

New York State FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD



Final-Minutes-NYS Fish and Wildlife Management Board 105th Meeting, held October 29-30, 2009 at the Ramada Inn, Ithaca, NY

The meeting was called to order at 1:10 pm by Chairperson Zeh
Invocation was given by Tom Grow.

Roll Call (Present at all or part of meeting)

Board Members Present

Region	Landowner	Sportsman	Legislator
3	William Wilklow	Raymond Merlotto	Gerry Bierker
4	Homer Casler	Michael Zeh	Dave McLean (alternate)
5	Laurie Bruce	absent	Robert Banks
6	Vincent Johns	William Stage	Tom Grow
7	Lance Robson	Jim Petreszyn	absent
8	Gary Evans	Bill Lansing (alternate/guest)	absent
9	Philip May	Zenon Olow	Vergilio Giardini

Advisors Members Present

NYSDEC- Patricia Riexinger, Jack Cooper
 NYS Farm Bureau- Barlow Rhodes
 NY Grange- Daniel Teed
 Izaak Walton League of America- Les Monostory
 NYS Conservation Council- Dan Tone
 NYS Forest Practice Board- Roy Hopfe
 SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry- Dr. Jacqueline Frair
 Cornell University- Jody Enck
 SWDC/Ag and Markets- absent

**Minutes are draft until approved by the Board at the Spring 2010 Annual Meeting.*

Guests

Randy Nemeck	Region 8 Natural Resources Supervisor
Web Pearsell	Region 8 Fisheries Manager
Mike Wasilco	Region 8 Wildlife Manager
Gerald Rasmussen	Region 7 Natural Resources Supervisor
Ken Lynch	Region 7 Director

Approval of previous minutes, spring 2009

A motion was duly made by Homer Casler and seconded by Robert Banks to accept the spring 2009 minutes. The motion to accept the minutes was unanimously approved.

Welcome to the fall 2009 meeting by – Ken Lynch, Region 7 Director

Director Lynch discussed the challenges and opportunities that the region faces which include:

- Reduced funding
- Loss of staff
- Reduction in funding for projects, travel
- Encouraging “adopt-a-natural-resources” by the public and groups
- Working on “Partnering” with other state agencies, counties and other groups
- Using “Environmental Benefit Projects” as a penalty for resource violations
- The Region is improving communications with the DOT to get additional fishing access and handicapped access
- It is getting tougher for the Region to accomplish its mission with additional staff losses and funding cuts.

Director Lynch recommended that the Boards get more involved in policy development and provide input and recommendations on programs such as UMPs.

Director Ken Lynck was asked about the growing concern with DEC working with Colleges. The intern program was cancelled out this year because of funding issues. Many Students are having a difficult time finding this academic requirement.

Regional Board Semi-Annual Reports (many regional reports were scanned directly into this report)

Region 3 - Pre-filed report

The following are the highlights of Region 3 Board activities since the last reporting period:

- Held meetings in June and September 2009 (Note: due to ongoing fiscal issues, members have been paying for their own meal at board dinner meetings for the last year).

- Two members of the Region 3 FWMA Board were recipients of New York State Conservation Council Awards; Orange County delegate Bob Ewald was awarded the NYSCC Educator Award for 2009 and Dutchess County delegate Bill Connors was awarded the NYSCC Volunteer Conservationist Award for 2009. The Board congratulates both its members for their well-deserved awards and leadership recognition.
- Sportsman, Landowner and Legislative Representatives attended the Spring 2009 meeting of the State Board held March 26-27, 2009 in Albany.
- Attended the FWMA Executive Board meeting in September at Herkimer, NY.
- Participated in the Westchester County Deer Task Force through the East of Hudson Access Committee.
- Attended a public hearing in Rockland County concerning archery hunting on county owned parklands as part of a deer management strategy. The Board sent a letter of support on this issue to the County Parks Commission, through our West of Hudson Access Committee. While the archery hunting proposal was not enacted, the meeting did result in steps toward a creation of a Deer Management Task Force to provide future guidance for deer management on county parkland.
- Through our Westchester County delegates, gave input in support of hunting on the proposed use/management of the Angle Fly Preserve in Westchester County. With the Westchester Land Trust acting as lead negotiator, the Town of Somers, New York City DEP and New York State DEC acquired this 654 acre property.
- Worked with regional DEC and Sullivan County government to keep the Beaverkill State Campsite open this past summer.
- Attended the Hudson River Estuary Advisory Committee held at West Point to give input on access/habitat issues.
- Monitored habitat issues, particularly invasive species, on the Esopus Creek in Ulster County.
- Gave input to the DEC on the Hunter Education Program at Camp DeBruce concerning the summer 2009 session.
- Selected a nominating committee for the 2010 election of regional board officers.
- Assisted with planning and running two youth pheasant hunts, one each in Dutchess and Putnam counties in September.
- Several members visited the Westchester County Sportsman Center in September to experience firsthand this state of the art sportsmen recreation facility.
- Continued to monitor regional public access/sites in all seven counties to ensure optimum public access is maintained.

Region 4- Pre-filed report

Region 4 held three meetings since the Spring State Board meeting, 04/22/09, 06/24/09 & 09/23/09 at the Middleburgh Rod & Gun Club. We have relocated our meeting place because of the decision of DEC made about paying for the FWMB member diners. Since April the members have paid for their own diners.

Topics of discussion were as follows:

April:

Mike Zeh reviewed the State Board meeting which was held 03/26 and 3/27. DEC Commissioner Pete Grannis has challenged each regional FWMB to work closely with DEC to engage with local communities to help protect our natural heritage. Changes will be made to the Habitat/Access Program funding process to allow up to \$5,000 for each regional board, overseen by the Natural Resource Supervisor of that region. Patty Riexinger is looking for a renewed vision for the FWMB and the institution of a formal work plan. She has asked each region to come up with worthwhile projects to improve access & habitat on private land. Chairman McLean challenged each county to pick a worthwhile project and e-mail information to a review committee. A resolution submitted by Region 4 to abolish term limits passed while the resolution on mandating the purchase of a Habitat Stamp did not because of the proposed license fees increase. The revised Ten Year Pheasant Plan was reviewed by Region 4 which supported the proposed plan. A letter was sent to Mike Murphy conveying the position of the board. Harold Palmer reviewed the current legislation bills pending before the NYS Senate & Assembly. Bills included were to lower big game bowhunting age to 12, two crossbow bills, a bill to legalize a cable restraint for trapping, a bill requiring five year renewal period for handgun permits and a bill banning calibers of .50 or larger along with many bills dealing with restrictions on ammunition including micro-stamping for semi-automatics.

County reports included several hunter safety classes held along with a few trapping educational classes, reports of excellent fishing in some areas, some federations in support of using a crossbow as a hunting implement, opposing an Oct 1st opening of archery season, support of the Antler Restriction program, some counties reported an record harvest of bear as well as deer, some counties are purchasing additional pheasants, discussions of proposed license fee increase with support if more information was made available showing where the monies are used. There were several reports of planned fishing derbies throughout the region along with several planned rifle shoots including a new junior rifle group and several federations plan on having informational booths with displays at the county fairs throughout the region.

DEC report: Pete Innes will set up a committee to work on the work plan with four volunteers. There was some discussion about using prisoner labor to help with projects possibly from Camp Summit. Norm McBride reported that round one of the fish stocking was almost complete, Didymo documented in the Esopus, reviewed a 5 year diary project on the Schoharie Reservoir showing a catch rate decline every year since 2004. He also reviewed some stocking recommendations and some regulation changes on fishing in the region. Jerry Fraine reviewed the three year reproduction study completed in Region 4. Bear complaints are down and reported the experimental Bobcat Season in 4F,4N &4O resulted in 52 trapped by 163 registered trappers. He reported that 5 coyotes were transmitted in Otsego County and two in Schoharie County for an ESF study along 85 turkeys being banded in the 4th year project. Scott Van Arsdale reported 49 known eagle nesting sites in Region 4.

