

# New York State FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD



**Minutes-NYS Fish and Wildlife Management Board  
97<sup>th</sup> Session October 27 - 29, 2005  
Hudson Valley Resort and Spa, Kerhonkson, New York**

The meeting was called to order at 1:10 pm by Chairman Banks  
Invocation was given by John Tusch.

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

**Board Members**

Region	Landowner	Sportsman	Legislator
3	Robert Underhill	Joseph Molinaro	Raymond Merlatto
4	Homer Casler	Michael Zeh	
5	Robert Banks	William Pike	Cathy Moses
6	Judy Aldrich	Patricia Arnold	
7	Richard Fox	Harry Woodfield	Barbara Brown
8	Gary Evans	John Andrews	Emory Green Glenn Larison, Alt
9	Chuck Couture	Walt Hallbauer	Jim Agle

**Advisors**

NYSDEC- Gerald Barnhart, Jack Cooper  
NYS Farm Bureau- Barlow Rhodes  
Izaak Walton League of America- John Tusch  
NYS Conservation Council- Hank D'Auria  
NYS Forest Practice Board- Richard Fox  
Conservation Fund Advisory Board- Bud Woodfield

**Guests**

Jeff Williams-NYS Farm Bureau  
Marc Moran

Bill Rudge  
Wayne Elloit  
Fran Dunwell  
Howard Goebel  
Robert Lucas  
Mike Schiavone  
Marcelo DelPeurto  
Gerald Barnhart  
John Major

### **Approval of Previous Minutes, Fall 2004**

**A motion was duly made by Bud Woodfield and seconded by Barbara Brown to accept the minutes from the Spring 2005 meeting, the motion was unanimously approved.**

### **Welcome to the Fall 2005 meeting and Region from Mark Moran, Director, Region 3.**

Director Moran welcomed the members of the Statewide Fish and Wildlife Management Board to Region 3. He explained the Region 3 is a large region encompassing seven counties including the Catskill Mountains, the Hudson Valley down to New York City. He went on to discuss some of the important issues affecting the Region and its sportsmen and women. The use of public lands for hunting is an important issue. The State of New York Office of Parks and Recreation and the DEC operate much of the public lands in Region 3. OPR has been acquiring considerable lands and administering it along with the Palisades Park Commission, a bi-state commission. Unfortunately the Park Commission's policy is that hunting is not allowed. The Region has been working with the commission to increase the use of hunting as a management tool.

Region 3 Natural Resources Supervisor, Bill Rudge has evaluated access on state lands in the region. Between the DEC and State Parks, Parks owns a little over half and about 65% of state lands in the Region are open to public hunting. This is particularly important since the Region has such a large human population.

The other large land owner within the Region is the City of New York. Historically much of this land has been off-limits for hunting. Recent agreements with the City allowed much more land to become available to hunters. The Region will continue to work with the City to open more lands to public access as the is actively purchasing land to protect it's watershed. The City is slowly allowing more land to become open to a wide variety of public recreational activities, including hunting.

Sterling Forest is managed by the Palisades Park Commission as is Minnewaska State Park. Director Moran recommended that Board members make it a point to visit Minnewaska State Park. Hunting is allowed by the Parks Commission in Sterling Forest.

### **Regional Reports**

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

The Board held meetings in May, July and September 2005. Region 3 Board representatives

attended the spring statewide Board meeting in Albany.

The Region 3 Board passed a resolution calling for improved and expanded access for hunting at New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) facilities, especially at Minnewaska State Park, Ulster County.

The Board sent a letter in support of establishing public hunting at the Stony Kill Farm Environmental Education Center (a DEC facility) in Fishkill, Dutchess County (Note: no hunting is currently allowed on these lands.)

Continued to monitor public use areas that are open to hunting, fishing and trapping in the Region, providing input to DEC on access and maintenance issues.

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

Region 4 held meetings in April, June and September 2005. A report on the State Board meeting was provided. Peter Innes discussed the CWD situation in Oneida County, 238 deer have been collected for sampling. Two habitat stamp funded projects within Region 4 were funded: Snyders Lake Boat Launch and Otego Creek Canoe/Kayak Launch. A summary of Habitat Stamp projects and sales by county was given. The Board feels that more emphasis and advertisement needs to be given to boost Habitat Stamp sales. Some Counties reported sending several youth to DEC Summer Camp. Jim Bertram, Columbia County, reported that a successful "youth hunt" for wild turkeys was held with 25 youth participating. Region 4 Aquatic Biologist Dan Zielinski gave a presentation on Glass Lake Kokanees with highlights from Queechy Lake. About 7000 have survived and all but 500 will be stocked in Glass Lake. Glass Lake and Crooked Lakes provided the only source of eggs. Carlton Hatch reported numerous complaints on bear destroying alfalfa round bales and extreme amounts of cornfield damage in Delaware County. Green County representative Walt Bennett relayed the first fish stocking had been completed and two year old trout being stocked in Green Lake for the first time. Dave Schoellig, Otsego County reported 59 coyotes taken and a DSNAs study being done to understand their genetics. Mike Zeh, Schoharie County, reported NYS DEC stocking was completed. New York Power Authority will again do their trout stocking in May. Mike also reported on the March on Albany with the meetings of several legislators and our NYS DEC Acting Commissioner, Denise Sheehan. Al Martel, Region 4 Secretary, submitted a Region 4 Resolution that any license hunter 21 years of age or older, having written permission from a least one parent or legal guardian, be allowed to fulfill the legal obligation of the require adult hunter for Junior, 16 and 17 ear old hunters.

June: The Open Space Plan is being revised. The draft Plan is slated for public review and comment in late November. Region 4 is progressing with several land acquisitions which will provide a new State Forest in Otsego County-about 1130 acres in the town of Morris, the addition of 392 acres of the former Armstrong farm to the Plainfield State Forest and the possibility of 1000 acres fro the creation of a new state park near Oneonta - the Robert V. Riddell State Park (no hunting will be allowed). NYS DEC stated that there are 16-20 Banded Eagles within Region 4. A discussion was held on the deforestation problems within the region from the tent caterpillar, the Cancer Worm and the Gypsy Moth. In some areas the damage from these insects is very noticeable. Dick Henry has replaced Art Johnson as the Regional Wildlife Manager. A discussion on Deer Task Force was held to help decide on the number of antlerless deer management permits that will be issued. It has been over 5 years since this was done. The

number of tags for most DMUs will be less than last year. Some units will not have any tags issued. NYS DEC Big Game Manager, Dick Henry, gave a number of 850,000 for the deer population statewide after last fall's harvest. Southern Zone opening day will be on Saturday, November 19 for "gun" big game. Archery season will open October 15<sup>th</sup>. Several legislative bills were discussed: (A04853/S918-A) Rifle bill is on the Governor's desk for his signature, a bill to legalize rifle hunting within some of the central counties close to the Pennsylvania Boarder and also Schoharie and Montgomery Counties. (A07521/S4282-A) a bill to prohibit state funding for any launch on Otsego Lake, unless boat size is limited to 16 feet. (A06428/S1964) Deer Mitigation Task Force did pass legislation. CWD sampling will increase 5X to 5,000 deer during the 2005 season. DEC will sponsor statewide information meetings this fall on CWD. Delaware County reported continuous bear problems with alfalfa round bales and extensive corn damage, They don't feel nuisance bear permits issued by DEC staff are adequate. They also stated that they were not getting a notification of the fish drops (time and dates) for the fish stocking from NYSDEC. Green County reported that the Coxsackie boat launch has opened. Schoharie County reported the NY Power Authority did do their annual trout stocking with approximately 3000 Rainbow (2600 each 9 inch, 200 each 12 inch, 200 each 18 inch) and 1500 each 12-14 inch tiger trout, to the upper and lower reservoirs. DEC reported there was a surplus of 5,000 trout to be spread around the state. Cobleskill reservoir received 500 extra yearlings. 140,000 brown trout were stocked in Oswego Lake which were 2 ½ inch - 3 inch finger lings. Next year DEC stated that Cobleskill Reservoir would get 200-250 two year old trout.

