



B.A.S.S. NATION OF VIRGINIA, INC.
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
January 8, 2023
Pizza Pub, Clarksville, VA

The meeting was called to order 9:05am by Mike Bryant.

Present:

Incoming President	Sid Ryan
Vice President	Steve Woodroof
Region 2 Director	Ray Tweedy
Region 3 Director	Cavin Young
Region 5 Director	Mike Bryant
Region 6 Director	Chris Merritt
Region 7 Director	Craig Owens
Region 10 Director	Bruce Shepherd
Youth Director	Jack Babcock
Tournament Director	J. T. Williams
Conservation Director	Melanie Barrow

Also Present: Karla Babcock
Abby Ryan

Minutes: Minutes from the last meeting included in board meeting package.

Treasurer Report: Bank Reconciliations, P&L and Balance Sheet for year end 2022 reviewed. The money market account at American National Bank has been closed. Cashier's check received to open new money market for adult and youth funds will be used to open Youth money market at Atlantic Union Bank. Motion to accept treasurer's report by R2 Ray Tweedy, seconded by R7 Craig Owens. Passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mike Bryant congratulates Sid Ryan as the new President of BASS Nation of Virginia, Inc. Sid presented Mike with a plaque for his dedicated and outstanding service from Jan 2010 to Dec 2022.

Sid accepted certification from Region 5's election of Mike Bryant as their Director. The board approved that Mike shall be the new region 5 Director.

Joan Blankenship has officially resigned. Sid accepted resume/introduction from Melanie Barrow for Conservation Director. Motion by R7 Craig Owens to accept, seconded by R6 Chris Merritt. Passed. The board gives a huge thank you to Joan Blankenship for her outstanding service over many, many years.

Sid thanked Craig Owens for his previous role as Tournament Committee Chairman for 2022 season. Sid recommended J. T. Williams as Tournament Director. Motion by R5 Mike Bryant, seconded by VP Steve Woodroof to accept. Passed.

2023 State Team Contracts for Douglas Lake tournament have not yet been received from B.A.S.S. Sid hopes to receive them in February. Reservations have been made at Quality Inn, Kodak, TN. All members claiming a spot please let State know if they will be occupying a reserved room or not, and with or without a guest.

2023 Club Rosters Susan reported that of the 33 clubs rostered last year, 18 have submitted updated rosters with 16 of those paid and registered with BASS Roster Management for a current total of 202 members. Deadline for rosters and dues is February 15, 2023.

Alliance Program 2023 B.A.S.S. has not yet sent out the Alliance Program documentation for signature. Mercury, Triton, and Motorguide will still participate but we don't know at what level yet. Lowrance will participate with BASS Nation.

State Sponsors Sid will be contacting last year's sponsors and new sponsors:
Conrad Enterprise – Clarksville raffle; discount rate; comp rooms
Raychem (Detailer's Choice) – Giveaways

Glass Baron
Power Pole
Missile Baits – Lures for state events & Youth events
Graves Mountain Lodge – Sample jelly and weekend giveaway
Angler's Choice Marine – Battery giveaway
CABO
Budget Mobile Outboard Repair

NEW BUSINESS:

Bylaw Proposals

#1. Proposal to change Article 8-15 Boat Requirement to match BASS horsepower rating not to exceed 250hp. Motion by R10 Bruce Shepherd to add BASS rule to Article 8-15, seconded by R5 Mike Bryant. Vote passed unanimously. Susan to update this bylaw as follows:

