



June 4, 2010
New Mexico Bass Federation Nation
Director's Meeting
Location: Budget Express
Logan, NM

Minutes

- I. Call to order, introduction, and roll call 7:10
 - a. Russell Whited (Pecos Valley)
 - b. Chuck Rizuto (Treasurer)
 - c. Earl Conway (Conservation)
 - d. Brian Stangel (proxy Secretary)
 - e. David Herrera (Youth)
 - f. Bob Lechel (High Country)
 - g. Rick Hipp (ABQ Hawg Hunters)
 - h. Wade Jordan (Cortez)
 - i. Steve Ragsdale (President)
 - j. Barry Stanley (Four Corners)
 - k. Ricky-Ray Martinez (IT)
 - i. John Myers 7:45 (Cedar Cove)
 - ii. Franco Vallejos 7:45 (Traveling Team Captain)
- II. Reading of previous minutes
 - a. Motion by David Herrera to accept previous minutes
 - b. Russell Whited second
 - i. Accepted by unanimous vote
- III. Financial update
 - a. Chuck Rizuto will forward amended financial status
- IV. Conservation Director's Report (see attached)
 - a. Earl Conway gave an update on the spawning platforms
 - i. Earl requested reimbursement for expenses on spawning platforms
 1. Steve Ragsdale asked about Earl's dedication to the project
 2. Earl confirmed that he is committed to the project through 2012 at a minimum
 - ii. Bob Lechel asked what Earl's project expense has been thus far
 1. Bob stated that he does not feel Earl should burden any expense out of his pocket for this project
 2. Russell Whited confirmed that this project needs to be supported by NMBFN

3. David Herrera raised concern over members taking on tasks without director approval. He also stated that he fully supported Earl's efforts, but does not want to set precedent of members acting without NMBFN director approval.
 - iii. Earl is concerned about boats that left Yuma and went directly to Elephant Butte without decontamination.
 1. More attention needs to be given to NMBFN members that are coming from contaminated or foreign waters
 - iv. Earl also raised concern over Conchas vegetation
 1. Earl will be contacting Corp of Engineers for suggestions on improving habitat quality
 - v. Bob Lechel moved that Earl be reimbursed \$550 and to table reimbursement of the Federation Nation Conservation Grant for a potential \$1000 to offset Earl's expenses
 - vi. Rick Hipp second the motion
 1. Discussion: Barry Stanley commented that he can not vote in favor previously, however he feels with the new information his club would vote in favor.
 2. Barry abstain
 3. 5 in favor, one abstention
- V. Tournament Director's Report
- a. Things are going well, the Butte had some obstacles to overcome, but things should be running smoothly now
 - b. Possibly look for volunteers to assist with weigh in administrative tasks
- VI. Youth Director's Report
- a. Russell Whited was commended for his efforts to assist the NMBFN Juniors at the Divisional
 - b. Russell Whited will be acknowledging the sponsors that assisted the Juniors at the Divisional
- VII. BigMouth – New online format looks great
- a. Ricky requested that we be more timely on deadline submissions
 - b. Earl requested that we enhance the Los Pinos exposure in the BigMouth and website
- VIII. State Team
- a. Motion from Barry Stanley to comp Franco his entry fees for performing duties as stated
 - b. Bob Lechel second
 - i. Unanimous
- IX. Old business
- i. David Herrera motioned to accept bylaw amendments that were proposed in February verbatim
 1. Bob Lechel second
 2. Unanimous
- X. New business
- i. David Herrera proposed a motion that when the NMBFN pays the optional side pot at Western Divisionals, any winnings, excluding a first place win, will be directed to the State Champion for National Championship expenses with a cap at \$4,000.
 - ii. All Directors need to take this back to their clubs.

- iii. Bob Lechel attended the President's meeting at the Divisional and is concerned about "affiliate" members from an insurance standpoint. John Stewart made it clear at Divisionals that "members" need to be members at the club, State, Federation Nation and BASS levels.

XI. Meeting adjourned 8:28

Spawning Platforms

I traveled to Billings Montana and took possession of two floating islands for the City of Albuquerque Tingley Beach Curator, Rebecca Houtman. She was my last resort in finding a host for the island that also had the resources to provide maintenance and oversight. She agreed to a two-year study on both the suspended spawning platform and another project on southwest plants to explore what plants provide the best root structure for the fry “nursery”. I am seeking contributions to offset my costs of approximately \$500 in gas to make the 2100 mile trip. Lodging is on me and the sponsors, Floating Islands International LLC and Floating Islands West, LLC. Floating Islands West will be delivering a much more refined prototype to me and Neal Brown on July 8th for Elephant Butte. The project will mesh well with the engineered water breaks that are being planned for the marinas.

The spawning platforms are still just an experiment at this point, but I am expecting immediate results with the islands. If nothing else, these islands have proven to protect the fry and provide a good food source until they are big enough to leave the cover. See more about the islands, see www.floatingislandswest.com

License Plates

I knew it was too good to be true. As usual, everything comes slowly at the MVD! The Motor Vehicle Division will be putting out the order form out in late July or August for the new bass habitat license plate and \$10 will go to a bass habitat fund. That may not sound like much, but with matching funds from federal taxes and other grants, it will be the seed money to get several new initiatives launched to improve baitfish populations, bass fry recruitment (survival) and maybe some help for Conchas.

Mussels

We now have several members “level 1” qualified to inspect boats for zebra and quagga mussels. I was not impressed with how BASS sidestepped the mussel issue at Yuma. The message is that we have to protect ourselves because Arizona isn’t doing anything to keep them out of New Mexico! I know several boats left Yuma for New Mexico and I would venture to guess that none of them did a Clorox rinse before they put their boats in our waters. The good news is that there isn’t any sign of the mussels actually surviving in that lower stretch of the river. I am still at a loss for a way to do inspections prior to pre-fish. Our goal should to at least do an inspection on any boat that has been on infested waters within 30 days of our tournament. We don’t want to be the organization that introduces mussels to our lakes!!! You can learn more about the mussels and how to clean and inspect your boat at: <http://www.100thmeridian.org/zebras.asp>

Moving on to new projects, I would like some help putting together a re-vegetation project for Conchas.

Earl Conway, Conservation Director