**Virginia Bass Chapter Federation**

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

January 10, 2021

**Board Members**

President…………. Scott Whitmore

Vice President……. Steve Hajdasz

Region 1 Director…. Bill Haire

Region 4 Director…. Chuck Hart

Region 6 Director…. Ronnie Brewer

Region 8 Director… John Flicek

Region 10 Director… Jackie Dye

Tournament Director… Alton Vaughn - Absent

Assistant Tournament Director/Youth Director…Becky Conley

Conservation Director…. John Flicek

State Chaplin…... Vacant

Secretary……. Tammy Caldwell

Treasurer……... Stephanie Brewer

The board meeting was called to order at 9:11am by the President.

The board observed a moment of silence.

**Opening Remarks**

The President welcomed everyone back. The President introduced the new Region 6 Director, Ronnie Brewer who has taken over for James Vick after serving 15 years as Region 6 Director. Region 10 guest Mike Scott was recognized and welcomed.

**Meeting Minutes**

The Secretary distributed meeting minutes from the November 1, 2020 Board meeting, the Region 4 Director made the motion to accept the minutes and the Region 8 Director seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously to accept the minutes as presented.

**Treasurers Report**

The Treasurer reported to the board there are still some outstanding checks that needed to be cashed. Region Directors will contact those members regarding the outstanding checks. All tax documents are ready to be taken to the accountant. Motion was made by the Region 4 Director to approve the Treasurers report, the Region 1 Director seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously to accept the Treasurers report as presented.

**Conservation Report**

Alabama Bass Invasive Species Project is on track. Contracts released in December for printing of reporting materials. The BFHOF Grant funds covered approximately 50% of the projects printing costs with DWR funding the remainder of the 5000 reporting packets. DWR reports that the Tri-Folds have been received from the printer and are now waiting on the fin clip sample envelopes to be delivered. Virginia Bass Chapter Federation anglers will be assisting with the distribution efforts for the reporting packets once complete. The plan is to have the packets available for distribution by 1 March 1, 2021.

The latest edition of the FLW Bass Magazine mentioned the BFHOF Grant awarded to Virginia Bass Chapter federation for the invasive species project.

**Youth Report**

Encourage your members to recruit youth in your Regions to join in order to continue growth of youth memberships in 2021. Region Directors will send Scott results from Youth & SAF tournaments.

SAF anglers can register at [www.highschoolfishing.org](http://www.highschoolfishing.org).

Youth and SAF liability and medical forms must be signed before they can fish tournaments. The forms can be found under the youth section at [www.vabass.com](http://www.vabass.com)

**Business Calendar**

President presented the proposed 2021 board meetings, state tournament schedule and special events:

January 10 – Board meeting

January 15-17 – Richmond Fishing Expo

March 26 - Board meeting (Friday night in South Hill)

April 17 – West Regional Tournament and Virginia High School Championship

May 1 – North Regional Tournament and

Maryland SAF Championship

May 15 – East Regional and Youth State Championship

September 12 Board meeting

November 7 – Board meeting.

**Old Business**

**2021 Raffle**

The 2021 raffle prize will be a Visa gift card. This will allow us to reach a broader group of people. Tickets were distributed to board members. Drawing will be held June 18, 2021.

**2021 Schedule**

The 2021 VBCF Team Tournament Trail schedule has been set and is in the current Tightlines edition as well as posted on the website: [www.vabass.com](http://www.vabass.com). The North Regional Tournament location has been changed to Lake Anna. Ramp permits for Kerr Lake and Chickahominy have been secured for the state tournaments. Anglers will need to purchase a Tennessee or South Holston license for the West Regional Tournament for South Holston.

**Bylaws – State Bylaws**

Each region needs to provide Scott a copy of their bylaws by the end of January 2021.

**Region Checking accounts/Treasurer’s reports**

Regions need to make sure they are keeping accurate records of their checking accounts, income received and expenses. These need to be accessible to members if they have questions on the Regions finances. The President highly encourages any club that has dues or hold members money to do the same.

**Youth State Championship**

The Youth State Championship will be held May 15 on the Chickahominy in conjunction with the East Regional Tournament.

**Virginia SAF State Championship**

The Virginia SAF State Championship will be held April 17 on South Holston in conjunction with the West Regional Tournament.

**Maryland SAF State Championship**

We will be hosting the Maryland SAF State Championship on May 1 on Lake Anna in conjunction with the North Regional Tournament.

**New Business**

**2021 Sponsors**

The Region 8 Director presented a check to the Treasurer for a half page ad in Tightlines from “Kate’s Print Studio”.

Scott will email the board solicitation letter for sponsorships and the sponsor payment schedule. Encourage members to visit state sponsors, make sure when doing business with them to let them know you are a Federation member and thank them for their support.

**2021 Schedule**

The 2021 VBCF Team Tournament Trail schedule has been set and is in the current Tightlines edition as well as posted on the website: [www.vabass.com](http://www.vabass.com)

**Humminbird/MinnKota Discounts**

Scott has signed the contracts and submitted them to TBF.

To be fair to those who were unable to use their code to purchase Humminbird product due to lack of product availability due to COVID19, Scott will move them to the top of the list for 2021.

Currently there is no contract with Lowrance on discounts at this time. Lowrance report was submitted into TBF.

**Tightlines**

Article/pictures for the Spring edition of Tight Lines are due to the editor, John Flicek by March 15.

Regions were encouraged to make timely posts on their Facebook pages as it can serve as a “time capsule” for gathering information for the Directors quarterly articles. Directors were asked to share as many pictures as possible to support their articles. John is willing to take inputs such as tournament results at any time. Results will be filed for inclusion in the next publication.

