



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

Monthly Meeting Minutes
Three Hundred Sixty Fourth Meeting – November 14, 2016
Department of Environmental Conservation, 625 Broadway, Albany

Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 9:03 AM.

Roll Call: 9:03 am

Voting Board Members Present

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 Connors	FWMB

Voting Board Members Excused

Dominick Scarzafava	Region 3
Ray Merlotto	NYSCC

Voting Board Members Absent

Vacant	Region 1
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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
Division of Law Enforcement: Joe Schneider,
Director*

Guests:

*Erin Hovish, DMBS
Andy Rowinski, DMBS
Paula Piatt, New York Outdoor News
Eric Kasza, Lands and Forests*

*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. James Guillaume re: Dove Hunting Season
Dave Corr & Charlie Pace will draft a response letter to Mr. Guillaume

Minutes of Prior Meeting

MOTION: Dave Corr motioned to approve the minutes to the September 19, 2016 meeting, Bill Connors seconded the motion; motion passed.

Executive Report:

- Kathy Moser updated the Board on the Access Projects
- Kathy provided information on the Boreas Pond – Discussion ensued with Board Members
- Eric Kasza, Lands & Forests provided a NY Works Power Point Presentation
 - NYWORKs 3: 34 out of 50 projects complete
 - NYWORKs 4: 9 out of 29 project complete
 - NYWORKs 5: 0 out of 15 complete

Division of Fish and Wildlife:

- Acting Director Doug Stang provided the Board with updates and handouts with regard to:
 - Status of system improvements, updates and enhancements
 - Batch processing of lifetime licenses
 - Summary of outages
 - Sales Breakdown – more than 70% occur in retail establishments
 - Update on hatchery improvements full details provided in spreadsheets
Including Salmon River Hatchery
 - Proposal on Free Fishing Licenses for 70 year olds:

CFAB Members: Motion on 70 yrs. and older, as long standing objection by Board to subsidized, free or reduced fees due to the negative impact to the Conservation Fund and associated federal aid, without a reimbursement from the general fund or other funding source.

- Harvest reporting rate online is up dramatically
- Phone reporting demonstration; great job, hurdle with 2 simultaneous apps, CFAB will work on this.

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. DEC staff have begun beta testing some of the features. The Mobile App is expected to be functional by early to mid-November.
- DEC and ITS have been developing the capability of reporting DMAP harvests via DECALS. Testing should begin the last week of September.
- Lifetime license holders received their 2016-17 back tags, license materials, and carcass tags in early to mid-July.
- All license-issuing agents had new-year valeron and 2016-17 Hunting / Trapping Regulations Guides in advance of initiating 2016-17 license sales.
- 2016-17 license went on sale August 1st – approximately 10 days earlier than previous years and one-month before the start of the 2016-17 hunting season.
- Pop-up window to foster sales of habitat / access stamps was implemented August 1st with success. August 2016 sales of H / A stamps (3,341) nearly doubled the number of H / A stamps sold in all of 2015 (1,794).
- DECALS experienced 9 outages May 20th through August 31st with most outages lasting less than an hour (please see attached report).

License Sales:

- For the period January 1 – June 13, 2016, the number of licenses sold and associated revenues are up 109,374 (7.6%) and \$1,827,524 (7.9%) compared to the same period in 2015
- Similar to previous year, most of the sales occur at retail stores (approximately 65%).
- License sales via the internet, seemingly, are gaining in popularity compared to sales a year ago

[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	2.7	
State Purposes Account	1	
Federal Fish and Wildlife Grants Account	46.5	-1.0
Conservation Fund (Traditional Account)	235	-1.05
Environmental Regulatory Account	<u>5</u>	
Total	299.2	-2.05

Conservation Fund (Main Account)

<u>Division</u>	<u>Number of Staff</u>	<u>Change</u>
Fish, Wildlife, and Marine Resources	235	-1.05
General Counsel	1	
Law Enforcement	80	
Operations	5	
Management and Budget	2	
Office of Communications	1	
Regional Affairs	<u>3</u>	
Total	327	-1.05

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 expected to run through 10/28/2016.***

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 fall 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:

Please see attached update on the DEC Hatchery projects funded via New York Works III, New York Works IV, and New York Works V.

Updates from previous meeting:

South Otselic Hatchery – replacement of earthen pond outlet structures and combining of ponds project is completed.

Hatchery Residences – inspection reports for all hatchery residences have been received and reviewed. Prioritization of works to be performed and associated spending plan(s) are under development.

Status of DEC hatchery Staffing

1. Recent Promotions
 - a. Bob Stein 0 FC4 at Caledonia – manager
 - b. William Woodworth – FC3 at South Otselic – manager
 - c. David Domachowskie – FC3 at Oneida – assistant manager
 - d. Mike Speziale – FC2 at South Otselic – assistant manager (in process)
 - e. Nathan Snyder – FC2 at Catskill
 - f. Older:
 - i. Ken Klubek – FC2 at Adirondack – assistant manager
 - ii. Mike Sicley – FC2 at Chateaugay – assistant manager
2. New Hires:
 - a. Jordan Luzier – FC1 at Chateaugay
 - b. Joshua Gutenmann – FC1 at Adirondack
 - c. Joshua Laedke – FC1 at Adirondack
3. Transfer:
 - a. Aaron Day from Adirondack to Bath
4. Losses that have not been replaced:
 - a. Bob Sweet – retired
 - b. Steve Robb – to Region 8 Fisheries
5. Current Vacancies
 - a. Currently have 70 staff compared to the agreed upon 79 person staffing level for the hatcheries.
 - b. There are four vacant FC2 positions – Caledonia, Bath, Salmon River and Rome. These are important to fill since they will be eligible for FC3 and FC4 positions – currently those lists are depleted.
 - c. There are two vacant FC3 positions – Catskill and Rome. Filling these has been deferred until we have a viable FC3 list (Note – Catskill has the fully staffed with seven employees, but is lacking the FC3 position, so this fill would not be a plus one for the hatchery system).

- d. There are two vacant FC1 positions – Caledonia and South Otselic.
- e. After the above transactions, we would be down two staff. A research scientist for the hatchery system and a maintenance supervisor at Salmon River would be desirable.

DLE Report:

Director Schneider provided the following updates:

- DLE is gearing up for the new hunting season
- 2016-2017; 60 new vehicles; majority will be Dodge Ram trucks.
- Proposal to build a new building in Pulaski for Academy – Training recruits (2 years down the road)
- ECO relief for upstate will take place effective 12/29/16
- 31 graduates on probation downstate
- 27 ECOs slated for retirement

CFAB Business:

- Discussed non-trail snowmobile registration; working on regulations with OPRHP and NYS Snowmobile Association
- Annual Report – Level of Effort Report; Andy Rowinski will have updates at the next CFAB meeting.
- Board Members discussed Invasive Species efforts.
- Expansion of Hunting hours: Sunrise and sunset hours – should be presented to NYSCC and ask them present to sporting community.
- Otter Brook Road, parking at Squaw Lake?
- Outreach to sportsmen and the need for “point of sale” rack card to promote CFAB/FWMB.
- CFAB Member Bill Conners stated that CFAB and FWMB members should be included in the UMP process, start to finish.

Dave Corr motioned to adjourn the meeting, Bill Conners seconded – motion passed, Meeting Adjourned at 1:45 pm.