June:

DEC Reports: Pete Innes, Natural Resource Supervisor reports that the decision on the Antler Restrictions in 8 WMU has been turned down by Commissioner Grannis. The Open Space Plan was approved and released. DEC layoffs have been averted by offering retirement incentives which could result in 300 DEC positions which would remain vacant for at least a year. He reported that the committee meeting for the \$5000 Habitat/Access work plan did not happen because of scheduling

conflicts. Pete did report that he had learned more about the proposal and just how it would work is still being determined. He reported the Emerald Ash Borer has been found in Western NY and there will be a meeting with Cornell University in this issue. Dave McLean mentioned a shortage of ammunition for Hunter Safety classes. Peter stated that all expenditures above \$500 are subject to a lengthy approval process under the Governor's order. Dave suggested a request for sportsmen to contact the Governor's office to ask that the ammunition purchase be approved quickly. Norm McBride reported the trout stocking was completed as scheduled in addition to surplus brown trout being stocked. He did report that the hatcheries were minimizing travel where ever they could. The boat launch on the West Branch in Deposit is nearing completion with the help of DOT supplying a saving of \$20,000 to \$25,000 because of the crushed pavement material being used for the parking area. He also reported the flow for the West Branch from Cannonsville Reservoir has been increased to provide trout-suitable temperatures for 17 miles downstream. The Cannonsville Reservoir recreational boating access program opened for its first trial season in time for Memorial Weekend. There is a hold on PFR and access acquisitions due to the budget. Pennsylvania is reducing the shad creel limit in the Delaware River to three fish and NY is in the process of readjusting the regulations to coincide. The adult population of the American shad has been declining for a couple of decades. Ultimately, it may go to a catch & release only! Jerry Fraine reported proposed antler restriction for certain WMU's in region 4 is in the process of being withdrawn. The survey of hunter opinion was inconclusive and the comment period resulted in some strong opposition. He reported there will be some Citizens Task Force meeting for deer management in some Region 4 WMUs this fall. There have been 76 bear complaints so far this year, down slightly from average of last 5 years. Five home entry bears have been euthanized. Bear feeding regulations are being look at (currently it is legal to do so 500' or more from roads & 150' from houses). Beaver, Muskrat & Mink trapping season will open Nov. 10th – Apr. 7th to provide more opportunity. An interim report on the ongoing ESF coyote study in Otsego & Steuben Counties has been released. Scott Van Arsdale reported just under 200 bald eagle nests in NYS. Only new nesting trees are climbed for inspection and predator guards installed.

NYSCC News: Harold Palmer reported that pending legislation bills are up in the air because of the Senate confusion and Harold will not seek re-election for the President's position of the Council.

County Reports: Normanskill Rails to Trails project moving forward with hopes that fishing access will be provided as part of the project. Only three of 39 Albany County legislators supported the proposal mandating the registration of ammunition. Most of the clubs are actively recruiting new (young) members and memberships in the clubs are growing. Some county federations are having fund raisers to support the Hunters for the Hungry program. A request to have FWMB minutes sent out earlier was approved. Many Federations are getting ready with County Fair displays. Some are working with the 4H setting up pellet shooting ranges at the fairs. Some deer hunters feel that because of access opportunities have diminished greatly due to subdivision and a large influx of metropolitan area people buying lands, antler restrictions would further restrict hunting opportunity. Some Federations are planning youth spring turkey hunt. Another suggestion discussed was the possibility of implementing a fishing course similar in scope to the hunting course because of complex fishing regulations. The new fishing dock at Catskill Point on the Hudson is in place with striped bass being caught from it. Some clubs are offering a handgun safety course along with several fishing derbies. There was opposition of the regulation change on Black Bass from 12" to 15" legal limit because of the loss of several bass tournaments. Also there was opposition on the new limitations taking herring in the Hudson River because of the adverse affect upon striped bass fishing. A letter was sent to Commissioner Grannis about these two concerns. Restoration of 10 Mile Creek is scheduled for July. A resolution was sent to the State Senate and Governor opposing various gun control bills. A scheduled PKC coon hunt is planned for September. 18 Gobblers were turned in at one of the youth turkey hunts last spring. Many Federations report many new Hunter Education Instructors for Gun, Archery and Trapping courses. Many of the kids fishing the derbies reported first time experiences.

Some of the Federations are working with the public schools promoting outdoor activities. Reports of many PFR signs are missing. Pete Innes stated that this might be one of the projects done using Habitat/Access funding. Many clubs are sponsoring sending youths to DEC Camps. Looking for more trout stocking in the Cobleskill Reservoir because of the amount of fishing pressure.

September:

DEC Reports: Jerry Fraine reported a moose was tranquilized and transported to the Adirondacks. Two public meetings are scheduled on deer management. 140 bear complaints to date (average). A modification to bear feeding regulations is on the commissioner's desk to make all feeding of bear illegal except scientific purposes and the training of hounds. The Bear Team is discussing a possible hunting season in Rensselaer & Columbia Counties for 2011. DEC adult pheasant stocking to begin. The draft ten-year pheasant plan is available for public comment until Nov 13. Norm McBride reports: Boat launch near Deposit on West branch of Delaware River completed. Marine fishing license take effect October 1st. A regular license will be required after Oct 1st. Both will be required for the Hudson River starting January 1st for anglers who expect to catch striped bass, herring, or shad. The marine license will also be required on the Mohawk River for herring and the Delaware for shad or the occasional striped bass. The proposed changes to the angling regulations to take effect October 1st 2010, are on the DEC website. The public comment period on these ends November 2, 2009. NYS is proposing a shutdown of both commercial & recreational shad fishing on the Hudson River starting in the Spring of 2010. The adult population is at an all time low and production is poor. Three public meeting were held with little opposition. An official public comment period will start in October with public meeting planned for Region 3 & 4. NJ will also pursue a ban on shad fishing in the Hudson. The 2007 Statewide Angler Survey is now available online. Results indicate the number of angler hours is similar to the last statewide survey done in 1996. The survey also found that angling in NY generates about a half billion of economic activity. Black Bass are the most targeted species, followed by trout, walleye and yellow perch. Fishing pressure is ranked 7th among the nine regions with Region 7 having the most. Major Tim Duffy reports Overtime has been cut due to budget situation, but each Captain has been given some overtime to allocate to officers. They have been doing a good job working within budget. No new vehicles purchased this year! There are no mileage restrictions in place for the Division of Law Enforcement. An ECO Academy graduated before the budget woes, and Region 4 is fully staffed except in Region 5. Gene Kelly our Regional Director reports: DEC is set to start work on a car top boat launch on the Hoosic River. The new Cannonsville Reservoir boating access program has been working well and NYSDEP is pleased with it. This may lead to more access on other NYC reservoirs. The State workforce severance package has been accepted by about 1000 employees with 200 coming from DEC. Region 4 is losing both its Fisheries and Wildlife secretaries and Wildlife is losing a biologist. It will most likely be a long time in their replacements unless of a transfer. It is doubtful the DEC will resume paying for FWMB meals anytime soon, as the deficit is getting larger. A discussion followed regarding the cumbersome, inefficient and sometime expensive way the State acquires lands and easements. Gene noted that the procedures for such transactions are set by law.

NYSCC: Harold Palmer reported the elections were held for 2010. President – Howard Cushing, 1st VP- Robert Grizzie, 2nd VP – Charles Parker, Legislative VP – Harold Palmer, Secretary – Charlotte Curtis, Treasurer – James Edic and Executive Program Director – Prof. Robert Brown. He reported that Commissioner Grannis stated that each Region would receive the \$5000 for Habitat/access projects from Habitat Stamp money and suggested that the Board move forward with proposals for projects. Some license buyers are refusing to purchase the Habitat Stamp because they don't see the money being used. Major repairs are underway at the Rome Fish Hatchery. Mike Zeh mention a committee was formed, but did not meet.

County Reports: Many hunter safety courses (gun & archery) have been held over the summer. Multiple clubs and Federations participated in the county fairs. A \$500 scholarship was given to a student attending Paul Smith College who is studying to be an ECO. Following the success of the Outdoor Educational Expo held in Rensselaer County, Columbia County is now planning an Expo. Local clubs are working with the Columbia Land Conservancy to gain use of Conservancy Lands for hunting. Many of the clubs are becoming more active with holding youth events and open shoots. The

pellet shooting trailer and a laser shooting game were a big success at the local fairs. Many of the clubs are concerned about losing access to the State Parks because of budget situations. Also many bullhead fishermen are being run out at dark because of an interpretation of the rules by Park Police. The National Trappers Association will have an event at the Washington Co. Fair in 2010. Some Federations are already planning ice fishing derbies for this coming winter. More girls than boys at some of the hunter education classes. The Board would like to see DEC provide more information on the General Obligations Law to the public. Any resolutions for the State Board must be in by 09/29/09. Next meeting will be in Ithaca on 10/29 and 10/30.

