9th – week after the FLW Cup, and November 8th. Reminder that the banquet will be November 7th.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Tammy Johnston

Divisional Team Report

At the end of the first day, we were in last place so naturally there was a lot of ribbing going on being the home State. Add to that, our alternate got hurt before the tournament even started and he had to leave then Steve Allard got stuck at the ramp until after 9pm with a trailer problem; it didn't make for a good start. The team pulled together and Perry Haas stepped up and went out as a boater. Steve moved over to the rider side. On day 2 we moved up two places and on the final day the team fished harder and moved up 2 more places to 3rd; finishing with 247 lbs – just 6 lbs behind 2nd place NJ. The team members finished in the following order:

| | |
|---------|------------------------|
| McNeil | 36-07 Angler winner |
| Allard | 34-15 Co-angler winner |
| Belinda | 34-03 |
| Gray | 34-01 |
| Call | 23-14 |
| Gilpin | 17-05 |
| Ward | 16-04 |
| Fair | 12-06 |
| Booker | 10-10 |
| Wright | 8-03 |
| Hughes | 4-12 |

The new contracts for the 2009 team will be out shortly; get them back ASAP.

Fundraisers

The clothing went well and will continue. Orders will be taken at every meeting then the clothing will be brought to the next meeting. This 3-month lag saves us on shipping which would eat up most of the profit.

Sheetz will not continue. There doesn't seem to be enough stores throughout the State and the coupons did not sell.

The Cruise didn't work. There are only 6 rooms booked which is not even enough to get our kick back

If you have any ideas, let us know but support the ones that are tried. The clothing is a good example. If everyone in the Federation bought 1 shirt, that would be enough to fund the entire Youth program. If everyone bought 2, both Youth and Conservation could be funded. The suggestion was then made to get the clothing order forms out to the Districts and to put it on the website.

Another suggestion made, was to hold an OPEN Buddy Tournament on the day of the banquet. This way you are coming for 2 reasons – fish the tournament and go to the banquet. An alternate suggestion was to put the tournament in front of a different BOD meeting so you are not dealing with November weather. This issue will be revisited in February.

The President re-took the podium and reminded everyone that we run this Federation on \$30,000.00 year. If everyone got behind fundraisers, raffles, State Tournaments etc, we could conceivably not have to pay dues; we are not that far away. The goal is to never ask for a raise in dues. What would be nice is to say that this year's dues are only \$20.00 or better yet; let's forget about the dues because we raised \$50,000.0 last year. It can be done. There are

people out there who raise money for their church or the Lions club etc. You don't think twice about raising \$20 or \$30,000 in a year but yet we scrape by every year. Let's do it and get rid of the dues!

Treasurer Report **Ron Rook**

Ron reported a balance in the checking account of \$XXXX and a balance of \$XXXX in the money market account. He also reported that the money market account total includes \$XXXX in 2009 dues that have been collected so far. There were no questions from the floor about the report

The President re-took the podium and advised the membership that we are going to start cataloging the money differently. This is an attempt to know exactly what is tournament money and what is general fund. We also do not want to find ourselves with a lot of money in the bank. We all know what happened the last time. It becomes a target for some people.

Membership / Secretary Report

The President stated that when the agenda was put together, the Membership and Secretary were the same person but now we have a new Secretary, Chris Wilson from District 7, so these positions will be split out once again.

Membership **Dave Ciarletta**

In 2008 we had 650 adult members, 13 premium youth members and 42 standard youth members. As of the October 31 deadline, we have 320 adult members, 6 premium youth and 9 new members (1 youth). Not all of the membership rosters received have been processed.

When registering your members, they have to have a 2009 expiration date for their FLW number. The FLW number also has to show "Active" in the members box. When they don't show up as active, there is something wrong that has to be fixed. It is usually something simple like a misspelling or wrong suffix, zip code, town or address (they changed it with FLW but not with you). Whatever it is it has to match exactly with how they registered with FLW.

Club information needs to include an address and an email. Also, provide an email for each one of your members. One of the things that we are using to keep the membership informed is Email blast – this is a good tool but it is only as good as the information we have such as emails.

