

New York State FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD



Minutes-NYS Fish and Wildlife Management Board 101st Meeting, October 25-27, 2007 held at the Ramada Inn, Watertown, NY

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 pm by Chairperson Arnold
Invocation was given by Tom Grow.

It was requested that the Board remember the illnesses of John Tusch and Harry Woodfield and a moment of silence in memory of Tim Noga.

Roll Call (Present at all or part of meeting)

Board Members Present

Region	Landowner	Sportsman	Legislator
3	Robert Ewald	Joseph Molinaro	Absent
4	Absent	Michael Zeh	Absent
5	William Pike	Laurie Bruce	Robert Banks Cathy Moses- Alternate
6	Ann Tibbets	Patricia Arnold	Tom Grow
7	Eugene Blumer	Jim Petreszyn	Barbara Brown
8	Gary Evans	John Andrews	Glenn Larison
9	Jim Agle	Walt Hallbauer	Charles Couture

Advisors Members Present

NYSDEC- Patricia Riexinger, Jack Cooper
 NYS Farm Bureau- Barlow Rhodes
 NY Grange- Dwight Widger
 Izaak Walton League of America-Absent
 NYS Conservation Council- Dan Tone
 NYS Forest Practice Board- Richard Fox
 Conservation Fund Advisory Board- William Pike

SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry- Jacqueline Frair
Cornell University- Tommy Brown
SWDC/Ag and Markets- John Shumacher

Guests

Charlie Hancock - CFAB
Harold Palmer - NYSCC
Dave Miller - CANY
Linda Sicily - CFAB
John Major - NYSDEC
Ed Woltman- NYSDEC
Judy Drabicki- Director, Region 6
Richard McDonald- FWMB Secretary Region 6
Frank Flack- Fisheries Manager Region 6
Bill Gordon- Wildlife Manager Region 6
Dave Smith- Region 6

Approval of Previous Minutes, Fall 2007

A motion was duly made by Chuck Couture and seconded by Walt Hallbauer to accept the Spring 2007 minutes. There was discussion by Jim Petreszyn that the “resolution” referred to in the minutes from Region 7 in opposition to the “SUMMIT’s” visible fishing license proposal was not intended to be adopted by the state board, but was intended as a recommendation by the Region 7 board in opposition to the proposal. He requested that the fall minutes be changed to reflect that position by the regional board. Those changes were made and the motion to accept the Spring 2007 minutes as revised was unanimously approved.

Welcome to the Fall 2007 meeting and Region 6 from Judy Drabicki, Regional Director.

Regional Reports

Region 3 - Pre-filed report

Written report filed with the State Board Secretary.

Board meetings held in May, June and September. Long time Dutchess County Landowner delegate Bob Underhill retired from the Board.

Members met with Orange County Executive in an ongoing effort to open county owned land to access for hunting, fishing and trapping where appropriate. The county has extensive land holdings.

“Wounded Warrior” program held this spring included several turkey hunts. Expanded participation in the program is planned. Discussions are underway with the U.S. Military Academy at West Point to gain access for future hunts.

Working with Sportsman Federations to allow electric motors for fishing on NYC reservoirs.

Working to improve access to lands managed by the State Office of Parks and Recreation and Historic Preservation throughout the Region.

Helped to organize and manage two youth pheasant hunts in Dutchess and Putnam Counties.

Ongoing discussions on new hunter recruitment and the promotion of hunting, fishing and trapping in the region and state.

The Board continues to monitor access facilities within the Region to ensure and optimize hunting, fishing and trapping opportunities.

Respectfully submitted by,
Region 3 FWM Board

Summarized from written report by State Board Secretary

Region 4- Pre-filed report

Written report filed with the State Board Secretary.

The Region 4 Board held meetings in April, June and September.

Dick Henry reported on the two year reproduction survey for the Whitetail deer which included several hundred reproductive tract samples taken in region 4. The study is a reproduction/fetus survey to look at conception rates for different age does. The study will run through April 2008. Tentative results indicated that older does (2 ½ and older) are bred more often than younger does.

Meeting was held at Glimmerglass State Park to discuss the problems with access to Otsego Lake. Access is restricted as a result of local political pressures and local lakeshore owners.