. Respectfully submitted by Michael Zeh

Region 4 Sportsmen Representative

Region 5 Pre-filed report

Highlights over the past several months have included:

1. The design, permits, and funding have finally come together for the Crusher Boat Launch on the Raquette River, Franklin County. Reconstruction is now scheduled for commencement on approximately September 15, 2009. The project will include replacement of the failing log crib shore protection with natural stone, and replacement of the single lane concrete ramp with a similar structure. However, the new ramp will include a floating dock. The size and configuration of the site and parking areas will remain the same. The site will be closed to the public from mid-September 2009 until mid-June 2010. Users of the Raquette Lake Launch should make plans to use alternate sites. Axton Landing and the Tupper Lake Boat Launch at Moody are two alternative sites.

2. Gene Terry and two highly dedicated volunteers have worked hard and released 7,00,000 walleyes into Lake Champlain over the last few years. With cooperation from DEC Fisheries Manager Bill Schoch, a tanks and ponds were built in Whitehall to hold walleyes for eventual release into Lake Champlain. Fishermen are now reporting catching thirteen to fifteen inch walleyes. Fish of this size haven't been seen in this area for over thirty years.

3. The Region 5 Fish and Wildlife Management Board has decided to refocus on its legislated mandates on fish and wildlife habitat and access. The Board is in the process of coming up with a work plan to identify sites and projects that are near ready and can be submitted to DEC for funding from Habitat and Access grants. Future focus from the Board will be on creating and improving access for fishing and hunting, specifically on private lands. Potential projects include mapping and cleaning up Public Fishing Right areas (PFRs), securing new PFRs, improving habitat on private lands, campaigning private landowners to become involved in the ASK program, and assisting DEC with fish stocking. It is apparent that the Board has been active in these areas in the past and future accomplishments need to be better reported so the Board members and volunteers get the credit they deserve.

4. Wildlife Biologist John O'Connor and Technician Brandon Ferns repaired a foot bridge and trails at Lake Alice Wildlife Management Area. A foot bridge on the universally accessible nature trail had fallen into a state of disrepair and a large hole measuring three feet wide by two feet deep had opened up in front of one of the abutments forcing visitors to have to jump over the hole to continue down the trail, making the trail unusable for those who were unable to make the jump. Since this trail is extremely popular and the only universally accessible trail on the WMA, its repair was deemed a priority. The bridge was repaired and the

hole was filled in with a stone and gravel mix. The repaired section of the trail was then top dressed with stone dust to ensure a smooth and hardened entry to the bridge.

Region 6 Pre-filed report

The Region 6 Board continues to meet quarterly. A few updates on ongoing topics of interest follow:

- Habitat/Access Stamp Projects Update
 - Two Habitat/Access Stamp projects were approved for funding for Region 6.
 - The Felts Mills/White Creek Access Improvement project was completed and the unveiling ceremony took place the morning of the September 18th, 2008 before the regularly scheduled Quarterly Meeting of the Region 6 FWMB.
 - The Habitat Improvement Project for the Deer River in Lewis County is underway and should finish up in early 2010.

- Region 6 FWMB Committee to By-Laws Development
 - An Adopt-a-By-Laws Committee produced a final draft of the By-Laws for the Region 6 FWMB based on comments from the previous meeting and presented it to the Board.
 - The newly revised version was discussed in the next June 2009 Quarterly Meeting and then approved for adoption.

- A Renewed Vision for the Regional Fish & Wildlife Management Boards
 - The Region 6 Board has discussed issues relating to the charge of creating a renewed Vision Statement for the R6 FWMB. A Draft was created and discussed at the September 17th, 2009 Quarterly Meeting and minor corrections to the draft were made.
 - The R6 Draft Renewed Vision Statement will be presented at the Fall 2009 State FWMB meeting to be held in Ithaca, NY.

- Region 6 FWMB Community Exposure
 - The Board has concluded that it would help their efforts to facilitate habitat improvement or access enhancements if their presence was known in the Region 6 communities. To that end, respective county representatives will be looking into ways to get their names out as FWM Board members. One idea involves a staffing a Region 6 FWM Board booth/display at county fairs and other local events.

Region 7 Pre-filed report

R7 FWMB representative spoke at the [Draft](#) Master Plan for Green Lakes State Park, stating that sportsmen would like to see the additional recreational activity of hunting added to the opportunities offered at Green Lakes State Park. R7 FWMB is working on setting up a meeting with the Director of the Central Region of NYS Parks and Historic Preservation to see how we can work together to provide more access and additional opportunities for sportsmen.

The R7 FWMB expressed concern with the announcement that the DEC proposed to amend 6 NYCRR section 1.27 (Alternative deer harvest strategies) to include WMUs 3A, 4G, 4O, 4P, 4R, 4S, 4W, and 4X in the list of units where the minimum antler requirement is at least one antler with at least 3 points. Part of the WMU 4O is within Broome County, which is represented by the Region 7 FWMB. In a letter written to the DEC during the open comment period, the

Region 7 FWMB said that it does not endorse the expansion of the antler restriction program.

The R7 FWMB board expressed concern with the announcement that the Town of Cazenovia was planning on applying the aquatic herbicide triclopyr, trade name Renovate OTF, to Cazenovia Lake in order to control the nuisance plant Eurasian Watermilfoil in early May 2009. The board was particularly concerned that the DEC require an Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) Determination on the effects of this chemical application on the plant species that will remain for the juvenile Centrarchidae (sunfish) in the lake, on the dissolved oxygen levels in the summer and what affect this chemical will have on the endangered species and other fish/wildlife downstream in the Chittenango Creek. (No testing has been done on the effects of triclopyr on the Chittenango ovate amber snail which is listed as an endangered species in New York State and is placed on the federal list of threatened species.) In a letter written to the DEC during the open comment period, the Region 7 FWMB expressed its concerns.

R7 FWMB was represented at the management plan meeting for the “Hill and Hollow Unit” (Morgan Hill State Forest and [Labrador Hollow Unique Area](#)).

The R7 FWMB supports the possibility of the DEC acquiring an Onondaga County Park on Otisco Lake to develop a public boat launch. Talks are ongoing between the DEC and the Onondaga County Parks Department.

Operation Healing Waters Program for Veterans and Active Service Members is dedicated to the physical and emotional rehabilitation of disabled active duty military personnel and veterans through fly fishing education outings. Presently you cannot legally fish without a license. The proposal for this year is to use one of the four free fishing days for them. They are also looking for sponsors to buy licenses for the other fishing day for the event. Legislation has been drafted to accommodate them and sent to the Commissioner’s office for review. Carpenter’s Brook Fish Hatchery (no fishing license required) is being used as one of the fishing spots for this activity.

The R7FWMB resolved to support the continued operation of the Carpenter’s Brook Fish Hatchery which was initially cut from the Onondaga County Budget. The Carpenter’s Brook Fish Hatchery is an Onondaga County Park which has been in continuous operation since 1938. The county did restore the hatchery with reduced funding for 2010.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Wowelko, Chairmen
Region 7 FWMB

Region 8 - Pre-filed report

Long time board member, Richard Stephens passed away, earlier this year. Mr. Stephens was the consummate gentleman and sportsman and was extremely well liked by all. Dick’s involvement with the Regional Fish and Wildlife Management Boards spanned decades. Dick will be truly missed.

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. Because of budget issues, the Department did not participate in Empire Farm Days. However, Regional and State Fish and Wildlife and Board members maintained their presence at the event. Board members provided information to the public on proper access to private lands. Board members also distributed "Ask Permission" stickers and "Access by Written Permission" signs to landowners willing to allow individuals on their properties with their approval. A special thanks to the following Board Members for their participation:

Region 8 FWMB members:	Gary Evans
	Ivan Davis
	Stan Neu
	Jim DeMay
State FWMB:	Michael Zeh

The 36th annual celebration of National Hunting and Fishing Day took place this year on September 26, and 27, 2009, at the Region 8 Headquarters. The event is co-sponsored by the Department of Environmental Conservation and Livingston County Federation of Sportsmen Clubs. Several Board members also participate in the event through their affiliations with regional sportsmen clubs and conservation organizations. 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. Well over \$5000 in license sales were received this year, making it the most successful effort to date.