September: Deane Winsor Day, July 9<sup>th</sup> in the Town of Milford was cancelled due to Deane's health problems. DEC reported that the state acquired over 1500 acres through the Open Space Program this past month, 1100 acres near Morris and 25 Acres near Cooperstown, which included 800 acres off the south side of I-88. This land is not open to hunting. Pete Innes reported that the Governor did sign the Legislative Bill on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September restricting state funding support for all future boat launches being constructed on Otsego Lake to 16 feet. There was a discussion on the Schoharie reservoir (Gilboa Dam) being drawn down because of possible problems (leaking). NYC Water Authority has drained the reservoir down to 1-2 million gallons (200-400 acres). Dick Henry reported that the state held 23 meetings statewide on CWD. They had 43 in attendance at Oneonta and 22 in attendance at Albany. Sampling will increase to 5000 with region 4 having 650. NYS will pay meat cutters \$5 a head, need to be frozen within 3 days. All samples will be sent to Cornell. To date there have been 7 deer which test positive for CWD within NYS, five on a deer farm and two from the wild. These were found in Oneida County. Deer Check Stations were set up in the Northern Zone as of September 27<sup>th</sup>. DMAP numbers are down this year. Hunters survey shows no change in people interest in Hunting only 2% to 3% drop in license sales to date. Bear nuisance complaints are down from last year. There have been reports of 3-4 moose within Region 4. Next FWMB meeting will be held November 16<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully submitted by Michael Zeh  
FWMB Region 4 Sportsman Representative

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

The Region 5 Board met in May and September 2005 to discuss the following topics:

1. Access

- a. The Village of Corinth Waterworks Cooperative Agreement was reviewed in light of new easements on International Paper Company Land adjacent to the parcel. The Village of Corinth would like to develop this area as part of their parks and recreation system, which may make public access through the Cooperative Agreement Obsolete.
- b. Boat launch improvement projects are complete or underway at Ticonderoga, Long Lake and the Town of Schroon Launch on Schroon Lake. Work has commenced on several area boat launches and fishing access sites to provide access to persons with disabilities. Included in this round of improvements are upgrades to Peru Dock Boat Launch, Willsboro Bay Boat Launch, Port Henry Boat Launch, Port Douglas Boat Launch, Follensby Clear Fishing Access Site, West Pine Pond Fishing Access Site and Indian Carry Fishing Access Site.
- c. Two Region 5 projects were selected for Habitat Stamp grant funding; \$10,5000 for improved handicapped access at the Town of Milton Park on Kayderosseras Creek at Rock City Falls, and \$3,500 for the Batten Kill Watershed Alliance stream improvement project.

## 2. Species Management

- a. Brook trout restoration, round whitefish restoration, and Lake Champlain Sea Lamprey Control have been priority programs for Fisheries Management in Region 5.
- b. A State Wildlife Grant-funded project on nuisance black bears in the High Peaks Wilderness Area is in its second year. Regulations requiring Eastern High Peaks campers to store food and waste in bear-proof canisters have been developed and are being implemented.

## **Region 6 - Pre-filed report**

The Regional Board has been working more closely with Regional DEC/DFWMR staff. Region 6 Board has met twice since the Spring State Board meeting. There is a continued effort to get the board organized so it maximizes the effective communication and input of the board. Currently, the board is reviewing and proposing bylaws for the board to function by. A great deal of information has been given to the board by Bill Gordon to assist in the process.

Several issues have been discussed at the recent meetings. The Chronic Wasting Disease response has been an excellent example of pooling DEC resources with other agencies such as Department of Health, USDA and Ag & Markets. The prompt response and confinement has reassured the public of the effectiveness of the Department to respond to major events. The continued public outreach and education shows a commitment to meet the problem head on in a responsible manner. One issue that has been raised as a result is the manner of staffing for the ongoing response. Currently the Region is shifting personnel from other counties to cover the staffing needs. While this is effective in the short term, FWMB members feel that by pulling staff from other areas, a shortage is the created in other programs. In addition, hiring the seasonal workers to assist has worked in the short term, but for the longer term response which will be needed, most members feel that a full time position should be created and staffed for this

purpose. The consistency of the approach to the issue would be served more efficiently without the drain on the time and money to train each subsequent person who is either a staff person being rotated in or a seasonal staff person being hired.

St. Lawrence County Fisheries Advisory Board as well as the St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce and St. Lawrence Board of Legislators continue to express concern over the cormorant issue. The Department has been effective in controlling the population on islands owned by the State of New York through oiling of eggs and depredation of the flock. On the United States side of the river there are flocks on private islands that are not being managed. The DEC is actively working with two land owners to address the issue. A third landowner has declined to participate. The larger issue for long term control rests with the Canadian Fish and Wildlife Department. They have so far declined to participate in efforts to control the flock on their side of the river. Attempts are being made to secure cooperation from them at this time.

Although the Public Fishing Rights Maps are being digitized by central office, it appears that we are not going to see any posted for some time to come. This is disappointing since Region 6 has an extremely large number of miles of Public Fishing Rights that have been obtained and are basically unavailable to the majority of the public because they are not posted on the DEC website.

The Forest Rangers are extremely disappointed that they did not receive the same adjustment to their pay equity that the ECO's received. Our Board supports the resolution of this issue as well. The Forest Rangers are an integral part of the services provided to the public. Whenever there is a Search and Rescue operation for a lost or missing person, the Forest Rangers are called in to coordinate and command the search whether it is on State lands or not. They are currently below the pay scale of not only the private sector but also comparable positions within the state such as Parks and Recreation. We encourage the Department to work to resolve this issue in the coming budget year.

The St. Regis fee and land easement deal continues to slowly evolve. The State has listened to the towns and counties involved and are attempting to resolve the issues of payments for lost taxes. In addition, many discussions are continuing on the snowmobile trail access and keeping areas open for ATV use by sportsmen and sportswomen.

The Carry Falls Reservoir is getting closer to being able to accommodate snowmobilers with a bridge. Designation of a portion of the area will be Boreal Primitive, also an area of primitive and an area that will be designated as wild forest. The proposed designations have been sent to the Governor's office.

A Unit Management Plan is being commented on for the Winona State Forest.

A draft Environmental Assessment has been turned over to the DEC by Fort Drum in an attempt to use Jadwin State Forest for military maneuvers and training. There are several issues involved including roadways not built to withstand the weight, wear and tear of such traffic, private property within the center of the forest, sensitive wetlands and species, and a high amount of public resistance to this usage. Draft proposals are expected to be available by the December meeting.

Concern that Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) monies are being used in a manner that

undermines many areas of stewardship has been expressed. In the recent years, the EPF monies have been used in several high profile projects to the detriment of maintenance and management of lands overall in the state. For example, this is a major concern as there has been no increase in other areas of funding to allow the needed maintenance and management of lands for best use, maintenance of habitat or access. This becomes a spiraling situation that in the end can create a huge cost plus an erosion of the sportsmen/sportswomen base as land deteriorates and wildlife and habitat are lost as a result. This issue should be discussed by all the regions and a plan to address the concern developed.

A small group of individuals have proposed a Quality Deer Management Unit for St. Lawrence County to the county legislators who then passed a resolution supporting it. A letter is to be drafted to the St Lawrence County Legislators asking them to call upon the people they have designated as their representatives to the Fish and Wildlife Management Board for input on these issues prior to passing such resolutions. It was felt that the majority of sportspersons were not asked or given the opportunity for input nor were landowners given opportunity for comment. While the Board will not support the Legislators resolution at this time, they will consider support if the Legislators or the group proposing follow up with gathering input and public support that is broad based and in favor.

A request was once again put forward for the posting of tickets issues by ECO's in the local papers as well. Captain Pierson has agreed to have this matter in hand by our next meeting. He agrees that it is helpful for all involved to be aware of the violations ticketed.

The Conservation Alliance of New York and the Lewis County Association of Sportsmen's Club held the first ever youth pheasant hunt in Lewis County. 40 youth signed up for the hunt. Pheasants were donated for the hunt. Ample dog handlers were available for each group. A total of 35 youth actually participated despite the rather gray rainy day. Each participant was given a blaze orange hat donated by Gander Mountain, a gunlock, and lunch and various snacks. Shotguns were available for those youths who did not have a gun. Since many youth did not have a back tag holder, improvisation with the stapler assured that all were legal when a field. Each youth had an opportunity to shoot clay pigeons and get some hands on coaching by instructors. Parents and youth left the area happy and excited about coming back next year for another hunt. Approximately 30 birds were taken by the group. Volunteers manned different areas to make this a very successful hunt. Many others donated various items and food for the event as well. Special thanks go to Allen Martin for opening his farm up to this event.

The final two issues discussed are being submitted as resolutions to the State board. The first resolution deals with increasing the funding for the Regional Boards so that funds for other purposes do not have to be used to cover expenses around the meetings. The second resolution is regarding the State of New York providing a dedicated training center to be used by all DEC personnel for any needs that arise from ECO training, to MORE team training, first response training, wildlife management training, HAZMAT training and updates, etc. It is felt that a center that is available for scheduling training would benefit all areas of the Department and provide an incident command center in the event one is needed. We would like to encourage the DEC and State Legislature to consider this.

Respectfully submitted,  
Judith Aldrich  
Vice Chair, Region 6

## **Region 7 - Pre-filed report**

The Region 7 Fish and Wildlife Management Board met seven times in the past year, with one being a dinner meeting, and one an annual picnic at the Salmon River Hatchery where we honored Hank Cosselman, past Chairman of the FWMB and the Conservation Council, with a plaque for his many conservation efforts.

