

## **SOBA BOARD MEETING MINUTES - APPROVED**

**Wednesday, February 7, 2024**

**(via teleconference)**

**12:30pm – 2:30pm Eastern**

### **Welcome**

Mize welcomed everyone and opened the meeting.

### **Roll Call of Attendees**

Board Members: Todd Mize, Nancy Stewart, Catherine Buchalski Smith, Chris French, Gary Gardner, and Mike Wichrowski were present. Sharon Clark was absent.

Staff: Taylor Matsko and Hannah Helsby

### **Review of the Agenda and Amendments**

No amendments to the agenda.

### **Approval of Past Minutes**

The board reviewed minutes from January 9, 2024. No edits were made. Mize motioned to approve minutes. Gardner provided the second. Motion passed.

### **President's Report**

Mize provided the President's report.

- Mize asked if SOBA should attend regional events, citing the upcoming Tennessee RiverLine meeting as an example.
- It was determined that the Board will wait one year to assess the outcome of the initial RiverLine meeting before sending someone to attend on behalf of SOBA.
- Buchalski Smith proposed the idea of creating a "road show" presentation for SOBA to use at upcoming events where presentation opportunities may arise.
- Helsby mentioned that as part of the recent bylaws change, the Past President should work on identifying events for SOBA to be present or represented at. SOBA may want to explore establishing Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with comparable organizations to cultivate annual partnerships.

### **SOBA Website Updates**

- Helsby provided an update on the progress of the new website and online community development. It was reported that the development is advancing as planned, with the goal of launching the site by May 2024.
- Helsby gave a preview of the templated new SOBA website and community.
- Buchalski Smith suggested hosting a full events calendar in the community to share any events that would be relevant to SOBA members.
- Helsby addressed questions regarding the permissions and security protocols for accessing the SOBA website and online community.

## **Committees**

- The Board reviewed the committee sign ups.
- Buchalski Smith raised concerns about individuals signing up for multiple committees. Helsby clarified that during the kickoff calls scheduled by SOBA staff with each committee, time requirements and charters will be reviewed to ensure clarity regarding commitments.
- Stewart expressed concern about the high number of individuals signed up for the Knowledge & Education Committee. Buchalski Smith proposed the formation of subcommittees within this committee to allow members to focus on their specific interests and expertise.
- The SOBA Board decided to proceed with the committee rosters as presented.
- SOBA staff will contact the committee members and designated Board liaisons to schedule kickoff calls.
- The Board decided to allow committee members to self-identify their interest in serving as Committee Chair.

## **February Site Visit to Wilmington**

- Matsko provided the Board with an overview of the current agenda for the upcoming site visit to North Carolina.
- Gardner discussed potential sponsorships and highlighted North Carolina's efforts to secure new sponsorships.
- It was noted that during the site visit, the group will explore opportunities to display boats near the hotel.

*Mike Wichrowski joined the call.*

## **Open Discussion**

- Stewart informed the Board that she applied to be on the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council and has recently received an appointment letter.
- Buchalski Smith suggested it might be interesting for Stewart to present at the Symposium about her involvement with the Council, outlining its activities and the potential impact it holds for SOBA attendees.
- Buchalski Smith will be sharing the Partner with a Payer video with fellow Board members for one final review.
- Helsby mentioned that following the site visit to North Carolina, the Board should have more information to determine the cost of registering for the off-site event. This discussion should continue into the March board meeting.
- SOBA staff will be reaching out to United States Fish and Wildlife Service staff regarding the upcoming Education & Training Symposium.
- Helsby officially handed off her role as Executive Director to Matsko. She expressed gratitude to the Board for their support and acknowledged their dedication over the past three years.

**Adjourn**

Wichrowski motioned to adjourn. Buchalski Smith provided the second. Meeting adjourned.

**Approved March 18, 2024**