



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

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Two Hundred Seventy-seventh Meeting  
Monday, February 11, 2008  
Best Western Sovereign Hotel, 1228 Western Avenue, Albany, NY

**Call to Order**

Chairman Hancock called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM.

**Roll Call**

Voting Board Members Present

|                    |          |
|--------------------|----------|
| Charles Bevilacqua | Region 1 |
| Alan Rosa          | Region 4 |
| Jason Kemper       | Region 5 |
| Charles Pace       | Region 7 |
| Charles Hancock    | Region 8 |
| Howard Cushing     | NYSCC    |
| Bill Pike          | FWMA     |

DEC Personnel

Arthur J. Newell, Division of Fish, Wildlife and  
Marine Resources

Guest

Harold Palmer, New York State Conservation  
Council

Voting Board Members Excused

|                |          |
|----------------|----------|
| Gordon Whiting | Region 2 |
| Linda Sicley   | Region 6 |
| Fred Langdon   | Region 9 |

Ex-Officio Members Present

NYS DEC Commissioner, represented by  
Douglas Stang, Division of Fish,  
Wildlife and Marine Resources  
Wallace John, Office of Natural  
Resources

Ex-Officio Members Absent

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

Chairman Hancock stated that a quorum of voting members was present and opened the meeting for the conduct of business.

**Correspondence:** Chairman Hancock reported on two correspondences: 1) responses were received from the Commissioner and the Senate EnCon Committee to the 15 Dec 07 CFAB letter to the Commissioner requesting support for the Summit group and 2) Chairman Hancock received a letter of reappointment to CFAB from Sen. Joseph Bruno.

**Minutes of 11 February 08 meeting:** After minor changes were made there was a motion to accept by Mr. Rosa, seconded by Mr. Pike, and motion carried unanimously.

### **New Business:**

Chairman Hancock talked about the need to educate young people on the North American Conservation Model. Mr. Stang reported that he and John Major met with Bill Schwerd and Kenyon Simpson with Cornell Cooperative Extension's New York State 4-H Shooting Sports Program and discussed hosting a program: "Future of Hunting in New York." This program would piggy-back on an effort in Vermont whereby representatives from diverse constituencies come together in a workshop format and discuss the challenges to maintaining a strong hunting legacy. Cornell Cooperative Extension is seeking a grant from the National Shooting Sports Foundation to such a workshop or a series of workshops across New York to identify the challenges to maintaining and increasing numbers of hunters in New York and seeking potential remedies to these challenges. NYSDEC committed to assisting in the delivery and support of this effort.

### **Committee Reports**

#### Legislation

Mr. Cushing distributed a report entitled "Legislative Report, Conservation Fund Advisory Board, Legislative Report: Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>, 2008" which contained information on the status of a number of pending bills. There was discussion on the difficulty of getting timely information on bills before they get to the Governor. There was discussion on some bills. Chairman Hancock said that CFAB would focus on certain bills (Invasive Species, ballast water, General Obligations Law and ban on sale of panfish), and he will draft letters on each. It was also decided that the CFAB Annual Report should include action items on legislation in the coming year, particularly for bills that have been pending for some years.

On 28 Jan 08 NYSCC had a "dinner reception" in the Legislative Office Building. 23 of 40+ invited legislators attended. The focus of discussions was on youth hunt legislation.

Chairman Hancock said the CFAB should take positions on some federal legislation, and information should be put in the hunting and fishing guides on the federally legislated programs that provide significant amount of funds to fish and wildlife programs in the states. A new subcommittee was formed of Mr. Kemper, Mr. Pace and Mr. Cushing, who will write something to submit to the Department for the guides.

## **Old Business**

### Comparative Statement and Fund Status

All received the reports. It was observed that # of sales was up and revenue down; there was an increase in the reduced fee/free senior licenses sold; and there was an increase in lifetime license sales. Mr. Hancock said he was told by DEC Law Enforcement that many non-residents were now buying lifetime licenses, but LE can't follow up on this lead because DECALS doesn't have the needed search feature. Mr. John said that he would look into this.