The Region 7 Board supported the Whiney Point and Cleveland Dock Access Site projects, and the Redfield Handicap Access Boat Launch Site project for approval for Habitat/Access Stamp funding. \$2100 was spent on materials for the Cleveland Dock Access Site on Onieda Lake out of the Region 7 FWMB budget.

The Board is aware that the Access by Written Permission Only signs do not constitute a legal posting. The Board discussed whether a sign could be made that would accommodate both legal posting and provide notice of opportunity for access by permission. This will be addressed by the Board in the near future.

Submitted by Ronald J. Anderson, Region 7 FWMB Chairman

The Regional Board has requested from the Regional DEC, that the Three River WMA shooting range be closed so that the area can be used for hunting and field trials.

## **Region 8 - Pre-filed report**

Region 8 was awarded grants for two Habitat/Access projects. The first project was an access project near Braddock Bay known as the "Burger Parcel" in the Town of Greece, Monroe County. This project will also involve a fishing platform on Buttonwood Creek. The second project involved a grassland habitat development project at the Montezuma Complex in the Town of Savannah, Wayne County.

The Board was involved in two "high-profile" public events over the last six months. Empire Farm Days was once again a summer project that provided exposure of the Board to thousands of people across New York and other states. This year both Regional and State Board members sold Habitat Stamps and pins to the public during the event. This was the first time the Board sold the Habitat Stamp and pin at this event. Promotion of the Habitat Stamp and pins was well received by the public. A special thanks to the following State and Regional Board Members for their participation:

Region 8 FWMAB members:	John Reed Gary Evans Emory Green Glen Larson
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State FWMAB Members:	Joe Molinario Pat Arnold Bud Woodfield Judy Aldrich
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The 32<sup>nd</sup> annual celebration of National Hunting and Fishing Day took place this year on September 24 and 25 at the Region 8 Headquarters. The event is co-sponsored with the Livingston County Sportsman Federation. This year's event hosted roughly 120 participants and included Department displays and information, exhibits and demonstration, art and taxidermy exhibits, outdoor and environmental displays, trap shooting, archery and shooting ranges, woodsmen demonstrations, canoe demonstrations, fish and wildlife displays, wildlife artists, painting and carvings and a sportsmen/environmental flea market. Several thousand people attend this event annually. License sales once again took place at the event this year. Nearly \$4000 in license sales were received this year over four times the amount of last year's sales.

Submitted by,  
Glenn Larison  
Gary Evans  
Emory Green

### **Region 9 - Pre-filed report**

The Region 9 Board has held two meetings since the Spring State Board Meeting. The Habitat and Access projects partially funded by the Habitat - Access Stamp money have been completed. Russ Biss, Region 9 Natural Resources Supervisor, showed photos of the Wiscoy creek erosion control and stream bank improvement work. These were compared to photos taken before the work was done. The Eighteen Mile Creek Parking-access site in the town of Evans, Erie County, is completed and being used extensively by fishermen. A sign at the location states that the site was developed with funds from the DEC's Habitat Access Stamp program. Another new highly used public access fishing area "Lake Flavia" in Cattaraugus County came about with cooperation from DEC and the property owner, Gernatt Gravel Company Wildlife Technician John Curtis, was commended by the Region 9 Board for his diligence on Habitat and Grassland work done on the Carlton Hill multiple use area. The Safari Club is raising funds for establishing food plots to keep deer on the farm and out of the Warsaw-Wyoming Valley area.

Resources supervisor, Russ Biss, covered the new CWD regulations pertaining to taxidermists and captive deer owners. All captive facilities have been inspected and must maintain closer record keeping. There are 52 captive deer facilities in Region 9. The Board also discussed the pros and cons of using rifles in Cattaraugus-Allegany Counties for this upcoming deer season. ECO Gary Bobsiene did not feel there would be any adverse effect from this change. Allegheny County Sportsmen representative Derwood Say spoke highly of Pat Arnold's accomplishments and her intention to acquire a position in the NYS Trappers Association. The Board nominated Jim Agle, Walt Hallbauer and Chuck Couture to represent Region 9 at the October State Board Meeting.

Submitted by, Jim Agle, Chairman, Region 9

There was discussion about the "Access Sign," some of the Boards have run out of their supply and are looking for additional signs. Region 7 indicated that they had discussions at a recent meeting about the legality of the access sign as a legal posted sign. The access sign was not designed to be a legal posted sign. In some areas landowners have put up both a posted sign and the access sign. Region 7 indicated that they had some extra signs and could make them available if necessary.

## Advisory Members Reports

### **Farm Bureau- Barlow Rhodes**

#### **New York Farm Bureau 2005 Policies for Consideration By the NYS Fish and Wildlife Management Board Fall 2005**

1. We support the removal of the sunset clause from the current muzzleloader season law, which allows an extended season.
2. We support creating or improving the DEC's efforts to curtail the decline of hunting throughout this State by using public service announcements (PSA's) and other means to promote sportsman activities within New York.
3. New York State should encourage an increase in the number and availability of hunter safety training courses.
4. Wildlife management unit residents should have preference over wildlife management unit non-residents in obtaining deer management permits.
5. We support the DEC's authority regarding trapping regulations and therefore oppose any municipality's attempt to do so.
6. We are strongly opposed to any legislation, which will give regulatory rights to any local government in regards to any aspect of environmental conservation law, especially hunting and trapping. We support the authority of the DEC in dealing with local Wildlife Management through education of hunters and landowners.
7. We support extending the ban on feeding wild deer.
8. We support opening county parks for hunting to help control the wildlife population.
9. We support a greater effort by the DEC to increase the deer harvest through education of hunters and advertising options, such as the DMAP program, to better address farm crop and forest damage.
10. We support extending bear hunting to additional areas of the state, including New York City watershed land, to further reduce the bear population.
11. We support hunting in State parks to control the wildlife.
12. Sportsman and landowner relations should be emphasized in hunter safety courses and license applications.
13. We support:
  - a. Additional landowner liability protection as a vital tool for enhanced wildlife management control in NYS;
  - b. Cost sharing and low interest loans by the state be made available to farmers for deer and bear fencing;
  - c. Private landowners being allowed to charge fees for hunting access without incurring additional liability; and
  - d. Economic loss, due to crop damage, to be included as part of citizen education.

#### **The issues below are included in the Farm Bureau Policies Book:**

##### **Farm Bureau Policies: HUNTING ISSUES**

1. We support the harvest of antlerless deer during muzzleloader season, recommend the season be extended for an additional week statewide and allow for the issuance of a second tag.
2. We support free deer hunting licenses for farmers to hunt on their own and rented land.

3. We support the use of the back tag. Otsego CFB Reaffirms
4. We support the removal of the sunset clause from the current muzzleloader season law which allows an extended season.
5. We recommend that opening day of bear season coincide with the opening day of the gun season for deer in the southern zone. Otsego CFB Reaffirms
6. We are opposed to the new restrictions on Canada geese hunting. We recommend the limit be reinstated to three per day for the regular goose season, support the early goose season and implement a late spring hunting season.
7. We support increasing the seasonal take of wild turkeys as follows: four Toms during the spring season and four of either sex during the fall season.
8. We support year round season on coyotes, crows and seagulls. Otsego CFB Reaffirms
9. We support competitive fish and game events without interference.
10. We support a lifetime sportsman's license for a fee of \$5 at age 65.
11. We recommend the DEC encourage sportsmen to take does as well as bucks and issue the adequate permits to balance the herd. \_
12. We recommend that the goose season be lengthened.
13. We recommend that the age limit for a big game license be reduced from 16 to 14 years of age with licensed parent or legal guardian supervision until that person reaches 16 years of age. Otsego CFB Reaffirms
14. We support the use of crossbows for deer hunting.
15. We support creating or improving the DEC's efforts to curtail the decline of hunting throughout this State by using public service announcements (PSA's) and other means to promote sportsman activities within New York.
16. We support increasing hunter license fees, provided that State wildlife management programs, such as DMAP, are enhanced. Additional hunting opportunities and access in areas impacted by wildlife damage should be provided as part and parcel of any increase in hunter fees.
17. New York State should encourage an increase in the number and availability of hunter safety training courses.
18. We recommend that deer season open on a Saturday.
19. Wildlife management unit residents should have preference over wildlife management unit non-residents in obtaining deer management permits.
20. We support allowing hunters in the Southern Tier to hunt deer and bear in the regular season with handgun, rifle, shotgun, muzzle loading firearm, and archery.
21. We support making snares legal implements to help control the beaver population.
22. There should be no state-regulated fishing and hunting seasons and licenses for privately owned, captive fish and game.
23. We recognize the code of ethics for the operation of privately owned big game hunting preserves in New York State.
24. We support the licensing of privately owned big game hunting preserves in New York State.
25. We support inherent risk legislation for hunting activities on privately-owned hunting preserves