We are getting \$40.00 back from FLW for an overpayment. They can not credit it to us against this year's dues because an accounting issue so we will be getting a check

Proposal – no one should have to pay a second membership fee to the State if they join a second club. There is no additional benefit that that person receives from paying that second membership fee. Since the best thing that we can do for our organization is grow the clubs, why would we want to throw a roadblock to someone who might want to join another club. That only helps the clubs. So, I make a **Motion** to remove the charges for members joining more than one club; the number of clubs joined will only be restricted by the rules of who we are affiliated with. For example TBF will allow you to join up to 3 clubs made by Chester County. Seconded by Lunker Landers. Unanimous - **MOTION PASSED**

With the completion of the Officer Reports, the President had Tim Gavek, representing TGIF Products, introduce himself and speak to the membership. Tim said that TGIF is a national sales group representing a number of tackle manufacturers; they are not a distributor or a manufacturer. He went on to list the companies that they are currently representing. Tim went on to say that TGIF is thinking of becoming a State Sponsor and in fact, has already worked out a deal with Duncan weigh-in bags for a special purchase price for District and State Tournament Directors and those bags are on display here today.

After the break, the President mentioned that RJ Marine made an offer to the Federation at the banquet. If you register your club with him and someone from your club buys a boat, he will give the club 1% of that sale up to \$500.00 to be used for your club (information will be on the website). Mike also noted that, RJ Marine also buys the Divisional Team their third shirt.

Youth Tammy Johnston

State Youth Tournament in Erie

The following results for the event were reported:

5th Place – Lancaster County JR Hawg Hunters – 8lbs
4th Place – JR Elite Bassers – 9.35lbs
3rd Place – Lebanon County – 14.40lbs
2nd Place – Allegheny Mountain JR Bass Anglers – 15.80
1st Place – District 2 – 17.5

11-14 Age Group
3rd Place – Madison – 2.50lbs
2nd Place – Hoover – 3.70lbs
1st Place – Miller – 5.65lbs

15-18 Age Group
3rd Place – Kelly – 4.50lbs
2nd Place – Blasko – 4.55lbs
1st Place – Hartman – 7.65

The Lunker for the event was 3lbs caught by Shane Beckman

Miller and Hartman will be fishing the Kids event at Kittaning during the FLW cup. If you know anything about the place, please help them out.

Next Years Tournament will be on Lake Augusta at Sunbury on August 28th and 29th with the meeting on the 27th. This will most likely be an all jet boat event and Tom Prowant will help putting this together.

The Reel Kids State Final was held at Cabelas over the Labor Day weekend and will continue for this upcoming year; the date will be September 6, 2009. Anyone holding an event needs to get their kids to the State Final and get the paperwork in. We need the 2 winners with their names, addresses and phone numbers written legibly. This way we can get a letter out to them. It is not practical to continue to hold this for 4 kids. It is a lot of time and money. The upside was that 3 of the 4 want to join youth clubs.

Tammy introduced the two new Youth Directors: Ray Sharp and Mike Burgess. Ray Sharp wants to raise the bar. His first mission is to find out where the Reel Kids kits all are so we have them accounted for and can get

more. Ray mentioned that Steve Pickett (who also joined a club) from Cabela's went out of his way for this event getting stuff together to only have 4 kids show up. If we don't get behind this, we could lose a sponsor like this.

Ray supplied the following contact numbers: 717-292-5951 home and 717-332-9690 cell

Mike Burgess supplied the following contact numbers: 814-243-6035 cell and 814-535-6453 home. He then went on to explain the difference between \$25 Premium and \$5 Regular JR club dues. The Premium gets the kids their own copy of the magazine and a tackle pack. There are some additional perks coming.

Conservation Bill Reichert

In relation to VHS disease at Lake Erie, the best way to keep this from spreading is to keep your stuff clean between contact with different waterways. Bill then showed some pictures of what an infected fish looks like and advised that this disease covers more than one species of fish.

