

**Connecticut B.A.S.S. Federation Nation
Meeting Minutes
February 22, 2007**

The regular monthly meeting of the Connecticut B.A.S.S. Federation Nation was called to order February 22, at 7:33 p.m. by the President.

Roll Call: The following clubs were absent: CT Valley Bassmasters, CT Yankee Bassmasters, CT Outdoors, Fairfield County Bassmasters, Litchfield County Bassmasters, Naugatuck Valley Bassmasters, North Eastern CT Bassmasters, Southern CT Bass Anglers.

*The following clubs were absent, called out because of the weather: Candlewood Bassmasters, Greater Hartford Bassmasters, Milford Black Bass, Mohawk Valley Basscasters, Pachaug Area Bassmasters.

Excused Absences from the previous month: None

The minutes of previous month's minutes were accepted as posted.

Guest Speaker

We had a guest speaker from the Connecticut D.E.P., Tim Barry is a Fisheries Biologist. He did a presentation on the new licensing structure and the proposed new Marine (saltwater) Fishing License.

Correspondence

We attended / worked two shows. CMTA Boating and Fishing Show and the Dodge Truck Hunting and Fishing Expo. We had Casting Kids competitions and we had the Skeeter boat there and sold raffle tickets.

Bassmaster Classic – Chris Novack is on his way to the Classic! Wish him the best of luck.

BASS Club World Championship, Regional will be on Lake Champlain in June. The deadline for entering a Team has been extended two months. Any club interested in forming a Team should contact Bob Malloy.

Open Tournaments:

The Heart of Connecticut 9th Annual Team Open on Lake Lillinonah, April 15th.
Bryan Kerchal Tournament, Candlewood Lake, April 29th.

New England PVA is holding their first tournament of the season on Lake Congomond, April 28th. They are in need of Boaters for this event. If you are able to help, please contact Bob Malloy.

B.A.S.S. Insurance – change to coverage; There has been a change to the death & dismemberment section of the coverage. Under the old policy you were covered 24/7. The new policy you are only covered going to and coming from and while participating in a tournament.

Reports of Officers

Treasurer's Report:

As of December, 2006 there were the following amounts in the accounts:

CBFN General Checking - \$11,403.01

CBFN Money Market Account - \$11,461.08

CBFN Scholarship Checking - \$79.52

CBFN Scholarship Money Market Account - \$11,218.88

Scholarship Report:

Applications are available on the Website. Application Deadline is April 1, 2007

Conservation / Environmental Report: David Santos

Diane Nadeau and Mike Bednarski have joined the Environmental Committee.

There were 92 applications received in response to the RFP for the Housatonic River Natural Resource Damage Restoration Project. An announcement will be made by 2/27/07 by the CT Trustee Sub Council as to which projects met the eligibility screening and eligible for further consideration.

Craig Mergins of Riverfront recapture will be at our March meeting to address the CBFN.

The CBFN will be receiving \$1,000 from the Fish Care Grant Application we applied for.

As a reminder, there is a \$250 award to the club with best conservation project for 2007. The executive board will vote to determine the winner.

Youth Committee:

2007 Jr Bassmaster Championship - Birmingham, AL Feb 18th on Logan Martin Lake, Birmingham Ala.
15 – 18 age group: Christopher Baksay finished in 7th place overall and First place in the Eastern Division.
11 – 14 age group: Jason Boileau finished 43rd place overall and came in Second in the Eastern Division.

Tournament Committee:

The tournament committee will be holding a meeting on Saturday, March 10, 2007 at Sylvia and Jim's house in Milford, CT.

The City of Danbury has appointed a new Parks and Recreation Director. Nick Kaplanis will be starting his new position on Monday, March 5, 2007. We can expect a confirmation letter allowing the C.B.F.N. to use Candlewood Lake Park for the 2007 Two Day State Championship within the next month.

The tournament committee would like to make a motion for funds to purchase a new tournament scale with software. The system will include a new digital scale, a printer, tri-pod and computer software. The price breakdown is as follows:

Scale with hardware - \$1495.00
Tri-Pod - \$67.25
Software - \$300.00

Total = \$1862.25

The tournament committee has not yet received the conservation grant from B.A.S.S. If the grant is received we will use it to fund a new tournament fish care system.

