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Minutes of the February 15, 2025 business meeting of the Kansas BASS Nation.

On February 15, 2025 the spring business meeting of the KBN was held virtually using Microsoft Teams..

At 10:33am the meeting was called to order by KBN President Mike Turner; Brad VanRietten was the recording Secretary. A roll call was taken and the following clubs were represented: Cherryvale Bassmasters, East Kansas Bassmasters, Flint Hills Bass Assoc Inc, Hays Bass Anglers Assoc, Heartland Bass Club, KC Bass, Kansas Buddy Bass, Last Cast, Leavenworth Elites, Ozawie Bassmasters, Sandhills, Western Kansas Bassmasters. A quorum being present, the meeting continued.

The meeting moved into general discussion with Mike Turner presiding.

1. Secretary report, Brad VanRietten. Minutes of the November 23, 2024 business meeting were approved by voice vote.
 - a. The scholarship committee report was discussed. We had eight applicants. Five committee members used a points system to determine each applicant's rank/score.
 - i. Jeff Nolte suggested streamlining the process, but liked the points system.
 - b. After general discussion Mike Turner motioned, second. A total of \$4000 be given between the top five applicants based on points. \$1200 first, \$1000 second, \$700 third, \$600 fourth, \$500 fifth. Passed 9 for, 0 opposed.
 - i. \$1200, Marissa Akehurst, 5208 Meadowlark Dr, Shawnee Ks 66226.
 - ii. \$1000, Nicholas Herrman, 7211 NE Silver Rd, Topeka Ks, 66617.
 - iii. \$700, Blake Streck, 5225 Timber Creek Rd, Great Bend Ks, 67530.
 - iv. \$600, Kyle Herrman, 7211 NE Silver Rd, Topeka Ks, 66617.
 - v. \$500 Brendan Akehurst, 5208 Meadowlark Dr, Shawnee Ks 66226
2. Treasurer's report, Rick Muhl. Verbal report was approved by voice vote.
 - a. \$27520 general fund with \$1500 of that encumbered to the Tournament account, \$6590 scholarship fund with \$1500 encumbered until January 31, 2026, \$6049 youth account.
 - b. In response to the challenge by Twin Rivers that each club donate \$100 to the scholarship fund (Twin Rivers previously donated) East Kansas Bassmasters pledged \$250.
3. Bylaws report, Jeff Nolte. Only one proposal was under consideration, Mike placed it on screen so all attendees could view it.
 - a. Motion by Chuck Worden, second. To accept the change as presented. Passed 12 for, 0 opposed.
4. Sponsor report, Danny Barrett. Will work towards increasing our exposure to existing KBN sponsors.
 - a. Russell Marine Products had been today's meeting site until the chance of inclement weather.
 - b. Search Engine Optimization is important. Please do Google reviews. Danny has posted information on FaceBook.
5. Tournament report, Travis Burch. Information on the State Championship and the Stong Scholarship tournaments, and then introduced Drew Barnabei for the Team Series.
 - a. State Championship November 19-20-21 at Grand Lake.
 - i. Entry fees of \$200/boater, \$100 nonboater.
 - ii. Fishing Chaos will be used for entries.
 - iii. The location bid was explained. Mike placed it on screen so all attendees could view it.

- b. The Stong scholarship tournament will be August 2 at Big Hill. It will be a paper tournament.
- c. Travis introduced Drew Barnabei who led discussion of the Team Series..
 - i. Kansas Buddy Bass has joined the KBN and will be the official team series of the KBN.
 - ii. \$150 entry fee, \$200 for the Championship.
 - iii. Only one alternate is allowed. All anglers must be at least 16.
 - iv. AOY is based on points of the eight events, but can drop two.
 - v. Year end Championship finish will determine the anglers who advance to the Bassmaster Team Series Championship.
 - 1. Must fish at least three events to advance to Championship.
 - vi. <https://ksbuddybass.com/>.
- 6. Youth report, Tate Herrman. Not much change.
 - a. The State Championship is finalized, details TBA. State Championship will have 15 High School and 8 Youth teams.
 - b. Bait Wrx will be the sponsor, and wants to again in 2026.
 - i. Tate and Travis are working with Bait Wrx on a discount.
 - ii. Clutch Swimbait will be the big bass sponsor.
 - c. Fishing Chaos continues to work well for dues and tournament entry.
 - d. The KC Boat show generated interest and members. The Topeka Boat show will be staffed by youth and high school clubs.
 - e. Lake Perry Yacht and Marine wants to host a tournament.
 - f. College State Championship is April 26-27 at Perry.

At 12:05pm the meeting adjourned for lunch.

At 12:31pm the meeting reconvened.

- 7. Kayak report, Todd Segraves.
 - a. Two tournaments and a State Championship are planned for 2025.
 - b. Clayton Westgate will represent KBN at Lake Fork for the National Championship.
- 8. Conservation report, Clayton Rudman. What does the KBN want in terms of events, grants, representation etc.
 - a. Working with Bryan Sowards of KDWPT.
 - b. Clayton plans to attend at least one Commission meeting. Topics; spraying for phragmites, ramp upkeep, tournament fees need paid, bass length limits.
 - c. He will update the webpage including fish care.
 - d. He will be applying for grants.
 - e. Mossback has discounts available. California just certified them as micro-plastic free.
- 9. New business, Mike Turner.
 - a. The place and time for the fall business meeting and also the awards banquet were discussed.
 - i. The possibility of having a fall business meeting and then a spring awards banquet was raised.
 - b. Brad VanRietten asked if there was interest in a group of individuals coordinating efforts for the banquet.
 - i. Paul Marsh of Olathe had previously offered to check into options in the greater KC area. Brian Keeney, Travis Burch, Danny Barrett, and Jeff Nolte volunteered to be involved.
 - 1. Travis suggested we check out <https://www.playeasy.com/>.
 - c. In response to a question; the boater safety course required by BASS is required at BASS level events, not at KBN events.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:32pm.
Submitted by Brad VanRietten, KBN Secretary.