The status of the Canadice and Hemlock Lakes watershed lands continues to draw considerable attention in Region 8 and across the State over the last several months. Canadice and Hemlock Lakes are last two Finger Lakes with largely undeveloped shorelines. The land is currently owned by the City of Rochester, who manages property primarily for watershed protection for drinking water purposes. The City of Rochester is considering the sale of their interests of the watershed lands. The Department has conveyed to the City its interest in acquiring the property. The lands surrounding Canadice and Hemlock Lakes are also included in New York State's 2006 Open Space Conservation Plan as a priority project and has been one of the Department's highest acquisition priorities over the last 15 to 20 years. Department staff have invested considerable time and effort in developing a framework for acquisition. The Region 8 Fish and Wildlife Management Board has gone on record supporting the acquisition.

Region 8 held three FWMB meetings since the Spring 2009 State Board meeting. Attached are the minutes to the April 17, and July 17, 2009 meetings. The September 11, 2009 minutes are currently being drafted and will be presented at the Spring 2010 State Board Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Evans
Dorothy Huber
Keith Kappel

Region 9 Pre-Filed Report- New York State Fish and Wildlife Management Board Region 9 Region 9 is comprised of the counties of Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Niagara and Wyoming County. The Regional FWMB has eighteen members.

Meetings are held on the first Thursday in the months of March, June, September and December at Chanderson's Steak and Seafood House in Yorkshire, N.Y.

Board Chairman is Ronald Barvian, Sportsmens Representative from Wyoming Co.
Board Vice Chairman is Zenon Olow, Sportsmens Representative from Chautauqua Co.

State FWMB Representatives:

Sportsmen- Zenon Olow , Chautauqua County
Landowner - Philip May, Allegany County
Legislative - Dick Giardini, Cattaraugus County

Summary of FWMB activities for 2009
Three meetings have been held thus far in 2009

The March meeting was attended by thirteen FWMB members and four DEC staff. The Board welcomed six new members to the meeting. A total of ten new members have been appointed to the Board. Many replaced previous members who had exceeded their term limits.

Natural Resource Supervisor Russ Biss distributed information on the bylaws for both the Regional and State FWMB plus discussed the purpose of the board.

Elections were held and the positions of chairman, vice chairman and State board representatives were filled.

Discussion was held on the use of funds allocated to Region 9 to conduct FWMB meetings and business. It was decided by the board to continue to have four meetings per year. Mileage reimbursement would continue, but meals would be paid for by the members with the exception of the March meeting where both the meals and mileage reimbursement would be paid for by the DEC.

Certificates of appreciation were presented to two previous FWMB members who attended the meeting. Former Region 9 FWMB Chairman Jim Agle, Landowner Representative from Erie County and Derwood Say Sportsmen Representative from Allegany County were presented with framed certificates which recognized them for their years of service to the board.

June Meeting:

The June meeting was attended by eleven board members and three DEC staff. Reports were given by representatives to the State Board who attended the spring meeting in Albany and copies of the draft minutes were distributed for information and discussion.

The state board representatives mentioned the "Renewed Vision" presented to the board and emphasized the renewed interest in managing habitat on private lands. The continued advocacy for fish and wildlife habitat mgt. and the continuing efforts to provide access for fish and wildlife related recreation.

Information was also shared on a presentation by DEC Commissioner Grannis at the spring meeting which proposed that each DEC Region with a FWMB would receive \$5,000 which would be used for habitat and access project(s) in the region. The use of the funds would be under the supervision of the Natural Resource Supervisor.

There was also information presented by Natural Resource Supervisor Biss about a monofilament recycling program coordinated by Going Coastal, Inc. Mr. Biss distributed information on the program and several members of the board expressed interest in seeing the recycling bins place at popular fishing and boat access sites in the Region.

September Meeting:

The September FWMB meeting was attended by thirteen board members and three DEC staff.

Members of the board expressed interest in being informed of the status of the Army Corp of Engineers (ACOE) feasibility study on the possible removal of the Scobey Hill Dam on Cattaraugus Creek and the order for the monofilament recycling bins discussed at the June meeting.

An ACOE representative has agreed to attend the December meeting and the monofilament recycling bins have not been received.

Discussion was held on the promised \$5,000 that is to be distributed to each Region with a FWMB from the Habitat and Access Fund. Russ Biss distributed information on suggested projects from other Regions and discussion on possible projects for Region 9 followed. Mr. Biss stated that he had a conference call the next week with other Natural Resource Supervisors and FWMR Director Patty Riexinger on the use of the \$5,000 and how it would be administered. He asked that the members of the board get back to him regarding suggested projects so he would have that information when the call took place.

Submitted by:
Russell D. Biss
Natural Resources Supervisor Region 9

Advisory Members Reports (many advisory member reports were scanned directly into this report)

Farm Bureau- Barlow Rhodes

Provided a list of 2009 Farm Bureau State Policies for:

- 1) Nuisance Wildlife Control
- 2) Wildlife Management
- 3) Landowner Issues

Barlow Rhodes stated that farmers would like to see some form of compensation from NYS for agricultural damage caused by birds & game.

Izaak Walton League Report- Les Monostory

The New York Division and Chapters have been involved in the following:

- Save our streams programs
- Project watershed
- Web based data base on water quality
- Youth Conservation Education
- Great Lakes Programs
- Gas Drilling issues

New York Grange – Daniel Teed

The New York State Grange has the following topics for the New York State Fish and Wildlife Management Board to consider:

1. Many fresh water fish in New York State live in impounded waters. Impounded waters also enhance wildlife habitat. On the subject of the operation and maintenance of Ponds and Dams, we support legislation that would authorize the creation of any new guidelines by the NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee. We (the NYS Grange) oppose the expanded control of water by the Federal Government under the 'Clean Water Act'.
2. We oppose efforts to declare animals to be "sentient beings", and all efforts give animals the legal protections to which humans are entitled.
3. We urge continued appropriation of Environmental Protection funds for conservation projects.
4. We request that stewardship of State lands remains a line item in the New York State Budget, further that New York State needs to abide by the current laws that were enacted to provide adequate funding for stewardship of New York State owned lands.
5. We request the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation revise the Landowners Deer Permit to read: "The owner of 50 or more acres of land (need not be adjoining) contained in one or more parcels located within the boundaries of the Wildlife Management Unit be eligible for antlerless permits."
6. We support legislation that would amend the General Obligations laws concerning limiting the liability of landowners and allowing the use of their land for recreational activities.

7. We oppose the introduction of Elk into the wild of New York State.
8. We oppose the passage of legislation which would limit farmers' ability to protect their crops from wildlife damage.
9. We favor changes being made in the Big Game Hunting Regulations to allow for Deer Management Permits to be used by archery hunters.
10. We urge legislation be enacted that would prohibit wild animal re-introduction without a referendum approval of area residents.
11. We support legislation which would legally allow people to defend themselves from an attack by a rattlesnake or any other animal without concern of retribution from government authorities.
12. We urge our State Legislature to be diligent about protecting our people, livestock, and crops from danger and that no wild animals be introduced into New York State without prior legal notice to the public and prior consultation with and the consent of the county legislatures in the areas affected, and that just compensation be provided to land owners whose property is set aside as a habitat for any endangered species.
13. We oppose the re-introduction of wolves in any place in New York State.
14. We strongly urge the NY. Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to institute a program of control of coyotes to reduce their number to include regular year-round hunting and consideration of a statewide "bounty" on them and, further, assist and work closely with the DEC on this endeavor and also to help educate the public that a person has the right to shoot a coyote whether in or out of season if it is doing damage to their animals.
15. We support the passage of legislation to protect private lands from being taken over by eminent domain for the sole purpose of greater economic revenue.
16. We support legislation that provides for continual sportsmen's rights and encourages youth to participate in outdoor sporting activities with proper adult supervision.
17. We support legislation that requires Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to notify local residents of wild animal releases so they can be alerted to necessary safety awareness measures.
18. We discourage lawsuits being brought against the legal manufacturing, distribution, and sale of firearms.
19. We support the model language provided by the National Rifle Association-Institute for Legislative Action be followed for a State Constitutional amendment that would guarantee the right of legal hunting in New York State - "The people have the right to hunt, fish, trap, and harvest game, subject to reasonable regulations. Consistent with the public trust to conserve birds, fish, game and wildlife, traditional methods may be used to take non-threatened species traditionally pursued. Public hunting, fishing and trapping shall be the preferred means of managing and controlling non-threatened wildlife. Nothing in this amendment shall be construed to modify any provision of common law or statutes relating to trespass, eminent domain, or any other property rights".
20. We strongly support the efforts of the Cormorant Control Working Group, the NYS DEC and the Province of Ontario on their collaborative effort to control cormorants on the St. Lawrence River and Black Lake and receive immediate assistance in cormorant control to protect and maintain its current fishing and tourism economy.

