



February 7, 2010
New Mexico Bass Federation Nation
Director's Meeting
Location: Hanseatic
5600 Wyoming NE, Suite 220
Albuquerque, NM 87109

Minutes

- I. Call to order, introduction, and roll call 10:15
 - a. Earl Conway – Conservation Director
 - b. Leon Pulliam – ABQ Hawg Hunters Director
 - c. Steve Ragsdale – President
 - d. Ron Gilworth – Socorro Bass Club Director
 - e. Ken Ronquillo – Elephant Butte Bass Club Director
 - f. Russell Whited – Pecos Valley Bassmasters Director
 - g. David Herrera – Youth Director
 - h. Randell Bell – Cedar Cove Director
 - i. Chuck Rizuto – Treasurer
 - j. Barry Stanley – Four Corners Director
 - k. Wade Jordan – CortezBassmasters Director
 - l. Bob Lechel – High Country Bass Director
 - m. Brian Stangel
 - n. Denise Hansel
 - o. Ricky-Ray Martinez – IT Director
 - p. Tawny Bell
- II. Reading of previous minutes
 - a. David Herrera moved to accept
 - b. Russell Whited – second
 - c. Unanimous
- III. Financial update – Denise Hansel
 - a. 2009 Alliance boat update
 - b. David Herrera moved to accept
 - c. Ron Gilworth – second
 - d. Unanimous
- IV. Conservation Director's Report – Earl Conway
 - a. Appendix A (see attached)
- V. Tournament Director's Report – Barry Stanley
 - a. Points System
 - i. 20 point drop from the last spot with fish caught to the next angler/anglers

1. David Herrera motioned to accept
 2. Ron Gilworth
 3. Unanimous
 - ii. David proposed amendment to point system for Barry to get input from Directors
 1. Second – Leon Pulliam
 2. Unanimous
 3. Ron Wiliford to get with Barry on sending out proposed amendment to Directors
 - iii. Club Competition
 1. Four Corners won the 2009 club competition and the custom Billy Bass tourney
 2. FCBM won two entries for individual tournaments for 2010
 3. Discussion for revision of club competition – remove both “top 30” point tallies – raise nonboater to 3 points – each check raised to 2 points
 - b. NMBFN Qualifying tournament rule clarifications
 - i. Barry to email clarifications
 - ii. Barry to add draw format to tournament guidelines
 - c. Steve Ragsdale gave out template for liability release for all NMBFN events – all levels of the organization – clubs must be in compliance to be covered under BASS policy
 - d. David Herrera motioned to add liability waiver to NMBFN tournament qualifying rule
 - i. Ron Gilworth – second
 - ii. Unanimous
- VI. Scholarship committee Report – David Herrera
 - a. 3 applicants, Steve and David will contact Lewis to review
 - b. Earl would like to see a copy, David will email
- VII. Youth Director’s Report – David Herrera
 - a. Not a lot going on right now
 - b. Pre-fish at Divisionals – worried about lake conditions with Jr.s going out
 - c. CO hired local guides to take out Jrs.
 - d. Contact John Stewart to ask for nonsharing of information; if they can not provide boats, they can not participate, no hiring of local “guides”
 - e. Donation from Dave Ballantine – Sandia Collision - to Junior Program
- VIII. BigMouth – New online format looks great
 - a. Lead time for BigMouth - deadline is March 12th
 - b. Supply updated headshots to Ricky
 - c. Will be in color and hyperlinked in the body of the document
 - d. Steve will need to contact Directors to see which clubs will need a hard copy
 - e. Sponsors – Steve would like to coordinate the people that have the relationship with sponsors to coordinate the contact for 2010 – Steve will send out contact
 - i. Previously the value of a half page ad would make someone a NMBFN sponsor
 - ii. Steve and Bob will coordinate to come up with a program
- IX. Tournament Keeper software update – Bob Lechel
 - a. Taysys is still problematic
 - b. \$250 maintenance agreement
- X. State Team – Steve Ragsdale
 - a. Commitment Date – Need time to notify alternates, order shirts, etc.

