**Virginia Bass Chapter Federation Board Meeting Minutes**

**Microtel Inn & Suites, South Hill, Va**

**Jan. 9, 2022**

**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… Jason Keene - absent

Tournament Director… Alton Vaughn

Assistant Tournament Director/Youth Director…Becky Conley

Conservation Director…. John Flicek

Secretary……. Tammy Caldwell

Treasurer……... Stephanie Brewer

The board meeting was called to order at 8:59 a.m. by the President.

The board observed a moment of silence to include members that have passed recently and for those facing health issues and their families.

**Opening Remarks**

Have lost a few sponsors for 2022. Continue to seek new sponsors for the state.

**Incorporation Meeting**

State Incorporation meeting was called to order at 9:04am.

**Meeting Minutes**

The meeting minutes from the November 14, 2021 Board meeting were distributed. The Region 4 Director made the motion to accept the minutes and the Region 6 Director seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously to accept the minutes as presented.

**Treasurer’s Report**

Treasurer presented the treasurer’s report. The Region 8 Director made the motion to accept the treasurer’s report as presented and the Region 1 Director seconded the motion.

**Conservation Report**

Efforts continue to support the Invasive Species project and regulatory efforts with DWR Fisheries.  We’ve built a relationship with the department that supports a free exchange of ideas. The DWR Fisheries personnel are very supportive of the tournament angling community and value our input.

Virginia DWR has entered their biennial regulatory cycle where they solicit input from the angling community for proposed changes to the Virginia Fishing Regulations.  The scoping period is open from 5 January through February 19, 2022.  Each input will be summarized and presented to the Wildlife and Boating Committee for evaluation and then to the Board in March 2022.  Proposed changes will be then opened to public comment and will ultimately be voted on by the Board Members in August.  Approved regulations will take effect on 1 January 2023.  Link to the DWR Scoping/Input web page: <https://dwr.virginia.gov/regulations/2022-scoping-period/>

I provided input to a draft regulation in support of the effort to stop the spread of invasive species.  The proposed regulation will establishment a policy of “Clean, Drain & Dry” of live wells, bilges, watercraft & trailers upon removal from a waterway and before entering another body of water.

We are discussing issues experienced with obtaining a tournament permit at DWR Ramps and possibly submitting change proposal through this process to simplify the Fishing Tournament Permit Process.

I have been invited by DWR to take part in the Virginia Bass Chapter Federation representative during the Virginia American Fisheries virtual meeting in February in support of the collaborative Invasive Species: Alabama Bass, effort we’ve been a part of.

**Youth Report**

Youth membership drive is moving forward. The President will draft an email to be sent to TBF members through email blast with information for youth membership. Posts regarding youth membership and tournaments will be made to the state and youth Facebook pages and the state website. Region 8 Director will update the current youth tri-fold brochure and make copies.

**Business Calendar**

The President presented and reviewed the 2022 Business calendar to the board. Please contact Scott with any additions to the business calendar.

**Budget Report**

The Vice President presented the final 2021 budget along with the proposed 2022 budget.

**Old Business**

**PayPal for Clothing/Raffle**

Scott is working with the bank to have the ability to take credit card payment in order to utilize credit card sales at tournaments for clothing/raffle tickets.

**Ranger Boat Purchases**

Remind members to fill out the Federation paperwork if they purchase a new Ranger boat. Not only will they get free product VBCF will also get credit.

**Trailer Improvements**

Trailer is slated to get wrapped after the South Regional tournament.

**2021/2022 Tournament Schedule**

Tournament schedule has been set, all but one ramp has been secured for the 2021/2022 tournament season.

**Sponsor Ad Payment Schedule**

Tabled until the March 4 board meeting. Scott will provide a letter to the board regarding current sponsors with renewal date.

**2023 Tournament Schedule**

Moving forward tournament schedules will need to be set one year in advance due to some locations opening reservations 12 months in advance. Directors will bring 2023 proposed tournament locations to the March 4 board meeting.

**Bylaw Changes from November**

The secretary updated bylaws and emailed them to the board as well as posted the updated bylaws on the state’s website, www.vabass.com. Bylaws have been forwarded to TBF.

**New Business**

**New Membership Requirements**

Robert highly recommends clubs incorporate requirements into their bylaws that would give a club the ability to suspend a member that breaks rules or does something detrimental to the Club. There should also be something in there that has a new member on a probation period for the first year.

**Tightlines**

Scott thanked everybody for submitting information for the Winter 2022 edition of Tightlines.

Spring Tightlines information is due March 15. The Winter edition of Tightlines will be printed, directors will each receive a few copies to use to show potential sponsors. Scott will also give current sponsors a copy at the fishing expo.

**2022 State Raffle**

The state will be raffling of a trolling motor and Visa gift card for 2022. Raffle tickets for the trolling motor will be available to sell at the Richmond Fishing Expo, January 21-23. The drawing will take place at the 2022 National Semi Finals at Friday ‘s pairing meeting.

**2022 National Semifinal**

Potentially will have a large field of anglers due to the location. Planning will start early to ensure adequate staffing lined up to help run the tournament, donations for giveaways, etc.

Online registration is a possibility for qualifiers.

**Clothing/VBCF Products/Trophies**

All Star Sports is currently working on an estimate for clothing and will provide Scott the estimate soon. We have good supply of products on hand.

**Sponsor Update**

Continue to secure sponsors. The state would like to secure a water and battery sponsors. Toyota is now a National Sponsor so a Dealership Sponsor would be nice.

**Membership Growth**

Membership has grown within the state, continue to be proactive, think of things that can be done to attract new members.

**Region Facebook Pages**

Regions are encouraged to keep their Facebook pages current, post tournament schedules, tournament pictures, etc. Share posts from the state Facebook page to region and club Facebook pages.

**2022 TBF National Championship (Travel Money)**

Region 8 made the motion to give the standard travel money to the Virginia anglers headed to the 2022 TBF National Championship held on Lake Conroe, Conroe, Texas February 27 – March 4, 2022 Region 6 seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously to give them money for travel expenses.

**Youth State Championship**

The Youth State Championship will be held Saturday, June 4 on the Chickahominy River.

**2022 VA SAF -March 5thth Smith Mountain Lake**

Expecting a good turnout for the VA SAF tournament

**2022 MD/DE/NJ SAF-April 16th Potomac River**

Expecting a few teams for this tournament

**Richmond Fishing Expo-January 21-23, 2022**

Volunteers are needed for the Expo: Friday 2-4 volunteers, Saturday 6-8 and Sunday 6-8. There will be a morning shift and afternoon shift. Directors were asked to send the information out to their club presidents to see if any of their membership is interested in volunteering.

**Raffle prizes for Richmond**

Anyone that has raffle prizes please contact Scott. Would like to have 10-12 raffle prizes for the fishing expo.

**2022 Host Hotel (South Hill)**

The new Microtel in South Hill is the host hotel for VBCF. Anglers can still stay at the Comfort Inn.

**Communication**

Continue to communicate information to your members. Make sure your membership understands how the Ranger Cup works and The Bonus Bucks for Ranger boat owners.

Remind clubs to make sure the liability forms are being signed by every member. Forms can be located on the TBF website: bassfederation.com under the Members tab.

**Next Board meeting March 4, 2022 Smith Mountain Lake**

**Motion to close meeting**

Region 1 made the motion to adjourn the meeting, Region 4 seconded the motion. State Incorporation meeting closed at 12:09pm