

Minnesota B.A.S.S Nation Meeting Minutes

Saturday – March 5, 2016

11:00 am Regional Meetings

12:00 pm General Meeting

Meeting called to order at 12:15

Peter Perovich

12:00 pm Roll Call Secretary

32 Clubs in attendance, we do have a quorum

Amy Kiefer

Presidents Report

Peter Perovich

- Youth Welcome – Peter extended a welcome to any of the HS/youth that stuck around after the annual meeting.
- Mark Gomez talked about meeting with Regional Team. Bob Perkins was elected as Team Captain and they are working together well so far. The team will be in Guntersville starting mid-April. Event dates are April 20-22.
- Board meeting Report
 - TOC Discussion to take place in old business
 - Lance Jensen – came to discuss an opportunity to take Veterans fishing.
 - Blog portion on web up and running – If members have good content or things to share, please contact Mickey Goetting to understand what steps are needed to take to participate in this.

Tournament Directors Report

Bill Neumann

- 2016 Lake Minnetonka - still working to get things lined up, have permit and finalizing other details.
- Updating TOC rules – Bill is taking a deep dive into the tournament rules and making any appropriate updates. Hoping to share revised rules at the April Meeting.
- Club Tournament schedules – Continue to get these submitted. There are still clubs missing. There are some bodies of water off-limits to any additional events: North/South Center, Waconia and Clear Water
- 2017 TOC Lake Submissions - Will be voting today for this water. Previous submission: Leech Lake (West Metro Bassmasters). Bill requested any additional nominations from membership.
 - River Rats – Mississippi River Pool 5A, 6 and 7 (2nd week August)
 - Loon State & Fat Belly – Mille Lacs (1st week August)

Secretary's Report

Amy Kiefer

- Membership Update – As of today, there are 264 paid members representing 28 clubs.
 - Additional members can still be added through 5/1/16 to be considered for the 2016 TOC allocation numbers.
 - Dues can now be paid online via PayPal for new rosters, or adding members. Otherwise please send to Amy.
 - Average membership in total over the last few years has come in around 460-470 members. Although we are still short of this number now, it is very common that we get a LOT of membership adds leading up to 5/1. However, do know that membership was supposed to be current as of 12/1/15.
- Reminder to all clubs that they must attend at least 3 of 5 winter meetings to be TOC eligible.
- April Meeting Change – Due to several members of the board that will be in Alabama on the original scheduled April meeting date (4/16), we have moved this meeting up by 1 week to April 9th. Membership is being notified today, more than 30 days in advance per the bylaws.
- MNBN Email – sign up to receive information. Use this link: <http://www.mnbn.org/connect.html>
- Clubs looking for new members – Contact Amy Kiefer or Mickey Goetting

Conservation Directors Report

Mickey Goetting (Peter Perovich)

- Shimano Grant Submission – Mille Lacs Smallmouth C & R: Not approved due to various reasons, but largely in part that we were not given full support from the MN DNR.
- Message Boards – We have reinvigorated these through mnbfn.org, More info to come
- Smallmouth Mille Lacs Update – On 2/24, Peter and group had a regulations meeting where advisory board met to provide recommendations for the future state of Mille Lacs. BASS partnered with the Mille Lacs Smallmouth Alliance to merge efforts, with common goals. Below is what we proposed:
 - *Return season to coincide with state wide season dates South of Hwy 53.*
 - *Provisions/special regulations for large tournaments (Size of tournament TBD by the DNR commissioner) to be able to catch hold and release with Maximum of 5 fish limit, with no size restrictions. Allowing culling, up to October 1st. with a Maximum number of large tournaments to be limited to 4 per season.*
 - *Allow harvest of 3 fish 15' and under, with one over 21' to be included in the bag of 3 per day.*
 - *Provisions/Special Regulations for Large Tournaments*
 - *Size of tournament TBD by the DNR commissioner (e.g. 1 day 100 boat tourney or 2-day 50 boat tourney)*
 - *Catch hold and release with maximum of 5 fish limit*
 - *No size restrictions*
 - *No culling restrictions*
 - *Maximum number of large tournaments to be limited to 4 per season (through September 30).*
- Next steps – DNR was positive about proposal, and decisions will be made soon. Majority of the advisory committee is onboard with the above proposal.
- Richard Nichols – Representing the Mille Lacs Smallmouth Alliance
 - *The Alliance wants more members, and has offered MNBN a deal for the youth program. For every Person or club who joins the Mille Lacs Smallmouth Alliance, They will give back to our youth program 10% of the proceeds.*
 - *How they will track this, when you go to <http://www.millelacsmallmouthalliance.com> click join, and after you enter your put BN behind your name.*
 - *Individual - Minimum donation of \$20, with the vast majority of the money is being used for advertising, billboards, signing to educate about catch & release to protect the fishery.*
 - *Jim De Rosa – funds for junior bass nation will be quarterly.*

