

## **BASS Nation of WV General Meeting**

*March 16, 2024*

NG Armory, Gassaway, WV

BOD In Attendance: Ken Hackworth, Ed Powell, Kevin Postalwait, Matt Myers, Randy Huffman, Dana Brown, Tony Keller, Dustin Hollen

1. **Welcome** – President Ken Hackworth opened the meeting with a discussion of upcoming agenda items.
2. **Gen. Meeting Minutes 10/13/23** – Matt Myers made a motion to dismiss reading of previous meeting minutes. Motion was seconded by Russ McCarty. Motion Carried.
3. **Financials** – Ken Hackworth reported the organization has hired a CPA firm to assist with financial matters, which include the following:
  - a. The CPA has now secured the organization in good standing with the WV Secretary of State and the WV Treasurer's Office.
  - b. The CPA will assist with regaining our nonprofit status.
  - c. The CPA will assist with the continuing payment of WV sales taxes, as required by state law.
  - d. BNWV must now collect IRS Form W-9 from anglers and any angler receiving minimum \$600 in awards shall receive an IRS Form 1099, as required by law.
4. **Conservation** – Conservation Director Matt Myers gave a report on Conservation efforts. A lake cleanup is scheduled for March 23, 2024, at Bulltown Recreation area at Burnsville Lake from 9am to 12pm with a focus on youth attendance and participation. A discussion was also had regarding chestnut tree planting at Burnsville Lake later this year as a conservation opportunity. Matt will continue to look for fundraising, sponsorship, and project opportunities.
5. **Adult Tournaments** – Tournament Director Randy Huffman informed the members on what has been determined to be Off Limits Period tournament waters. On the Mon River, the entire River and tributaries will be considered tournament waters. On the Ohio River, tournament waters will be defined as the pool in which the tournament is launched plus two locks in any direction meaning you would have to lock through three times to be out of tournament waters. Maps will be marked and uploaded to the web page so anglers know which waters will be considered tournament waters and will, therefore, be off limits for the five weekdays prior to any tournament. The tournament water of any lake shall be the entire navigable waters of the lake.

Randy reminded that, per our BNWV Official Rules, "During any off-limits period, competitors cannot be upon the tournament waters or solicit, gather, or intentionally receive any information from anyone other than another competitor in the tournament." This rule prevents someone from circumventing the off-limits period by having someone else fish for them and provide information as well as helps keep the playing field level and in accordance with national rules.

Randy also announced that a polygraph will be administered at least one time this year and possibly more. He reminded the membership all protests must be in writing within 15 minutes of the closing of the tournament scales. He also answered members' questions concerning life

jackets and cell phone use. He indicated PFDs must be worn when the gas motor is running, and occupants must be seated in floor seats and not on any deck when the motor is in gear. Loading/unloading a boat or passenger is not a violation of the rule. As to cell phones, they may be used, but not for the purpose of locating and catching fish or to aid another participant in locating and catching fish. If there are any questions, the membership is encouraged to contact the Tournament Director for clarification of this or any rule.

Randy also announced the new entry fee requirement for Qualifiers and the State Championship. Entry Fees for each tournament will be \$25.00.

Ken Hackworth announced that Team Trail Series is the new name of our former Buddy Trail Series. This will better reflect the branding established by B.A.S.S. on a national level.

6. **Youth Program** – Youth Director Dana Brown informed the membership about the increase in dues and that next year's dues will be payable in December. Membership was also informed that, for Junior competitors, Boat Coaches can no longer tie knots or net fish. If a Boat Coach needs to instruct a Junior competitor how to tie a knot while in competition, they may do so, but both competitors must cease fishing during that time. In addition, youth competitors were reminded of the insurance requirement of \$300,000 liability insurance and insurance spot checks will be performed. Any youth tournament questions should be directed to Youth Director Dana Brown.
7. **Children's Home Society of WV – Summersville Benefit Tournament** – Ken Hackworth announced that the annual tournament will be held on May 5, 2024, from 7am to 3pm out of the Battle Run ramp at Summersville Lake. The awards are non-monetary gift packages. Breakfast and Lunch will be provided by CHS. A \$100 donation is required for entry into the tournament.

Ken announced that on April 26, 2024, at 8 pm there will be a Light Up the Capitol event and B.A.S.S. Nation of West Virginia Youth and Adults are encouraged to be at the event and wear their jersey to show support for child abuse prevention. Member Lyle Atkins also explained the purpose of the event and requested members attend to show support.

8. **Items From the Floor** – Ken Hackworth emphasized that both men and women compete in and attend our events. He requested that members be mindful and use their own restroom out of courtesy for their fellow female competitors and attendees.  
Ken also thanked Tony Keller for setting up the meeting space for the meeting.

Discussion from the floor regarding the No Net Rule was discussed. Randy Huffman explained that it applied only to Qualifiers and the State Championship. The change was made to prepare members for taking the next step in regional and national competition where nets are not allowed.

Discussion was had regarding Off-Limits Periods. Randy Huffman explained the rule was instituted to level the playing field among the anglers and that members had asked for an off-limits period. Response to the rule change has been overwhelmingly in favor of the change thus far. The rule may be revisited in the future depending on the response of members. Ken Hackworth noted that hearing member opinions is both important and appreciated and that

these opinions help the Board make decisions in the best interest of the membership. The Board encouraged members to attend meetings and voice their opinions.

Discussions from the floor also included a request to consider changing the State Championship to a boater vs. boater and co-angler vs. co-angler format. The Board agreed to consider the topic in the future.

9. **Adjournment** – Ken Hackworth asked if there was a motion to adjourn the meeting. Russ McCarty made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Buck Gump. The meeting was adjourned.