



STATE OF NEW YORK CONSERVATION FUND ADVISORY BOARD
625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4750

Monthly Meeting Minutes
Three Hundred Sixty Fifth Meeting – December 12, 2016
Department of Environmental Conservation, 625 Broadway, Albany

Call to Order – The meeting was a Conference Call and was called to order at 9:30 AM.

Roll Call: 9:30 am

Voting Board Members Present

Vacant	Region 1
Vacant	Region 3
Gordon Whiting	Region 2
Tom Williams	Region 4
Jason Kemper	Region 5
Dave Corr	Region 6
Charles Pace	Region 7
Marc Osypian	Region 8
Dale Dunkelberger	Region 9
Bill Conners	FWMB
Ray Merlotto	NYSCC

Voting Board Members Excused

Voting Board Members Absent

Abbreviations

Ag. & Mkts = Department of Agriculture and Markets
CFAB or the Board = Conservation Fund Advisory Board
DEC or the Department = NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
DFW = Division of Fish and Wildlife
DLE = Division of Law Enforcement

Ex-Officio Members Present

DEC Commissioner represent by: Kathy Moser

Ex-Officio Members Absent

*Senate Finance Committee
Senate EnCon Committee
Assembly Ways and Means Committee
Assembly EnCon Committee*

DEC Personnel

*Division of Fish and Wildlife:
Doug Stang, Assistant (and Acting) Director
Tony Wilkinson (Director DFW – via Phone)
Division of Law Enforcement: Walt Heinrich District Major*

Guests:

DLF = Division of Lands and Forest
DMBS = Division of Management and Budget Services
OGC = DEC Office of General Counsel
DOB = Division of the Budget
DOP = Division of Operation Services
DPAE = Division of Public Affairs & Education
OSC = Office of State Comptroller

Correspondence

○ Letter from Mr. Rossi, re: Dove Hunting Season (Dave Corr responded; need to cc Lu on all correspondence)

Minutes of Prior Meeting; Lu sent November's minutes

MOTION:

Executive Report:

- Kathy Moser updated the Board on the status of the New York Works-funded Access Projects
- Kathy provided information on the Boreas Pond – Discussion ensued with Board Members
 - Kathy informed the Board that all written and electronic (email) comments are due to the APA by 12/31/16
- Kathy informed the Board that Governor Cuomo signed the Mute Swan Bill and that Doug and Kathy were working on getting the news release out and the most current draft of the mute swan management available for comment
- Hunting Safety Conference call was held; Board Members participated along with Lance Robson
- Kathy will send the Snowmobile Legislation to Board Member Charlie Pace
- Press Office working on a Draft Press Release announcing the New Director of DEC's Division of Fish and Wildlife

Division of Fish and Wildlife Report:

- Acting Director Doug Stang provided the Board with updates and handouts with regard to:
 - Status of DECALS system improvements, updates and enhancements
 - Progress with the game harvest and electronic license mobile app
 - Progress with batch processing of lifetime licenses
 - Summary of DECALS system outages
- Update on hatchery improvements full details provided in spreadsheets
 - Including Salmon River Hatchery which needs new windows; waiting on design of recirculation system, proposals then bids on the construction

[Note: handouts attached after motion to adjourn]

- Board Member Charlie Pace expressed concerns regarding Conservation Fund Money with regard to the 5 year projection plan provided by Jeff Stefanko

Division of Law Enforcement Report:

- District Major Heinrich provided the following updates:
 - Academy start date is scheduled for January 29, 2017
 - Provided the Board with an update on Officer Davey
 - New Vehicles are starting to come in
 - DLE report will be provided at the end of January

CFAB Business:

- Board Members: Jason Kemper, Charlie Pace and Dave Corr will work on the Annual Report now that the most current Level of Effort Report has been received from DEC;
- Dave Corr/Jason Kemper to meet with Division of Budget and discuss Legislative Priority seeking increased rate of return on Fish and Game Trust Account funds
- Board Member Bill Connors reached out to the late Charles Bevilacqua's family as to a donation in his name, has not heard back.
- Board Member Bill Connors will talk with Ron Sineo to get some thoughts on a replacement for Charles Bevilacqua to represent Region 1 on CFAB
- Board briefly discussed a Regional Meeting in the Spring; May/June

Tom Williams motioned to adjourn the meeting, Ray Merlotto seconded – motion passed, Meeting Adjourned at 11:43 pm.

Update on DEC's E-Licensing system and sporting license sales:

e-Licensing:

Status Summary and Activities Completed This Period

- Mobile App for electronic licenses and game harvest reporting is progressing with a soft roll-out to DEC staff for use during the 2016 big game season.

