

**Minutes-NYS Fish and Wildlife Management Board  
93<sup>rd</sup> Session October 23, 24, 2003  
Cortland, New York**

The Meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m. by Chairman Banks.  
Invocation was given by John Tusch.

**Roll Call** ( Present at all of or part of meeting )

**Board Members**

<b>Region</b>	<b>Landowner</b>	<b>Sportsman</b>	<b>Legislator</b>
3	Robert Underhill	Joseph Molinaro	
4		Carlton Hatch	
5		William Pike	Robert Banks (Chairman)
6	Judy Aldrich	Patrica Arnold	Kelly Dickinson (Alt. Tom Grow)
7	Eugene Blumer	Harry Woodfield	Barbara Brown
8	Gary Evans	Emory Green	
9	James Agle	Walt Hallbauer	

**Advisors**

NYSDEC- John Major, Jim Bertram  
NY farm Bureau- Judy Aldrich  
NYS Grange- Dwight Widger  
Izzak Walton League of America- John Tusch  
NYS Conservation Council- Clyde Muthig  
NYS Forest Practice Board- Richard Fox  
NYS Soil and Water Conservation- Tom Brace and John Schumacher  
NYS Dept. of Agriculture & Markets- John Schumacher  
Cornell University- Tom Brown  
SUNY College of Environmental Science & Forestry- Brian Underwood.

**Guests**

NYSDEC  
Kenneth Lynch, Director Region 7  
Dave O'Dell, Region 7  
Ed Woltmann, Central Office, Albany  
Fred Neff, NYSCC and Onondaga Co. Federation  
Tim Noga, Region 7

# New York State FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD



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**Welcome to the Spring Meeting and Region 7 was made by Kenneth Lynch, Region 7 Regional Director.**

## **Previous Minutes, Spring 2003 Meeting**

Minutes was approved by Executive Board at meeting in Cortland on September 11,2003.

## **Major Reports**

### **Regional Reports**

#### **Region 3** - Pre-filed report.

Board members have been active in the venison donation program.

Board members have continued to expand horizons for public access.

Board members continue to be vigilant in monitoring proceedings concerning protection of two public lands in Region 3. One is Stewart Airport lands and the other is a portion of the Sterling Forest Property.

Fishing access on two lakes was secured over the last year in Dutchess County by a non-profit arm of the Federation in that county.

The Board continues to monitor habitat management and maintenance at all regional State Land areas to ensure that both habitat and public access are maintained at optimum levels.

#### **Region 4**- Pre-filed report

Peter Innes was appointed Region 4 Director of Natural Resources.

Board members discussed the Venison Donation at length.

NY City D.E.P. Will open their lands to bow hunters that was open to gun hunting only previously .

Former DEC Commissioner Mike Zagata is being considered as landowner representative from Otsego.

Discussion was held that license issuing agents weren't trying to sell the Habitat Stamps.

Board members wanted the state FWMB to encourage the state to release the funds needed to start the New ECO Academy.

#### **Region 5**- Pre-filed report

A youth pheasant hunt was held in October and was very successful.

Walleye netting was done on Lake Champlain with very poor results.

Public fishing rights have been purchased for access at rock City Falls on Kayaderosseras Creek. The Town of Milton has also purchased 4.5 miles acres. Three new access sites are planned, and efforts to develop handicapped access continue.

ATV use controversies and legal efforts continue, especially regarding use on town roads in the Forest Preserve.

Reconstruction of the Ticonderoga Boat Launch has been delayed due to the archeological resources identified on the site.

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Lake Champlain Sea Lamprey Control Program treated the Ausable River Delta and three streams in NY to kill juvenile lamprey.

Chronic Wasting Disease regulations have been finalized as permanent regulations. North country legislators are attempting to create an exemption from this regulation for the Adirondacks.

A record number of nuisance black bear complaints were received this summer. Early bear season take was high.

#### **Region 6-** Pre-filed Report

Cormorants population management on Lake Ontario Continues.

Staffing Updates, Several promotions were announced and it was noted that several natural resource staff have not yet been filled.