## **Farm Bureau Policies: Nuisance Wildlife Controls**

1. We believe farmers are best able to assess wildlife damage on their own property and should have the prerogative to determine appropriate humane control on their own property.
2. We recommend that the DEC conduct a formal study of wildlife damage to crops and farmland so we know how much it's costing the farmers of New York State to subsidize the feeding and protection of wildlife in the State. The study should include population density of deer, raccoon, wild turkey, beaver, bear, geese, starling, blackbird, crow and other forms of wildlife damage. Farmers and farmland owners should be compensated for the value of the determined damage and the cost of predator control.
3. We recommend that governmental agencies and private wildlife preserves be accountable for the agricultural damages by lack of wildlife management. Programs should be developed to refund farmers for agricultural damages.
4. Permit procedures should allow farmer landowners to protect crops, livestock and property from wildlife and predator damage at any time during the year. High priority should be given to the issuance of these permits.
5. We encourage the DEC to fully implement, simplify, and support the Deer Management Assistance Permit (DMAP) Program. We support the increased availability of nuisance permits and DMAP permits to farmers, as well as increasing where bow hunting is allowed.
6. We recommend support for the DEC's research for alternate deer control measures such as the use of repellents and infertility programs.
7. We support:
  - a. Additional landowner liability protection as a vital tool for enhanced wildlife management control in NYS;
  - b. Cost sharing and low interest loans by the state be made available to farmers for deer and bear fencing;
  - c. Private landowners being allowed to charge fees for hunting access without incurring additional liability; and
  - d. Economic loss, due to crop damage, to be included as part of citizen education.
8. We support continued use of the steel jaw foothold and body traps.
9. We support abolishing the state protection of sea gulls and crows until their numbers decline to a more manageable level.
10. We support and insist upon better management of the resident geese flocks to prevent destruction of crops.
11. Before a wildlife control product is taken off the market, an effective and economical alternative product must be provided.
12. We support the DEC's authority regarding trapping regulations and therefore oppose any municipality's attempt to do so.
13. We support hunters wearing "hunter orange" during big game gun and rifle hunting seasons.
14. We recommend that the DEC establish an indemnification program to compensate livestock producers for loss or damage caused by reintroduced wildlife species.
15. We support the following in an ongoing attempt to control wildlife damage to farmland:
  - a. The continuance of the extended muzzleloader season;

- b. Increasing the number of doe permits issued;
  - c. The activation of implement licenses for New York State residents which allows people the opportunity to take a deer during the rifle or shotgun, bow and muzzle loader seasons;
  - d. Active year round management of wildlife;
  - e. The active monitoring of diseases in wildlife by DEC;
  - f. An increase in the number of turkeys allowed taken during spring season where populations are high and allow for the taking of a hen turkey in the spring in those areas of high populations and where damage occurs.
  - g. We support sections 11-0521 and 11-0523 of Environmental Conservation Law allowing agriculturists to protect their crops, animals and property from wildlife.
  - h. We support easing the restrictions surrounding nuisance permits, disposal of carcasses, and reporting times.
16. We support the repeal of restrictions to the removal of beaver and the breaching of their dams.
  17. We are strongly opposed to any legislation which will give regulatory rights to any local government in regards to any aspect of environmental conservation law, especially hunting and trapping.
  18. We are in favor of reinstating a bounty on nuisance wildlife.
  19. We support state, regional, and national policies that recognize that farm animals and agricultural crops are at least as important as wildlife.
  20. We recommend that New York State continue and increase support for a statewide venison donation program. Such a program should encourage hunters to increase the number of deer taken, in order to assist those in need.
  21. In an effort to make DMAP more farmer friendly, we recommend that the DEC eliminate the 2 doe per hunter limitation and raise the guide line from 1 permit per 50 acres to 1 permit per 25 acres.
  22. We support the authority of the DEC in dealing with local Wildlife Management through education of hunters and landowners.
  23. We recommend that modifications be made to the process and procedures, including 3rd party or farmer verification, for declaring wildlife damage to crops and streamlining the permitting of landowners to enact control measures.
  24. We recommend the discontinuation of the release of wild turkeys.
  25. We recommend that agricultural property renters should be afforded the same consideration as landowners in regard to priority issuance of doe permits.
  26. We support an open season on deer for farmers on their own or rented land. In the absence of an open season, New York State should supply deer fencing to farmers.
  27. We support extending the ban on feeding wild deer.
  28. We are opposed to the importation, relocation and introduction of any wildlife into NYS.
  29. We recommend that DEC should be directed to assess the extent to which manure from wildlife and waterfowl overpopulation might be a non-point pollution source.
  30. We recommend that the DEC regulate the taking of elk and moose in the same manner as deer hunting and trapping is currently regulated.
  31. We support opening county parks for hunting to help control the wildlife population.

32. We support a greater effort by the DEC to increase the deer harvest through education of hunters and advertising options, such as the DMAP program, to better address farm crop and forest damage.
33. We recommend that the DEC accurately assess the deer population to establish a base line for deer management. From the base line study, DEC should determine if current management efforts are effective or if alternative techniques, such as a professional harvest, must be considered.
34. We recommend that beavers be taken off the list of animals to be regulated by DEC.
35. We support a bear management program similar to the deer management program.
36. We support extending bear hunting to additional areas of the state, including New York City watershed land, to further reduce the bear population.
37. We support hunting in State parks to control the wildlife.

### **Farm Bureau Policies: Landowners' Rights Issues**

1. Sportsman and landowner relations should be emphasized in hunter safety courses and license applications.
2. We recommend that when hunters violate landowners' rights, they be subject to the suspension of their hunting license.
3. Landowners should be entitled to ask for, and receive the identification of trespassers on their property.
4. We oppose a restrictive regulatory approach to protecting endangered species habitats.
5. We support raising the fine for trespassing on private property to at least \$100 per offense.
6. We support voluntary management plans to develop wildlife areas on privately owned land.
7. Beaver ponds on one person's property should not be allowed to back water on another's property.

### **Izaak Walton League Report- John Tusch**

Reported on a fishing platform constructed by Columbia Gas on land donated by IW. The access was for the handicapped and cost was approximately \$10,000. IW leased 20 acres to the DEC to improve wetland wildlife habitat. Walnut trees were harvested on a 56 acre plot. Attended the national convention in DeBuke, Iowa. Izaak Walton League is strongly supporting windmills as a clean alternative to fossil fuels. IW is working with County Federations on the Eddie Eagle Program in schools to teach children about gun safety.

One hundred ninety six windmills are being constructed in the Tug Hill. The League has been discussing the potential impacts of windmills on birds.

**New York State Conservation Council** - No report provided

**New York State Grange** - No report provided

**New York State Forest Practice Board** - No report provided

**Soil and Water Board** - No report provided.

**Cornell University, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences - Pre-filed report provided by Tommy Brown (not in attendance)**

Black Bear Management Research

Human Dimensions Research Unit (HDRU) graduate student Meredith Gore has been collaborating with Region 3 and Central Office Bureau of Wildlife staff to implement the NeighBEARhood Watch Program in the towns of Woodstock (Ulster County) and Warwick (Orange County). A wide range of information and educational materials were produced and distributed to help residents minimize human-bear conflicts. Over 11,000 educational materials were distributed in pilot communities (76 posters, 247 fact sheets, 1,014 NYSDEC Conservationist Magazine reprints, 322 lawn signs, 4,805 refrigerator magnets, 5,006 brochures, 2 billboards, and 6 bear-o-meters). Eight public presentations were given. At least 30 newspaper articles in the region reported on this program, as did 2 radio and 2 television stations. A post-program questionnaire was developed and mailed out on October 18 to evaluate the efficacy of the educational materials at reducing human-black bear conflict. Two control towns that did not receive the above materials, Saugerties (Ulster County) and Deerpark (Orange County) are included in this evaluation.

HDRU and DEC staff moved into the final steps of a group model-building project designed to aid in black bear management. This involves a quantitative simulation and learning interface that will allow DEC staff to explore educational intervention and changes in bear hunting opportunity or staffing level as means to reduce negative impacts associated with black bears in residential areas.

Human Dimensions of Chronic Wasting Disease

DEC Division Director Gerry Barnhart and Bureau of Wildlife staff identified several needed human dimensions needs after verification of CWO in captive and wild deer in Oneida County last spring. The first was a survey that included big game hunters in Oneida and surrounding counties, the rest of the state, and out of state, as well as the general public in Oneida County, surrounding counties, and the rest of upstate New York. This survey, conducted between April 30 and June 7, focused on awareness of CWO, sources of information and interest in additional information, satisfaction with government agencies in informing the public, trust in the information, whether attitudes about eating venison have changed, and for hunters, whether the discovery of CWO changed their plans to hunt deer in the upcoming season.