Habitat/Access stamp grant selection process is underway. Process was reopened with several new projects submitted, final decisions are expected in late August.

Freemans Bridge access project was completed for the bass season opener. Zebra mussels have been found in Otsego lake.

Preliminary field work has begun on the five year Comprehensive Coyote Study conducted by graduate students from SUNY ESF. Their goal is to radio collar 20 Coyotes. One study area is in Region 4's Otsego County.

VHS Disease has not be found in Region 4.

Gene Kelly has been appointed the new Director for Region 4.

Respectfully submitted by Michael Zeh
FWMB Region 4 Sportsman Representative

Summarized from written report by State Board Secretary

Region 5 Pre-filed Report

Written report filed with the State Board Secretary.

Region 5 Wildlife Staff meet with 3 representative of the Altai Republic of Russia to discuss wildlife management in the Adirondack Forest Preserve. The Russians manage 300,000 acres in Asia with a large population of endangered snow leopards.

The American Martin radio tagging survey continues under the direction of Wildlife Biologist Paul Jensen.

DEC's Landowner Incentive Program could target Fort Edwards Grasslands for protection. LIP could be used to protect this important grassland bird area. The area is used by short eared owls and other important grassland bird species.

Groundbreaking event held for the South Bay Accessible Fishing Pier.

Improvements were made to several regional boat launches, fisherman access areas and parking areas; including, Upper Saranac Lake Boat Launch, Mossy Point boat launch, Batten Kill PFR trail and parking lot.

Respectfully submitted by
FWMB Region 5

Summarized from written report by State Board Secretary

Region 6 Pre-filed Report

Written report filed with the State Board Secretary

The past year has been an eventful time for the R6 FWMB and included the following activities:

1. Planning for and hosting the Fall 2007 State FWMB meeting in Watertown.
 - a. Provided coordination for Hotel Accommodations to the State FWMB
 - b. Provided logistics and coordination of Field Trip to Ft. Drum
2. Maintained open communications with the Region 6 Wildlife, Fisheries, Lands & Forests, Law Enforcement, and the Department of Environmental Conservation in general.
3. Maintained and promoted interest in the Habitat/Access Stamp Program within Region 6.
 - a. A total of eight (8) projects were submitted for consideration in Region 6. Seven (7) projects were Access related and one (1) project was a Habitat enhancement initiative.
4. The R6 FWMB provided support for the R6 DEC staffing needs through resolutions and informal requests.
 - a. Utica Wetlands Biologist (position filled after a 1-year vacancy)
 - b. St. Lawrence River Fish & Wildlife Technician II (position filled after a 3-year vacancy)
 - c. Division of Law Enforcement (R6 was at full complement of ECO's for much of 2007)
5. Youth Hunting Legislation
 - a. The R6 FWMB offered support at every opportunity.

6. Youth Pheasant Hunts
 - a. The R6 FWMB provided support for 3 Youth Pheasant Hunts
 - i. 1 in St. Lawrence County
 - ii. 2 in Lewis County
7. R6 FWMB Administration
 - a. The R6 FWMB has developed a committee for drafting and adopting by-laws specifically for the R6 FWMB.
 - b. The Adopt-a-By-Laws Committee should have a draft version of the R6 FWMB By-Laws for review by early 2008.
8. The R6 FWMB was consulted and kept informed of a number of issues with both regional and statewide importance. The R6 FWMB offered support or resolutions on a number of these issues such as the following:
 - a. Proposed Trapping Regulation Changes (“dog proof issues”).
 - b. Wildlife diseases (e.g. VHS, CWD, Type E Botulism ... etc.).
 - c. Wind Farm Development within the region.
 - d. Low Water issues (e.g. Hinckley Reservoir – West Canada Creek fishing closure).
 - e. Various proposed fishing regulation changes.
 - f. Identifying Public Fishing Rights/Fishing Access Sites development and operational issues.
 - g. Invasive Species Issues – (State lands, potential habitat impacts)
 - h. All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Impacts
 - i. UMP development process
 - j. Fort Drum Development Related Issues and Hunting & Fishing Access through FWMA agreement.