A report on the Susquehanna River Smallmouth Population showed that there was not a great spawn but there was no massive die off like previous years. There will be a symposium in Harrisburg on January 31, 2009 about this issue. The biggest impact is from Sunbury down in relation to disease in warm shallow water. For us these issues are important because we want to help out the fishery. Other people may want to use this for their own agenda. Such as catch and release. Bill cautioned; if someone asks you about Catch and Release, you need to know what they are asking. They will ask you if you favor catch and release and you may say yes. What you don't realize is that they are talking about catch and immediate release and that's not good for tournaments. Just know what they are asking. Clarify before answering.

YBACS

Bill will be sending out surveys to the participants from the last 5 years. So far, 100 kids have gone through the program and 10 have gone on to college for environmentally related careers.

Lake Projects

The Pymatuning project was completed in July, Nockamixon Lake was completed in September, Sayers 2nd phase is to be completed in January and Hammond Lake in Tioga County did a draw down and did a project on their own this summer that cost in the \$30,000 range. What is good about all of these is that after the work is done in all of these lakes, biologists are going back in to study the results.

On January 27th, we will be meeting to discuss plans for Glendale Lake.

Mid-Atlantic Divisional

To address fish care concerns with regard to bloat, we used a wire cage to sink 2 of them at a time down to 20 feet to stabilize them. It worked out well but the third day was a challenge with the conditions. In all 530 fish were caught with 80% of them being smallmouths and there were 7 dead.

Tournament Report Bob Kline

State Classic

The State Classic, was held on the Northeast River out of Anchor Marine on October 3rd and 4th. We started with 61 boats registered for the tournament and ended up with 59 by the start of the tournament. A total of 108 limits over the 2 days were brought in with only 3 dead. Qualifying for the 2010 Divisonal Team are Anglers: Sabbi, Gray, Accord, Bradshaw, Prowant, Giden and Co-Anglers: Miller AOY (top weight), Hartman, Amig, Morella, Lazur, Heil with Lovallo as the alternate. Bob thanked his staff for an excellent job: Fred Lewis (new ASTD), Duttera, Hironymous, Koch and Elliot

The 2010 Mid-Atlantic tournament will be on the Mon River in West Virginia.

Mr. BASS

The Tournament Committee recommended that Mr. BASS be split into 2 tournaments (East and West) to be held on different days so that an angler could fish both if they want to. To accomplish this, they also recommended the following:

If an angler fished both East and West, only the highest finish would count

Increase the berths to the Classic from 20 to 40 (from 10 boats to 20).

Eliminate the points.

Awarding of the 40 spots would be based on participation percentage. Example, if one of the tournaments had 75 boats and the other had 25 boats then 75% of the berths would be from one tournament and 25% would be from the other. Open the dates that the tournament can be held. Currently Mr. BASS is restricted to the months of March through May.

The first discussion was on opening the dates. It was generally opined, that if we are only going to have one tournament, then we need to have it early. If we are going to go to two, then we need to remove the restriction. It was also felt that relaxing the dates would allow more flexibility to allow others to complete but there has to be an end date set. After the discussion, there was a **Motion** by Brandywine to open up the dates for Mr. Bass until the end of August; seconded by Team Keystone. The vote: 26 For; 5 Oppose – **MOTION PASSES**. The next **Motion** by Leggett's Creek was to have two Mr. Bass tournaments for 2009; East (Districts 1/3/7) and West (Districts 2/4/6) on 2 different dates; seconded by Team Keystone. The vote: 25 For; 3 Oppose; 3 Abstain – **MOTION PASSES**. On the issue of Classic Spots, **Motion** by Borderline to have 30 Classic positions total from both Mr. Bass tournaments and remove the points; seconded by Schuykill County. The vote: 24 For; 4 Oppose; 3 Abstain – **MOTION PASSES**

State Regional

The Tournament Committee has decided to table bringing to the floor a change n format from a 6 man format to a 4 man format and instead recommend the following:

Open up the Team Regional date to include any weekend in June.

After a short discussion, **Motion** by Brandywine to open the Regional Tournament to any weekend in June; seconded by Crawford County. The vote: 27 For; 2 Oppose; 1 Abstain; 1 Not Present – **MOTION PASSES**

District Regional Format

In 2008, there was discussion about regionalizing the State in 2009. In 2008, District 1, 3 and 7 did a pilot program of this idea. The tournament committee has decided to table bring this format to the floor for 2009 and have decided to ask District 1-3-7 to continue with the pilot program.

