



DATE:
TIME:
LOCATION:

Tuesday January 28th, 2020
6:02 PM –7:40 PM
Universal Metal Systems LLC

Erie Pennsylvania Sport Fishing Association

Meeting Minutes: Tuesday January 28th, 2020

Call to Order Time: 6:02 PM

E.P.S.F.A. Board of Directors Meeting to Discuss: review old/new business, March public meeting for elections, raffle ideas, Fishidy App, fund raising.

Board Members Present: Pete Alex, Paul Olszewski, Joe Nemet, Terry Kremer, Mike Vincent, Quinn Bayle, Brad Grimshaw, Justin DiRado, and Todd Redmond.

Associate Board Members Present: None

Directors Not Present: None

Current Membership: 54. **Facebook followers:** 1,736

Approval of Previous Minutes

Pete Alex motioned to accept November's minutes/newsletter; Paul Olszewski seconded.

Treasurer's Report

Pete Alex motioned to accept November's treasurer's report. Quinn Bayle seconded.

- ✓ CHECKING: \$3,265.19
- ✓ SAVINGS: \$10,392.84
- ✓ BT SAVINGS: \$9,711.49

Reimbursements and costs:

\$500 to Buoy fund, Sportfish council membership and admin costs.

Old Business:

- 1) Summer slam weekend picked for 2020. It will be **July 25th and 26th**. Captains meeting will be on July 24th. Moving the date back to try and boost attendance and possibly have fish USA do a promotional event that weekend as well. **Update:** Justin will put on Fish USA calendar and try to co-event someone.
- 2) Spring Trout Challenge will be **Sunday April 19th**. Fall Trout Challenge will be **Sunday October 18th**. Both will be in the same format as in 2019. There also will be a Trout Cup again in 2020.

- 3) The TNT Fireworks B.A.S.S. Nation Northeast Regional championships will be held in Erie Pa during the week of June 22nd, 2020, with competition days June 24-25-26. Championship will be on June 26th. The weigh in will be at Perry monument on Presque Isle. B.A.S.S, along with Erie Sports Commission, the organizers are looking for other groups to provide activities for the youth to do during the weigh-ins which will increase attendance at the weigh-in. The EPSFA wishes we could get the same consideration and promotions for our tournaments. **Update:** The B.A.S.S Nation Erie tournament is being supported locally by Presque Isle Downs & Casino, FishUSA, Universal Metal Systems, Alex Roofing Inc., Burger King and the Bel-Aire Clarion Hotel.
- 4) Kids day date for next year is **Saturday May 23rd**. Start thinking about who we can get to donate this year. Start early, and we will be at the top of the list. Enrollment will be expanded this year.
- 5) Pete attended a briefing on the Lake Erie Permit Program with Lake Erie Advisory Committee (LEAC) members on November 7th. It was held at Senator Dan Laughlin office and he was in attendance along with Representative Wentling. The PFBC discussed the Lake Erie Permit Fund. (\$3.09 million currently in fund). Scott Bollinger provided a power point on all the positive things they were doing for land acquisitions and easements for the steelhead anglers. Pete brought up the need for cleaning stations for the boating community and expressed deep concerns that the same old thing may happen with regard to the bill being introduced but never passed. The wording and use of the existing bill needs modified with new legislation so the fund can be used to include the boating community (besides launch repairs) which brings in a large chunk of the \$40 million in economic funds to our community. Senator Laughlin expressed interest in doing the fish cleaning stations without waiting for the HB bill to be passed. He stated that this should be possible without those funds. Currently, the bill is in the Senate waiting for its last step for approval. The EPSFA will follow up with him to reinforce the needs for these: long overdue” stations in Erie County.
- 6) Discussion ensued of why we are not allowed to dump our fish carcasses in PA like New York and Canadians do in Lake Ontario. We know it to be an issue with the Erie County Health Board, not a PFBC issue. To our knowledge, nobody understands why this can't be changed. They (the state) gets our money for the guide permit which allows us to clean the fish on the boat, but carcasses must be saved and disposed of at home or barrels for the mink farmer to collect? That's if he can do it in a timely manner. Many days, barrels are overflowing and smell, which create its own health concerns. Further investigation needs to be done to understand the problems that dumping creates-per the Health Department. Other states and countries allow it, so why are we different? EPSFA to follow up with the County Health Department.
- 7) Sea Grant finished a study showing \$40 million economic impact input for to Erie County due to fishing Lake Erie. Check it out here. <https://seagrants.psu.edu/topics/research/assessing-economic-impact-and-value-recreational-fishing-lake-erie-waters>
- 8) Dan Pastore is now the PFBC, fish commissioner in PA Area 1. He is replacing Ed Marshaka who served two plus terms. Thank you, Ed.