BOAT REQUIREMENTS. Maximum horsepower for all outboard motorboats used in official tournament practice and in tournament competition will be 250 HP. Horsepower cannot exceed the limitations set by the U.S. coast Guard. When required, each boat must have a U.S. Coast Guard horsepower-rating plate attached to the boat by the manufacturer. The horsepower of the outboard engine must not exceed the rating specified on this plate nor the horsepower maximum set by BASS. Each competitor agrees to submit, by their signature on the official entry form, the boat and outboard motor used in the tournament, to an inspection by factory-trained personnel if there is reason to suspect the horsepower is in excess of the rating. Normal maintenance of engines is allowed. Changing or altering standard factory parts of a competitor's engine, to increase the horsepower over the factory horsepower rating, is forbidden and will result in disqualification. Falsifying information on entry forms or altering the horsepower-rating numbers on the engine is also cause for immediate disqualification from BASS tournaments. Posted speed limits must be observed and all boats must be operated in a safe manner. Competition boats shall be sixteen feet or more in length and powered by at least a seventy-five-horsepower engine. The boat must also have an electric bow mounted trolling motor and sufficient live well capacity to maintain a limit of bass by both contestants in good condition during the tournament hours. No cumbersome craft, stick steering, or jet drive engines will be permitted. All boats must comply with all applicable federal and state regulations. Any violation of these rules will result in immediate disqualification from that day's competition. All boats that do not meet these requirements cannot be used in any state level tournaments conducted by the BASS Nation of Virginia. All boats used in state and region events of BASS Nation of Virginia must have no less than \$300,000 watercraft liability insurance on these boats. In order to use a boat, proof must be provided for all events. If you do not own the boat to be used in the event, a letter of permission to use the boat in that event must be provided by the owner(s) prior to use.

#2. Proposal to designate elected positions of Tournament Director and Conservation Director to follow President term (even years), and Youth Director to follow Vice President term (odd years). Motion by R5 Mike Bryant, seconded by CD Melanie Barrow. Vote passed unanimously.

Board requested a general bylaw update to purge various amendment references throughout. Susan to provide redline markup for review by the board.

2023 Upcoming Event:

January 20-22: Fishing Expo – need volunteers to man adult booth.
Show times: Friday 9-7, Saturday 9-7, and Sunday 10-5. Move in Thurs 9-8.
Motion by YD Jack Babcock, seconded by R2 Ray Tweedy to purchase 8 discount admission tickets for members manning BASS Nation booth. Voice vote passed.

2023 BASS Waivers

BASS has distributed new waivers for club members. One per year to be signed.

BASS Kayak Program

2 clubs looking to affiliate with BASS through Virginia state. Motion by R5 Mike Bryant, seconded by R2 Ray Tweedy to a \$10 state dues per Kayak member to affiliate. Passed.

Mr. BASS Entry Forms

Will be emailed and posted by February 11th, 2023, pending meeting location confirmation. Deadline for forms/fees March 3rd.

New BASS format in May 2023.

2023 BASS format remains the same. Virginia State team will fish the last Southeastern Regional

2024 format will no longer have State Team regionals. Instead, each state's top teams will go straight to Nationals. The number of teams each state gets to send to Nationals is determined by membership across all states and foreign states as of August 31st each year. Based on August 31st, 2022, Virginia's number of teams is 5. Virginia's 2023 state tournaments will determine who goes straight to Nationals.

BASS also will provide 10 teams per state with early bird registration codes to fish one of the four new Qualifiers for the Nationals. These Qualifiers are replacing BASS's Opens. After the early registration window is closed, BASS will fill any open spots in the 250-boat field with at-large members. At-large members are BASS members who are not affiliated with a club yet must pay state dues.

Because BASS allows each state to set up their own tournament format any way they choose, the board has motioned, seconded and voted as follows on the Virginia tournament format:

Virginia already has 4 tournaments scheduled. For these tournaments...