21. We support a ban on the introduction and/or release of any poisonous snakes or predatory animals in New York State

22. We recommend that the Department of Environmental Conservation post public lands where there is an infestation of poisonous snakes.

23. We oppose restrictions or prohibition of current conditions of the "canned shoot" law regulating fenced hunting areas.

24. We oppose a pistol permit fee of \$100 and a five-year expiration Offill handgun permits/licenses outside New York City.

Submitted by:
Daniel L. Teed

NYSCC Report to the Fall 2008 FWMB Meeting- Dan Tone

The NYSCC recently concluded their Fall Convention meeting in New Hartford, New York. Howard Cushing was elected President, Bob Gizzie 1 st. Vice President, Charles Parker, 2nd• Vice President, Harold Palmer, Legislative Vice President.

Bob Brown, Executive Program Director

Don Edic, Treasurer, Charlet Curtis, Secretary

Howard Cushing appointed to CFAB

Dan Tone, FWMB and Ray Merlotto, Alt.

Resolutions passed at the Fall Meeting:

09-1 Chenango County

To increase the defined weight of an ATV from 1,000 pounds to 1,500 lbs. dry weight, creating a Class 1 and 2 system for ATV weight limits.

09- 3 Green County

Open the Southern early archer season on October 1 st. Ending on the Friday before the opening of the big game firearms season on the 3rd• Saturday in November.

09-4 Monroe County Basically the Same as 09-3

09-5 Onondaga County Basically the same as 09-3

09-6 Onondaga County

To list Moose as a game animal in New York State and start the first annual NYS Moose Lottery and funds earmarked towards wildlife conservation.

09-7 Oswego County

Allow youths to handle firearms with parental or adult supervision (with parental approval) from age 8 and above.

09-15 NYS Muzzel loaders Assn.

Discharge a firearm within 500 feet or a long bow within 250 feet from a dwelling house, farm building or structure actually occupied or used, school building, school playground, or occupied factory or church.

09-13 NY Houndsmen

Make it illegal for anyone except the owner or authorized person to remove any collar from a dog.

Emergency

Lake Erie Bait Dealers again be allowed to collect and sell uncertified bait for use only on Lake Erie and the Niagara River within the defined zone by permit only.

The NYSCC is in favor of a mandated Habitat and Access Stamp.

Support a minimum of 30% and a maximum of 50% of revenue derived from sales of Habitat/Access Stamps be dedicated to a one-time payment to landowners who allow public access. The amount of these payments is to be determined by DEC and FWMB based on certain criteria. (05)

The NYSCC is in favor of the NYS Fish & Wildlife Management Board.

Supports efforts to allow disabled sportspeople access to now inaccessible outdoor areas.

Oppose "Quite Waters" program that would set aside bodies of water in the Adirondacks for canoeing only. (08)

Support no fee charged for boat launch site areas to persons with valid NYS fishing license. (06)

Dan Tone, FWMB Rep.

Conservation Fund Advisory Board Report - Jim Petreszyn

The CFAB is looking at the T&A codes used by Department staff to evaluate the use of Conservation Fund dollars. The Board is also concerned that Conservation Fund funds are being used for non-“game and fish” activities.

Chairman Zeh asked about the status of a “Habitat Stamp Print” as a way of raising additional funds for the Conservation Fund, Habitat Account. He was directed to contact Gordon Batcheller of the Bureau of Wildlife.

Jim stated that they were still working from the 2008 Financial Report. The Office of Budget has not yet given the 2009 Financial Report to CFAB.

New York State Forest Practices Board – Roy Hopke

My name is Roy Hopke. I am the volunteer Statewide Chairman of the NY State Forest Practice board. The Forest Practice board is entirely comprised of unpaid volunteers.

The question arises: Is the Forest Practice Board relevant today?

Let's start with Issues, both existing and potential, affecting NY Forest Landowners and Forest Industry:

- Right to Practice Forestry is being out rightly and in some cases insidiously being undermined by local laws and attitudes. Complications without basis in law can cause work to be stopped because the cost benefit ratio is not favorable. so by default there is a prohibition of the right to practice forestry.

- Land taxes are rising at a time when incomes are going down. Some forest landowners are going to be forced to sell or lose the family lands to taxes. In many cases the ownerships will either devolve to the independently wealthy or governments.

- There is a law in this state which allows the taxation of standing timber. This provision is beginning to be used by taxing authorities. If enabled to the final degree, this will be a disaster for the forests and people of the New York State, for obvious reasons. As of 2009, nothing much has been accomplished to deactivate this provision of law.

- Foreign insects and diseases and invasives will greatly reduce forest diversity in New York if ways are not found to control these pathogens_ This is an accelerating pattern that began a long time ago. It began even before the chestnut blight, a major forest plague that started over 100 years ago. This accelerating phenomena will have a profound effect on the forest economy and the amenities provided by the public and privately held forest in New York and other States.

Why the forest practice board is needed:

- Public education is needed to re-enforce the perception that renewable forests, wisely used, can provide an endless range of forest products and amenities. We are missing the mark of educating an increasingly urbanized and technological(meaning less involved with the forest and farm environment) population.

-Our mandate is to interact with government to ensure that public forestry policy will reflect the greatest good for the people to address issues relating to taxation, forest plagues, fair and equitable awarding of research contracts and monitoring and forestry education.

Why other organizations including the Empire State Forest Product Association(ESFPA) and New York Forest Owners (NYFOA) cannot fulfill these needs:

-ESFPA is an industrial Forestry Group. They cannot always be relied upon to represent the interests of private forest landowners and the public good_ That is not their mandate.

-NYFOA is a charitable group. It cannot lobby, as an organization.

Recent Activities of the Statewide Forest Practice Board:

-Attended various functions including the Forestry Awareness Day, Forest Resource Assessment and Strategy Group, and the Statewide Stewardship committee and held a regular board meeting this past year.

As an aside, I wanted to mention that there is a conspicuous lack of private landowner representation at the stewardship and FRAS meetings if you look at a list of the attendees. This is not the fault of the DEC. It is a reflection of general weakness, in these economic times.

I must tell you that the FPB is also in a very weakened condition at the current time. Our membership on regional boards and activities have imploded in recent years.

We must ask ourselves why this has happened-there are several phenomena at work:

~ General demographics- All institutions including churches, fraternal groups, volunteer organizations of various types are under stress due to the fact that an undue percentage of talented young people are leaving the state. There is a brain drain going on here.

Our institutions are populated by people who tend to be becoming elderly or are elderly, including me.

~There is a problem with the economy, obviously. Today, many people cannot justify donating time and involvement with a volunteer organization. Formerly paternal employers used to support paid volunteer time to organizations such as ours. This is a thing of the past. People are scared to stop doing productive work on the assembly line for even a few seconds to attend to the public good.

-There is a perceived short coming in the political payoff, for government, in supporting a largely rural group of members, such as ours.

I have felt for some time, that this problem was partially brought about by our lack of tenacious support as outreach has been cut back over the years. As outreach has declined, political support for organizations providing outreach has declined. It's a mutual support complex: when one support component fails in it's duty, the other components decline.

The population, as a whole, is more and more disassociated from rural pursuits, and

particularly, livelihoods. Forestry, farming and perhaps hunting and fishing are NOT relevant to the mostly urban public. What IS relevant to the masses? The answer: Preservation of public lands and lands belonging to other people, as opposed to wise use. Somehow we need to build a bridge of common interests to these people who are disaffected and in some ways misinformed, concerning our wise use philosophy and privately held land philosophy.