Youth Directors Report

Jeff Gilmer

- Annual Youth & HS meeting – full house!! Growth continues – inquiries for 3x as many teams as last year potentially reaching 150 teams.
- 2016 TOC was planned to be Whitefish – open series starting this year with 4 events led by HS clubs. With this new format, we will be reaching out to the adult membership to help with boats, etc. Please encourage at least one person from your club to assist. The help is greatly appreciated.
- With 4 opens, we are given the flexibility to send more teams -- We can send 1 for each 25 teams. Could have 6 teams go this year.
- MN Junior Bass Facebook - If you haven't done so already, please go out and "like" this page to follow updates within the organization.

New Business

Peter Perovich

- Nominations requested for open Treasurer – Steve Johnson (Duluth Bass)
- Sponsor Update – Delayed until April Meeting, due to Steve's illness

Old Business

Peter Perovich

- B.A.S.S. AOY – Not many updates, still waiting to get more details from BASS
- TOC Format Update – Board met in February, an extra meeting talk through and hash out what needs to be done in order to be set for the 2016 TOC. We felt it was in the best interest of the organization

just to make a decision as a board, in order to align with what BASS is looking for. We considered many things – including the feedback that was received from all of the membership after the January meeting. As a board, we agreed that option 4 was the best choice at this time. Please see below for additional details:

4) Pro-Am hybrid format similar to current draw tournament where when two boaters are drawn each gets ½ day. If a boater is paired with a non-boater, the boater gets full control for the day. Either a fixed number or percentage of boaters / non-boaters advance to Regional.

Operational fulfilling slots:

Club initially sends equal number of boaters and non-boaters. Then club can send additional members in the "next wave" of TOC entries (similar to how we do it today)

TOC Allocation will be rounded up to the nearest even number.

If your club TOC allocation is 7, your club can send a total of 8 members.

- For Example: those Clubs can send 4 boaters and 4 non-boaters to fill your club TOC allocation.

Each club can now have more than 1 guaranteed boater.

If your club registers a boater with a non-boater, the boater is a guaranteed boater.

Guaranteed boaters will be paired with a non-boater (just like we have done previously). However, now the guaranteed boater will have full control for the full day of the tournament.

Each club may send additional members beyond the club allocation as they have done previously. If we have less members than the maximum, everyone gets in (like last year). Otherwise a proportion per club will be calculated (per bylaw TOC formula).

Standings will be split into two categories: 1) boater 2) non-boater

The top 10 finishing boaters will be the Minnesota State Team boaters for Regionals.

The top 10 finishing non-boaters will be the Minnesota State Team non-boaters for Regionals.

This doesn't mean the Non-Boater can't win the tournament and be the State Champion. You can.

- Bylaws Vote
 - Membership (all clubs in good standing) voted unanimously to approve the bylaw updates that were presented at the January meeting.
- 2017 TOC Lake Vote – Mille Lacs will be the location of your 2017 TOC
 - Leech Lake – 3 votes
 - Mississippi River (Pools 5a, 6, 7) – 12 votes
 - Mille Lacs – 15 votes
- Announcements –
 - Jeff Nelson requested some donations for youth, does not have to be new. Anything you have to offer is much appreciated. Contact Jeff for more information.
 - Northern light Junior Bass Bandits – Aqua Vu 2 Micro will be auctioned off on site, to benefit junior club
 - Mille Lacs Smallmouth Alliance – April 23 Bronzeback blowout Auction

**Motion to adjourn at 2:16 pm, second and done

**Next meeting to be held on Saturday, April 9th at the Medina Ballroom. Regional Meetings will be at 11 am and the general meeting at noon. Reminders: Chapters/Clubs need to have a representative at 3/5 of the meetings to be eligible for the TOC.