With respect to the changes voted on above, all tournaments will be posted shortly. A number of Districts have a meeting this week and final dates and destinations for the Mr. BASS tournaments and the Team Regionals will be decided on.

2009 Rules and Regulations will be ready for February. There are no major changes; just making sure that what was voted on in 2008 is incorporated.

2009 State Classic

October 2-3 at Raystown Lake out of James Creek. Meeting will be Thursday, October 1st (site to be announced)

TBF Update Mike Pierro

They are pushing the new school program very hard – more details to come.

Budget Mike Pierro

The budget request in 2008 was as follows: President - \$4800, Vice President - \$2250, Treasurer - \$1200, Secretary - \$2200, Youth - \$9250, Conservation - \$7500, Membership – included in Secretary. Granted was the following: President - \$4800, Vice President - \$1500, Treasurer - \$800, Secretary - \$1500, Youth - \$5000, Conservation - \$5000, Operational: Website - \$4000, Operations - \$6550.

Actual expenses: President \$3200 (This was without any expenses for the FLW Cup that he did not attend. He will be attending it this year), Vice President - \$0.00 (all expenses were covered under Youth), Treasurer - \$753, Secretary - \$543 (this was due to Secretary/Membership traveling with the Treasurer), Youth - \$6200, Conservation - \$7552 (only \$3752 out of his budget – he raised \$3800), Operational: Website \$3150, Operations - \$5000

Budget request for 2009: President - \$4500, Vice President - \$1500, Treasurer - \$800, Secretary - \$1200, Youth - \$7500, Conservation - \$7500, Membership - \$1500, Operational: Website - \$3200, Operations - \$5000

The above requests represent a total budget of \$32,700.00 against a projected income of \$26,000.00 from dues. This leaves us \$6,700.00 to raise through fundraising. Note that Youth and Conservation raised \$5000.00 on their own last year

After a question and answer period, **Motion** made by River Hills and seconded by Leggett's Creek to accept the budget as proposed. A roll call vote was taken. With Bassmasters of Crawford County being the lone dissenting vote, the **MOTION PASSED**; (Allegheny Mountain - Not Present)

Old Business

The projector purchase is no longer necessary and will be removed from Old Business.

The Clubs in Bad Standing due to not attending the BOD will fall within Polices and Procedures and will remain under Old Business.

The issue with the District 7 Scale, was turned over to District 7 Chairman Chris Wilson who presented the case to the BOD as to why the scale should be replaced by the State. Upon completion of that presentation, three questions were asked and answered. **Motion** by Mountain Valley to replace the scale was seconded by Chester County. **RECINDED DUE TO NEW MOTION AFTER FOLLOWING DISCUSSION**

A discussion on the motion followed where six additional points were brought up and addressed. President Pierro brought up one final point and that was concerning a price limit and whether or not the BOD wanted D7 to bring back prices or just purchase the unit. The discussion that followed on this point led to an amendment of the original motion by Mountain Valley. **Motion** by Mountain Valley to replace the scale not to exceed the published price on the company website for that model scale. Chester County seconded. The vote was Unanimous of the clubs present. **MOTION PASSED**

New Business

Child Wish Event / Make-A-Wish - We need to support these types of events annually. The support they are looking for is not monetary it is participation in the form of taking these kids out fishing. District 4 Chairman Bob Stiger will be the contact person and he will put updated information on the website. Right now, there is an event tentatively scheduled for the 1st weekend in June. More information to come. These events are sanctioned so they are covered by our insurance.

Mid-Atlantic Winnings - Through an Executive Committee phone conference, the \$1000.00 for the two 1st place finishers from the Divisional Team was paid out of the tournament fund so that the winnings could be divided amongst the team members after the boaters were paid their gas money. This was done because the contract reads that the winners are paid, the gas is paid then the team members get what is left. In this case that would have amounted to \$1.66 per person. A discussion followed on this issue and everyone present was in agreement that it was always the intent for the Federation to supply this money for the advancing anglers; not have it come out of the winnings. **Motion** made by Chester County that the \$2000.00 to be paid to the top 2 finishers is to come out of the tournament fund and clarify the contract language; seconded by Brandywine.