Report respectfully submitted by
 Richard MacDonald, Secretary
 Region 6 FWM Board

Region 7 Pre-filed report

Written report filed with the State Board Secretary

The regional board continues to push legislation to lower the cost of a snowmobile registration used exclusively for hunting, trapping and fishing. A Senate bill passed during the last session, the board will continue to seek Assembly support in the coming year.

The regional board participated in the review of Habitat Access Stamp grant projects. The Habitat/Access sub committee is working to revive legislation for a mandatory H/A Stamp.

The Board continues to be active in participating in all UMPs occurring in the Region. The Board is working well with DEC Lands and Forests, providing attendance at public meetings and written comments to DEC staff.

The Regional Board has been successful in working with Parks and Recreation to consider additional recreational opportunity for sportsmen and women. The Board is working on getting access over Parks and Recreation lands on Cazenovia Lake for hand launching and ice fishing access. The Board is working on getting limited archery hunting open on certain park lands.

The Board commented on the DEC's revision to the trapping regulations limiting the use of some body gripping traps. The Board will continue to review further revisions and comment as necessary.

Region 7 hosted the NYS Conservation Fund Advisory Board meeting this year, including a 3 day field trip to the region.

The Board continues to pursue access to Cazenovia Lake with the Village of Cazenovia for a permits system allowing non-residents of the Village, access to the boat launch owned and operated by the village of Cazenovia.

Trout Unlimited is requesting a catch and release site on 1.7 miles of Chittenango Creek, the Board is reviewing.

The Board is working with the Region 7 DEC on the Open Space Committee. This relationship has resulted in several properties being added that allow traditional recreational activities.

Respectfully submitted by
Jim Petreszyn, Chairman
Region 7 FWM Board

Summarized from written report by State Board Secretary

Region 8 - Pre-filed report

Written report filed with the State Board Secretary

The Region 8 Board was involved in reviewing two Habitat Access Stamp projects from Region 8.

The Board was involved in the Empire Farm Days that exposed the Board to thousands of people from across New York. The Board also sold Habitat Stamps at this event.

The Board was also involved in the National Hunting and Fishing Days at the Region 8 Office in Avon.

The Region 8 Board passed a resolution in support of urging the City of Rochester, County of Monroe, State of New York and not-for-profit organizations to work cooperatively to preserve the lands around Canadice and Hemlock Lakes and their watersheds and to continue to allow hunting and fishing opportunities on these lands.

Submitted by,
Rick Page
Gary Evans
Glenn Larison

Summarized from written report by State Board Secretary

Region 9 Pre-Filed Report

Written report filed with the State Board Secretary

Region 9 Board held 2 meetings since the Spring statewide meeting.

The Board hosted ECO Jim Hunt and his K-9 Matz.

Region 9 Natural Resources Supervisor Russ Biss and Wildlife Manager Mark Kandel are looking at acquiring additional property for the Chautauqua Lake Fish and Wildlife Management Area. Fisheries staff are working on improvements to the access to the lower Niagara River through funding from the Robert Moses Power Project and Occidental Chemical.

A fishing access site on Eighteen Mile Creek has met resistance from residents.

Problems with the spread of the Emeralds Ash Borer was discussed.

Long time Region 9 ECO and currently ECO Captain Gary Bobseine retired, Dave Bennett has taken over as Region 9 Captain.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Jim Agle, Chairman, Region 9

Summarized from written report by State Board Secretary

Advisory Members Reports

Farm Bureau- Barlow Rhodes

Annual meeting to be held in Buffalo in December. Barlow reviewed the 2007 Farm Bill, the bill is not very understandable. Unclear who will be administering certain aspects of bills activities. He feels the current cost of corn and wheat could impact the various conservation initiatives in the bill because of the high value of crops. The conservation reserve program does help wildlife.

Izaak Walton League Report- No Report

New York Grange by Dwight Widger

No Report

New York State Conservation Council by Dan Tone

Working to get hunting age reduced to allow younger hunters to participate. Working with the SUMMIT to make it happen. Also working on a mentor bill with the DEC. Trying to get language in the bill to improve the proposal. Working on youth pheasant hunts and youth small game hunt during the same time as the youth pheasant hunt.