Spring Deer Yard surveys were accomplished as usual. Not as many winter-kills were found as anticipated due to the severity of the winter and the public's claim that more deer would starve due to CWD preventative regulations that include a ban on artificial deer feeding. It was reported that a higher than usual number of winter-kills were observed at other areas, suggesting deer winter patterns are changing.

There is concern by the Board that the voluntary Habitat Stamp available at license issuing agents is not being adequately promoted, nor sold in large numbers. It was suggested that more publicity for sale of the stamps is needed.

It was reported that milfoil eating weevils were released in Lake Bonaparte as part of a biological control experiment.

The one thousand sixty seven acre Wehle property in Jefferson County has been fully transferred to New York State and can now be accessed by the public. This property is adjacent to the Henderson Shores Unique area and gives the public use of almost two thousand acres on Stoney Point in the Town of Henderson.

Lake Sturgeon, classified as threatened, are being stocked in two north country waters again this year as part of a restoration program.

#### **Region 7-** Pre-filed Report

Region held three Board meetings, April, June and August.

Board reviewed the 'Posted Fishing Permitted' access signs that were purchased and dispersed

them to interested members. The Board was shown a County PRF map. They are in limited supply at this time, but Albany is working on putting them on the DEC web-site.

Fisheries reported that they had successfully blocked the sea lamprey migration into Cayuga Outlet for this year.

A resolution was accepted and sent to the State FWMB requesting they resolve the possible conflict between a designated foot trail and the right of hunters and trappers to utilize it.

The 2003 region 7 Budget was approved to include monies for the fishing access site on the Susquehanna River, near Nineveh, Broome county.

A crossbow demonstration was held at the annual summer picnic. This was done due to the possible implementation of crossbows as a hunting implement in NYS and to familiarize our sportsmen and sportswomen with it.

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### **Region 8 - Pre-filed Report**

The Board has actively discussed and provided ideas regarding the sales and promotion of the Habitat Stamp. There has been a growing concern that license issuing agents are not publicizing that the Habitat Stamp is available and what types of projects it might fund.

Several key land acquisitions have been finalized. They include an eleven hundred acre parcel to be included in the Honeoye Inlet Wildlife Management Area, an seven hundred acre parcel that will also be part of the Honeoye area, an one hundred ten acre parcel that will be included in the Braddock Bay Wildlife Management area and a twenty acre parcel that would be included in the Montezuma Complex.

The Board was involved in two "High-Profile" public events, the Empire Farm Days and the National Hunting and Fishing Days event held at the Department's Region 8 headquarters.

### **Region 9 - Pre-Filed Report**

The Board has met twice since the Spring meeting.

The Safari Club is looking for a major habitat- access improvement project to invest in. The Board discussed a possible suggestion of purchasing a three-acre parcel of land for fishing access on Tonawanda Creek. Another suggestion was developing additional parking areas on state lands in the region.

The Board discussed the administration of the Habitat Stamp Program. It was felt that more marketing should be done to promote sales.

The merits of a blue pike project that is being undertaken by the Niagara County Federation was discussed.

The Conservation Fund Advisory Board held a tour in Region 9 in August in conjunction with their Annual Field Trip. They visited the Access Habitat improvement projects across Region 9. The vacancies in Region 9 for Environmental Conservation Officers was discussed. Captain Bobseine informed the Board that a new law enforcement academy planned for later this year should solve this problem.

### **Advisory Members Reports**

### **Farm Bureau**

Pre-Filed Policy Resolutions for Consideration will be looked at later for discussion by Board. It was reported that there was more crop damage by bears this year than in previous years. It was reported that NYS is looking at creating a new department to deal with Invasive Species. The Farm Bureau feels that there is enough work being done on this issue by present agencies and a new department isn't needed.

It has been indicated that there is a major power line proposed by an Canadian power company that will cross NYS from Canada to Pennsylvania. This power line will be in new areas of the State and is a major concern for agriculture. State legislators are being informed of this issue and are showing a concern about this project.