In summary, wise use interests(including the forest practice board) are currently in a perfect storm of a horrendously bad economy, generalized weakness, demographically, and a perceived relevance crisis brought on by smaller and smaller numbers of people involved in outdoor pursuits. In conclusion, I cannot say whether the FPB will survive. I CAN say that it SHOULD survive and continue to perform it's mandate of communicating with the governments in the State of New York as regards forest policy and law to the benefit of the entire population.

State Soil and Water Conservation Districts/State Ag and Markets by Cliff Fraizer .

No Report

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences-Cornell University by Dan Decker No report, however, Jody Enck provided a power point presentation on the results of past “access” related studies.

Insights from Three Decades of Access-related Research by Jody Enck and Daniel Decker

Human Dimensions Research Unit, Cornell University

- **Context**
 - ~80% of rural land is privately owned
 - Access to private lands is important for hunters to have satisfying experiences
 - Access to private lands is necessary for effective deer management
 - Degree to which lack of access affects hunter recruitment and retention has negative consequences for DEC funding
- **Long History of Access Research**
- **Trends in Posting**
- **Reasons Why Posting is Unlikely to Become Universal**
 - Disincentives for very small or very large landholdings:
 - Posting is time – consuming
 - Posting is expensive
 - Posting doesn't keep trespassers out
- Some landowners believe their properties do not have good wildlife habitat and so are not attractive to hunters
- **Why Do Landowners Post?**
 - To control use of their property
 - To prevent interference with farming or other activities
 - Concerns about liability

-Concerns about personal safety

- Not Reasons for Posting

Habitat and hunting influences on grouse declines in NY State

Principle Investigators: Dr. Bill Porter (SUNY-ESF)
 Brian Swift and Mike Murphy

- Posting does not equal “No Hunting” of access policies by landowners:
 -Four types NYS-DEC Graduate student: M. Skrip
 - Completed Fall 2009
 - Closed = no one can hunt
 - Exclusive = landowner or lessees
 -Restrictive = relatives, close friends
 -Open = anyone who asks permission

- Implications of Access Policies

- Is Leasing on the Increase?

-At time of last definitive study in 1991, 6% of landowners leased and another 11% were interested in the idea

-76% of landowners were not interested in leasing their land to hunters

-Reasons for not leasing same as those given for posting (liability, interference, safety, plus limited income potential and tradition of free access)

- Hunters’ Perspectives on Leasing

-Historically, <5% of hunters have reported leasing land for hunting

-Another 10-12% pay dues to a private club that owned or leased land for hunting

-Up to 17% of hunters have reported bartering with landowners for hunting

access

-In 1970s, >50% were willing to pay small fee for hunting private land. Now...?

- Other Access Behaviors and Beliefs of Hunters

- Insights for the Development of Access Programs

- Insights for the Development of Access Programs

- Insights for the Development of Access Programs

- The “Right” Ingredients?

- What about the recent past and the foreseeable future?

-Last statewide study completed in 1991

-Since then, shifting rural economies, increasing rural poverty, influx of ex-urbanites, parcelization and fragmentation of properties have changed the face of the rural landscape

-Hunter desire for access to private lands seems to remain strong. Do not know about landowner beliefs and behaviors.

Grouse consistently absent

~ Population persistence or colonization Local extinction since 1980

Change in local ruffed grouse population status between 1980 and 2000

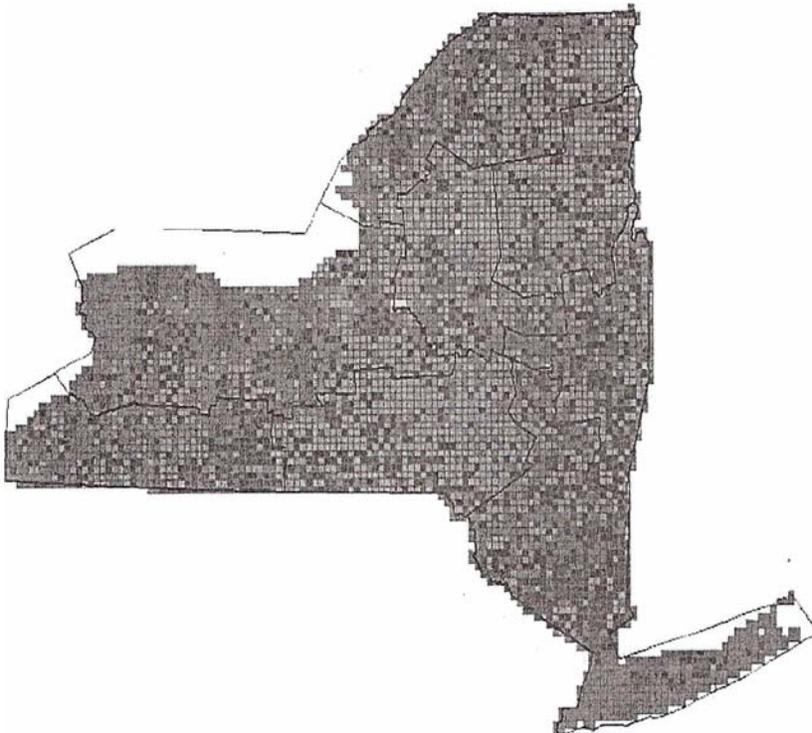
(based on breeding bird atlas data)

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

Funding Source:
Project Status:

Project summary:

In New York State, ruffed grouse populations have declined by >75% since the 1960s, presumably with the overall maturation of forests statewide. Yet, this early-successional forest specialist remains the second most popular game bird in New York (after wild turkey). We evaluated the potential role of hunting in population decline by examining the survival rates and mortality sources of radio-marked grouse in 2 study areas (Fort Drum and Partridge Run) that differed in forest composition. We also used statewide datasets to assess the relative degree of grouse decline across New York and potential landscape-scale habitat drivers. Among radio-marked grouse, we observed overwinter survival rates (-38-51 %), that were similar between study areas and also similar to those estimated throughout the species' range. This level of survival is not sufficient on its own to cause population declines because of the large brood sizes produced annually. Harvest was a relatively minor portion (:::11 %) of hunting-season mortality, and is not likely to be responsible for the observed declines in grouse abundance in NY State. Statewide, there has been a 20% decline in areas occupied by grouse, but trends vary regionally (see figure) with losses of more than 50% in the Catskills but less than 10% in the Adirondacks. Declines are probably influenced by multiple processes, such as decline in forests composed of small diameter trees and spring weather that affects brood survival.



Population status and foraging ecology of coyotes in NY State

Principle Investigators: Dr. Jacqueline Frair, Dr. James Gibbs (SUNY-ESF) Gordon Batcheller, Paul Jensen (NYS-DEC)
 Funding Source: *Graduate students:* C. Boser, R. Holevinski, S. Hansen
 Project Status: NYS-DEC, SUNY-ESF, USDA
 Project summary: McIntire-Stennis Program In process, target completion 2011

Having colonized NY State in the 1920s, coyotes recently have become widespread (statewide except Long Island) and locally abundant. This study is focused on estimating the status of coyote populations in the state, and evaluate to what degree coyote predation might influence deer populations. Specifically, we are evaluating seasonal and spatial variation in coyote diets by observing prey remains in scats; estimating coyote abundance using a variety of techniques including DNA "fingerprinting" (from scats), traditional radio-telemetry techniques, and vocalization surveys; and "backtracking" individuals fitted with GPS radio-collars to quantify kill rates on adult deer and fawns. For the past two years, we have been intensively monitoring coyotes in two focal areas of NY (Steuben and Otsego County). Deer were consistently the most abundant prey item in coyote diets (Table 1). The second most abundant items were scavenged livestock carcasses, microtine rodents (mice and voles), and woodchucks.