Hunters are loosing access to wetlands on Long Island where lands are owned by Towns and Counties. Some Towns may be trying get laws to restrict firearms on town property.

Conservation Fund Advisory Board Report - Charlie Hancock reported the the Habitat and Access Stamp last year about 8,000 stamps were sold which is less than .6% of license holders in the state. Non-residents purchased about 250 stamps. If the Habitat and Access stamp could become mandatory those numbers could increase dramatically. We have a tremendous opportunity if they were mandatory. The Board should consider pushing for a mandatory habitat stamp. Many other states already have a mandatory stamp. This will take legislative approval to get this change.

Report by William Pike- Robert Manochio has resigned as chairman and Charlie Hancock has been elected chairman of the CFAB. Long time CFAB member John Long passed away recently. Craig Tryon has resigned from the Board. Howie Cushing from NYSCC has been appointed to the board.

The DEC will be providing the CFAB the Department financial report in November for the period ending April of the same year so instead of being a year and a half behind it will only be 6 months behind.

The Habitat Stamp income as of the end of September 2007 was 7196 resident stamps for \$34,000 and non-resident was 402 sold for a total to the Habitat Account of \$36,166. Last years total was 7714 resident stamps sold for \$36,679. It looks like this year will be higher than last year.

So far this year there has been 51,018 non-resident licenses sold. If non residents were required to purchase a habitat stamp that would have generated \$255,090 for the Habitat Account.

New York State Forest Practice Board- Richard Fox

Board is not functioning at this time. Poor support from the DEC.

There are issues that need to be addressed; lack of sustainable management on state forest lands, and the lack of input into the management of private forest lands by competent public foresters. There are other issues that relate to management state forest lands as defined in the public forest act.

Richard suggested that the FWM Board might seek to take over the functions of the Forest Practices Board. Although there may be some conflicts in wildlife management goals.

State Soil and Water Conservation Distrits/State Ag and Markets by John Shumacher written report provided.

New Commissioner of Ag and Markets, Patrick Hooker. Funding of Ag projects under Environmental Protection Fund is in its 14th round with over 60 million dollars distributed, 12.8 million approved for this round. The program is targeting Best Management Practices to be implemented by farmers. One example is the stream corridor management program to protect streams from grazing and farming.

The AEM program which provides non-competitive funding for districts to inventory assess, plan, implement and evaluate environmental stewardship on farms in priority watersheds. This is year 2 of the program. This program helps with Comprehensive Nutrient Management

Planning. The AEM program provides statewide outreach, training, and recognition for the agricultural community.

The NYS Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (NYS CREP) which helps farmers convert environmentally sensitive farmland to conservation buffers. This is a cost-sharing program.

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences-Cornell University by Tommy Brown written report provided.

A 2007 statewide deer hunter survey was completed with the following preliminary results:

- Deer hunting population is aging with a mean age of 41 (1989) and 48 in 2006.
- Mean days hunted has increased from 8-9 in previous study to 10 in 2006.
- Hunters applying for DMU increased from 57% to 74% in 2006.
- The number of hunting filling DMU permits have decreased from 23% in 1997 to 20% in 2006. However with more permits being issued the kill has actually increased.
- The Saturday opener added 10% more hunters.
- More hunters were dissatisfied with buck hunting opportunities in areas they traditionally hunted. Biggest area of dissatisfaction was in Southeastern NY and NYC metropolitan areas.
- Only 6% of big game hunters (deer hunters) actively hunt bears but 2/3 of all hunters would harvest a bear if had the opportunity.

The Human Dimensions Research Unit (HDRU) assessed the experimental antler restriction program in Ulster County. The results were really mixed, more hunters were satisfied in WMUs 3H and 3K while more were dissatisfied in units 3C and 3J. Almost half of all respondents in Ulster County saw no change in the proportion of older bucks after the second year.

The HDRU did a mail survey last fall concerning deer damage to residences in and around the Cornell campus. Most people responded feel that deer are having a negative impact on both Cornell and adjacent community properties.

The HDRU also recently completed a study of forest owners, looking at those who lived on the property and those who did not.

A statewide angler survey is being conducted this year with a sampling of 17,000 anglers. This is a followup of previous surveys. The study will be in 3 phases, looking at different times of year.

SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry by Dr. Jacqueline Frair written report provided.

Three research projects were summarized:

- Freshwater adaption and early invasion of Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia Virus into the Great Lakes Basin- looking at the role of round goby with the smallmouth bass and musky.
- A risk assessment of a chronic wasting disease outbreak in New York- radio tracking deer to detect deer movement in and around the CWD containment areas.

- Population status and foraging ecology of eastern coyotes in New York State- looking at coyote distribution and abundance and interaction with deer.

Report on new DEC trapping regulation changes- Dave Miller- CANY/NY Trappers

New regulations have some controversial provisions that limit body gripping trap sizes and placing traps on public lands near trails (100 foot set back). These provisions are not popular with the trapping community. Comment period on regs run through November 2.

Commissioner put out a news release on trapping regulations. The new commissioner seems to support NY trappers. However the NY Trappers Association did not have input into the change resulting in the 100 foot setback.

Chairmans Report - Pat Arnold

Chairperson Arnold invited Kathleen Richardson who is a 14 year old hunter to come and share her experiences with access for hunting, mentoring.

Chairperson Arnold introduced Alan Brown, a cooperating landowner who is allowing youth hunts on his farm. He explained how he got involved with the youth hunting and how he works with local sportsmen groups to help sponsor youth hunts and raise pheasants for the hunt.

Report on the SUMMIT by Charles Hancock, CFAB

Update on current situation:

A goal is to allow sportsmen to present a united front in the fight to preserve hunting in New York State by the 4 Sportsmens organizations that have been recognized by the Governor and the NYS Legislature:

- CFAB
- NYS Conservation Council
- NYS Fish and Wildlife Management Board
- NY Conservation Alliance

Purpose is to identify conservation issues and initiatives that the organized groups could agree on. These initiatives may require legislative, regulatory or policy actions to implement.

Three issues were selected:

- Program to allow junior hunters to hunt big game
- Create a surcharge on hunting and fishing violations to go into conservation fund
- Ban on sale of angler caught pan fish

Next step was to go out to sportsmens groups to gain their support for the issues selected by the SUMMIT. Original attempt was not as successful as hoped. SUMMIT requested comments on the original list of issues and add any new issues they felt were important.

The SUMMIT will continue to push these initiatives.

There was discussion on the difficulty for people without divers licenses to purchase a habitat stamp and that youth could not purchase habitat stamps.

Overview of Fort Drum and Friday tour by Ray Rainbolt, Department of the Army Wildlife Manager

Fort Drum consists of over 107,000 acres, 69,000 is open for recreational use (including hunting, fishing and trapping).

Evening of October 25, 2007 Committee meetings

Friday October 26, 2007

Fort Drum Field Trip

ATV use on State Land by Judy Drabicki, Region 6 Director

ATVs on state land are used to provide access for hunting, fishing and trapping. However the DEC does not have a specific program related to ATV use. The ATV policy is being prepared and should be available soon.

ATV use can cause serious damage to the lands, causing erosion and permanent damage to wetlands and can disrupt wildlife when not properly regulated. ATVs on state lands need to be used on hardened roads and can cause additional maintenance requirements. The State has acquired considerable land recently and the use of ATVs on these lands remains to be worked out. Some state lands and easements have designated routes for ATVs. The new policy will have a 45 day comment period and it was recommended that Board members review and make comments.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee presented by Walt Hallbauer

Access by written permission only posted signs, all signs have been distributed. Will work out an order for additional signs. There has been a problem with knowing where the signs go and how they are being used. The Executive Committee asked the Access Committee to come up with a form that can be used when posted signs are passed out to track their use. Discussed the goals and objectives of the Board, originally was to create management measures that could be used by local landowners and sportsmen. When the Board was first created the Department was the Game and Fish Department and later it become the Department of Environmental Conservation with more responsibilities that just fish and game.

Publicity is not being handled effectively by the Board. We might be able to get help from the DEC Office of Public Affairs. We will see about including this on the spring meeting agenda.

Spring meeting will be March 27-29, 2008 in Albany area and the Fall meeting will be October 23-25, 2008 in Region 9. Agenda topics could include: Deer study, Coyote study, hunting access on Parks and Rec Lands, and inviting Commissioner Grannis to the spring meeting.