1. Motion by R7 Craig Owens to value standings by pounds and ounces versus a point system, seconded by R10 Bruce Shepherd. Vote results: regions 2, 5, 7, and 10 for pounds and ounces; regions 3, 4 (by proxy), 6, TD, YD and CD for point system, with VP abstaining. **Virginia will use a point system.**
2. Motion by R6 Chris Merritt, seconded by YD Jack Babcock to hold the 4 tournaments as fixed teams without change in partners versus teams switching partners with boater/nonboater points carrying individually. Vote results: all regions present for fixed teams. **Virginia will have fixed teams** meaning the same partners for all 4 tournaments. Any changes in partners constitutes a new team whose points start back at 0. The more tournaments the same team fishes, the more points will accumulate for that fixed team.
3. Motion by R6 Chris Merritt to have a drop tournament, seconded by R5 Mike Bryant. Vote results: all regions present voted for a drop with VP abstaining. **Virginia will drop the lowest score per fixed team.**
4. Motion by R6 Chris Merritt to not allow versus allow substitutes in a team, seconded by CD Melanie Barrow. Vote results: regions 2, 5, 6, 7, 10, VP and CD against substitutes, region 3, TD and YD for substitutes. **Virginia will not allow substitutes.** Any substitutions constitute a new team whose points start back at 0.
5. Motion by R7 Craig Owens to not allow a fixed team partner to fish by him/herself was not seconded.
6. Motion by R6 Chris Merritt to allow one partner of a fixed team to fish by him/herself for both days of one tournament only, seconded by R2 Ray Tweedy. Vote results: regions 2, 3, 5, 6, 10, TD, YD and CD for; region 7 against, VP abstained. **Virginia will allow a partner of a fixed team to fish one tournament by him/herself both days.**
7. Motion by VP Steve Woodroof to give teams participating but caught no fish both days 25 participation points, seconded by R5 Mike Bryant. Motion passed by majority voice vote. **Virginia teams will receive 25 participation points for fishing and not weighing in anything.**
8. Motion by YD Jack Babcock **to break a final standings tie first by their dropped tournament points, then by total weight for year, then by total number of fish for the year, and then by flip of the coin,** seconded by R6 Chris Merritt. Motion passed by majority voice vote. This means teams fishing all 4 tournaments have the upper hand in the event of a tie in final point standings.
9. Motion by R7 to hold the 4th tournament, our formerly scheduled "Fish Off" Oct 21-22, 2023, on the James River or Chick pending ramp availability, seconded by R6 Chris Merritt. Vote results: Regions 2, 3, 6, 7, TD, and YD for the James, region 10 against, region 5 abstaining. **Virginia will hold its final 4th tournament of 2023 on the James (or Chick).**

Virginia's 2024 tournament consideration: No 2 tournaments on the same body of water.

NEW FORMAT ADVANTAGE – By fishing BASS Nation of Virginia tournaments, instead of 10 teams fishing on the State Team at the former Southeastern Regionals for a chance at being the 1 team (top boater/top nonboater) that advances to the Nationals, we will have 5 teams going straight to Nationals AND 10 other teams with the opportunity to fish a Qualifier at a chance of being in the top 20 teams go to Nationals. That's the possibility of 25 teams going to Nationals versus 1 team!! Nationals will continue to provide 3 Classic berths and 1 Elite series berth!!

The state will contribute as much funds as are available to the teams going straight to Nationals from state tournaments.

Any team with early registration codes or at-large registration to a Qualifier shall pay their own way. Entry fee for boaters is \$400. Entry fee for non-boaters is \$200.

The top 20 teams of the BASS qualifier go to Nationals. Any team qualifying to the Nationals through BASS qualifiers shall pay their own way.

State Trophies: The board voted by majority voice vote to try wall style plaques versus standup plaques this year.

Apparel: State will be ordering t-shirts, hooded sweatshirts and hats. CABO to provide quotes.

State Trailer: Board obtaining quotes for cost to add window to state trailer, remove decals, and/or add wrap.

Youth Trailer: Motion by VP Steve Woodroof to purchase the old youth trailer for \$100, seconded by TD Jack Babcock. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Conservation AFTCO gives 10% of sales to conservation – Purchase AFTCO items

Youth Motion by R5 Mike Bryant for permission to use Youth funds to purchase new scales keeping the old ones for backup, a new laptop, updated Tournament Keeper program software, and weigh-in bags, seconded by R2 Ray Tweedy. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Scholarship/Facebook Abby Ryan reports the scholarship account balances remain the same as reported at the last board meeting. Send pictures to Abby Ryan to post.

MISC NEWS FROM THE BOARD:

Region 2: Good.

Region 3: Good. Tournament schedule set.

Region 5: Good. New club coming back. Members coming back. 28 total.

Region 6: Good.

Region 7: Hopes the point system works. Asks for new format to be published as soon as possible.

Region 10: Be safe. Lost 2 young anglers earlier this week.

NEXT BOARD MEETING February 26, 2023, Pizza Pub, Clarksville 9:00am

Adjournment: Motion by VP Steve Woodroof, seconded by TD Jack Babcock to adjourn at 1:26pm.