



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

Monthly Meeting Minutes  
Three Hundred Sixty Sixth Meeting – January 9, 2017  
Department of Environmental Conservation, 625 Broadway, Albany

**Call to Order** – The meeting was a Conference Call and was called to order at 9:07 AM.

**Roll Call: 9:07 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 Director  
Steve Hurst, FWS Bureau Chief  
Division of Law Enforcement: Joe Schneider,  
Director*

**Guests:**

*Erin Hovish, DMBS,  
Steve Piatt, NY Outdoor News*

*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**

- Reinstating Dove Hunting Season

## **Minutes of Prior Meeting:**

***MOTION: Dave Corr motioned to accept December's minutes, Dale Dunkelberger Seconded, Motion passed.***

## **Executive Report:**

- Kathy Moser updated the Board Member with the following updates;
  - Peter Walke, Chief of Staff of DEC to Work in Vermont, Kathy will be handling all of the Adirondack issues.
  - Division Director Wilkinson is on vacation, will attend next CFAB meeting.
  - Interviews for the Bureau of Fisheries begin this week; Bureau of Habitat is next.
  - 2017 Budget Proposals, DEC not losing any staff, other agencies are taking cuts; EPF may remain the same.
  - 6 Regional State of State addresses
  - Budget to be released January 17<sup>th</sup>
  - NYWORKS Money; New York Works for capital construction and EPF for maintenance. If you have suggestions for Boat launches, get them to Natural Resource Supervisor.
- Board Members expressed concerns over stakeholders and partnerships; Adirondack Mountain Club, TNC.
- Board Member Dave Corr discussed plan for Oswegotchie.
- Board Member Bill Connors raised concerns on Unit Management Plans; concern over lack of hunting, fishing and trapping and access is a major concern.
- Board Members expressed concern over the loss of Melissa Bailey as head of the NYS National Archery in Schools Program (NASP) and the negative impact they are hearing it is already having on the program.
- Board Member Charlie Pace will take the lead on following up with DEC and how the Department will be addressing the concerns the Board Members have pertaining to the future of the NASP Program.
- 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:**

- Assistant Director Doug Stang provided the Board with the highlights from the Division of Fish and Wildlife (details follow). Including but not limited to:
  - Status of license system improvements, updates and enhancements
  - Salmon River Hatchery getting a lot of attention
- Steve Hurst provided Board Members with updates on 2016 work done on DEC's Wildlife management Areas.

[Note: Steve forwarded the PowerPoint presentation to Board Members]

### **Division of Law Enforcement Report:**

- New Academy state date is scheduled for February 12, 2017
  - 34 ECOs, 10 Rangers, 15 Alternates
- 60 New vehicles during the 2017-2018 year
- Update on Officer Davey
- 14 Personal injury, 16 property damage, 4 possibly 5 fatalities

### **CFAB Business:**

- Board Members discussed getting the Annual Report completed.
- Members discussed a Regional Review further; will reach out to Gordon Whiting.
- Dave Corr discussed Legislative Priorities for 2016-2017
  - Need to be added to the website
- Members discussed a change to the Lifetime License to increase revenue
- Members voted on making a donation to the Semper Fi Club in the late Charles Bevilacqua's name. Motion passed; Jason Kemper will send with a letter.
- Tom Williams provided an update on the Adirondack Aquatic Invasive Species
- Letter to Danzer Camp was submitted
- Members discussed filling positions on the Conservation Board; re:
  - Perhaps Brent Miller, Director of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation.
- Members discussed Suppressors; perhaps refer to Chuck Parker, FWMB

***Dale Dunkelberger motioned to adjourn the meeting, Dave Corr seconded – motion passed, Meeting Adjourned at 1:33 pm.***

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

### e-Licensing:

#### **Status Summary and Activities Completed This Period**

- *Mobile App (HuntFishNY)* for electronic licenses and game harvest reporting continued with a soft roll-out to and beta testing by DEC staff during the 2016 big game season.
  - 34 deer were reported via the mobile app
  - All feedback received to date has been overwhelmingly positive
  - DEC met with ITS staff to evaluate potential ways to incorporate **HuntFishNY** into DEC's current Pocket Ranger New York Fishing, Hunting & Wildlife App produced by ParksbyNature Network (please see: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/96470.html>)
- DEC staff have met with ITS staff to incorporate the issuance of Deer Management Assistance Permits (DMAP) via DECALS. Initiation of work is expected in late January.
- To encourage participation, DEC has developed "welcome packets" for lifetime license holders as they "age in."
  - Welcome packets for holders of lifetime fishing privilege who will be aging into their privilege (turning 16 in 2017) will be mailed out by January 10. Packets include: welcome letter, Lifetime ID card, fishing regulation guide, several IFishNY information brochures, beginner handbook, *The Conservationist* magazine with Fishing articles, IFishNY wristband, and IFishNY sticker.
  - Packets for holders of lifetime hunting privilege who will be turning 12 in 2017 will be mailed out by the end of January (awaiting promotional items). Packets include: welcome letter, information on Sportsmen Education classes, hunting regulations guides, *The Conservationist* magazine, *The Conservationist* for kids on turkeys, winter tracks brochure, hunter orange 'Hunt Safe NY' wristband and sticker.
  - Holders of lifetime hunting privilege age 12-14 years old who have yet to take a hunter education class will have a similar packet (to that above) sent to them by the end of January.
- Since October 28, 2016, there have been no outages with DECALS.

**License Sales:**

- For the period January 1 – December 15, 2016, the number of licenses sold and associated revenues are up 39,418 (1.5%) and \$666,815 (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	4	+2.0
Federal Fish and Wildlife Grants Account	48.5	+1.0
Conservation Fund (Traditional Account)	232.7	-0.5
Environmental Regulatory Account	5	
<b>Total</b>	<b>301.95</b>	<b>+2.5</b>

**Conservation Fund (Main Account)**

<u>Division</u>	<u>Number of Staff</u>	<u>Change</u>
Fish, Wildlife, and Marine Resources	232.7	-0.5
General Counsel	1	
Law Enforcement	81	-1.0
Operations	5	
Management and Budget	2	
Office of Communications	1	
Regional Affairs	3	
<b>Total</b>	<b>325.7</b>	<b>-1.5</b>

**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 four free sport fishing days to complement the existing free sport fishing days and revise 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.
- National Hunting and Fishing Day (1 day) - the 4<sup>th</sup> 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.
- Current free sport fishing days will be changed from “the weekend (Saturday and Sunday) which includes the last Saturday in the month of June” to “the last full weekend (Saturday and Sunday) in the month of June.”

*RIM signed 3/21/2016. **Revised 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.