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### **Izzak Walton League of America**

A resolution against widening the St. Lawrence Seaway was brought to the National Committee. Because of the strong opposition to the project, it is now on hold and likely will die.

On the topic of Windmills for Energy, it is reported that 4% of the total energy will be supplied by Windmills.

There seems to be a trend that more young people are looking to take the Hunter Safety Course.

### **New York State Conservation Council**

It was indicated that Wally John, Executive Chairman of the New York State Conservation Council worked long and hard on getting the Canned Hunt Bill, Blaze Orange Bill and the Trapping Bill vetoed by the Governor.

Council President Howard Cushing wrote Governor Pataki requesting positions lost in the Fish and Wildlife programs that are paid for under the Conservation Fund and Federal Aid paid positions be filled. He further indicated that programs that are payed by the license fee increase be maintained. He indicated that the Council strongly supported the license fee increase because they believed, and still believe that it was needed to maintain the fish and wildlife programs that they support. Now these programs are being cut back or eliminated even though there is money available in the Conservation Fund to avoid those cuts.

The Conservation Council urges Sportsmen and Sportswomen to write Governor Pataki to let the Department fill these open positions and free up the money to maintain our current Fish & Wildlife programs.

### **New York State Forest Practice Board**

Unfortunately there has been an absence of the NYS FPB's DEC-appointed Secretary at the Spring and Fall meetings as well as a lack of a quorum at those meetings.

Therefore, an important resolution originating with 2 DEC Regions and addressing the taxation of timber could not be moved.

There was no information conveyed on the new federal cost-sharing Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP) and how this may be done without adequate personnel from Region to Region.

There was no discussion of the new law governing timber theft and the Right to Practice Forestry, both of these changes had significant input from the SFPB. A specific recommendation

of the SFPB that adjoining owners be notified when logging was planned near their boundary was not part of the law and therefore the question of intent may remain a major loophole for the trespassers.

### **New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee**

A written report on the Agriculture NPS Abatement & Control Grant Program was handed out. Status of Rounds I-VIII, Round IX, and Round X were included.

Total State Funds Awarded per Round. Round 1-\$341,864.00, Round 2-\$355,059.65, Round 3-\$744,372.42, Round 4-\$3,341,642.75, Round 5-\$4,559,987.84, Round 6-\$44,559,919.75, Round 7-\$6,631,793.21, Round 8-\$5,858,306.98 and Round 9-\$6,737,709.00

NYS CREP, The New York State Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program is a cooperative program between the State and USDA. Eligible producers enroll in the program for contracts of 10-15 years to implement conservation cover practices on their farms. The goal is to protect

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surface water by reducing erosion and runoff containing nutrients and pathogens, as well as to protect ground water that supplies public wells.

Where to get more information on this program.

The details of the program are still being worked out and more information will be available soon. If you have any questions in the mean time, please call Emily Svenson at the State Committee Office: 519-457-8886.

### **Cornell University** Pre-filed Report

Cornell Is working with DEC on a Bear Management Program.

Since 1998, HDRU has been working with DEC to bolster the ethics component of Sportsman Education courses. In that year approximately 3,000 volunteer instructors were surveyed on their thoughts about teaching students about ethics. Gary Goff developed a new curriculum to help instructors teach students how to make ethical decisions. These same instructors were resurveyed this year. Based on this survey, Gary will make changes and DEC will distribute Ethics Training Manuals starting next spring.

### **SUNY College of Environmental Science & Forestry**

A report was given on a pending Legislative Bill # HR.2232. This bill deals with vessels ballast and the organisms that this ballast contains that is released into NYS Waterways. The bill needs some work, but is a great start.

A booklet from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry detailing this College's Strategic Planning document was handed out and explained.

### **Department Reports**

John Major, Requested as a Priority for this meeting was for the Board to develop a minimum set of criteria that a project must meet or exceed to be considered for funding under the Habitat/Access Stamp Project.

Some suggestions for the Habit/Access Project selection.