Prey item	Summers 2007-08		Winter 2008		Period	# <u>Number of deer:</u>		
	Steuben	Otsego	Steuben	Otsego		Sites Found	Known fate	Killed ^b
Deer- adult	30.5	25.5	63	74	Winter	661	39 (63%)	3 (8%)
Deer-fawn	21.0	29.0	NA	NA	Summer: 871	62	6	0
Livestock (carcass dumps)	8.0	15.5	6	4	Adult	6	34	34
Rabbit	6.0	6.0	10	8	Fawn	34		
Woodchuck	9.0	4.5	2	1				
Microtine rodent	8.0	5.5	13	6				
Turkey	4.0	1.0	--	1				
Other	2.5	3.5	3	4				
Gray squirrel	4.0	2.5	1					
Passerine bird	2.0	2.5						
Plant (various)	3.5	2.0	1	2				
Domestic cat	2.0	2.5						
Insect	2.5	0.5	1	2				

^a , Could definitively tell whether deer was killed or scavenged (dead from another cause)
^b Indicates number of known-fate deer killed by coyotes.

Table 2. Back-tracking results from GPS collared coyotes in two winters and two summers.

Table 1. Biomass-corrected estimates of prey occurrence in \ coyote scats (standard deviations shown in parentheses).

NA indicates that we were unable to determine differences between fawns and adults in winter diets. Trace or no occurrence observed for a prey item is indicated by " __ ".

Deer are thus a very important source of protein for coyotes. But understanding whether or not coyotes are an important source of mortality to deer requires information on the average number of deer killed by an individual coyote (the functional response) and the total number of coyotes in the landscape (the numeric response). Backtracking 10 GPS-collared coyotes over 2 winters and 16 coyotes over two summers revealed only 3 adult deer killed by coyotes «8% of the deer carcasses they visited; Table 2), and all three of those deer had a pre-existing and serious leg injury. Thus the great majority of deer consumed in winter is scavenged, and winter predation is not likely sufficient to affect overall deer numbers. Backtracking coyotes in summer revealed highly specialized dietary choices among individual coyotes. One female killed 10 fawns in one summer monitoring period while another female killed no fawns and instead hunted woodchucks. Based on our diet study (Table 1) and the energy requirements of coyotes, we estimate that the "average" coyote might take 2-3 fawns during June-July. However, our backtracking study indicates that there is no "average" coyote, and to understand coyote effects on fawn survival rates and deer population dynamics will depend on the ratio of fawn-killers to non-killers in a given population. Whether or not we can identify that ratio based on biological attributes (perhaps females with pups specialize on fawns) is the focus of ongoing research.

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Chairmans Report – Michael Zeh

State Fish and Wildlife Management Board Committee assignments

Executive:

Michael Zeh	Region 4
Tom Grow	Region 6
Laurie Bruce	Region 5
Gerry Bierker	Region 3
Jim Petreszyn	Region 7
Dick Giardoni	Region 9
Jack Cooper	Secretary, NYSDEC

Habitat:

Richard Fox	Forest Practice Board
Homer Casler	Region 4
Lance Robson	Region 7

Barlow Rhodes Farm Bureau
Dr. Jacqueline Frair ESF
John Schumacher SWCD/AG&MKS
Zenon Olow Region 9

Access:

Dan Tone NYSCC
Don Teed Issak Walton
Jim Patreszyn Region 7
Roy Hopke Forest Practice Board
Dan Decker Cornell
Keith Kappel Region 8
Gary Evans Region 8
Philip May Region 9

Resolutions:

Dave McLean Region 4
Bill Wilklow Region 3
Bill Stage Region 9
Dorothy Huber Region 8

Nominating: (Spring Meeting)

Ray Merlotto Region 3
Bill Stage Region 9
Tom Grow Region 6
Homer Casler Region 4

Farm Days:

Public Relations:

Roy Hopke Forest Practice Board
Gerry Bierker Region 3

A Re-newed Vision for the Fish and Wildlife Management Boards- Patricia Riexinger,
Director, Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources

Four regional boards submitted draft “Visions/Work plans,” each region went over their plan:

**Region 4 Fish and Wildlife Management Board Work Plan
Fall 2009 – 2010**

- 1) Continue to utilize county contacts and sports person’s networks to provide communication and feedback to and from the sports to the Department. This provides for meaningful dialogue on Department Fish and Wildlife programs.
- 2) Work with the Department on the promotion, selection, and monitoring of the habitat/access grants for each Region. Where appropriate, become involved in the implementation of the grant(s).
- 3) Work with the Department to insure continued access for anglers under the Department’s Public Fishing Access program. FWMB Board members, working through their county networks, including youths (i.e Boy Scout Eagle Scout project), will review and confirm the PFR on the ground. Feedback will be given to the Department on deficiencies found, i.e. inadequate signage/boundary markings, access points, etc.
- 4) In conjunction with activity 3, inventory and document fish passage barriers in area streams. Barriers will include “hanging” culverts and natural and artificial dams. This information will be conveyed to the Department for future reference and action.
- 5) Develop and distribute to local Real Estate agents, a Landowner packet, including currently available information on fish and wildlife management, along with forest management practices. The goal is to provide education to ultimately increase access to private lands for primarily hunting and fishing. This initially be done on a small scale to determine its acceptance and effectiveness.
- 6) Discuss with the county networks, the feasibility of creating a new Cooperative Hunting Area, “Co-Op”. Questions to be looked at include landowner acceptance and Department support. If determined to be feasible, while working with the Department, create a Co-Op and monitor its use by providing human assistance.
- 7) Receive a presentation and training on invasive species and begin monitoring for such, while a field.

**A Renewed Vision for the Region 6 Fish and Wildlife
Management Board (draft 9/17/09)**

1. Continue current duties and functions of a Regional Fish and Wildlife Management Board (FWMB) from the Fish and Wildlife Management Act Section 198.
2. Participate in Region 6 State Open Space Committee by attending meetings and providing info to the board.
3. Participate in development of all DEC Unit Management Plans (UMP). This would be done by county delegates in whose county the UMP is being formulated.
4. Restore aquatic connectivity by identifying stream segments that have impassible culverts or barriers that impede aquatic movement.
 - a. Awareness of the problem.
 - i. Do presentations at highway meetings.
 - ii. Make sure DEC permitting is recognizing opportunities.
5. Continue role in fishing access sites.
6. Continue promoting ethical sportsmanship.
7. Identify opportunities at the local level for developing additional access and management on Public and Private land and watch for negative developments.
 - a. Identify and suggest new FWMA Cooperative Agreements with landowners to allow access for hunting, fishing, and trapping.
 - b. Ask each member to acquire one access.
 - c. Work with landowners to post "Ask Permission" signs where land is currently closed to access.
8. Continue to organize Youth Hunts.
9. Develop publicity on FWMB programs and functions.
 - a. Get information to schools (i.e. 4th grade and up) and support educational activities by other groups.
 - b. Approach the State FWMB about the development of a calendar with pictures and captions. (Photo contest opportunity?)
 - c. Develop a tri-fold with FWMB information and pictures with captions.
 - d. Have our Board do outreach to the current Advisory Board regarding full representation and improve **reporting to the groups that we as members and advisors represent.**
 - e. Work closely with other groups i.e. the Farm Bureau, Izaak Walton League, NYS Conservation Council, etc.
 - f. Use new DEC (Ken Kogut) PowerPoint for county legislators/supervisors and promote use of this or something similar statewide.

- g. Make better use of the web to promote the FWMB and save money.
- 10. Work with the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP) and the Saint Lawrence Eastern Lake Ontario (SLELO) Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISMs) on the identification, control and eradication of invasive species.
- 11. Promote sale of Habitat and Access stamps with explanation of use.
- 12. Reduce the number of resolutions to 1 or 2 that are important.

Prepared and submitted by Tom Grow, Bill Stage, and Dawn Howard

**A Renewed Vision for the Region 7
Fish and Wildlife
Management Board
(Draft)**

1. Continue current duties and functions of a Regional Fish and Wildlife Management Board (FWMB) in accord with the Fish and Wildlife Management Act Section 198.
2. Identify opportunities at the local and regional levels for developing additional access sites and habitat management on both public and private land.
 - a. Identify and suggest new cooperative agreements with landowners to allow access for hunting, fishing, and trapping.
 - b. Review County tax auctions for potential properties, which could be transferred to DEC.
 - c. Work with landowners to post "Ask Permission" signs where land is currently closed to access.
 - d. Review Parcels to be sold at County Tax Sale auctions.
 - e. Work with OPRHP and other state agencies to secure fishing, trapping, and hunting access
3. Participate in Region 7 State Open Space Committee.
4. Participate in development of all DEC Unit Management Plans (UMP) for any areas within the nine counties in Region 7. This would be done by county delegates in whose county the UMP is being formulated.
5. Continue role in fishing access sites as well as Public Fishing Rights.
6. Continue to support youth in hunting, fishing, and trapping.