Results of the study indicated that while most hunters had heard about the discovery of CWO and had received some information about it, the general public outside of Oneida County was much less aware. Despite concerted efforts by DEC and other agencies to distribute information on CWO through multiple sources, less than 50% of respondents, except for Oneida County hunters, indicated they were satisfied with the effort to inform the public about CWO (there was a neutral as well as a dissatisfied category). A

Majority of both hunting and general public respondents indicated concern about CWD and its possible effect on human health. The concern about eating venison was highest in Oneida County, where 25% of hunters indicated this concern. However, the concern about CWD and eating venison did not affect hunters' plans to hunt in the upcoming season. Slightly more hunters planned to hunt in the upcoming season than went afield last year, and 99% planned to hunt in the area where they normally hunt.

For an on-line PDF file of this and other 2005 HDRU reports, go to:  
<http://www.dnr.cornell.edu/hdru/PUBS/PDF2005.htm>

Integrated ecological and human dimensions research to support policy and management actions for coyotes in New York

This fall, HDRU staff and Dr. Paul Curtis initiated planning activities with DEC staff for a major program of research on coyote-human interactions in suburban areas. Two new graduate students, Heather Hudenko--human dimensions, and Dan Bogan--coyote ecology, were added to the project team in August. Shortly thereafter the coyote contact team met to discuss project objectives and research practicalities. To supplement DEC records, it was agreed that Cornell Cooperative Extension of Westchester County would begin taking coyote complaint calls using DEC protocol. Heather Hudenko is engaged in a literature analysis to provide background for the upcoming interviews and mail surveys in spring 2006. Dan Bogan is in contact with several landowners and is securing permission for study locations around Westchester County. The graduate students created a website ([www.nycoyote.org](http://www.nycoyote.org)) and informational brochure about the project. The Westchester County Dept. of Parks, Recreation and Conservation hosted a public information meeting about suburban coyotes in mid-September. DEC and Cornell members of the coyote contact team attended and discussed issues with the approximately 75 concerned residents present at the meeting. The event generated significant media attention and highlighted the need for more information about coyotes in suburban areas.

Study of New York Duck Hunters

HDRU staff Jody Enck and Tom Brown worked with DEC staff Bryan Swift, Bill Sharick, and Dave O'Dell to develop a questionnaire for a statewide survey of duck hunters, stratified by the four major waterfowl hunting zones in the state. The two main purposes of this activity are: (1) evaluate hunters' awareness of and satisfaction with the general characteristics and processes associated with the Citizen Task Force approach to season-setting decisions in the western, northeastern, and southeastern zones, and (2) determine the effect of the season-setting process and decision outcomes on the overall satisfaction of duck hunters. Questionnaires were mailed to a sample of 3,600 hunters on October 3.

**SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry** - No report provided.

**Conservation Fund Advisory Board - Bud Woodfield**

Habitat Stamp figures: In the Habitat Account- Resident most stamps sold in August and September. There is still a problem in getting the issuing agent to ask is people want to purchase a habitat stamp.

The total stamp sales for last year was \$32,758, and so far this year is \$31,921, so we are ahead of last year by quite a bit. If we are to fund Habitat Grants there needs to be much more money coming into the Habitat Fund. There was a question about selling stamps at County Fairs. It was suggested that they could have a Town Clerk or other licensing agent sell the stamps there. There was also a suggestion about charging a dollar for each license sold.

The Conservation Fund Money- Fringe Benefits are paid out of the CF, Bud reports that there has been no fringe benefits paid this year. The CFAB would like to see the fringe benefit taken out of the General Fund instead of the CF. There is not enough money in the CF to make required payments.

The CFAB projects that by 2006 the CF will be in the red.

The CFAB is also concerned about the cost of the CWD response and the Black River fish kill to the Conservation Fund.

This year the "Open Space Plan" is to be renewed. It was recommended that Board members attend Open Space meetings to voice their position about access.

The Fish Hatchery System is need of overhaul, the CFAB would like to see funds included in the budget for this purpose.

The 14/15 year old big game license is a high priority for the CFAB.

There was a question about how much the CWD response cost the Division. John Major will be here tomorrow and should have some of those figures.

The CFAB has a "Wish List" of items to help generate more money for the Conservation fund. This include the 14/15 year old big game license, pay fringe benefits out of General Fund, and several other items.

The CFAB is now getting annual workplans from the Department that lets the council know where the money is being spent.

### **Old business: ATV use**

At the 2005 spring meeting Board members were charged with the task to determine any "Success Stories" with ATV use:

Barbara reported that the ATV trails that were put through County Forestry lands was expanded with leased lands in Villages of West Amboy. The club was having trouble with non-members tearing up trails. The club got permission to issue tickets to non-members.

The Tug Hill commission did a report on the pros and cons of ATV use. The current "chair" is anti-ATV. St. Lawrence has taken a proactive role in allowing ATV use.

### **Chairmans Report - Robert Banks**

Habitat Access Stamp sales increases: Chairman Banks reported on an article about the Snyders Lake Project where no mention was made that the money came from the Habitat Stamp Program.

There needs to be better advertisement about the source of funds. We will go over this in more detail when Jack Cooper provides and update in a few minutes.

Committees will meet after dinner.

**Committee Members:**

The following are the committee member assignments as of 10/28/04

<u>Executive:</u>	Joe Molinaro	Region 3
	Michael Zeh	Region 4
	Bob Banks	Region 5
	Pat Arnold	Region 6
	Bud Woodfield	Region 7
	Emory Green	Region 8
	Walt Hallbauer	Region 9
	Jack Cooper	Secretary
<u>Habitat:</u>	Gary Evans	Chairman
	Richard Fox	
	John Tusch	
	Emory Green	
	Ray Merlatto	
<u>Access:</u>	Bill Pike	Chairman
	Pat Arnold	
	Barlow Rhodes	
	Tom Grow	
<u>Resolutions:</u>	Glenn Larison	Chairman
	Barbara Brown	
	Judy Aldrich	
	Walt Hallbauer	
<u>Legislative:</u>	Bud Woodfield	
	Joe Molinaro	
<u>Farm Days:</u>	Emory Green	
	Joe Molinaro	
	Bud Woodfield	
	Carlton Hatch	
	Pat Arnold	
	Gary Evans	

Nominating: Walt Hallbauer  
 Joe Molinaro  
 Bill Pike

**Habitat/Assess Stamp Grant Application Review - Jack Cooper, Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources**

Highlights:

- ◆ 54 Application received statewide
- ◆ 14 project grants awarded
- ◆ 12 projects currently with contracts executed
- ◆ One project completed and awaiting payment

**Habitat/Access Stamp Proposals Selected for 2004-05**

Region / Project #	Applicant	Grant Request Amount	Contract Executed	Project Description
<b>REGION 1</b>				
1-1	Suffolk County	\$14,999	yes	Construction of Smith Point Access/Fishing Pier on <u>Great South Bay</u>
1-2	Town of Riverhead	\$ 7,000	yes	Grangebel Park Eelway: Construction of eelways at two locations on the <u>Peconic River</u>
<b>REGION 2</b>				
2-1	Prospect Park Alliance	\$14,999	yes	Lullwater Habitat Restoration and Access at <u>Prospect Park</u>
<b>REGION 3</b>				
3-4	Federation of Dutchess County Fish and Game Clubs	\$ 3,000	yes	<u>Silver Lake Access</u> : Parking area and path
<b>REGION 4</b>				
4-8	Town of Oneonta	\$ 2,383	yes	<u>Otego Creek Access</u> : Car top launch, parking, bank stabilization
4-2	Town of North Greenbush	\$ 2,500	yes	<u>Snyders Lake Access</u> : Car top launch, parking and dock
<b>REGION 5</b>				
5-1	Town of Milton	\$10,500	yes	<u>Kayderosseras Creek Access</u> : Parking, handicap access, path, stream improvement
5-3	Batten Kill Watershed Alliance	\$ 3,500	yes	<u>Batten Kill</u> stream improvement: replace rock and log vane to protect eroding bank
<b>REGION 6</b>				
No Project Selected				
<b>Region 7</b>				

7-2	Pheasants Forever	\$ 5,000	no	<u>Upper Lisle WMA</u> Habitat Project: Create grassland habitat, improve access, improve habitat
7-10	Town of Redfield	\$ 6,000	yes	<u>Salmon River Access</u> : Redfield Island Disabled Fishing Access Pier, Parking
<b>REGION 8</b>				
8-6	Friends of Montezuma	\$ 9,000	no	Grassland Habitat Development at <u>Montezuma Wetlands Complex</u> : Site preparation and planting
8-4	Town of Greece	\$ 7,483	yes	Access to Town of Greece Parcel "Burger Property": access road, parking, fishing platform on <u>Buttonwood Creek</u>
<b>REGION 9</b>				
9-2	Wyoming Co SWCD	\$ 5,000	Project completed	<u>Eighteen Mile Creek Access</u> - Joel Harvey Fishing Access Site: Parking, signage to meet ADA requirements
9-7	Town of Evans	\$ 5,000	yes	<u>Wisoy Creek</u> streambank restoration project at Wyoming County Fairgrounds
TOTAL \$96,364				
12 Contract executed, 2 projects awaiting workplan completion and contract signing				

#### Habitat Access Stamp Funding:

- ◆ Current Grants Awards totaling \$96,300
- ◆ Hunting Access posters purchased for \$3,000
- ◆ Habitat Access Grant Site signs purchased for \$300
- ◆ Total currently encumbered approximately \$100,000
- ◆ Current Habitat Account \$149,000
- ◆ Balance approximately \$50,000

For 2005-2006 License year, Habitat Access pins were purchased

- ◆ 16,500 purchased
- ◆ Cost of pin \$0.33 each
- ◆ Mailing cost \$0.48
- ◆ Envelope Cost \$0.23
- ◆ Total cost \$1.04 each
- ◆ Currently sent out 4,8000
- ◆ Total stamps sold approximately 7,000

#### Friday October 28, 2005

#### Committee Reports

#### Executive Committee

Spring 2006 FWM Board meeting to be held in Albany March 30, 31 and April 1.

