

Minnesota B.A.S.S Nation Meeting Minutes

Saturday – April 9, 2016

11:00 am Regional Meetings

12:00 pm General Meeting

Meeting called to order at 12:11

12:00 pm Roll Call Secretary

Peter Perovich

Amy Kiefer (Bill Neumann)

President Report

Peter Perovich

Board meeting discussed purchasing Oxygenator equipment due to TOC can now be during heat of summer. B.A.S.S. Nation title sponsor is now Academy Sports & Outdoors and Magellan Outdoors (instead of Old Milwaukee). Central Regional – some guys are already in Alabama. Most are leaving at the end of this week. We will try and post updates to website and Facebook. New lake and area should be interesting. Good luck State Team!

Tournament Director Report

Bill Neumann

Rules and roster forms and being finalized and will be posted online next week. No two week off limits prior to official practice for Minnetonka. Saturday – Tuesday (September 3-6) is TOC official practice. Minnetonka off limits begins Tuesday, September 6 at sunset. Pre tournament meeting will be held at Medina Entertainment Center on Wednesday, September 7.

Secretary Report

Amy Kiefer (Peter Perovich)

Currently we have 310 paid members. Dues must be submitted by May 1st to figure into TOC allocation. We will be voting for treasurer. Sign up for MN B.A.S.S. Nation email (mnbfm.org/connect.html). Clubs looking for new members please contact Amy Kiefer or Mickey Goetting. We are getting a lot of inquiries at this time of year so it is important that we have this information – verify your info on the MNBN website: mnbfm.org/membership/index.html.

Conservation Director Report

Mickey Goetting

Mille Lacs Conservation Project gofundme.com/mnbassnation

Project Objective

Smallmouth have become the target as a replacement for walleye table fare. Minnesota B.A.S.S. Nation is concerned that increased fishing pressure and a substantial increase in harvest could adversely impact the world class Mille Lacs smallmouth bass fishery. Smallmouth bass grow very slowly and we need to protect them.

Funding

With funding Minnesota B.A.S.S. Nation aims to promote catch and release alongside the Mille Lacs Smallmouth Alliance at boat ramps, tackle shops and resorts via billboards, signs and posters. Also reach out to educate the local community, which is presently focused on a catch-and-kill, via local newspaper ads and articles,

With an increased catch and release awareness we can have the world class angling opportunity today and ensure it is still there in the future.

Mille Lacs Regulations

Walleye: Night closure beginning Monday, May 16, from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. and continuing through Dec. 1. Muskellunge anglers may fish at night but all baits, live or artificial, in possession must be at least 8 inches long.

Northern pike: Five fish with only one longer than 40 inches. All northern 30-40 inches long must be immediately released.

Bass: Four fish with only one longer than 21 inches. All fish 17-21 inches long must be immediately released.

Creel Surveys

Record high numbers of surveys, individual anglers completing surveys, number of different water bodies fished, fish caught, and fishing hours occurred in 2015.

A total of 46 different anglers completed at least one survey in 2015, and they provided a total of 417 completed surveys. Previous highs were 38 anglers in 2008 and 343 completed surveys in 2011.

Nineteen anglers contributed for the first time at least one completed survey;

Anglers in 2015 fished a total of 4,556 hours, catching 3,818 Largemouth Bass and 804 Smallmouth Bass 12 inches or longer

From 2003 through 2015, we provided 210 independent estimates of largemouth bass size. DNR made 20 estimates in the same lakes during the same time frame. So we provided an additional 190 estimates. Totals: 3,358 creel surveys 26,674 angling hours

Culling on MN Border Waters

Allow culling on all species for all anglers on all MN border waters

4:30pm Friday, April 15 public comment deadline

Goal is to have rule in place by the end of August and thus OK'd for LAX Elite

Legislature

Some current bills of interest: DNR game and fish bill (HF 2844), Gross overlimits bill (HF 2845), Northern Pike mgmt (HF 2843/SF 2757) passed

News

Jim Leach is now the MN DNR Fish and Wildlife Director (formerly U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service wildlife refuge supervisor). Tyler Reed left B.A.S.S. (social media) March 31. Jim Martin left Berkley Conservation March 31. Bass Workgroup May meeting agenda includes Mille Lacs and bass creel surveys.

Website

Reviving Message Board and updated/redesigned MN State Team page. Need your input/content for Event Calendar, Conservation Events, and Classified Ads.

Youth Director Report

Jeff Gilmer

Bassmaster High School All-State announced Noah Peterson and Matt Stearns. They will go into the process for (12) All-Americans. If they are selected they get to fish a tournament with an Elite angler in June. Currently 304 high school and 114 in junior bassmasters--still 12 schools have not registered. TOC June 17 meeting at Whitefish Lodge June 16. Weigh in at the beach near the (Corp of Engineers) dam. Volunteers (mentors and boat captains) Friday tournaments to reduce conflicts with your

weekend tournaments. Looking to use Signup genius to sign up for a volunteer for an event (next 30 days).

Old Business

Peter Perovich

Steve Johnson is the new treasurer.

New Business

Peter Perovich

None

Announcements

9/24 Waconia tournament

5/1 Okoboji (Bass Seekers)

Arsenal Nights – MLF style evening bass tournament on Lake Minnetonka

Youth Lure Drive - Donations (and cash – Jeff Gilmer)

**Motion to adjourn, seconded and done