! Keep it simple

- ! Looking for good, “doable” projects
- ! Ready to go, complete in 1 construction season
- ! Provide on-the-ground examples to build interest in Habitat/Access Stamp

Proposed Habitat/Access Project Selection Board

1 member each from:

- ! DEC Division of Fish, Wildlife, and Marine
- ! Conservation Fund Advisory Board
- ! Fish and Wildlife Management Board
- ! NYS Conservation Counsel
- ! NY Trappers Association
- ! Audubon NY
- ! Farm Bureau

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Proposed Habitat/ access Project Selection Process

- ! Regional FWMB’s solicit project ideas
- ! Regional FWMB forwards recommendations to State FWMB
- ! State FWMB rates and develops prioritized list
- ! Habitat/ Access Projection Board ranks projects
- ! DFWMR Director makes final selections

John made a presentation on ( Managing for Impact)

The Economics of Sport Fishing, Hunting & Wildlife Related Recreation in New York State

**TOTAL ECONOMIC IMPACT**

- ! \$3.45 Billion Expenditures
- ! \$6.22 Billion Economic Output
- ! \$64 Million NYS Income Taxes
- ! 60,450 Jobs

**RETURN ON INVESTMENT**

- ! \$100 Million Cost of Comprehensive Fish, Wildlife & Marine Resources Program
- ! \$6.22 Billion Economic Output
- ! \$62 Return for every Dollar Invested

John also gave a very detailed report on the 2003-04 Enacted Budget, Staff numbers as of September, 2003 and distribution of Division Staff.

Also included in his presentation was Program Priorities.

We’re beyond the point of doing more with less. Its time to sharpen our focus on the most important programs and use our limited resources to do those well.

A hard copy of both presentations are on file in the minutes in (Hard Copy).

**Habitat/Access Stamp**

Dave O’Dell & Ed Woltmann, both gave a presentation on an Working Draft, Resource Access Segment, consideration will be given to projects that provide access for hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing and other fish and wildlife associated activities consistent with the intent of the Habitat Stamp Program. Consideration for angler access projects will be limited to sites providing non-motorized access that are currently ineligible for Federal Aid in Sportfish Restoration Funds.

The second presentation was on an draft NYS Habitat/Access stamp Habitat Project Rating Criteria . Ranking criteria will be applied to all projects submitted for approval under this program. The ranking committee may establish minimum criteria that a project must meet or exceed to be considered for funding. In general, higher ranking projects will be funded before lower ranking ones.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Executive Committee**

Executive Committee Meeting to be held in Cortland on January 29,2004.

The Spring Meeting will be held in the Albany area on April 1,2,3, 2004

The Committee insisted that the Spring Meeting be 3 days instead of 2 days. Chairman Banks will speak to Director Barnhart in regards to this issue.

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Chairman of the Assembly and Senate Environmental Committees will be invited to spring meeting.

Commissioner Erin Crotty, also will be invited to be guest speaker for the Dinner Meeting, either Thursday or Friday evening.

### **Publicity Committee**

It has been suggested that a description of the Statutory Board, The New York State Fish and Wildlife Management Board be placed in the Hunting and Fishing Guide, perhaps in conjunction with the Habitat/Access Stamp. There is a description of the NYS Conservation Fund Advisory Board in the guide

### **Conservation Fund Advisory Board**

Report was given on Annual Field Trip. This years Annual Field Trip was to Region 9.

There have been rumors that there have been negative comments being made from CFAB about FWMB and that they are just that, rumors.

The Comparative statements are up to date.

The Proposed Visible Fishing License is being worked on by the CFAB, at this point, this is an controversial issue.

The crossbow issue wasn't passed this year. It will be put in this year by the Department as a Program Bill.

### **Habitat Committee**

1- Make Habitat Stamp mandatory for all Non Resident Licenses. Two hundred and ten licenses would generate one million dollars.

2-Accept "Working Drafts" for procedures of Habitat and Access Projects

3-Department should consider putting DECAL Issuing Computer at Special Events. State Fair, Boat shows, Empire Farm Days "etc".

4-Department should target larger markets for Habitat Stamp.

### **Access Committee**

Regional Delegates have to make contact with Local Sportsman Federations and Clubs to get the information on locations of public access out to the public.