A resolution from Region 4 to change regulations related to the requirement for a relative to accompany Junior hunters aged 12 and 13. Need to get the Department to tell us why this requirement was included. If necessary the Board will take additional steps to get that removed.

**The Board should write a letter to the Region 7 Board to clarify that our “Access” signs are not legal posted signs and that they were not intended to be. They are designed to foster cooperation between landowners and sportsmen.**

### **Habitat Committee**

Discussion focused on ways to increase funds for the Habitat Access Stamp program. There was an idea about putting a \$1.00 surcharge on the hunting license. Since this approach has worked with the venison donation program. It was suggested that the Board discuss this issue. How can this be implemented? The current fund is bringing in \$30,000 - \$35,000 per year. This money goes into a Habitat Account. The CFAB is responsible for determining how the money is used from the Conservation Fund. If a dollar surcharge was on the license it may go into the CF rather than the Habitat Account. The surcharge would need to be “ear marked” for the Habitat Account.

The Habitat Stamp needs to have time to produce. It has been in affect for 4 years and the pin has been used for 2 years. Some believe that a surcharge would get money into the account quicker. The pin should still be available for collectors.

The only way to make money for the Habitat Account is to make the stamp mandatory. The Department needs to market the Stamp and pin through license sales agents. We need to get pictures and promotions for projects.

The Board should make a request to the Department to determine if a surcharge can be used to raise money for the Habitat Account. The Board should also request that the Department determine if there are other options that can be used to promote and generate revenue for the Habitat Account. Why can't we use the New York Times to promote projects?

Need to require non-residents to pay a surcharge on non-resident license buyers. We also need to determine how CWD impacts non-resident licenses. The state could also use a non-refundable out of state license application fee.

The Regional Boards need to work closer with the news media to promote the Boards mission and the Habitat Access Stamp projects within their region.

Need to work with license sales agents to get them to ask people if they want to purchase a stamp. We could require a \$1.00 surcharge and keep the \$5.00 stamp as well. Should it be included on all licenses?

There is other funds that is funding habitat projects. Some projects are funded out of general funds and from Federal Aid.

Colorado has a “habitat stamp” to acquire and manage habitat in 2006. The stamp is \$5 and required for first two licenses purchased and cost \$10 if purchased without hunting or fishing license and is required to use state land. This could cost considerable to enforce.

This could be called a “user fee” instead of a license increase. Everyone the uses public lands should be required to pay regardless of whether they hunt or fish.

**A motion was duly made by Richard Fox and seconded by Bud Woodfield to request (in the form of a letter) that the Department investigate a one dollar surcharge per license, to be dedicated to the Habitat Fund. The motion was approved.**

Empire Outdoors TV program to air in November. The Habitat Stamp should be promoted on this program in the future. This would allow for downstate exposure.

### **Access Committee**

Looked at what the western states are doing with respect to public access to private land for hunting. Some states are paying landowners to allow access to sportsmen. This should be considered here in New York to have landowners to open lands to hunting. Need to consider the general obligation law when paying for the right to hunt.

The committee is recommending that the Board approach a legislator to write a bill to develop a landowner incentive program to hunt.

**A motion was duly made by Judy Aldrich and seconded by Barbara Brown to ask the Department to explore the opportunity to develop public hunting rights in New York State to be purchased from property owners. This will be in the form of a letter to the Department. There was considerable discussion about the extent that landowners will be willing to lock up their land for an extended period of time. There could also be a problem with opening land to anyone, many farmers open their land to “selected” hunters. There was also a suggestion that perhaps the Farm Bureau and Forest Owners Association could work together to come up with an access proposal. There was a suggestion that the Board could get feedback from Director Barnhart on this issue. There was a call for the vote. The motion was approved.**

The committee mentioned that in some locations canoeists and kayakers are using PFR access sites to launch their boats which is illegal. Some local landowners are also restricting access to PFR on their lands. This has been a problem in Region 5.

### **Resolutions Committee**

- ◆ The Board will prepare a letter of support for the Farm Bureau Policies provided a this years meeting.

- ◆ 2005-02-01 Resolution from Region 6
- ◆ 2005-02-02 Resolution from Region 6
- ◆ 2005-02-03 Resolution from Region 3
- ◆ 2005-02-04 Resolution from Region 4 received on this date by the committee.

These resolutions are presented to the Board by the Resolutions Committee for consideration.

### **Guest Speakers**

#### **Wayne Elloit, Region 3 Fisheries Manager - Water releases in the Delaware Watershed**

The Delaware River is an important and popular fishery in Region 3.

- ◆ **NYC Reservoirs and Tailwaters**
  - Neversink, Pepacton and Cannonsville (12,000 acres, 271 billion gallons)
  - 70 miles of controlled tailwater
  - East, West Branches of Delaware River, Neversink River
- ◆ Coldwater fishery of National significance supporting over 50,000 angler trips/year
- ◆ System contributes to major management problems
  - Water temperature - can exceed both upper and lower tolerance ranges for Brown and Rainbow trout
  - low flows can reduce usable habitat for fish and aquatic organisms
- ◆ Experimental Releases program (establish thermal stress bank) during summer months to provide additional discharge to help cool the waters downstream
- ◆ Bureau of Fisheries monitors water temperatures
- ◆ Droughts are significant problems for the fishery
  - Each reservoir has a operational curve that dictates operation under normal and drought conditions.
- ◆ Operation under drought emergency conditions result in changes in flows and water temperatures impacting usable habitat for trout and aquatic organisms
- ◆ Operation between winter and summer also significantly impacts flows
- ◆ Loss of habitat is a major problem in the tailwaters. As flows change due to drought conditions or summer/winter flow curves, usable habitat changes for different species and age classes of fish
- ◆ Studies by the DEC has shown that adding a little water at certain times can have a big impact on habitat for aquatic organisms, a “Bank of water” is used to augment the flows.
- ◆ The target flow for the Neversink is 115 cfs, East Branch is 175 cfs and the West Branch is 225 cfs.
- ◆ Records show that actual flows fall below target flows a significant amount of time in all tailwaters
- ◆ Temperatures can be both too warm and too cold for optimum fish growth and habitat conditions.
- ◆ The Department needs to continue to work with the NYC to manage the “Coldwater Bank” and rearrangement of the base releases to control flow and temperature.

- ◆ In addition to the way the reservoirs and tailwaters are managed by the City, “mother nature” can cause additional harm to the trout fishery. In 2005 the trout population went down, potentially as a result of 2 major recent flood events.

### **Jeff Williams - NY Farm Bureau**

The Farm Bureau will be hold its annual meeting in December. Jeff indicated that they would try to provide policy books to the Board members. Jeff wanted to thank the Board for helping FB get its hunting policies implemented: Venison Donation program, Saturday Opener in the Souther Tier, and the passage of the rifle bill. The FB has been working effectively with the Assembly to clear up misinformation on issues of importance to the Bureau. The FB feels that it has also had a good working relationship with the Pataki administration.

Important topics that still need to be addressed:

- ◆ 14/15 year old big game hunting, FB would like to see this implemented before the change in administrations
- ◆ Youth waterfowl weekends
- ◆ Quality deer management
- ◆ Landowner incentives for hunting access
- ◆ Bear problems

Jeff fielded some questions from the Board:

- Is the growing number of large farms impacting FB? FB deals with larger farms the same as some farms, one farm/one vote.
- Is the FB representing organic farmers? Yes.
- Is the Ag and Markets requiring 8' fences for deer farms? FB is concerned because it represents over 400 deer farmers.