Habitat Committee presented by Gary Evans

Discussed trying to get the Boards message out better on how to get youth more involved in hunting.

Discussed the idea for a Habitat Stamp resolution to make the habitat stamp mandatory for non-residents. The resolution has been passed for the last several meetings.

There was discussion about having a \$5 surcharge for non-resident license buyers as an alternative to a mandatory habitat stamp.

Access Committee presented by Bob Banks

The Committee suggests that the recommendations included in the Cornell University Human Dimensions Research Unit report on limited liability recreational use statutes be put into legislation in New York to update New York's General Obligations law. The Committee drafted a resolution for the Board to recommend same.

The committee drafted, at the request of the Executive Committee, a form to be used when the Board's Access by Written Permission Only signs are distributed. This form is an agreement between the sign's provider and the landowner who will be using the sign. It will allow the Board the opportunity to monitor how the signs are being used. This form will be attached to these minutes. This will also involve the landowner providing the hunter with a hunting permission form.

Resolutions Committee presented by Chuck Couture

Five resolutions were submitted

- 1) Title: **Resolution in Support of increasing the budget for regional Fish and Wildlife Management Boards from \$400.00 per year per county to an amount that reflects actual expenses.**
- 2) Title: **Resolution, Request for Article 24 and Article 15 Administrative Fines of Environmental Conservation Law (Wetlands Violations & Streambed Violations) to be Placed in Habitat Fund of the Conservation Fund**
- 3) Title: **Resolution Supporting the Protection of the Hemlock-Canadice Watershed**
- 4) Title: **Resolution Opposing NYS DEC Proposed Regulation Restricting Body-Gripping Traps on Public Land**
- 5) Title: **Resolution requesting Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Grannis to have DEC's Legal Department draft and promote legislation to implement the recommendations of the Cornell University Human Dimensions Research Unit to improve the General Obligations Law GOL9-103 with regard to limiting recreational use liability**

Publicity Committee by Dick Fox

Dick may be moving and may not be able to serve on the Forest Practice Board or the Fish and Wildlife Management Board. The Board will make contact with the DEC Public Affairs Office for some assistance in publicity for the Board.

Department Reports

Patricia Riexinger, Director, Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources

Pat introduced herself to the Board, discussing her 31 years of experience with the Department.

The Division has met with the Budget Office to discuss the 21 million deficit and how to fix it. A big contributor to this was the payout to ECOs as a result of a lawsuit on overtime pay. Fringe rates continue to go up and takes a big chunk out of Conservation Fund. There has not been a license fee increase in several years. We should not be relying on a General Fund bailout every year but should get more funding to pay for our ever widening program.

Bureau of Wildlife Update - John Major, Chief-Bureau of Wildlife

1) Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD)

- Infectious viral disease in WTD
- No health risk to humans
- Rarely in domestics (cattle, sheep, horses, cats, dogs)
- Virus identified in 1955 in New Jersey
- Enzootic to Southeastern US

Acute clinical signs: (death 1-3 days)

- Hemorrhaging
- Blood clots and damage to blood vessels
- Swelling- Eyelids, tongue, lips

- Appear feverish
 - Found in or near water
- Respiratory distress
 - White / red foamy fluid from mouth and nose

- Reporting / Additional Information :
 - DEC regional wildlife office
 - DEC Wildlife Pathology Unit Delmar (518) 478-3032
 - Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study Group www.uga.edu/scwds

2) Youth Recruitment

- First Youth Pheasant Hunting Weekend – Fall 2007
Statewide, except Long Island

- Adds to existing youth opportunities for waterfowl and turkeys
- National Archery in the Schools Program
 - Trains Physical Education instructors to add archery to school programs

- New York Coordinator to be hired November 2007
 - December - First instructor workshops
 - Trailblazer – U.S. Sportsmen’s Alliance working through Youth Organizations (Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4-H)
 - Programs in New York since 2003
 - 2007 Events in Buffalo, Syracuse, Albany
 - More than 10,000 NY youths and families introduced to outdoor activities
 - Law Change Needed to Provide NY Youths Opportunity to Hunt Big Game
- 3) Bear Management
 - Regulatory Change to Advance Catskill Firearms Bear Opener 2 days to Coincide with Firearms Deer Opener
 - 4) Access- Bill to expand landowner liability protection
 - 5) Trapping Regulations
 - New Restrictions on Body Gripping Traps set on land
 - Comment period open through November 2
 - The Department will be addressing comments received on the proposed trail restriction.
 - 6) 4-Poster Study- Deer tick treatment for deer

