**Virginia Bass Chapter Federation Board Meeting**

**March 26th, 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 - absent

Tournament Director… Alton Vaughn

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 5:07 p.m. by the President.

The board observed a moment of silence.

**Opening Remarks**

The President stated the year is off to a good start with new sponsors coming on board. Consistently signing up new members as well as having former members rejoining. Continue to communicate and recruit members.

**Meeting Minutes**

The Secretary distributed meeting minutes from the January 10, 2021 Board meeting, the Region 8 Director made the motion to accept the minutes and the Region 1 Director seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously to accept the minutes as presented.

**Treasurer’s Report**

The Treasurer reported to the board there is one check still outstanding to be cashed. Motion was made by the Region 1 Director to approve the Treasurers report, the Region 4 Director seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously to accept the Treasurer’s report as presented.

**Conservation Report**

The Conservation Director provided an update on the Alabama Bass Invasive Species Project and distributed Project Brochures and Fin Clip Sampling Envelopes to Region Directors to handout to tournament anglers statewide.  All size and creel limits on spotted bass have been removed for Virginia waters.   Anglers are encouraged to harvest all spotted bass caught statewide.   Also noted that Alabama Bass/Smallmouth hybridized fish have been identified in the New River in the area below Claytor Lake.  It has been confirmed that the migration of Alabama Bass has progressed to the James River “Fall-Line” near the Old Tredegar Iron Works in Richmond where a 17” fish was identified during electro-shocking efforts.  Also discussed possible future actions may be taken to curb the spread of this invasive species.  Board members generally agreed that we could support an effort to ensure that any spotted bass presented for weigh-in during tournament not be released.  Any effort to require the retention of all spotted bass caught during a tournament day would not be supportable due to tournament creel limits and the limitations of live-well systems to maintain large numbers of fish.

The new Tidal Rivers Biologist is Margi Whitmore.  She is eager to continue the partnership with the tournament angling community.

VA DWR Fisheries is initiating a study to assess the movement of tournament released bass via a tagging project later this spring.  DWR biologists will be tagging and releasing bass near tournament sites to assess their post release movement.  Anglers that catch a tagged fish will be asked to report the catch location & size to DWR.  More project information to come.

The Tidal Rivers Cell Phone Application has been restored.  The Spring Edition of Tightlines Conservation Article will have instructions for the application download of the ArcGIS Survey 123 application and a QR code that will populate the device with the DGIF-Tidal Rivers App.  Long range plan is to potentially expand the application to address all targeted waters statewide.  All anglers are encouraged to install and use the application as it provides a “real-time” data stream to DWR Fisheries Managers.

**Youth Report**

The youth program is seeing more youth anglers fishing tournaments. Regions can host a youth tournament with their region tournaments, if Regions have youth anglers’ fishing a youth tournament please send their information to Scott. If anyone is interested in joining have them contact State President Scott Whitmore. John Flicek secured a grant from Bass Pro shops that will fund the youth programs

**Business Calendar**

The President stated the business calendar is up to date. JWC travel monies will be approved at the June 18 Board Meeting.

**Budget Report**

The Vice President presented an updated budget report.

**Old Business**

**2021 Raffle**

Continue selling raffle tickets. Raffle tickets will be sold at the team tournaments. Drawing will be held June 18 at the State Championship pre-tournament meeting.

**2021 Schedule**

On track with the 2021 schedule and should be able to complete the tournament schedule with no effects from COVID19.

**Region Bylaws**

The President has received copies of all Region Bylaws, except for Region 6, they are completing theirs and will get them to the President as soon as they are finished.

**Youth State Championship May 15th**

The Youth State Championship will be held on the Chickahominy River in conjunction with the East Regional Tournament. JWC qualifiers will be announced at the completion of the tournament.

**Virginia SAF State Championship April 17th**

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

**Maryland/Delaware/New Jersey SAF State Championship May 1st**

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

**New Business**

**2021 Sponsors**

The President emailed the sponsor solicitation letter to use when talking with potential sponsors.

