

**Board of Directors Meeting
November 3, 2013
Minutes**

President Chris Wilson brought the meeting to order at 8:00 am and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was performed. Roll Call was taken and there were 28 of 40 clubs present. The June 2, 2013 minutes were read and then approved by 1st by Lancaster Hog Hunters and 2nd Allegheny. The proposed agenda for the meeting was accepted.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT
Chris Wilson**

Chris began by going over the positions in the PA Bass Federation as there were some new people stepping up to help the organization and that we were grateful. There were no changes to existing Board members positions and that was first and seconded by BuxMont & Hog hunters. We did however add a few new officers.

President - Chris Wilson
President@PABass.com

Vice President - Mike Sabbi
VP@PABass.com

Secretary - Scott Carlisle
Secretary@PABass.com

(New) Treasurer – Robert Miller
Treasurer@PABass.com

(New) Membership Director – Sue Blake
Membership@PABass.com

Tournament Director – Bruce Bramer
Tournaments@PABass.com
Assistant Tournament Director – Will Hollis

**Youth Directors -Mike Burgess,
(New) Greg Smith**
Youth@PABass.com

(New) Conservation Director – Robert Blake
Conservation@PABass.com

Web Director - Dave Ciarletta
Web@PABass.com

Chris reported on the Mid Atlantic by stating it was a tough tournament and that Shawn Richards did a great job as Captain! Sharing information on locations, baits and strategy was key as the fishing was extremely tough but overall it was a great Team effort and that Joe Pacholec and Rex Magargle will be representing PA at the TBF National Championship in April. The location has not been officially announced but it appears that it will be on Grand Lake in Oklahoma where it was this year. There will also be a Living the Dream package for the Co-Anglers that was started this past April of the President's Council.

Delaware will be the 2014 host for Mid-Atlantic Divisional Championship; most likely on the Nanticoke River where it was 7 years ago. We have received the 2015 contract from TBF in order to start the bid process so if you have any ideas for host locations please forward them to Chris for consideration. Keep in mind this tournament has approximately 50 boats and 55 rooms are needed so if we need to use 2 locations they should be close together and of comparable quality. Any help with logistics from members familiar with the Presque Isle area would be greatly appreciated.

The 2014 championship will be out of Presque Isle Bay in October 3rd and 4th which will qualify our anglers for the 2015 Mid-Atlantic Divisional which will also be out of Presque Isle.

Chris spoke at length about the current Mr Bass and Regional setup. How divisive the names are (East West Central) and how Mr Bass West has never attained any real popularity while tying up a tournament weekend in an already limited season. The challenges and logistical problems were discussed at length and the conclusion was reached that the Mr Bass West experiment is over.

Mr Bass will now be known as Kick off and Last Chance. Mr Bass Kick Off will generally be in April or May and will most likely be out of state to jumpstart season because of PA Rules on tournaments during these months as well as weather concerns with the only available weekend in April. From the tournament, 25% of the participants will qualify for the Championship. Mr Bass Last chance will be the last chance an angler will have to get into the Championships. It will held 2 weeks prior to the Championship. There is no meeting and check-in will be Saturday starting at 7:30am. The tournament day on Saturday will be 9:00am to 3:00pm and Sunday Safe Light to 1:00pm. This allows the anglers plenty of time to travel to and from the tournament without needing to take additional days off of work. The entry fee will be \$150 for anglers and \$75 for co-anglers. 25% of the field will qualify for the Championship

A number of comments were made about the possible locations for Mr Bass Last Chance. As with any State Tournament, the location is chosen by the State and as always participation or the wishes of the membership play a major role in the determination of that location.

The next discussion concerned the Regional Tournaments and changing them to Team Regional 1 and Team Regional 2. Again, this is to get rid of the divisive East, Central, West naming but more importantly increase the opportunities for the anglers to get a more reasonable pay day and more chances to qualify for the Championship through increased participation. Team Regional 1 will be comprised of D1, D3 and D7. Team Regional 2 will consist of D4, D6, D2 and D5 with selection of the tournament site being done in this rotation. Additional ideas of scheduling to try and get even more participation by having them in different months was discussed at length. The President then called for a break so that Districts 2,4,5 and 6 could continue discussing their feelings on the proposal since it affected them the most.

After the break, representatives from those Districts still wanted the Team Regional 2 tournament on any week in June because they did not feel moving to July would create any cross participation; whether for their districts to fish Regional 1 or for the Regional 1 districts to participate in Regional 2.

At the conclusion, it was decided unanimously that this would be the direction the Federation.

