

Mass Bass Federation
Minutes 1-17-06

Roll Call. Missing were BareHill, Bristol County, Charles River, and Tri-Valley/Western Mass(Bob P)

Secretaries Report. Waived. MassMasters, Bass Busters.

Treasurer's Report. Tabled until next month.(Unavailable).

Tournament Report. Mike is taking applications for the Team Trail. Applications are available on-line. First come first serve. The Limit on Boats is 70. The rules will be on line as well they remain unchanged from last year. www.Massbass.com

Youth Report. Director's received a hand out from Director. A meeting was held between the Youth Directors from Mass. NH. Maine, and RI. A tentative Date was set for a 2006 NE Junior Federation Open. Saturday August 5th, Webster Lake. 9:00am to 1:00pm. Check in will begin 7:00am. We need boats, and volunteers. Follow the Rules in the director's handout. All rules are as described for the Qualifying of the Junior World championship. Soup needs all information clubs have on their youth chapters. Names and addresses, and D-O-B as of March 31st, 2006. Also e-mail for parents!! Dues have gone up from BASS from \$5.00 to \$10.00 for youth participants. Clubs need to send representatives to the Worcester Sportsman's Show to run Casting Kids. Club names and Times to be there are on our website. Need 3 people from each club. People, who will be towing our Federation Trailer to the shows, need to coordinate with each other and Peter MacLellan before he leaves for Florida in February. Peter has the Trailer now. Greenwater will pick it up from him for Worcester show. Get in touch with them.

Conservation Report. The Town of Harwich, Ma. Will not give the Federation a blanket permit to cover us. Individual permits will have to be applied for. *Evasive weed* classes are available to our members from the State biologists. We can learn about species invading our waters and what to do about them and also what the State wants to do about them. The state will supply the speakers. They require 5-10 people to attend to make it worthwhile. These attendee's do not have to be Bass fisherman. This will begin @ the end of May. Contact *Ron Washburn* for details. A motion was made to send *Todd Brown* to the weed class that we always send him to. The cost is @ \$150.00 and will come from the Conservation budget. Passed unanimously.

Scholarship Report. Cindy says the applications for scholarships are available on-line. Massbass.com There is also a scholarship available through Shimano. Contact Cindy for details. One scholarship has been applied for so far this year.

State Team. All clubs received tickets for a fifty/fifty raffle to support the Team. Bring these back to your clubs and get them some support. *Roger Bogosh* represented our state well at the Federation National Championship in Florida. He thanked the federation for our support.

Old Business. None.

New Business. All Directors were supplied with documents about the TBF vs. BASS debates. (Note: these documents are on masbass.com now). The Directors inquired why the information was not posted to our own Website immediately as it happened. The consensus was that we, as an organization need to do a better job of communicating to our membership. Through our own access.

Mass Bass is a Company. We are incorporated. Any money we have in our Treasury belongs to the Mass Bass Federation Inc. Not to anyone else. Not even BASS! We voted as an organization to affiliate with TBF last month. We agreed to send a check in to the TBF for membership. **Down in Florida at the meetings with TBF, we did not do that!** The reason we did not pay them is because we did not realize there were dues of \$25.00 that will need to be paid for each member to join FLW. We held off, so we could bring this information back to each member of our Federation. The Mass Bass Federation Inc. will refund the dues collected this far, from each of our members if he or she wishes to not join the TBF which

is going to affiliate with the FLW and cause our members to have to pay an additional dues of \$25.00 to the FLW. We will need to know this information within one week from all the clubs because we need to join TBF/FLW in order to be covered under the insurance TBF is buying for us. Those clubs Director's who have members that will be dropping out need to contact Pete de Moya at 781-603-3168 or 508-224-4468 by the 24th of January, and tell him who wants a refund from their club.

BASS failed to answer the concerns (see handout) that the TBF representatives and Presidents of our Federations asked of them. BASS told the Federations that the old BASS was gone and this would be a whole new way of doing business. They refused to re-instate the TBF representatives to their positions. They did say that they could belong to BASS but not to the Federation in any capacity. The BASS Federation Nation has approached our Federation and is trying to appropriate funds from our treasury. This will not happen. At worst, they could tie us up legally for a short time. BASS told us the club bylaws no longer stand. We have no sponsors. Only BASS has sponsors. They will not address anything in the past; they only want to move forward, on their terms.

BassFan gave the TBF a proposal. BASS says that a club can not have BassFan and be a BASS club. Conflict of interest. (Multimedia). As far as Boat sponsorships go all deals are exclusive. A state Federation can only work with one Boat manufacturer. BASS has Triton. FLW is Ranger. Massachusetts is currently a Skeeter Federation. BASS now has an agreement (contract) that must be signed by each club in order to participate with the BASS Federation Nation. They will be charging the PRO's a ten dollar fee at one of the tournaments this year to fund the Youth Junior National Championship an event that we paid for last year. All extra monies will be going to non federated clubs.

BassFan will cost the Federation (us) nothing. They are the number one Bass website in the world. We can affiliate with them and FLW at the same time. They will be handling media services for us. This could give our members more exposure with sponsors. Also, they will be giving us six spots in their BassFan Army Weekend Warrior Championship Tournament for Boaters and six for non-boaters.

FLW boat deal. Potential financials we could benefit by. Ranger, Yamaha, and Evinrude would each give us \$1500.00 for a total of \$4500.00. If we have members that purchase 5 Rangers with incentives, we get \$400.00 if the motor sponsors power them. We could realize another \$1200.00 or \$7700.00 for 5 boat purchases. TBF would give our state \$2500.00 on top of that. With this money we could purchase a boat for the Federation to raffle off. This year our trail will see \$13,500.00 in incentive money from the motor sponsors. and Ranger Cup. Last year we saw only \$3000.00. New motor sponsors Yamaha and Evinrude to add cash to our programs through this FLW package. These are just examples that I took from the discussion at this meeting. Not set in stone!

Mass Bass has voted to align with the TBF and FLW program. Any member who has paid his dues and now wants to get out because of the \$25.00 increase to join the FLW can contact Pete and he will refund your \$15.00 TBF dues and your \$30.00 Mass Federation dues. This must be done by the 24th of January or the Federation will pay your insurance and no more refunds will be allowed. Accountability of the \$15.00 TBF dues is this \$6.00 for Insurance. \$6.00 to the Divisional Championship, and \$3.00 to the National Championship. See the documents on our website to see the payouts of these events and the tournaments and boater/non-boater spots we will be entitled to. Also note the non-fishing-related sponsors that want to align with us for Youth and Conservation.

At this point, South Shore motioned we vote again to confirm our TBF direction. Motion carried to accept BassFan and FLW as sponsors. 33-0 One abstention. We collected monies from the TBF store (look in Jan. Treasurer's report). These come from support of TBF through our Sponsor's on our TBF website. We need to know which clubs will be holding night tournaments, this year. For insurance purposes. Bring this Info to next months meeting. It was also noted that Federation members need to join FLW by the April Director's meeting. Here is the number to call 270-252-1000. Remember if you plan to fish the trail you must affiliate with FLW.

A motion to get our Skeeter boat certificate was made by Worcester. It will be good forever, no expiration date. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30pm.