El Arriero Mexican Restaurant and 313 Franklin Restaurant have recently become state sponsors. Still working on securing a battery sponsor.

**Humminbird/Minn Kota/Lowrance Discounts**

The President has Humminbird, Minn Kota discount codes and Lowrance discount codes will be coming soon. The secretary will send out an email blast letting members know that they need to contact the President to receive the codes.

**Tightlines**

Articles and pictures for the Spring Tight Lines edition were due March 15, if you haven’t submitted Region information please submit your information as soon as possible.

**Trailer improvements**

The President has met with the guy for the design of the trailer. The design will be simple, the sides of the trailer will be wrapped and the new TBF logo added to the back of the trailer along with current sponsors added to the front and the back of the trailer. The President will email Region Directors the proposed design for the trailer. A new awning to replace the current awning has been purchased and will be put on after the West Regional Tournament.

**Clothing/VBCF Products**

All Star Sports is planning on reopening soon, Scott will meet with them once they are back open to the public for new clothing and product orders.

**Online Registration (phone issues)**

Online registration accessed from smart phones or tablets take a little time to load due to the size of the form and cell phone coverage. If anyone has issues with online registration have them contact Tammy Caldwell.

**Online store for clothing and raffle ticket sales**

The ability to set up an online store for clothing is possible, Tammy will look further into setting up an online store for clothing and products. Online raffle sales can be set up as well. PayPal can be set up as payment for online clothing and raffle ticket sales.

**Robert’s emails**

The President shared Robert’s emails with Region Directors.

**2021 Roster Management**

Region directors were asked to make sure members contact information: email, cell phone, etc. are up to date, this is how TBF will be contacting those that qualified for NSF.

**2021 Liability Releases**

Make sure all anglers sign liability release form before fishing any TBF sponsored tournament.

**Website**

Tammy continues to work on making the website user friendly, there are a few tweaks that need to be made.

**Membership Growth**

Continue to promote the new Team Tournament Trail.

**2022 NSF Location**

The 2022 NSF location and date will be decided at the June 18 board meeting.

**Tournament System update and text capabilities**

Assistant Tournament Director stated that the texting capabilities will be added to the tournament software by March 30. Text will include anglers launch number and tournament rules.

**Junior World Championship/Presidents Meeting July 27th – 30th**

The JWC will be held on Mississippi River in Illinois and Presidents meeting will also be held at the same time.

**Yamaha Oil**

Yamaha oil is once again a sponsor and will have product available for anglers to purchase soon as well as use for give aways.

**Wind Flags**

Wind Flags purchased and flown at the South Regional Tournament at Kerr Lake.

**New MLF/TBF Logo**

The President emailed the new MLF/TBF logo to board members. Replace the current TBF logo with the new logo.

**Ranger Cup/Ranger Bonus Cash**

Registration for Ranger Cup is free. If there are less than 60 boats will be eligible for Ranger Bonus cash and anglers must wear Ranger clothing/patch. If over 60 boats then Ranger Cash converts over to Ranger Cup:

* Ranger Cup changes: **All other approved events with 60 or more boats (see website for complete list):**  $7,000 to win an event, if fishing from a 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021-year model Ranger boat with a 200-horsepower engine or larger. If winner does not meet qualifying guidelines and qualifying angler finishes in the top 10, then they will be eligible for a $500 highest finisher cash payout.
* If winner has a 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021-year model Ranger boat powered by a 60-175 horsepower engine, then they will be eligible for a $1,000 cash payout.
* If an angler’s boat who wins an approved event is between a 2010–2017-year model, then they will be eligible for a $500 BPS/Cabela’s gift card.

**St Jude’s Tournament (Bill)**

Region 1 Director provided the board with the St. Jude’s Tournament to be held July 30 at Leesylvania State Park at the Potomac. Registration will start May 1, 2021.

**Kerr Lake Ramp**

Richard Brown is the person now in charge of the Corp ramps at Kerr Lake. The President will provide Region Directors with his contact information.

**Motion to close meeting**

Region 4 made the motion to close the meeting, Region 1 seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.