### **Fran Dunwell - Hudson River Estuary Plan and Greenway**

- ◆ Environmental Conditions create a need for action
  - 1968 no fish in Albany pool
  - Commercial shad fishery landings drop
  - Legacy pollutants affect navigation, health
  - New powerplants proposed
- ◆ 1987 Estuary Law Passed
- ◆ Governor Adopts Action Plan (1996)
  - provides Estuary funding, a Real Plan with Real Money (nearly \$368 million to date)
- ◆ 2005 Draft Action Agenda developed by DEC Staff and advisory committee
- ◆ Ecosystem Management = Team Approach
- ◆ Goals and Targets guide the plan - create a conservation template for “partners” such as Local Govts, NFPs, State and Fed Agencies, NY-NJ Harbor Estuary, Hudson River Valley Greenway and others
- ◆ Grants - over past 5 year \$5.5 million to 171 applicants

- ◆ Project Managers within the DEC include, Division's of Water, Fish and Wildlife, Lands and Forests, Public Affairs and others.
- ◆ Still Problems today: Shad and Sturgeon over-harvested, recovery will take decades
- ◆ Forage fish possibly over-harvested for bait (eel and herring); Striped bass thriving
- ◆ Goal: Assure health and recovery of key fisheries
- ◆ What We've Done: Significantly reduced mortality for shad/sturgeon, Managed the explosive growth of the striper fishery, First ever studies on eels, black bass, blue crab and oysters, Identifying habitats by season and life stage
- ◆ Problem: Extensive Habitat Loss, 1/3 of River above Catskill Fille with Dredged Spoil
- ◆ Goal: Conserve habitats for all life stages
- ◆ What We've Done: Mapped river bottom, submerged aquatic beds, tidal wetlands, developed a habitat restoration plan
- ◆ Problem: Runoff is 90% of remaining pollution source
- ◆ Stormwater Regulations will be the key
- ◆ Goal: Conserve Watershed Resources
  - Goal 1: to swim in the Hudson by 2009
  - Goal 2: to remove pollution impairments
- ◆ Problems: Land use results in Loss of biodiversity
  - Conserve plant and animals
  - Conserve open space and scenic vistas
  - Educate people about the Hudson River and Estuary
- ◆ Lack of Access is a problem
- ◆ Goal: Create Regional system of access
- ◆ Make the Hudson a showcase for people living with nature

### **Howard Goebel, NYS Canal Corporation, Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Access on the NYS Canal System**

The Barge Canal opened in 1918. It is 535 miles long, contains 57 navigation locks and connects connects Albany to Buffalo. The canal was once the primary way to move cargo across the state. Its use peaked in 1951, but with the opening of the NYS Thruway in 1953, use quick began to decline.

In 1992 the NYS Canal System was created and shifted from NYS-DOT to the NYS Thruway. The name changed from the Barge Canal to the NYS Canal System. The NYS Canal System includes the Erie Canal, the Champlain Canal, the Oswego Canal, and the Cayuga Seneca Canal.

Under the NYS Canal System, the canal has undergone a transformation from a Barge Canal to a recreational canal system. It still includes some commercial traffic and commercial traffic is growing with the fuel price increases. There are several tour boats operating on the Canal. The recreational aspect of the Canal system continues to grow each year.

In addition to the Canal System, we are in the process of completing the New York State Canalway Trail, a trail from Albany to Buffalo. The Canalway Trail provides a great deal of

access to Canal lands beyond what existed before. Prior to the Canalway Trail, the majority of Canal Lands were only accessible by water.

The Canal Corporation manages 23,000 acres of land above water and 36,000 acres including lands underwater. With the exception of our northern reservoirs, the Canal lands are essentially long narrow strips of land adjacent to the canal. Much of the land is only accessible through private property.

Hunting: New York State Canal Rules and Regulations

Section 150.6(e)(11) “no person shall carry firearms on canal lands”

Section 150.11 “prohibits hunting on, at, or near canal locks or any other canal structure:”

NYS Penal Law definition of firearm “prohibits the carrying of a pistol or revolver; shotgun whose barrel(s) are less than 18 inches in length; a rifle whose barrel(s) are less than 16 inches in length; and any weapon made from a shotgun or rifle with an overall length of less than 26 inches” Canal Regulations are interpreted as prohibiting hunting on, at or within 500 feet of a canal lock or structure.

However, Canal Regulations do not define the term firearm. NYS Penal Law definition of firearm “prohibits the carrying of a pistol or revolver; shotgun whose barrel(s) are less than 18 inches in length; a rifle whose barrel(s) are less than 16 inches in length; and any weapon made from a shotgun or rifle with an overall length of less than 26 inches.” Therefore, the Canal Regulations are interpreted as prohibiting hunting on, at or within 500 feet of a canal lock or structure. Otherwise hunting is permissible on canal lands.

Trapping is allowed, but it is governed by Environmental Conservation Law and /or local ordinances. Traps cannot be set within 50 feet of the Canal Trail.

Oneida Lake is one of New York's most versatile fishing holes, and a major rest stop for ducks winging south on the Atlantic Flyway. Many local residents start October mornings by decoying a duck or two along Oneida's shore, then follow up by catching a few walleyes. Waterfowl hunters can hunt from shore in the Three Mile Bay WMA on the north side of the lake. There are over 26 access points on Oneida Lake.

Other public fishing points include four sites on Seneca Lake and two sites on Delta Reservoir. Other public access opportunities exist on the Mohawk River, Champlain Canal, Cayuga Lake, Seneca River, Oswego Canal and Hinckley Reservoir.

### **Partnering with Canal Communities**

In an effort to gather input and ideas from local officials, community and business leaders, and other groups interested in the Canal's future, Carmella R. Mantello, Director of the New York State Canal Corporation, is visiting Canal communities this summer and fall. Ms. Mantello is talking with community and business leaders as well as grassroots groups through regional

meetings to generate local collaboration in mapping the future of the Erie Canal Greenway. The goal of the Canal Connections Tour is not only to generate local input, but also to address each Canal region's concerns, while integrating their visions for the waterfront. The recommendations are anticipated to be delivered in a report to the Governor by December 2005.

The Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor includes the 524 miles of navigable canal that comprise the New York State Canal System, including the Erie, Cayuga-Seneca, Oswego, and Champlain Canals, plus the historic alignments of these canals and the 234 cities, towns, and villages that lie immediately adjacent to the navigable waterway and the historic alignments.

### **What is a heritage corridor?**

A national heritage corridor or area is a place designated by Congress, where natural, cultural, historic and recreational resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally distinctive landscape arising from patterns of human activity shaped by geography. More than that, they each have the capability to describe and convey nationally significant stories about the evolution of the United States. A corridor generally follows a linear landscape feature, either natural or human-built. An area is not bound by a linear pattern of landscape use. In either case, these patterns make national heritage areas or corridors representative of the national experience through the physical features that remain and the traditions that have evolved within them. Continued use of the national heritage areas and corridors by people whose traditions helped to shape the landscapes enhances their significance. Since 1984, about two dozen special places have been so designated.

There issue of Hunting, Trapping and Fishing access to the Canal System and Canal Corporation lands is an issue that needs improvement and it will be included in the December report to the Governor to ensure that recreational opportunities are maximized along the NYS Canal System.

For further information on New York State Canals check out their web site at:

<http://www.canals.state.ny.us> Or call toll free: 1-800-4Canal4

### **Robert Lucas, Director of Division of Law Enforcement**

Director Lucas has worked to make positive changes to the Division of Law Enforcement including:

- ◆ Replace the state telephone in ECOs residences
- ◆ Get ECOs names and addresses back in the F&G guide next year
- ◆ Wants to integrate ECOs back into their community and local sportsman community
- ◆ Improve the Marine enforcement unit from Long Island to Tapinzee Bridge
- ◆ 2 new K-9 units, in Region 7 and 9
- ◆ Working on have a K-9 unit to work waterfowl season on Long Island
- ◆ Developing a true "undercover" unit
- ◆ Coordinating of the Enforcement effort on the CWD response
- ◆ Will be working on a "dangerous animal" detail next year
- ◆ Stepping up emission control enforcement

- ◆ Working cooperatively with Conservation Council to try to improve the “Tip Line” Program
- ◆ Developing “MORE teams” to conduct more proactive enforcement
- ◆ Division Direction is working on pay schedules for entry level ECOs, helping ECOs work through binding arbitration and on the “up-grade” package.