Mr. John distributed a spreadsheet with projection of \$7.5 million reduction in revenue from the sale of senior reduced fee/free license sales over the next five years. Mr. John said that the Governor will not propose any license fee increases this year, but would need one next year just to address this one cause of lost revenue.

Mr. John distributed excerpts of the Executive proposed budget for FY 2008. It contains a CF recommended appropriation of \$56.3 million to maintain programs at status quo. Mr. John is looking into why the Environmental Enforcement GF appropriation is up \$6.7 million and its Special Revenue-Other appropriation is down \$6.7 million. Mr. John said that there were only ten days left to get in requested changes to the budget. Mr. Palmer suggested that NYS sales taxes on hunting and fishing gear should go into the CF, and that NYSCC had previously recommended that NYS taxes on motorboat fuels should go into the CF for fishing and boating access.

### CFAB Annual Report

Mr. Newell said that the Annual Report was up on the DEC site as of Friday, 8 February. Some members requested a number of paper copies: 35 for Mr. Pike, 75 for Mr. Palmer, 40 for Mr. Bevilacqua and previously Ms Sicley requested 40. Mr. Newell will have them printed.

## **DECALS**

Mr. Stang said that the priorities for completing installation of DECALS components are Internet access, Sportsmen Education and harvest reporting.

## **Department Reports**

### Law Enforcement

None

### Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources

Mr. Stang gave the Division report. The proposed FY 2008 budget is about status quo for the Division. He described some key ongoing projects, e.g., bat disease, deer movements in the CWD containment area. Mr. Hancock said that next month he wanted a report on deer, including antler restrictions, bear and fishing promotion, including I Fish NY. In response to some questions from the Board about VHS, Mr. Stang said 1) the most important thing to do is to eliminate the transport of live animals and 2) complete development

of a rapid test, in particular for bait. There was a discussion about public information and education on VHS. Mr. Hancock suggested the use of real problems as educational tools. Mr. Cushing said more outreach is needed and wondered if anglers could help and whether more law enforcement was needed.

### **Other Business**

Regarding an earlier request for additional information on federal funding, Chairman Hancock said that a presentation by the USFWS was not necessary; CFAB wants more detail from DFWMR on various federally funded programs. At the April meeting a presentation on PR/WB (Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs) is requested, and at the May meeting a presentation on other federally funded programs. This request is related to CFAB's request for the next hunting and fishing guides to have information on the federal funding sources that support DFWMR programs.

Mr. Kemper gave an update on the plans for the 3-5 Aug 08 field trip in Region 5. He distributed a draft detailed schedule for the three days, which was developed in cooperation with regional DEC staff. Comments should be submitted to Mr. Kemper by the end of February. Chairman Hancock said that the regional Fish & Wildlife Management Board should be invited to some of the meetings.

Mr. Stang and Mr. Newell gave an overview on the NOAA saltwater angler registry. The saltwater angler registry is needed by NOAA for management of fisheries. Mr. Cushing said that there is a need for more money to collect data that can be used to make science based decisions on coastal fisheries and habitat management. Mr. Bevilacqua commented that striped bass are overpopulated, they are stunted and eating other fish, e.g., winter flounder, and science is not used for the species' management, it is all political based decisions. He further said that Byron Young (now retired) was DEC's best marine fisheries scientist, and his findings and recommendations were ignored.

Mr. Newell was asked to set up teleconferencing capability for the April meeting.

The next meeting will be on 9 March 08 at the Best Western Airport Inn, 200 Wolf Rd, Albany, starting at 10 AM. Chairman Hancock will not attend, and Mr. Bevilacqua will chair the meeting. This is the annual legislative meeting, held at the beginning of NYSCC's semi-annual meeting.

Meeting dates for the rest of the year were scheduled: 12 May, 9 June, 10 July, 3-5 August (field trip in Region 5), 8 September, 14 October, 10 November and 8 December. All except the August field trip will be at the Best Western Sovereign, 1228 Western Ave. and will start at 9 AM.

Mr. Rosa made a motion to adjourn at about 1:05 PM, seconded by Mr. Pike, and the motion was carried unanimously.

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Fred Langdon, Secretary