- 9) Further investigation needed for using the "FISHIDY" App as a club. Terry has been using for most of the summer and finds it easy to work with. It was purchased by Raymarine and is being integrated into their software for the new multifunction displays, including axiom. You can plan and transfer your day info in to your Raymarine display. It has over a million members and climbing. We will have our own private EPSFA group as well as following any waterway and activity in the country. Terry will be checking out what it would take to have our club, as a non-profit, using the app in a group setting as well as a full premium membership, and costs. **Update:** Terry created an EPSFA group and is the moderator. It's best described as a Facebook for fishing. Basic membership is free, and you get to record catches and spots directly on map, real time weather, and local fishing reports. Premium membership is \$10 month or \$50 a year. Premium gives you hotspots map with 1 ft contours, mapped underwater structures and GPS coordinates. Our EPSFA group allows members only to see our posts.
- 10) A gun raffle fundraising idea was brought up again. Partnering with Edinboro outdoors was mentioned as they have a system in place to cover all the logistics. Our members will have to step up and sell a lot more tickets though. The tickets will be easier to sell, but it cannot be done with only a dozen people selling the tix. An idea would be to send each member ten tickets to sell or the member can buy themselves. Also, the possibility if you win a gun, getting a gift card for equal value to any store you want. As of this meeting, no member has volunteered a charter trip to raffle off in 2020. The cooler raffle last year was not successful enough to do in again in 2020.
- 11) The SONS announced that the Holland Street Pier Extension Project was approved and will commence spring of 2020.

New Business:

- 1) Apply for tournament permits from PAFBC.
- 2) Promote walleye school on our Facebook page. Joe Nemet will be giving offshore trolling techniques seminar.
- 3) Organize EPSFA equipment at Alex Roofing. Board approves \$200 if needed for shelving and organizing materials. **Update:** Needs to happen this spring
- 4) Public meeting will be March 24th at American Legion #773 located at 4109 West 12th Street, Erie, PA 16505. BOD at 4:30PM and the public at 6:30 PM. BOD elections will be held. Joe Nemet will share his offshore trolling techniques during the meeting. Mike Vincent to talk to the public in attendance about open BOD positions and associate positions.
- 5) Received an anonymous donation of \$1,500 for our trout tournaments. \$500 for spring trout challenge winner, \$500 for winner of fall trout challenge, and \$500 for 2020 trout cup winner.
- 6) Update website with new pictures and content to make more recent.
- 7) Need raffle ideas at February meeting.
- 8) Continue with investigation into Erie County Health Department not allowing fish carcasses to be dumped in open waters of Lake Erie. Terry to contact someone Pete knows at the agency.

Unfinished Business

- 1) Club fund raising opportunities discussed but need more input...Ongoing...
- 2) Request made to members to invest some time to our “fishing reports” area on the forum on this year. This was a big selling point for membership in our club originally but faded way. Members could get the latest and best fishing information for our area. Our members, including charter boats and serious fisherman, should be willing to share (most) of their information on our “members only” fishing report forum. We need to be focusing on getting more members in our club, and this is one of the best ways to do it.

Motions Summary

- 1) November minutes/newsletter approved.
- 2) November treasurer’s report approved.

Announcements:

- 1) February 18th will be a closed BOD meeting at Universal metals.
- 2) Next Public meeting is March 24th, 2020 at the American Legion post #773 located at 4109 West 12th street, Erie, PA 16505. BOD at 4:30PM and the public at 6:30 PM. Speaker to follow the meeting

Other Business

- 1) There are still BOD’s, associate BOD’s and a tournament director position available.

Public Comments

None. Closed meeting

Adjournment Time: 7:40pm THANK YOU ALL FOR ATTENDING

ACCEPTED BY: TERRY KREMER (EPSFA SECRETARY) DATED: 2/06/2020