- i. Team Captain needs to be notified to see if duties will be committed
 - ii. Ask Valley Fashions (or current Mercury sub) what the deadline is for shirt production
 - b. Fund Raising
 - i. Bob Lechel spoke to Charlie's and the rifle is a go – Bob will coordinate production of raffle tickets
 - ii. NMBFN Open team tourney 2010 – nothing on the calendar at this point – very little capital raised through the tourney from outside members
 - iii. Leon raised topic of Bass Clinic – charge for admission, ask for donations, etc..
 - c. Team captain – punishment or reward???
 - i. Team Captain has the ability to relinquish duties to President
 - ii. Barry suggest to reward Team Captain with all entries paid for next year
 - iii. David Herrera motions that the State Team Captain receives entries into the following year NMBFN tournaments contingent upon completing the duties as stated in the NMBFN Bylaws; if the angler that qualifies is unable or unwilling to complete the duties, the NMBFN President will appoint an alternate
 - iv. Ron Gilworth – second
 - v. Discussion
 - vi. Vote
 - vii. Unanimous
 - viii. This motion needs to be presented to members and an amendment to NMBFN Bylaws made
 - ix. Yuma/Lake Martinez report - Barry went to Martinez – the lake does not have favorable conditions – very difficult to navigate
- XI. Old business
- a. Earl Conway asked for \$300 to put towards license plate
 - i. Leon Pulliam motions to appropriate funds
 - ii. Barry Stanley – second
 - iii. Unanimous
- XII. New business
- a. Bob Lechel made suggestions to prepare in advance for decontamination prior to Western Divisionals occurring in NM 2011
- XIII. 2011 Divisional
- a. Need committee – would like to ask for people to staff committee for tournament
 - i. Steve will create guidelines for proposals
 - ii. NMBFN makes final decision on site
 - iii. David Herrera, Randell Bell, Earl Conway
 - b. Steve Ragsdale is available for presentations
 - c. David Herrera suggests motor cowling bras for Divisional, contestant vs. distress, possible State Team fund raiser
- XIV. Meeting Adjourned 1:00 PM

Appendix A

Conservation Director Report for January, 2010

2010 Outlook

El Nino has been pretty good to us this winter with an average snowpack 36% higher than our average. The watershed for Conchas is only 10% above average but the latest storms should continue to improve conditions in the Canadian River basin. Elephant Butte is on the rise and there may even be an opportunity to stick your nose into the narrows again at our first tournament.

National Scene

B.A.S.S. and the National Federation Nation chose not to have a conservation director's meeting at the Classic this year. Chris Horton, the National Conservation Director, had a rough time explaining their decision and it definitely has taken a toll on participation and communications. However, I still have routine contact with the directors from Arizona, Kansas and Texas. Boater access is still in jeopardy with the possibility of feds using the "Antiquities Act" to limit access and activities by protecting areas of "historic value". While the areas currently being considered are offshore marine areas, there is concern the precedent would spread inland. An absurd example would be putting parts of Conchas off limits to boat traffic to protect Indian petroglyphs or other archeological assets.

Funding for Projects

Chris Horton provided some useful information concerning what used to be called the Wallop-Breaux act to help me prepare for an upcoming meeting with state representatives and maybe even the governor concerning boater safety and fish conservation funds that New Mexico is leaving on the table year after year. I'm going to see if there isn't some way to change state budget rules or at least encourage the state to put projects in the budget that will be primarily funded by our tax money through the U.S. F&WS. Both the Elephant Butte water breaks and suspended spawning bed projects are on indefinite hold because the state will not put the projects in the budget because of the current budget crisis. The irony is that the existing funds are just sitting with the F&WS when it could be helping New Mexico and our fisheries. The art contest is underway to decide what will go on the New Mexico bass fishing license plate. We are on the hook for \$300 for prizes and NMG&F will match it. The announcement was good to us. (Attached) \$10 from every plate will go to bass habitat projects that I hope we will be able to support with either manpower or matching funds. We really need to get some habitat projects started even if it is Christmas tree drops floating islands. I need ideas and help from the clubs!!!

Aquatic Invasive Species

I met recently with the AIS Coordinator (Barbara Coulter, NMG&F) to discuss upcoming public awareness opportunities and invasive species boat inspection training. We still need to get at least one person from every club trained! Given the current budget crisis, she is more willing to consider getting at least one person trained to "Level II" so that they in turn could train others to "Level I". This would be a proactive move just in case we find mussels at one of the lake and the state requires mandatory pre-launch inspections by a "Level I" inspector. Currently we have no known mussel infestations in New Mexico, but they are spreading quickly through Colorado and Arizona. Barbara and I also discussed the fact that we already have Golden Algae, Eurasian Milfoil and other listed invasive species in several places. She admitted that these species just aren't the priority right now and she doesn't see any state or federal action (boat inspections or lake closures) that would impact our activities.

Barbara canceled her latest meeting for poor participation. There seems to be an underlying reluctance of the primary federal entities to take responsibility and action at their lakes with the notable exception of the Corps of Engineers. They are being very aggressive with awareness, inspections and water testing. There was almost no progress at Elephant Butte or Navajo since last spring. I would not be surprised to see some impact on New Mexico's Western Divisional in 2011 if the BLM and State Parks have not worked out a decontamination strategy and provided cleaning facilities by that time.

