

**Board of Directors Meeting  
June 1<sup>st</sup> 2014  
Minutes**

President Chris Wilson brought the meeting to order at 8:00 am and the Pledge of Allegiance was performed. Roll Call was taken and there were 18 out of 40 clubs present. The November 2013 minutes were read and then approved by 1<sup>st</sup> by Allegheny and 2<sup>nd</sup> River Hill. The proposed agenda for the meeting was accepted.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT  
Chris Wilson**

Chris sent out the minutes prior to the meeting to the Chairmen and Presidents and then took a vote to skip the regular reading of the minutes as they were sent to everyone - BuxMont 1st and Boarder Line 2<sup>nd</sup> with approval.

The Mid Atlantic Championship will be held in Delaware on September 14<sup>th</sup> to the 19th at Phillips Landing. The contract and applications were signed by the anglers.

To help educate the membership on how to make the Championship, Chris published the "Road to the Championship" e-mail to the districts for presidents to forward on to club members. The document outlined that we will be taking 7 anglers and 7 co-anglers from each district. Both Angler and Co Angler will automatically qualify for next year's championship if they are in 1 Mr. Bass Tournament and 2 of their home districts tournaments.

District 3 had questions about the 2009 BOD vote where we voted not to go down any list to fill the slots for the Championship. Chris reviewed the rules and regulations around this subject and the funding around the tournaments. It was noted that some districts are fishing the districts tournaments as club events which helps the organization but will include anglers that do not wish to move up and fish Championship. There will be a Check Box added to the application if a member has no intention of fishing for championship. Once this block is checked for a single tournament, an angler cannot change their mind. This does not exclude them from any winnings or privileges based on their finishing position including any District Angler of the Year awards. Chris asked for feedback and membership said they approved 100%.

Chris discussed the Matching Program that was discussed in November and indicated that we did not receive any feedback from membership therefore the program is outlined as follows:

- a. A District must be taking a minimum of \$2.00 from the 30% they retain from each tournament application and ear mark it for Youth/Conservation.
- b. A club must then request funds from their District for a particular project. If the District approves the project and provides funds for it, the District Chairman will email the State President about the project and how much the District is providing for it. The State will then match that amount up to \$50.00. This does not limit the District to \$50.00 it is just the maximum the State will match.

The membership was 100% in favor of the program as outlined.

The planning for tournaments in 2015 has begun and details will be provided in November. Requests for Proposals (RFPs) were sent out early to save us some money. In 2015 we are hosting the Mid Atlantic Division tournament and we are on track for it being held on Lake Erie. PA Bass is the host and is on the hook for supporting the host location at Presque Isle Bay/Erie. Please remember to post your 2015 Districts tournament plans by December 15<sup>th</sup>.

**VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT**  
**Mike Sabbi**

Mike started by thanking the state team for all coming to the meeting. The High School Championship is poised to be a big success and to raise money for it, Mike had Hats in Camouflage (13 available) and (70) Blue for sale and 2 different shirts by Bass Layer Apparel - Life is Short Fish Hard - hats are \$10 and 100 shirts at \$17. This will provide about a \$1000.00 to buy lunch for kids, captains and volunteers and provide some money for prizes. The State fronted the money and it will be paid back upon completion of all the sales. Tell your membership and contact Mike for sales.

Mike continues to work on Divisional Team and all the details of the event. The rooms were booked in Salisbury Delaware at the Holiday Inn Express and the ramp is at Phillips Landing. The state park has a launch permit of \$25 but where we are launching it is free. Boaters please make sure you have boaters insurance on your person and on your boat at all times. The total cost for the event came in right on budget at \$20,230.00 for entire tournament which included shirts, jackets and a lot more items from our incredible sponsors.

The PA Bass Federation won the Lowrance National Marketing Campaign! Mike and Blakey were the "stars" in the video that featured Robert Blake as the Bass Commander. The first place prize of \$5,000 was used to buy the Lowrance products that we give away at our events.

Mike continues to expand and leverage our sponsor relationships for more benefits for our membership. All PA Bass Federation details of sponsorships are CONFIDENTIAL; these are benefits for you and you only. All of what the following sponsors provide to the Federation was outlined at the meeting (details can be obtained from Mike): Ally Tungsten, Marine Plus, MinnKota, Plano / Frabill, Kistler, Save Face, Gamma, Rod Glove, Keel Shield, Solar Bat, Venom Lures, Susquehanna Fishing Tackle and Navionics - Mike is still working on the details with Navionics. Please contact Mike with any sponsorship ideas or leads.

**TREASURER REPORT**  
**Robert Miller**

The Treasurer reported the balances as of June 2014. The report was 1<sup>st</sup> by Lancaster County and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Hog Hunters.

**SECRETARY REPORT**  
N/A

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT**  
**Sue Blake**

There are 654 adult PA Bass members as of June. We had 76 new members this year along with 50 Junior and 13 new junior members.