There was a discussion relating to what the team is allowed to keep when it comes to the winnings. The majority of members present opined that they keep the winnings regardless of what the amount is.

With the discussion complete, the motion was called to a vote. The vote: Unanimous of the clubs present. **MOITION PASSED**; (2 Not Present)

Divisional Team - The President asked that the contract be amended to read that an angler may not leave the Divisional Tournament site until released or they forfeit prizes and expenses. After a discussion, **Motion** made by Hawg Hunters that an angler may not leave the Divisional Tournament site until released by the President or his designee or the member forfeits all prizes/expenses; seconded by Team Keystone. After additional discussion, it was called for a vote. The vote: Unanimous of the clubs present. **MOTION PASSED**; (2 Not Present). Bill Reichert brought up having a permanent team captain for the Divisional Team. TBF rules now state that the President and Conservation are the 14th and 15th man on the roster as alternates. Instead of it being Conservation, offer that to someone who is willing to take on the Team Captain responsibilities. There was a discussion that followed. There was no motion/decision made on this issue. Mike Sabbi brought up enforcing the contract provisions for participation in reference to their required appearance at a State Meeting along with any other provision. A discussion followed. The consensus was that the BOD wants strict enforcement of the contract by the President on a case by case basis through the Executive Committee. It was also recommended that it be brought to the attention of the anglers that the meeting is required and that the penalty for not following the terms can be removal from the team.

Good of the Order

YBACS - A lot of good coverage. Bill is doing a good job

Leggett's Creek - They did a fantastic lake recovery project that was featured in FLW magazine

Motion to Adjourn – Leggett's Creek seconded by Chester County

ADJOURNED at 12:40pm

ATTENDANCE

| CLUB | NOV 08 | FEB 09 | JUN 09 | AUG 09 | NOV 09 |
|---------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Allegheny Mountain Bass Anglers | X | | | | |
| Bass Buddies | X | | | | |
| Bassmasters of Craford County | X | | | | |
| Berk Bassmasters | X | | | | |
| Berwick Bass | | | | | |
| Blair Bassmasters | X | | | | |
| Blue Mountain Bassmasters | | | | | |
| Borderline Bassmasters | X | | | | |
| Brandywine Bass Masters | X | | | | |
| Broad Top Bass Association | X | | | | |
| Bux-Mont Bass Masters | | | | | |
| Chester County Bass Masters | X | | | | |
| Clarion County Bass Masters | X | | | | |
| Delaware River Bassmasters | | | | | |
| Hawg Hunter Bassmasters | X | | | | |
| Hunters Run Bassmasters | X | | | | |
| Independent Bassmasters | | | | | |
| Kaiser Hollow Bass | | | | | |
| Lancaster County Bassmasters | X | | | | |
| Lancaster County Hawg Hunters | X | | | | |

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|-------------------------------|-------|--|--|--|--|
| Lebanon County Bass Anglers | X | | | | |
| Leggett's Creek Bassmasters | X | | | | |
| Lunker Landers Bass Club | X | | | | |
| Mountain Valley Bassmasters | X | | | | |
| North West Bassers | X | | | | |
| Northeastern Bassmasters | | | | | |
| Pro-Line Bassmasters | X | | | | |
| River Hill Bass Masters | X | | | | |
| River Rats Bassmasters | X | | | | |
| Schuykill County Bass Anglers | X | | | | |
| Shy Beaver | X | | | | |
| South Central PA Basscasters | X | | | | |
| Standing Stone Bass Masters | X | | | | |
| Susquehanna Valley Bass Club | X | | | | |
| Tamaqua Bass Club | | | | | |
| Team Keystone | X | | | | |
| The Extreme Anglers | | | | | |
| Trailer Hook Bass Anglers | | | | | |
| Tri-County Bass Masters | X | | | | |
| Tyrone Bassmasters | X | | | | |
| Washberry Bass Club | X | | | | |
| Wayne County Bassmasters | | | | | |
| | 31-42 | | | | |