### **Resolution Committee**

The Resolution Committee brought forth the following resolutions.

**NYSFWMB Resolution #03-2-01**, proposed by the Farm Bureau, Passed 10/24/03

#### **Title: Resolution in Support of Farm Bureau Policies.**

1. The support for the use of the back tag statewide.
2. The recommendation that opening day of bear season coincide with the opening day of regular season for deer in the southern and western zones.
3. The recommendation that DEC encourage sportsman to take does as well as bucks and issue adequate permits to balance the herd.
4. The recommendation that goose season be lengthened.
5. The recommendation that the age limit for a big game license be reduced from 16 to 14 years of age.

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6. The support for the use of crossbows for deer hunting.
7. The recommendation that New York State should encourage an increase in the number and availability of hunter safety courses.
8. The support for the continued use of foothold and body gripping traps.
9. The support of DEC's authority regarding trapping regulations and the opposition of any municipality attempting to do so.
10. The strong opposition to any legislation which would give regulatory rights to any local government in regards to any aspect of the Environmental Conservation Law, especially hunting and trapping.
11. The support for the continued ban on the feeding of wild deer.
12. The recommendation that landowners should be entitled to ask for and receive the identification of trespassers on their property.
13. The support for voluntary management plans to develop wildlife areas on privately owned land.

#### **Resolution # 03-2-02, Proposed by the Resolutions Committee, Passed 10/24/03**

#### **Resolution Authorizing and Directing the New York State Fish and Wildlife Management Board to Report to the Assembly and Senate Environmental Conservation Committees.**

Whereas, the New York State Fish and Wildlife Management Act was passed by the Legislature in 1957, creating the New York State Fish and Wildlife Management Board and District (Regional) Fish and Wildlife Management Boards comprised of sportsman, landowner, and county legislator appointed by each county legislature, and

Whereas, the charge of these boards is to address fish and wildlife management issues by formulating statements of appropriate fish and wildlife practices, having such statements and practices approved and adopted, and encouraging landowners, lessees and sportsman to adopt and carry out the practices so approved, and

Whereas, the State Board is further charged with facilitating and coordinating an interchange of advice and experience among the regional boards, and

Whereas, it is without doubt that fish and game regulations, the management of state lands and waters and the regulation of the uses on the lands and waters have a profound effect on fish and wildlife management, and

Whereas, fish and wildlife include both game and non game species and management must consider and attempt to manage the effects and impacts of animals, humans and the environment on each other, now therefore be it

Resolved, that the Chairman of the New York State and Fish and Wildlife Management Board is hereby authorized and directed to form a committee of a least one Legislative representative, one Landowner representative, one Sportsman representative, and the Chairman meet with and report to the New York State Assembly and Senate Environmental Conservation Committees.

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Kenneth Lynch, Region 7 Regional Director, was guest speaker at the Dinner Meeting on Thursday evening.

Ken spoke on a number of different subjects. He started with the following statement, A healthy environmental is the foundation of a healthy economy.

One of the highlights of his presentation was that the DECALS System was working this year with very minor problems compared to last years start up problems. He also reported that license sales was ahead of last years sales. Ken also indicated that there was over 100,000 pounds of venison donated last year Venison for the Hungary program. Ken also touched on (CWD) and that there have been no reported cases of (CWD) in NYS, However testing is continuing. Permanent Regulations have been made to try to prevent the introduction of (CWD) into NYS. In concluding Ken indicated that New York's Natural Resources are healthier than ever and that the partnership with the Sporting community is strong.

**Motion to Adjourn** was made by Joe Molinaro, seconded by Bill Pike. Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Secretary, James E. Bertram  
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Members: Representatives of County Boards of Supervisors/County Legislators, Landowners and Sportsman

Advisory Members: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, New York State Conservation Council Inc., Farm Bureau of New York, New York State Grange, New York State Forest Practice Board, Izaak Walton League of America; New York State Division, New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee, New York State College of Environmental Science and Forestry at Syracuse University, New York State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell University.