Here is some of the feedback received to date:

- *"Worked perfectly. Easier and faster than calling in. It was really rather intuitive."*
- *"I've used the app to report three deer and it's worked great and I've had no problems. I think the hunting public will love this option when it's made available."*
- *I used the app on Saturday to report a buck harvest. It worked flawlessly."*
- *"This past weekend, I used the HuntFishNY mobile app to report a deer I harvested. The app could not have made my game harvest report any simpler as the HuntFishNY app was already downloaded and open on my phone (in case I did not have cell service) and it took me less than 30 seconds to completed report and submit my game harvest. A mere 6 (maybe 7) touches on the screen of my mobile device and I was done! Great work."*
- *"I thought that the HuntFishNY app worked great! Downloading was easy. I did have a bit of a problem inputting the initial information requested. The problem I had was just being able to type in the box. Other than that minor problem, the app worked great. I harvested a deer and had it reported before my fiancé even got out to the woods with a ranger to help me get the deer out. The app is simple and user friendly. I think this is extremely important that it remain this way so that the general public can use it with little trouble! I also really love how readily available the season dates, sunrise/sunset table, phone numbers, etc. are!"*
- *Job well done! I hope that this can become available to the public in the near future. If there is anything else that I can do to assist in testing this out, I would be happy to help."*
- *I was able to download and login to the app with no problems. I did report two deer takes which was easy to do. Overall, it is a good app and easy to use. Thank you for the opportunity to try and provide input.*
- *To date, I've used the app to report two different deer this season. The reporting process was quick and easy.*
- Several suggestions for improvement were made and DEC and ITS will work to incorporate these suggestions (e.g. different icons, more legible sunset/sunrise tables, etc.).

- Since November 14, 2016, (date of last CFAB meeting) there have been no outages with DECALS.

License Sales:

- For the period January 1 – December 7, 2016, the number of licenses sold and associated revenues are up 40,742 (1.6%) and \$674,866 (1.6%) compared to the same period in 2015

[Please see attached report for great detail on license sales, revenues, and trends compared to a year ago]

Filled Position report:

Division of Fish and Wildlife

<u>Account</u>	<u>Number of Staff</u>	<u>Change</u>
Access Land Acquisition	1	
Habitat Conservation and Access Account	8	
Hazardous Waste Cleanup Account	2.75	
State Purposes Account	2	
Federal Fish and Wildlife Grants Account	47.5	+1.0
Conservation Fund (Traditional Account)	233.2	+0.05
Environmental Regulatory Account	5	
Total	299.45	+1.05

Conservation Fund (Main Account)

<u>Division</u>	<u>Number of Staff</u>	<u>Change</u>
Fish, Wildlife, and Marine Resources	233.15	+0.05
General Counsel	1	
Law Enforcement	82	
Operations	5	
Management and Budget	2	
Office of Communications	1	
Regional Affairs	3	
Total	327.2	+0.05

Status of Regulations (changes from previous month in bold):

Pending Proposals:

1) **6NYCRR Part 180.6 Free Sport Fishing Days.** In accordance to change in ECL 11-0327 that provided for up to 6 additional free fishing days, amend regulations to add six free sport fishing days to complement the existing free sport fishing days:

- Presidents Day Weekend - February (2 days) – These two days coincide with winter recess for most schools, making it ideal for families to try ice fishing.
- 3rd Weekend in May (2 days) - These two days occur around the opening of popular warmwater fisheries such as walleye and pike/pickerel. This encourages people to get out at the start of the warm weather. Trout fishing opportunities are also still available at this time;
- National Hunting and Fishing Day (1 day) - the 4th Saturday in September links to many promotional events taking place nationwide. Fishing at this time of year is generally good for many species, including the very popular Fall salmon fishing in the Great Lakes tributaries; and
- Veteran's Day (1 day) - fishing is considered one of the most therapeutic outdoor activities, making it the ideal tribute to veterans and those currently serving in the armed forces.

RIM signed 3/21/2016. Notice of Proposed Rulemaking under development.

Proposals Filed:

1) **6 NYCRR Part 10 Sportfishing Regulations.** To amend sportfishing regulations in Sections 10.2, 10.3, 10.7, and 10.9 to maintain or improve the quality of the State's fisheries resources. Changes to sportfishing regulations are intended to promote optimum opportunity for public use consistent with resource conservation. The following is a summary of the amendments that the department is proposing. Proposed changes include: clarification of where certain regulations apply; water-specific changes to minimum size limits and creel limits for bass, trout, walleye, lake trout, and northern pike; and certain fishing gear allowances or restrictions. *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking was filed with Department of State on 9/13/2016 /8/2015 and published in the State Register on 9/28/2016. The public comment period is ended 11/11/2016. **Notice of Adoption package is being circulated for review.***

Pending Adoptions: None

Emergency Rules:

1) **6 NYCRR Part 10 Sportfishing Regulations.** To amend Part 10.3 of 6 NYCRR to adopt regulations to prohibit fishing on portions of Esopus Creek and Ashokan Reservoir in response to adverse flow conditions. Specifically, to close to all fishing the Esopus Creek from the Shandaken tunnel outlet to the mouth of Traver Hollow Brook in

Ashokan Reservoir through January 16, 2017. *Notice of Emergency Rulemaking was Filed with Department of State and became effective on 11/2/2016.*

Recent Adoptions: None

Status of DEC Hatchery System Infrastructure Work:

Updated on the DEC Hatchery projects funded via New York Works III, New York Works IV, and New York Works V to be distributed and discussed at the meeting.