Special Local Needs Pesticide Registration and Scientific Collectors Permits issued Long Island study to examine effectiveness in reducing ticks in real-world setting Monitor impacts of 4-Posters on deer behavior, productivity, and impacts. There are implications for feeding deer and its impact on other disease problems and deer population.
 - 7) Endangered Species Protection
 - Developing Regulatory Proposal
 - Clarify authorities
 - Listing process
 - Possession and Take
 - Incidental Take Permits - “Net Conservation Benefit”
 - 8) Moose increasing
 - Population now estimated at 300-500 statewide
 - Increasing vehicle collisions
 - Legal Status – Big Game Animal, no open season
 - DEC will step-up its monitoring program
 - 9) 2007 Farm Bill
 - Senate Ag Committee passes Amendments Oct 25
 - Raised EQUIP cap from \$240,000 to \$450,000 over the five or six year contract period.
 - EQIP provides cost-share payments for multi-year contracts on farms for environmental improvements, such as controlling erosion or installing new irrigation systems.
 - More than half of EQIP payments go to livestock producers, which will help them comply with EPA water quality regulations. However, this will favor larger operations at the expense of medium or small-sized farms.
 - Congressional Budget Office estimates the Senate mark would increase funds for energy programs by \$1.1 billion and conservation programs by \$4.78 billion over the next 5 years.

Bureau of Fisheries Update by Ed Woltmann

“The Evolution and Future Direction of DEC’s **I FISH NY** Initiative”

- ◆ Evolution of I FISH NY
 - Nassau County Suburban Pond Management Program 1992-2002
Access, Habitat Protection/Management, Outreach/Education, Fish Mgt
- ◆ Where are we going with I FISH NY
 - Expand program statewide
 - New staff in Cortland, Buffalo, New Paltz and Albany
 - Developing a strategic plan
- ◆ Statewide Priorities
 - Promote sportfishing in NY
 - Angler education
 - Manage local resources
 - Enhance access
 - * Emphasis on populated areas
 - * Improve shore fishing access
 - * Allow fishing at DEC boat launches

Habitat Access Stamp Grant- Update on Habitat/Access Stamp Program- Jack Cooper, DEC

DEC News release announcing the Awarding of Habitat Access Stamp Grants for 2007 in October 2007.

Next step will be to send letters to awardees and then a letter to those not selected. There will then be a “next steps” letter to the awardees with a copy of the contract and list of items that they need to submit to finalize the contract with the DEC.

Round 2 Projects Recommended for approval

- Region 2-- NY City Audobon, New York, Access - \$10,700
- Region 3-- Town of Beekman, Dutchess Co., Access -- \$7,873.25
 - Catskill Center for Conservation and Development, Ulster Co., Habitat -- \$ 7,600
- Region 4-- Greene County SWCD, Green Co – Habitat -- \$10,000
- Region 5--- Warren Co SWCD, Warren Co – Habitat -- \$8,500
 - Franklin County, Franklin Co – Access -- \$14,000
- Region 6- - NYS DEC Region 6 Fisheries, Jefferson Co – Access -- \$15,000
 - Lewis Co SWCD, Lewis Co – Habitat -- \$15,000
- Region 7---- Village of Pulaski, Oswego Co., Access -- \$15,000
- Region 8-- National Wild Turkey Federation, Schuyler/Seneca Co – Habitat -- \$5,000

Total amount selected \$108,673

No projects were selected in Regions 1 and 9.

Discussion about 8 year term limits for FWM Board Members

The NYS Environmental Conservation Law that created the Fish and Wildlife Management Act and Board outlines the term limits for Board members. ECL 11-0501 (4.a.) “The term of office of regional board members shall be two calendar years. A member shall be eligible to succeed himself not more than three times and shall thereafter be eligible for reappointment only after one term out of office.” This amounts to a total of 4 terms of 2 years or 8 years. The individual can be reappointed to the board after a one term hiatus or 2 years. The terms of the sportsmen’s representative and the legislative representative shall expire on odd numbered years and the term of landowner representative shall end on even numbered years.

