

Suskie Bassmasters General Meeting

Oct 11, 2023. River Grill in WB

Meeting was opened at 6:15

Matt Miller was the first to speak and took the time to apologize to the club for his behavior towards the end of the season. He explained that he's extremely passionate and committed to the club and sometimes that gets the best of him. He promised to be more conscious of his comments in the future.

Jim L followed and recognized that as a club we need to do a better job at recruiting new board members. The nomination period for new board members in 2024 will be July 1-July 22 with elections being held the first Wed tournament in August. In 2024, Miller and Nealon terms will be up and in 2025, Ralph, Chris and Dave's terms will expire.

Chris gave a recap of the treasury. We started 23 in March with \$3300 in our account and as of Sept we were at \$3300. We will look to do a forensic audit in 2024. Jim made a motion to accept the report and it was seconded by Raph. Motion passed unanimously by the membership.

John Nealon then talked about the 2023 season and some of the challenges we had, specifically the late high water call we made for the Aug 23 Tournament. He reiterated that we tried to make a call by noon and although the river was still rising, the upstream indicators trended to a crest and slight recession as the day wore on so we decided to leave it open to fish. The one thing we didn't pick up on was that localized rain was causing a substantial rise in the Lackawanna and other local tributaries that eventually had a greater impact on river level than the upstream flow. When boats arrived, we cancelled based on conditions which upset some members who drove down to the ramp.

There will be further discussion on a resolution, but some suggestions were standardizing the NOAA gauge and making a call by noon.

Another item of contention in the 2023 season was the 13 weeks of tournaments. Although it was never officially stated in plain language that we will always try for 13 weeks, many members felt it was implied that way so going forward we committed to changing the language of the rules so that it was spelled out clearly. The issue was calling the season short of 13 weeks yet we fished a "fun" tournament as the last open Wednesday. Although our previous social media posts were clear that the 12th week would be the end of the season, many felt we should have extended it another week and used the "fun" tournament as week 13.

The board explained that there was nothing nefarious in this decision and that it has used guidance from previous meeting discussion of 2 or more cancellations needed before a makeup week. It was an unprecedented decision and it was determined that the ambiguity of the rules would be corrected this offseason and as a club we would look to fulfill 13 weeks as the priority over "fun" tournaments.

Some items we will work out in the off season are language related, such as the 3rd boater eligibility for the championship, 2-day eligibility for a day pass before mandating full membership, and our tournament cancellation wording.

The topic of our club insurance came up as far as what our liabilities are. Anna Marie Shaffer volunteered to review our policy and perhaps give us some explanations and recommendations this offseason.

Tournament times were discussed as follows for 2024: 5:30-9 for June and July, 5-8:30 for August, 5-8 for Sept.

Running limits will remain the same.

TOY prize - \$500

Tristen opened a discussion on anglers jumping in other boats and when that is allowed. We agreed to clean up the 3rd person language prior to next season.

Hammy asked about moving the championship from 3-5 fish and setting a highwater decision time in stone.

Board agreed to leave Facebook comments open but reserves the right to censure based on content.

Suskie Classic was set. Oct 22, 2023 7-1:30 and 3 fish @ 15"min. \$60/boat includes Lunker 500,300,200 payout.

Club made the following donations this year

\$250 to the North Branch Trout Derby Assn

\$250 to Fishing for a Cause

Next meeting was set for 2nd week of Dec Time and location TBD

Jim made a motion to adjourn and it was seconded by Stacie. Meeting adjourned 7:48 pm