### **John Major, Chief, Bureau of Wildlife: Deer Management Update**

#### Fall 2005 Big Game Season Changes:

- ◆ Southern Zone Special Archery Season; Saturday opener after Columbus Day, continues until opening of regular season, October 15 - November 18 (35 days)
- ◆ Southern Zone Regular Season; Opens 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in November (November 19-December 11) (23 days)
- ◆ Southern Zone late archery and muzzleloader seasons; First day after close of the regular season, concurrent archery and muzzleloader seasons, nine days.
- ◆ Antler Restriction Pilot program; WMUs 3C and 3J for 3 years, 3 points on either side, 90% of yearling bucks could survive to 2 ½ year class.
- ◆ Southern Zone Bear Season; Catskills-Monday after Saturday opener; Allegany Region-Saturday after Saturday opener.
- ◆ Rifle Law Amendment was signed by Governor

#### Management of Chronic Wasting Disease in Wild Deer in New York

- ◆ A progressive central nervous system disease affecting deer and elk (most recently moose), caused by an abnormal “prion” and is always fatal.
- ◆ May take 12 months to 15 years for symptoms to show up
- ◆ Results in changes in behavior, weight loss, death
- ◆ Brain stem, tonsils and lymph nodes used by diagnosis
- ◆ Currently no evidence that CWD is transmitted to humans, research is on-going
- ◆ Hunters should harvest healthy animals, wear latex gloves, use good sanitation and properly dispose of animal part in landfill
- ◆ Over 3500 deer tested in NYS
- ◆ DEC is cooperating with Ag and Markets, Cornell, USDA
- ◆ Currently 5 deer have been detected from captive herds in Oneida County and 2 deer from the wild in same vicinity.
- ◆ DEC CWD response plan: science based, adaptive management strategy, determine if CWD is in wild population, describe distribution and prevalence in NY.
- ◆ Department initiated incident command structure and established 10 mile perimeter
- ◆ Goal to sample up to 420 deer through shooting and collecting roadkills, 670 deer were sampled including hunter killed, with 2 positives.
- ◆ CWD Regulations:
  - April 2002 - present; ban importation of live deer and elk, feeding ban added, parts and carcasses restricted, cooperation with Ag and Markets herd certification
  - April 2005 - amended regulation to establish a containment area in Oneida County and Madison County

- Mandatory deer check in containment area
- DEC will collect tissues for CWD sampling
- Prohibit movement of animal parts outside containment area
- provides for specific taxidermist records and reporting, prohibits rehab of wild deer with captive, prohibit sale of deer feed for wild deer and require retailers to display signs on feed.

◆ *Hunter Toll Free Number 1-866-NYS-CWD1*

**Mike Schiavone- Biologist, Bureau of Wildlife - Wildlife Management Areas and FWMAs and Update:**

- ◆ Land Management Team - each DEC region has a member
- ◆ Team Mission:

Develop and implement an overall management process for the maintenance and operation of Wildlife Management and Cooperatives Areas on a statewide basis to include the allocation of funds, management procedures, recreational development, and reporting.

Institute reporting procedures which are flexible enough to lead to better communications with the public and Department administrators, and which are consistent with Federal Aid reporting requirements.

- ◆ Wildlife management areas- in 2005, 129 areas administered by the Bureau of Wildlife
- ◆ How is wildlife Management paid for on wildlife management areas
  - Federal Aid - 74%
  - General Fund - 15%
  - Stewardship Funds - 11%
- ◆ Land Management Considerations:
  - Habitat Management
  - Operation and Maintenance
  - Public Access
  - Funding
  - Co-op Agreements
  - Contracts, personnel, coordination of partners, special projects
- ◆ Regional allocation of resources to WMAs is based upon each Region's maintainable assets
- ◆ Regions 6, 8 and 9 have the most over 20 per region, Region 7 has the most acres, 55,114
- ◆ WMAs are composed of forest land (57%), wetland (25%), open land (14%) and open water (4%)
- ◆ Operation and Maintenance: construct and maintain structures, roads, bridges, building, parking areas, pull-offs, trails, viewing platforms, etc.
- ◆ Habitat Management: restoration, WLCS, mowing, timber harvest, agriculture, nest structures, control exotics

- ◆ Future Challenges in Land Management: social, biological and administrative
- ◆ Trends in LM- Landscape-scale mgmt.
- ◆ Costs continue to rise for all aspects of land management while assets are stable or declining.

### **Fish and Wildlife Management Act Cooperative Areas**

1958 Fish & Wildlife Management Act

- Institute sound fish & wildlife mgmt practices on private lands
- To make such lands accessible to public hunting & fishing

Gave the DEC authority to work on private lands, set standards of Management on these lands and allowed for co-op agreements between DEC and landowners.

In 2005 there are 39 co-op areas statewide totaling 143,882 acres of which 94% is located in Region 6.

Co-op acreage has declined from a high of 500,000 acres in the late 70s to what it is today.

Why???

- ◆ Competing land values
- ◆ Lack of an incentive for landowners
- ◆ Too many hunters
- ◆ Changes in social values of rural landowners
- ◆ Lack of Bureau of Wildlife personnel to administer

Future of FWMA Program

- ◆ Focus on areas that provide significant value
- ◆ Conduct cost-benefit analysis to determine which agreements to renew and which to discontinue

Example: Quality Deer Management at Kings Ferry Co-op

### **Marcelo DelPeurto, Bureau of Wildlife, Landowner Incentive Program**

A partnership between the NYS DEC and private landowners for wildlife conservation.

- Land must be privately owned.
- Property must be located in project focus area.
- Project must benefit at-risk species.
- Acreage eligible for LIP must not already be enrolled in a similar program (e.g. WHIP).
- Project must include at least 25 % non-federal match.

Projects: \$1.2 million awarded by USFWS in 2004

- ◆ Grassland Birds \$600,000 federal, 200,000 state match
- ◆ Indiana Bats \$110,000 federal, 36,667 state match
- ◆ Bog turtles \$300,000 federal, 100,000 state match

### Grassland Bird Habitat

- ◆ Bird populations have been declining due to habitat loss and ecological success
- ◆ Most large grasslands are privately-owned
- ◆ Grassland Birds Program-manage grassland habitats to benefit at-risk species
- ◆ Identify focus areas throughout NYS
- ◆ Habitat Management-maintain early stage succession by: mowing, grazing, burning

### Gating Indiana Bat Hibernacula

- ◆ Most vulnerable during hibernation
- ◆ Hibernacula located on private property
- ◆ Gating is key conservation measure
- ◆ At risk species: Indiana Bat, Small-footed Bat

### Threats to Bats

- ◆ Loss of summer habitat
- ◆ Loss of Hibernacula
- ◆ Pesticide poisoning/loss of prey species
- ◆ Disturbance during hibernation
- ◆ Indiana Bat Population has been declining from 1960s

### Bog Turtles/Open canopy (freshwater wetlands)

- ◆ Protect most important habitat from development
- ◆ Prevent ecological succession and exotic invasions
- ◆ Restore hydrology
- ◆ Predator control
- ◆ Headstarting

### At Risk Species (open canopy wetlands)

- ◆ Bog turtle
- ◆ Spotted turtle
- ◆ Wood turtle
- ◆ Bog buck moth

Create landowner incentive program "Focus Areas"

### Future LIP Projects

- ◆ Karner Blue Butterfly habitat - Albany Pine Bush, Saratoga Counties
- ◆ Shorebirds/Colonial Waterbirds: Barrier Beach Habitat: Long Island, Lake Ontario
- ◆ Vernal Ponds: Selected areas throughout NYS

**Saturday October 29, 2005**

Chairman Banks called the meeting to order at 8:30 am.

Members commented that it was a good meeting and that the Hudson Valley Resort and Spa provided good facilities. Members also stated that the Department provided excellent reports.

### **Resolutions**

**A motion was made by Chuck Couture and seconded by Judy Aldrich that the Board prepare a letter of support for the “New York Farm Bureau 2005 Policies for Consideration By the NYS Fish and Wildlife Management Board Fall 2005” that was presented at the 2005 Fall Meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.**

1) Resolution 2005-02-01 Title: Resolution in Support of increasing the budget for regional FWM Boards from \$400.00 per year to \$800.00 per year. **A motion was duly made by William Pike and seconded by Judy Aldrich to support resolution 2005-02-01. The motion was unanimously approved..**

2) Resolution 2005-02-02 Title: Resolution in Support the establishment of a Department of Environmental Conservation Staff Training Center/Incident Command Center for the purposes of training of all Department Staff. **A motion was duly made by William Pike and seconded by Judy Aldrich to support resolution 2005-02-02. The motion was unanimously approved.**

3) Resolution 2005-03-03 Title: Resolution in support of the Department of Environmental Conservation taking the lead role with other state departments and agencies to provide access to state owned properties for hunters. **A motion was duly made by Barbara Brown and seconded by William Pike to support resolution 2005-02-03. The motion was unanimously approved.**

4) Resolution 2005-02-04 Title: : Resolution in Support of changing the Environmental Conservation Law Article 11-0929, to allow any licensed adult hunter 21 years of age to accompany young new hunters between the ages of 12 and 14. **A motion was duly made by Judy Aldrich and seconded by Barbara Brown to support resolution 2005-02-04. The motion was approved.**

### Possible Topics for Spring Meeting

- ◆ 14/15 year old hunter bill for next year
- ◆ Crossbow bill
- ◆ Youth opportunities that the Department can assist with
- ◆ Ideal population levels for deer and turkey in NYS
- ◆ Bird flu
- ◆ Law Enforcement update from Robert Lucas
- ◆ Invite some other groups such as: Serria Club, Nature Conservancy, Audubon, NYS Power Authority, Parks and Rec, Department of Transportation

Meeting was adjourned at 10:00 am.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Jack G. Cooper  
Biologist 3 (Ecology)  
Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources

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.