It is important that Regional Board Chairs insure that board members adhere to the term limits outlined in the Conservation Law.

FWMB patches were distributed to each Regional Board representative to take back to the Regional members.

Saturday, March 31

Resolutions

Actions on resolutions submitted for consideration at the Fall 2007 Statewide meeting of the Fish and Wildlife Management Board. The Resolutions Committee Chairperson Chuck Couture presented the following resolutions:

The resolutions were reviewed and revised by the Board with the final version attached to these minutes.

Resolution 2007-2-01– Title: Resolution in Support of increasing the budget for regional Fish and Wildlife Management Boards from \$400.00 per year per county to an amount that reflects actual expenses

A motion was duly made by Chuck Couture and seconded by Robert Banks that the Board approve resolution 2007-2-01. The motion was unanimously approved.

Resolution 2007-2-02–Title: Resolution, Request for Article 24 and Article 15 Administrative Fines of Environmental Conservation Law (Wetlands Violations & Streambed Violations) to be Placed in Habitat Fund of the Conservation Fund

A motion was duly made by Chuck Couture and seconded by Robert Banks that the Board approve resolution 2007-2-02, The resolution was revised by members and the motion was unanimously approved.

Resolution 2007-2-03–Title: Resolution Supporting the Protection of the Hemlock-Canadice Watershed

A motion was duly made by Glenn Larison and seconded by Chuck Couture that the Board approve resolution 2007-2-03. The resolution was revised by members and the motion was unanimously approved.

Resolution 2007-2-04- Title: Resolution Opposing NYS DEC proposed regulation restricting body-gripping traps on public land

A motion was duly made by Chuck Couture and seconded by Robert Banks that the Board approve resolution 2007-2-04. The resolution was revised by members and the motion was unanimously approved.

The Board directed the Secretary to draft a cover letter and to send a copy of this Resolution to the Department to act as the Board's comments on the proposed "emergency" regulations.

Resolution 2007-2-05- Title: Resolution requesting Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Grannis to have DEC's Legal Department draft and promote legislation to implement the recommendations of the Cornell University Human Dimensions Research Unit to improve the General Obligations Law GOL9-103 with regard to limiting recreational use liability

A motion was duly made by Chuck Couture and seconded by Robert Banks that the Board approve resolution 2007-2-05. The motion was unanimously approved.

Additional Discussion

Chairperson Arnold brought to the Boards attention the outline of points identified by John Kelley in his 1969 Doctorial thesis on the effectiveness of the Fish and Wildlife Management Act and Boards after 10 years. A list of these points were included in the member packets provided at the meeting. Chairperson Arnold asked Board members to carry these back to their respective Regional Boards and discuss them at upcoming meetings.

Chairperson Arnold also discussed the suggestion about approaching the DEC Public Affairs Office to discuss the idea about publicity for the Board. We should request Public Affairs attend the Spring 2008 meeting to discuss.

The Board members would like to get copies of the resolutions as soon as possible for distribution as necessary. The Secretary will provide copies of the resolutions to the Regional Board Secretaries as soon as they are completed.

There was a suggestion that the DEC provide a dedicated person to function in an outreach capacity for the Fish and Wildlife Management Act and Board similar to past positions of FWMA coordinator. The Regional Boards could make use of the Regional Citizen Participation Specialists. Some Regional Board representatives were unaware that these positions exist.

Mike Zeh discussed the venison donation program in Region 4. A regional sportsmen group offers a blackpowder rife as a raffle for those donating meat to the regional program. Some regional sportsmens groups are more involved in the program than others.

A motion was duly made by Chuck Couture and seconded by Mike Zeh to adjourn. The motion was unanimously approved.

Meeting was Adjourned by Chairperson Arnold at 10:00 am

Respectfully Submitted by:

Jack G. Cooper

Biologist 3 (Ecology)
Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources
Statewide Fish and Wildlife Management Board Secretary

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.