A brief discussion about the Championship followed. Chris said that a number of factors go into choosing the site. A primary consideration is what we can get for the State that will help us reduce the expenses in running the tournament. When asked if the 2015 Championship was going to be held on Presque Isle like it was held back to back a Cayuga; the special circumstances around why that happened were again discussed and the BOD was reminded that they ok'd doing it. The idea of having it back to back was not ruled out but 2012 and 2013 Championships did not set any type of precedent.

Districts were then reminded that all District tournaments have to be concluded no later than September 15th and that the host District is the first to be able to piggy back at the location for the Team Regional. A member then proposed raising the District Tournament entry to \$150 Angler and \$100 Co-angler. This was tabled for discussion at the March meeting.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT **Mike Sabbi**

Mike reported on sponsorships and contract underway for this year and next. The Lowrance contract changed last year and we got an HD 9 and a 7 and if we do promotional video we may get \$250 cash. Anyone who won the HD 9 and 7s they are ordered for you. The good news is that the Lowrance prices are still in effect for divisional team. Our Plano sponsor provided \$2,000 in products from them which was

great. We also have new rain gear coming soon from Frabill and Mike will work on a deal to order Frabill jackets etc. but please keep in mind that they prefer orders to be \$500 and over so there will be times you will have to wait. Mike indicated that the MinnKota contract was complete and signed and that we have new hats along with a bonus of an 8 foot Talon to giveaway. We continue to have Rod Glove as a great sponsor and provided us with pro staff pricing and a general membership discount as well. Keel Shield also will provide us pro staff pricing and a general membership discount. Marine Plus really stepped up for us and we got cash for being on shirts and Mike is also trying to get them at the Championship to have a mechanic on site.

Mike spent some time talking about a great sponsor we have in Cabela's and the Reel Kids event held on location and noted the Penn State fishing Team came out and helped with the event; 67 children participated in the free casting contest. Communications of the event ahead of the time will certainly help the numbers grow next year. We will get Cabela's cash back for holding and event there. Mike also want to thank Cabela's for providing life jackets for the Our Wish event.

Other great event this year was for the Wounded Warriors organization. Mike reported that we need to do a better job in supporting this event as we were only able to provide about 5 boats for the Cara Cove drive by this year. Communication and awareness seemed to be the issue so put it on the calendars for next year. There are lots of activities and you get to meet the guys and some want to fish; weekend of 9/7 for 2014.

Mike was excited to talk about the High School Championship he attended as it was an awesome event. There were 17 teams that participated. There were 12 from PA, 4 from NJ and 1 from MD. NJ had 13 pounds. The event will be at the same location and time next year at the end of July at Elk Neck State Park.

In closing, Mike reminded the Divisional Team to get shirt information and completed by the end of the year and that for the meeting raffle we have a new Touch 7 to give away and over \$3,700 total in prizes today!

TREASURER REPORT
Chris Wilson

The President reported on behalf of the Treasurer a checking account balance of \$XXXX, money market balance of \$XXXX and fundraiser account balance of \$XXXX.

SECRETARY REPORT
Scott Carlisle

Scott asked membership to always check out the PABASS.com web site for the latest news and information on tournaments. If updates are needed please advise.

TOURNAMENT REPORT
Bruce Bramer

Bruce started with a big thank you to the members for all their help with tournaments and participation as we are trying to do our best to deliver a pro format for every event. The excitement of the competition has been great to get everyone fired up about fishing. In that spirit, we will focusing on making tournament easier to be in and the overall process better for next year. Process improvements to help things like day two pairings easier, for example maybe having the day two partner info right on day one weigh-in slip. 2014 is looking to be a very exciting tournament year! Bruce talked about the championship with regard to slots available and how sometimes the

processes is difficult at times with 130 participants so we need to make sure we are strict about registration deadlines. Understanding the total number of anglers at these championship type event is important for planning and cost containment. Bruce provided some additional reminders such as; we do not go down the list to fill spots, we are having a last chance tournament this year to help give every angler an extra chance to make it to the championship, when fishing different districts etc. and qualifying for championship spots you need to be clear about which path and spot you are taking. Chris and Bruce had further discussion on this with attending membership. In closing, Bruce remind all the Tournament Directors is that he is always available to help you with general questions and even special events. Bruce also asked that the Tournament Directors remind the members about proper fish care at every tournament and to pass along the dates of Mr. Bass in 2014 will be May 16th and 17 Anchor Marine Bay Marina. Plaque presentations were then conducted by Bruce.

YOUTH REPORT **Mike Burgess**

Mike start with a discussion about the National Guard World Championship is all set for August 15 thru 17 for the Oil City Louisiana and that the Lake Erie event went really well. Chris also attended and spoke about youth program.