The tournament committee would like to remind all members to please read the tournament rules carefully prior to sending in your applications. The tournament committee recommends that members pay for all four tournaments up front to avoid issues during the season. Refunds will be given with a 72 hour notification as specified in the tournament rules. In the case of an emergency every attempt should be made to contact Al

Guite, Jack Vinyard or Sylvia Morris prior to the event to ensure refund. The tournament Director will make the final decision.

Trailer – We are looking for some one to tow the trailer for next year. They will receive \$75.00 per event.

Fishing Advisory Report: David Santos
No Report

Boating Advisory Report:
None – next meeting is in March

State Team Report:
None

Raffle Report:
We had the boat at two shows. We sold 850 tickets worth \$4,250.00. We are waiting on some stragglers to get their rosters in so we can get tickets out to the clubs. Hopefully at the March meeting.

We have been invited to bring the boat and sell raffle tickets at The Fish Connection's Open House, RT12 in Preston on March 10th. Looking for Volunteers

Candlewood Lake Authority Report:
There is talk that the Candlewood Lake Association is going to pursue the boat usage sticker again. More info to come.

We are still looking for a volunteer to represent us at this meeting. If interested please contact Bob or Jack.

Lake Lillinonah Authority Report:
No Report

We are looking for someone to attend the Lake Lillinonah monthly meetings.

Financial Committee: Ray Bessette
Working on putting together a proposed budget for 2007. Should be available at next meeting.

Audit Committee: Still looking for one more volunteer.

Banquet Committee: Sylvia Morris
None

Membership Committee:
None

Sponsors Committee: Ed Weeks
Have been working on to establish a level of sponsorship program. Some sponsors do more than others, so what do they get for their efforts? Have come up with some set Levels of Sponsorship and discussed with several sponsors to get their feel for the idea. All thought it was a good idea. Details handed out to Club Reps.

A motion made to accept all reports as given. Adopted.

Old Business

Audit Committee – still needed one more person to help with audits. Vinny Mucci has volunteered.

New Business

Purchase of Tournament Scale - Motion was made to purchase new tournament scale, tripod, display and software for the tournament trail. Motion was adopted.

Motion was made to retain the services of our Lobbyist Bob Crook. Motion was adopted.

Standing Rule Change – Regional payouts restructuring for 2007. B.A.S.S. has released the pay out format for future Regional's. Opposite of what was previously put out the pay outs have increased significantly. Due to these increases the following By Law Standing Rule Change is submitted;

Update / Add to Rule #8. If the State Team finishes in the top 3 at the Regional's. Any prize money won by the State Team shall be divided in equal shares; 50% to the Connecticut B.A.S.S. Federation Nation (general fund) and 50% divided among Team Members. If the prize is not monetary (boat package), the State Team will provide a plan to liquidate the asset with the concurrence / approval of the Board of Directors. If the State Team finishes out side of the top 3 all monies won will be returned to the general fund.

Motion made to accept Standing Rule Change, Motion was adopted.

Purchase of Shirts - It was requested to purchase shirts for the Conservation Committee Members (two shirts needed). They wear these shirts to all the meetings that they attend on the CBFN's behalf with the State and other agencies. Motion was made to purchase shirts. Motion was adopted.

Use of Tournament Trailer - Heart of Connecticut requested that the Tournament Trailer be brought to their tournament on April 15th to be used as back drop for the filming for the Lunkerville TV Show. For Insurance reasons one of the Tournament Committee members will have to drive the trailer there and back. Motion was made to let them to use the trailer for back drop only, not the contents and for a committee member to drive it if one volunteers. Motion adopted.

Announcements

Heart of Connecticut 9th Annual Team Open - to support CBFN Youth on Sunday, April 15th 2007.

Bryan Kerchal Camp – There be a kids camp in 2007. Point of contact is Jennifer Sposta, 203-426-3624. The camp will be August 13 – 17 and Boat Captains are needed.

Bryan Kerchal Tournament – will be held April 29, 2007. At Danbury Town Park, Candlewood Lake.

Next Meeting: March 22, 2007

Meeting was adjourned at 9:33 pm

Jack Vinyard
CBFN Secretary