We are currently waiting on approval from the Bass Pro Shops & Cabela’s Outdoor Fund to publish an article about the Youth Outreach Grant that was received last month. The Grant was sufficient enough to fund the 2021 State Youth Program, Reel Kids Events, and the Region 8’s Rods and Reels for Kids Project.

**Trailer improvements**

Scott updated the board on items for the trailer: a new awning is in the process of being ordered to replace the old awning. Over the next few weeks Scott and James Vick will be re-sealing the roof of the trailer. Scott will get a quote to have the trailer wrapped, once the quote has been received, he will send an email with the quote.

Becky will take the backup tournament scales and see if they are in working order.

Becky updated the board regarding the ability to add text messaging to the current tournament software.

**Clothing/VBCF Products**

The Vice President, Steve Hajdasz recommended reducing the price on the current clothing inventory on hand.

Scott is in the process of ordering new clothing/products to sell for 2021, these will include the new logo.

**Online Registration**

Scott stated that online registration went well and heard a lot of positive comments from members. Will consider possibly having online registration available for 2022 National Semi Finals.

**PayPal for clothing/raffle**

Tammy reported back to the board that online clothing/raffle sales can be made available through the website.

**2021 Budget**

Vice President presented the 2021 working budget, identifying 2021 obligations.

**Robert’s email**

Scott shared Robert’s email with the board:

Scott has sent Robert a copy of the state’s Bylaws. Ensure regions/clubs are following bylaws.

Fishing alone for night tournaments is not allowed, due to safety concerns and insurance purposes.

Changes to the youth program, TBF isn’t paying for hotels for the JWC.

JWC will be held July 27 – 30, this will be held in conjunction with the President’s meeting.

Bass Pro Shop opportunities: Regions that do an event at Bass Pro Shops, are eligible for up to $125 in gift cards. Scott will email Region Directors the Bass Pro Shop form that Regions need to fill out as well as Bass Pro Shop and mail in.

The National Championship will be held March 8 – 13 on Red River, Shreveport, La. Chris Fiore, Region 8 and Craig Ferguson, Region 6. Motion was made by Region 8 Director to provide travel money for the National Championship and Region 4 Director seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously to accept the motion as presented. “Scott would like the state to purchase state jerseys for the two qualifiers fishing the National Championship. Motion was made by Region 8 Director to purchase state jerseys for the two qualifiers for the National Championship and Region 4 Director seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously to accept the motion as presented.”

TBF has provided the new logos and Scott will email the new TBF/MLF logo. TBF will be the primary stand-alone logo. No one needs to rebrand trailers, merchandise, websites, etc. with the new TBF/MLF logo at this time.

Robert would like to see states/regions set a target of gaining one new club a year. TBF is talking about putting on a Fun Tournament in a central location. There will be a free entry fee, ask anglers to donate fishing lures, items for door prizes, etc. Great way to gain new members. “Scott suggested that the state could have a last chance qualifier tournament for the NSF. That would give the state six tournaments, qualifying members for the TH Marine Atlas Award Program.”

TBF Big Fish Event August 20-21 in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan.

Robert encourages State to be open to signing up new members on site at State/Region/Club tournaments.

**2021 Roster Management**

Scott reminded Region Directors to make sure their members contact information is correct and update contact information on the TBF website.

Continue to sign up members.

**2021 Liability Releases**

Members and nonmembers must sign the liability release form prior to fishing any tournament. The Secretary provided Region Directors with a copy of VBCF liability release form. The release form can also be found on the website: [www.vabass.com](http://www.vabass.com)

Scott needs a copy of the liability release forms once they are signed.

**Website**

Tammy continues to work on redoing the website, [www.vabass.com](http://www.vabass.com) to make it more user friendly. Tammy added Scott and John with editing permissions to work on the website enabling them to assist with making the website changes/improvements and also provides them the ability to post information to the website.

**Membership Growth**

Continue promoting the new tournament trail.

Not only have we seen new members filtering into existing clubs we have had a few new clubs join our Federation.

**2022 NSF Location**

Scott asked the board to bring suggested tournament locations to host the 2022 NSF, to the next board meeting. The 2022 NSF date must be sent to TBF by July 1.

**Fishing Pro Tech Event**

Fishing Pro Tech hosted a 3-day store event Friday, Saturday and Sunday January 15th, 16th and 17th

8am - 6pm.

**JB Custom Rods**

JB Custom Rods held a great event up in Richmond in January. Great show. They will be having some pop-up sales. If there is opportunity for JB Custom Rods to participate in your area, let them know.

Members wanting to purchase rods, let them know you’re a federation member.

**Bass Pro Shop/Cabela’s Agreement**

Scott has signed and submitted the Bass Pro Shop/Cabela’s contracts.

Members get a 10% discount when purchasing Bass Pro Shop gift cards thru TBF only.

**Youth National Champions/President’s Meeting July 27 – 30**

Location Is TBD.

**Federation Rods**

Scott asked the board about purchasing 30 additional rods from TBF (15 spinning rods and 15 bait casters). Motion was made by Region 8 Director; the Region 4 Director seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously to purchase additional rods.

**Yamaha Oil**

Scott talked with David Eitter and is waiting on the contract from Yamaha oil.

**Wind Flag**

Scott discussed purchasing wind flags to display at state tournaments, this will enhance tournaments. Scott will work on getting a proof and quote for the two wind flags with the state logo and two with the American flag. He will email these to the board.

**Communication**

Scott reminded the Region Directors to keep open communication with their members, continue talking about the team tournament trail. If anyone has any questions have them contact Scott directly.

**Motion to close meeting**

Motion to close the meeting was made by the Region 4 Director and seconded by the Region 1 Director.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

\*Next Board Meeting is Friday March 26th in South Hill (Time is TBD)