Connecticut B.A.S.S. Federation Nation
Meeting Minutes
September 24, 2009

The regular monthly meeting of the Connecticut B.A.S.S. Federation Nation was called to order September 24, 2009 at approximately 7:36 p.m. by the Vice President.

Roll Call: The following clubs were absent: CT Outdoors, CT Yankee, Litchfield County, MidConn, Tobacco Valley, Valley Bass Anglers.
,
Excused Absences from the previous month: CT Worm, Bass Attack

The minutes of previous month's minutes where accepted with the following amendment: Candlewood Bass Masters were present but marked absent as they did not sign in nor was did the representative acknowledge their presence during roll call.

Announcements

Edible arrangement was sent to the Googliatti family.

Correspondence

Received a donation for the CBFN Youth from the Major S.R.A. Fishing Outreach Program for $500.

Received a CL&P Donation of $100.

Invitation to the Candlewood Lake 80th birthday party.

Report of Officers

Treasurer's Report: Sue Weeks

Sponsorship Report: Bob Nelson

Kistler Rods has offered the CBFN Banquet Committee the opportunity to purchase rods (Helium LTA Series) at a discounted price per rod to be raffled off at this year's banquet. The committee member will be purchasing 2 spinning and 2 casting rods for the banquet.

We are looking to add to our sponsor list. If any member knows of any potential sponsors of the CBFN, please give their contact information to Bob Nelson.

If you buy something from a CBFN sponsor, please let them know that you are a member of the CBFN. Doing this lets the sponsor know that their support of the CBFN is paying off.

Conservation/FAC/CAC Report: Dave Santos

Saltwater license fees going back down to levels set in July. (see Notes below)

Significant financial impact to shoreline marinas, bait shops being hurt by reduction in anglers.

"North American Wildlife management model is the key" and has worked for 100 years to reverse downward trends in wildlife. Professional wildlife managers with budget authority to direct funding as needed to best use for wildlife programs.

Given many states recent efforts to move funds into their General Funds, federal auditors out of Amherst, Mass will do audits to ensure money transfers are in compliance with Fed regs. Sportsmen need to monitor this process.

Current General Fund model (funds dispersed by OPM) could open the door to delays and/or reductions in funding for wildlife, making it difficult to sustain programs through future rounds of budget cutbacks.

Strategy is needed to be effective: Need broad coalition to gain leverage. Sportsmen must understand politicians' motivators. (money and votes)

Need effective outreach to increase our visibility; this includes grass roots contacts as well as media visibility via newspapers and other media outlets.

Next Steps:

Organize: Volunteers named as "county captains" to lead regional outreach across Ct.

Educate:

Bob Crook also issued a call to action to attendees. "Call your legislators. Talk to them one on one. Become viewed as an "expert" in wildlife issues who they can rely on for input.

Invite your State Representative/Senator to your club to shoot skeet, or take them fishing. This will help to form a relationship with them and provide and opportunity for a direct conversation of the issues that matter to sportsmen.

Next meeting, set for Nov 4th at Cabelas, will include invitation to legislators who are friendly to sportsmen's' issues. Outdoor writers will also be invited.

****

Bill No. 7002 AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE PROVISIONS OF THE BUDGET CONCERNING REVENUE.

Passed during a Special Session week of Sept 21; VETOED by the Gov.

In this bill Sec. 23, The Boating Fund account was addressed returning it to basically the original structure. Positive action.

In Sec 30, the "(3) resident marine waters fishing license, [thirty] <u>ten</u> dollars;" reduced to $10, however the nonresident marine waters fishing license "(18) nonresident marine waters fishing license, sixty dollars;" remained as is. Note the RI fees@ $3/$7 (Not yet passed) and NY fees @ $10/$15. One has to wonder if the drafters are aware of the dichotomy of fees.

We were also informed that the Board of Firearms Permit Examiners would be under the Commission of Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO), although we can not find that action in the bill. The original proposal was to place it under the CT State Police (put the foxes in charge of the henhouse).

With the Veto the bill is DEAD and we're back to where we were.

In a week or so the Legislature are rumored to meet <u>again</u> to consider Implementer Bills. Urge them to include, address, and correct the onerous 100% increase in Recreational fees! Otherwise we'll have to address them when the Legislature begins again in February 2010. Correction now will diminish sportsmen outrage and preclude DEP administration and confusion in implementing licenses next year should a corrective bill pass.

Call/e-mail/write/meet your legislators, some don't know the impact of these increases.

Go to http://www.ctsportsmen.com/ under Legislation to "How to find your legislators" or to the Legislative website http://www.cga.ct.gov/ on the left, click on House or Senate then "Find your legislator." Communicate NOW!

Contact Governor Rell & voice your opinion. Be courteous. Urge Recreational Corrections in the next bill!
E-Mail Governor.Rell@ct.gov or Online Form
http://www.ct.gov/governorrell/cwp/view.asp?a=1317&q=289136

Tournament Committee: Alan Guite
No Report

Scholarship Report: No Report.
.
Youth Report: No Report.