Ryan and Cameron will represent at FLW world championship all the kids caught fish

Steve Koch helped set up and run the weigh-in which all the kids had a great time at. Mike and Greg Smith are going to help out in the next event and the high school event information will be sent out.

Mike is thinking about doing state championship and may need some help putting this together. Mike discussed some changes in the youth programs and may stop by district meetings to visit and promote. The High School program now has about 30 kids and is bringing about 15 teams to the championships. There were 5 new members added this year.

CONSERVATION REPORT **Chris Wilson**

Chris asked that Tim McNicholas give and update on a situation going on at Beltsville State Park and the DNR. Tim, indicated that the park said the PA fish and Boat Commission issued a license to allow the commercial type fishing to be conducted on the lake. Tim tried to communicate with Fish and Game Commission but they've been difficult to contact. There was a buddy tournament at Beltsville Lake and catches are down. There are reports that shock testing is in process and they doing them to verify any issues. Tim went over some estimated financials about the commercial outfit and they are pulling in \$250,000 a year in business – night and day. Chris indicated he would check to see if this may also be a federation issue to look at. In other news related to the Susquehanna River bass were reported in good number but smaller sizes and that there was some bass inter-sexing going on that may hurt populations in the future. Below the Faber dam catching is going well but the reports of chemicals in the water are a concern and there is no plan to address them at the moment. Faber dam down south are closed.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT **Bruce Bramer**

There are 690 adult members in as of November 2013. We had 116 new members this year 28 Jr. and 6 new members and collected \$26,800 dues for Pennsylvania. This has retuned membership to its original numbers from back when we joined the TBF. At the club level please ensure that applications are turned around and sent in as soon as you get invoices ready as TBF processes invoices as received but that takes time. Also please submit only complete information.

We need e-mails that are updating contact information – Data is key to good communications with TBF Cell phone numbers are critical so we can get cell phone number com. This next year send communications about new contact information and cell phone numbers – please call Sue Blake on membership program. Bruce is also still here and Dave can answer questions as well. Taking care of the financials/money early is very important and it helps set the budget for the following year.

TBF UPDATE
Chris Wilson

At the President's Council there will be a vote on a change to the Youth program. Whatever is voted on will be in place for 2015. So remember that the qualification process will have to reflect any change that is made. There will be more information on this in April and I will send it out to the Youth Directors at that time.

Remember not to jeopardize any programs that the sponsors give to us. Any special offer is not to be used to try and get an even better discount from a local retailer. That also goes for our State programs.

Pennsylvania nominated the sitting Directors on the TBF Board for an additional term. Unlike in the State, the President of the TBF is selected by the Board of Directors and then the President appoints the Officers of the Company. If there is ever someone from the State you want considered for a position on the TBF Board, forward that information to me via email.

OLD BUSINESS
Chris Wilson

Chris wanted to ensure that all the membership knew about how wonderful the Our Wish Event was this year and put out the call to membership to participate as much as they could. The dates for 2014 for the event in 2014 are May 31 and June 1st. They need boats for the event to ensure all the kids get a chance to go fishing. If you do volunteer, you can get some gas money to help with the drive to Raystown. If you need a hotel please let the board know and we will try and help out. Call 814-943-4504 for more information from Bob Stiver.

Youth funding – A written policy will hopefully be out by the March meeting. It will be a matching program from the State if the District also has a matching program. Remember that out of the 30% from the tournament applications, \$1 or more (up to District) is supposed to be set aside for both Youth and Conservation. There is also \$3 given to the TD; that is a total of \$5 that is earmarked from each application. When the program comes out, there will be a \$50 limit for each event even if the District provides more. Chris has set aside \$1,100.00 at this time to fund this program.

The State Meeting saw some savings via 3 meetings set up for 2014. We are saving about \$650 a year compared to the old location.

2014 meeting are as follows, contingent on hall, are March 2, June 1 and November 2. Please remember that the Divisional Team is required to attend the June 1 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS
Chris Wilson

Chris asked District Chairmen to make sure the 2014 Lottery Ticket are handed out to the clubs. This year for the program please let them know that every member must buy/sell at least one ticket. Same contest for "Most Tickets Sold" is still in place for 2014. \$500 for top selling and \$200 for 2nd place club over 100 tickets. Chris also reminded everyone about how Fantasy Fishing works and Mike Sabbi announced the winner and the top 5 for 2013. There is a code for Fantasy Fishing so please check in with Mike.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

A dinner complete with salad and dessert was provided to the members.

Raffle conducted – if you are not attending the meetings then you are missing out on your chance at a lot of great prizes; Thousands of dollars every meeting

Meeting adjourned by motion at 12:00