**YOUTH REPORT**  
**Mike Burgess / Greg Smith**

The Youth membership is now being co-managed by Mike Burgess and Greg Smith. High School fishing expansion is key to the future of the organization. Reaching out to High School Athletic Directors and attending their meetings are important parts of getting the word out about these programs. These programs are free and they just need someone to organize the events. Parents provide boats and you only need 2 kids per school to have a team. The programs are good because they reach kids that may

not participate in other sports – check out video on web site to promote to parents and kids in your area. It was noted by Greg that we need more participation on the eastern side of the state so please encourage your districts and clubs to reach out. There are free fliers available about the High School program on our web site.

Greg, Mike and Tom coordinated the Jr World championship on Lake Erie this year and next year's event will be in September on a Saturday and Sunday on Lake Erie. The exact date will be posted as soon as it's confirmed. Also a reminder that our Reel Kids Casting program was a success this year and continues to grow – Please reach out to Greg for help setting up the contests and organization of the events, prizes and equipment needed. Greg indicated that the junior programs have changed to a single age group now to align with the high school championships format. Mike Sabbi will be handling the youth program for the last time this year as it will be handed off to new youth directors. We thank Mike for his contributions to the youth events.

### **CONSERVATION REPORT** **Robert Blake**

Conversation meetings – evasive species – wash stations are becoming more relevant to northern waters. There are species that can live up to 5 days out of water. Tournament fishermen are said to be a major cause of the spread of these species as they are jumping water to water. Robert indicated we really need to have a Conservation position at the District level to help the cause. Zebra mussels have been sited on Lake Wallenpaupack. For the state championship next year we may have a wash station set up to aid in cleaning the boats – a wash station video will be posted on our web site if you wish to create one for your tournaments. Robert indicated that the conservation efforts in PA are far ahead of some of the other organizations and reminded everyone to take good care of your fish in tournaments.

### **TOURNAMENT REPORT** **Bruce Bramer**

Mr. Bass was close to being canceled because a weather scenario but we found a window and we were able to launch at 9 am and weighed in at 5 pm. The safety of everyone at the event was our main concern so we are glad we waited for the better weather window. The tournament had a good turnout with 56 Anglers who caught 148 fish and we released all but 2. There was a total weight of 484 pounds which averaged out at 3.28 pounds per fish average.

The Regional at Cayuga will be a great event and all applications are due on June 20<sup>th</sup>; the meeting on Thursday is for Team captains only. Captains will need to bring \$120 Lunker money. The BOD raised the issue of bringing license and insurance information to this meeting. A compromise was reached and instead we will be spot checking state teams. If a single team member is found not to have the proper license or insurance then the entire team will be disqualified. Ramp fees will be communicated as soon as we know and the beach is off limits – all info will be on our web site. Please note there are more rooms available at the Holiday Inn Express. So please call and book. Please use hotel if possible, so that the Federation can save money on staff rooms. TBF is the code. Call directly to hotel for reservations.

The Road to the Championship document will be online shortly and you will see who and how people will qualify for the event. It is very important to communicate when and how you will be going to the Championship. Bruce had a detailed discussion about how members make the championship and reminded everyone to please send in applications for regional on Sayers last chance tournament asap.

### **TBF UPDATE** **Chris Wilson**

The Presidents council is a meeting of Presidents of the all the states and where the running the National Federation takes place. The BOD is elected at the Presidents meeting in which the elections are held for 2 years. The states have some new nominations coming up at the next presidents meeting. Chris will inform the membership on candidates and events. At the Presidents meeting this year there was a vote on moving the time and location of the meeting from the TBF National Champion to the Jr World Championship. Next year's meeting will be at Jr. World Championship in August..

**OLD BUSINESS**  
**Chris Wilson**

As a reminder to the membership we are always looking for help and volunteers to help with the annual Our Wish program held on Raystown Lake. The PA Bass Federation has partnered with Our Wish and provides products for this great program. More importantly is that the Federation is where the volunteers come from that are the most important. Next year's program date will be announced as soon as it's confirmed. This is a great program for the families as well as all the kids. The other program that some members participated in and will be held again on September 7<sup>th</sup> is an organization that supports the recovery of veterans called Wounded Warriors. The event does a drive by the beach with Flags flying high Crystal beach and the following days Boaters take vets out fishing for the day. Contact Mike Sabbi for more details.

**NEW BUSINESS**  
**Chris Wilson**

Mike Sabbi is always looking for more opportunities for sponsorships for our membership of PA Bass. Please call or e-mail Mike with any ideas or opportunities you may have. As a reminder we are always working toward the best possible methods of taking care of the fish we catch and release. In those efforts we are working on a plan to obtain a Bass Release Boat for use on the State tournament Trail. Investigation is underway and we will keep membership posted on progress.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER**  
**N/A**

**Motion to adjourn 1<sup>st</sup> Leggett's Creek and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lunker landers@ 12:00**