Banquet Committee: Sylvia Morris
2009 Awards Banquet Invitation and sponsorship letter was available for all club representatives to take back to their club.

U.S.S. Chowder Pot IV
165 Brainard Rd
Hartford, CT 06114

November 7, 2009

5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Appetizers
7:00 p.m. Dinner

$35.00 per person / $65 per couple – pay at the door

Information will also be made available on the web site

Boating Advisory Report: No Report

CLA Report: No Report

Financial Committee: No Report

Audit Committee: No Report

Membership Committee: No Report

Web Site Committee: No Report

Raffle Ticket Committee: Armand Fortier
Tickets will be distributed at next meeting. They are currently at printers.

All reports accepted as given.

Old Business

Motion made to change -Standing rule # 11 from 90 days to 30 days prior to the drawing". The motion was seconded and **approved.**

The offer to the CBFN from Mercury/MotorGuide has been pulled. Apparently there was a miscommunication regarding the limit on purchases. The total of $2,500 was for the federation and not for individual members. We have maxed out our purchases and others received will not be honored. Members can still purchase trolling motors and accessories at the State Team pricing which is 35% off the regular price.

Lowrance – Thank you to Lee Housley for the many hours she worked on this project as well as the following individuals who gave their input, Carl Pedersen, David Santos, Ray Bessette, Sylvia Morris, Alan Guite, Bob Nelson, Jamie Vinyard, Terry Baksay, Sue Weeks and Keri Kobryn.

- Sylvia was also notified that due the economy the cash awards have been withdrawn. Each regional/Division winner will receive an award in the form of a gift certificate for product.
- First place will be $1,800 gift certificate, second Place $1,600 and third Place $1,400.
- As a Level Two contestant we will still receive a Gift Certificate for $1,200.
- Another new rule is that the Gift Certificates must be redeemed by 12/31/09 and cannot be held over into the New Year as was previously done.

2010 Regionals – BASS has changed the dates to the week after they were originally scheduled for and now they will be held 9/26/2010 through 10/01/2010. Fortunately, Sylvia was able to change the dates with the motels and banquet hall.

The Skeeter boat has been ordered by Tom Reynolds and will be in the Black and Red package that they are currently offering.

Longhorn – Jeff Kreit Fishing trip Tickets – Sylvia asked for ideas as to what we should do with this money. Please take back to your clubs and bring ideas to the next meeting. Some possible ideas that were proposed were to offset the Launch Parking Fee shortage for the tournaments that were held at Danbury Town Park, use toward the purchase of raingear and jackets for the Tournament committee.

New Computer – Ron Frisk was able to purchase a new laptop for under $500 with a 2 year warranty. He also shipped the digital scoreboard back for repairs for $29.52

Chapter Awards – Jon Puhalski has found two more committee members to help him. The application form is on the website and copies were available at the meeting. To date none have been received. Please discuss with your clubs and send them back to him.

To date it appears that eight clubs will be forfeiting their worker fees from the two day as they did not provide a worker.

Nominations for Tournament Director. Lew Schaller nominated Harry Gordon for the position and it was seconded. Approved. Sylvia thanked Alan Guite for all that he has done for the trail.

Excused Absences – Bob Trahan from CT Worm Masters, Frank Dowds from Bass Attack was also excused.

New Business

Dave Santos requested that we send a $1,000 from the R.S. Malloy Scholarship fund to UConn. He indicated they will be reviewing applicants for this award a bit sooner this year. A motion was made to send them a check in that amount, seconded and approved.

Dave also brought up the Coalition of CT Sportsman Banquet to be held on October 18, 2009. After discussion it was decided that we would sponsor a table for $500. A motion was made, then seconded and approved.

Sylvia requested that the CBFN pay for up to 5 rooms for one night during the two day for the core committee members. It would be at the fisherman's rate of $69 or $79 a night depending upon which hotel they were booked at. A motion was made to do so, seconded and approved.

Sylvia asked for 3 volunteers for a Nominating committee. Jon Puhalski offered his services along with Ken Dzurenka and Lew Schaller.

Marcie Baksay sent a request for sponsorship of Team Lucas who is doing a memory walk to raise money for Alzheimer research. Her father, Robert W. Lucas away from this disease. A motion was made to donate $50, seconded and approved. Sue will send a check to the Alzheimer Association for this cause.

2010 Two Day –The Regionals in 2011 are going to be out of Mallet's Bay on Champlain. It was suggested that we should hold our qualifying event on this body of water so that we qualify the best anglers for that event. Available dates will have to be checked. It was decided to take this back to the clubs to see what their input is and we will continue this discussion next month. When we took the two day out of state in 2005 it was noted that the 50% club rule was waived for that year. It was also noted that by doing that it did not increase the participation level in the event.

Carl Pedersen thanked Alan for all he did for the Tournament trail.

Any bylaw proposal changes are due this evening.

Sylvia is going to schedule a Tournament committee meeting at the end of October/beginning of November.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting, seconded and approved.

The meeting adjourned at 9:17pm.

Jamie Vinyard
CBFN Secretary