Fish Care

A study at Amistad discovered that up to 60% of the bass being released through the "slide of death" PVC tubes were dead within a day. After talking more with the people that conducted the study, it appears that a combination of factors may be to blame. The bigger Amistad bass tend to be caught deeper than 30 feet when the water is cool and then later in the year the surface temperatures exceed 75 degrees leading to stress in the livewells. The PVC pipe may have just been the final blow.

At any rate there seems to be a lot of problems fizzing bladders that we need to research. For now I would not recommend the "through the throat" method for smallmouths and try not to over-fizz the fish as this also leads to problems. I will be following up on this topic throughout the year.

Earl Conway

NM Bass Federation Nation Conservation Director

2/5/2010

2010 NMBFN QUALIFYING TOURNAMENT RULES

1. Size limit will be per state regulation as printed in the New Mexico Game and Fish Proclamation.
 - Navajo and Elephant Butte will be 12" – smallmouth and 14" – largemouth/spotted
 - Conchas and Ute lakes will be 14" –smallmouth, largemouth/spotted bass
 - NMBFN will use the red Wil-E-Go belly board (recessed) as the official measuring system.
2. Check-in times will be 3PM-first flight and 3:30PM-second flight-first day and 1PM-first flight and 1:30PM-second flight-second day.
3. No culling of dead fish will be allowed PERIOD. Dead fish penalty is 8oz per fish.
4. Bass presented for weigh-in which fail to measure the official length shall result in a penalty of 1 pound for each such bass plus that fish removed.
5. You must have your number turned in at the check-in point by your check-in time.
6. Late check-in penalty will be one pound per minute late up to 15 minutes. After that, the angler's weight will be disqualified for that day.
7. All fish caught while sight-fishing shall be hooked on the inside of the mouth and verified by that day's partner (unless fishing alone) before unhooking.
8. All ties will be broken by 1)-total fish weighed, 2)-total live fish weighed, 3)-heaviest single day bag weight 4) the second-heaviest single-day catch during competition. If still unresolved, a flip of a coin will decide placement.
9. It shall be NMBFN policy that the tournament waters are OFF-LIMITS starting on Sunday at 12:00 midnight through Friday morning safe light of the week immediately preceding the tournament execution days. The Tournament Director may modify the off-limits dates to accommodate holidays or other extenuating circumstances
10. Individuals who operate a boat during any NMBFN tournament must have documented proof of boating liability insurance meeting BASS Federation Nation minimum requirements (currently \$300,000). Such documented proof must show an effective date and expiration date that includes the tournament dates they are fishing in and must be in possession of the boat operator.
11. NMBFN wants to promote family fun and fishing so we want the members to bring their wives and or children to each event. They can fish with them during the official practice as long as all safety and boating rules are followed. Any other non-participant partners must be approved prior with the tournament directors.
12. This set of rules supersedes all other rules except when not specifically covered here in. If not covered, the next set of rules to follow will be the 2010 BASS Federation Nation Tournament rules. It is the responsibility of all contestants to understand and abide by these rules. All contestants will be given a copy at the first event of the year. Other copies will be available at each event.
13. The entry fee for each tournament will be \$100.00- all anglers
14. \$20.00 optional fee for Big Bass paid back at half the pot each day for Big Bass- open to boaters & non-boaters.
15. Optional non-boater pot at \$15.00.

Supplemental Information

- Year-end Option Pot- \$10.00 per event.
1. Must fish and pay option in 3 events minimum.

2. At the President's cup, the money will be divided with 50% of the pot going to the State Traveling Team. Only State Team qualifiers paying into the pot(3 events min) shall share in pot. Not eligible for any other pots.
3. The remaining 50% will be divided –
4. 20% to 15th place-YTD standings,
5. 10%- last place-YTD, all qualified entrants.
6. 20%-drawing at President's Cup. Must be present to win. This pot is reserved for anglers fishing/paying all 4 events.

2010 NMBFN Club Competition Points Schedule

The NMBFN Club Competition was designed to create more participation and reward those clubs that participate at the end of the year. This will be for bragging rights all year long. Trash talking is allowed and encouraged.

AWARDS- 2 free entries into an event next year that the winning club could raffle off or draw for at their choice. There will also be a traveling trophy which will pass from club to club each year.

Points	Qualification
1	Each Participant – Max 5 points per event
2	Each Check Won
5	Club with Event Winner
3	Highest Placing Non-boater inside the top 10 (gets both if non-boater wins)

We will keep a running total which will be posted on the website ASAP after each event. For more information on the 2010 NMBFN Club Competition please contact Barry Stanley at acbassman@sanjuanlive.net