- a. Participate/Organize Youth Hunts.
 - b. Support Shooting Sports in Schools programs.
7. Develop publicity on FWMB programs and functions.
- a. Participate in Conservation Field Day events with local Soil and Water Conservation districts.
 - b. Participate in Enviorothon competitions with local High schools as well as on the State level.
 - c. Develop a tri-fold with FWMB information and pictures with captions.
 - d. Work closely with other groups i.e. the Farm Bureau, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Izack Walton League, NYS Conservation Council, etc.
8. Work with Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISMs) on the identification, control and eradication of invasive species.
9. Restore aquatic connectivity by identifying stream segments that have impassible culverts or barriers that impede aquatic movement.
- a. Raise awareness of the problem.
 - i. Meet with Soil and Water Conservation Districts.
 - ii. Make sure DEC permitting is recognizing opportunities.
10. Participate in clean up and restoration initiatives (e.g. Onondaga Lake).
11. Advocate for hunting, fishing, and trapping in New York State.
12. Promote the sale of the Habitat/Access Stamp.

**Renewed Vision for Region 8
Fish and Wildlife Management Board
Overview**

The following practices will be implemented to establish, maintain and improve public access to fish and wildlife resources, improve habitat and promote sound management of those resources within the eleven counties comprising DEC Region 8 (Monroe, Wayne, Seneca, Ontario, Yates, Steuben, Genesee, Schuyler, Livingston, Chemung and Orleans).

This is an evergreen document intended to establish an initial set of objectives with a preliminary work plan. It will be incumbent upon the Region 8 FWMB to establish committees with responsibilities for the coordination and or implementation as well as further identification and development of those additional tasks necessary to the achievement of the objectives. Committees will be expected to provide status reports to the full FWMB which will be incorporated into semi annual reports to the State Board.

Achievement of the objectives will be somewhat dependent upon the availability of financial resources, DEC support staff and complementary organizations with each county within the Region. Success of these efforts will also depend upon the level of commitment able to be put forth by the responsible committees.

**Renewed Vision for Region 8
Fish and Wildlife Management Board
Objectives and Work Plan**

- 1) Participate in Region 8 Open Space Committee.

Committee Members: TBD

Work Plan: TBD

- 2) Work with County Sportsmen's Federations to communicate with landowners to facilitate access to private lands for hunting, fishing and trapping.

Committee Members: TBD

Work Plan:

- 2a) Establish cooperative agreements between landowners and the state for the purpose of promoting fish and wildlife management practices and to establish and /or preserve public access to those lands for the purpose of hunting, fishing or trapping.

- 3) Participate in all DEC Unit Management Plans via the county delegates in whose county the UMP is being formulated. Each county delegation becomes responsible for the communication and coordination of input from all interested parties within the Region.

Committee Members: TBD

Work Plan: TBD

- 4) Establish a youth Hunt Committee. Work with County Sportsmen's Federation's to facilitate access to both resources and sites as appropriate, assist with publicity, provide guidance and mentoring assistance and a mechanism for the coordination of dates to minimize conflicts.

Committee Members: TBD

- Work Plan: 4a) Develop an information brochure to advertise and promote

youth hunting opportunities and work with the Regional Sportsman Education Coordinator to increase the number of youth participants.

4b) Work with the County Federation's to establish a mechanism for the coordination of youth pheasant hunt dates to eliminate date conflicts.

- 5) Ensure the Boards is involved in Public Lands Access and Management by facilitating the communication of public input regarding land use, accessibility and maintenance. For example: boat launches, parking, handicap access, public hunting and fishing access, stream repairs, drainage issues trail maintenance, etc.

Committee Members: TBD

Work Plan:

5a) Work with Regional Fisheries staff to develop a management practice for the replacement of stream culverts that impede fish movement on trout streams and obtain approval from State FWMB.

5b) Work with Regional Fisheries staff to develop a management practice for the replacement of stream culverts that impede fish movement on trout streams and obtain approval from State FWMB.

- 6) Establish a publicity Committee to issue press releases and other communications to keep the public informed of programs, activities and Habitat and Access resources available within the Region. Work with various groups within the region such as Trout Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, NWTF, Ruffed Grouse Society, Bass, etc., to ensure that events and programs are communicated within the Region.

Committee Members: TBD

Work Plan: 6a) Ensure that Region 8 Board minutes are provided to interested groups within the region and to the state Board.

- 7) Promote Sales of Habitat and Access Stamps.

Committee Members: TBD

Work Plan: TBD

- 8) Establish an Education Committee to work with local schools to ensure awareness of activities and events scheduled with the region that promote awareness, management and ethical use of habitat and access opportunities.

Committee Members: TBD

Work Plan: TBD

- 9) Board will stay cognizant of major development plans within the Region and will provide assistance to ensure that public input regarding Habitat and Access is communicated timely to the appropriate DEC agency.

Committee Members: TBD

Work Plan: TBD

- 10) Submit Resolutions to the NYS Conservation Council via the County Federations as appropriate.

Committee Members: TBD

Work Plan: TBD

The Board is still waiting for vision statements from Regions 3, 5 and 9. Those statements should be provided to the State Board Secretary prior to the February 2010 Executive Committee meeting. The regional visions will be assembled and forward to the DEC Commissioner with a resolution adopting them as a fish and wildlife management practice that the regional boards will implement.

Statewide Board Meeting Discussion Follows with Director Riexinger:

The State is facing major budget problems:

- 3 billion addition deficit
- We need to cut an addition 11.9 million from this years remaining budget
- However “Fiscal” anticipated this and was able to hold back enough money to cover us
- Looks like we will not suffer any additional cuts this year
- However we are suffering from a cash-flow problem that is preventing us from promptly paying our vendors
- The Department is also looking at cutting various advisory boards, commissions and committees as a possible cost saving measure (including the fish and wildlife management boards)
- EPF spending has been approved to cover outstanding projects
- There is a problem for our federal match projects, we can not come up with our share of the match
- The is money for the Great Lakes projects

- Staffing is down in the Division to 411
- The retirement incentive did not generate what the governor was targeting, our Division only has 10-11 people interested
- However, during the next budget cycle, the governor will need to address the deficit somehow
- The Chief of the Bureau of Fisheries is now vacant and will be filled on a “acting” basis for the foreseeable future
- Cutbacks on travel and meeting is impacting many of our programs, include this board. We almost did not have this meeting as the administration is questioning all advisory boards and committees. We need to justify all that we do. We may need to look for alternative ways to accomplish our job.
- The habitat stamp program is also suffering, the pin was denied this year and sales are down. The pin is now available on-line this year. We need to promote the stamp more.
- The statewide deer meetings were well attended throughout New York. There is a meeting scheduled for New York City in the near future.
- The Division has recognized the need to deal more with fish and wildlife health issues. We would like to hire a wildlife veterinarian to coordinate these issues but budget issues have prevented. We are appointing Pat Martin, unit leader for our Special Licenses Unit, to coordinate this in the meantime.
- We will be looking to close the shad season due to poor recruitment.
- We are also looking at the baitfish regulations to deal with the issue of overland movement of baitfish within the same water body.
- The issue of fallow deer was brought up, there are legal issues related to dealing with escapees, snake head eradication is also ongoing, although their ability to survive in low oxygen conditions makes their eradication difficult.
- The sales of lifetime license significantly increased this year, however the proceeds from their sales do not go into the conservation fund, the interest does, but the result may be a reduction in general license sales in years to come.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee

The Spring 2010 Annual Meeting will be held in Albany, March 25 – 26, 2010. The Executive Committee will meet on February 5 at the Herkimer Lands and Forests Office, a snow date is set for February 12.

Some potential topics for the spring meeting include:

- Voluntary Public Access Program of the Farm Bill
- General Obligations Law
- Invasive Species and PRISMs
- Power Point presentation by Region 6 on regional board functions
- Marine Fishing License
- Continue with regional vision statements

Habitat Committee - Lance Robson – Chairman

The issue of gas drilling was a concern and the fact that there is a 60 day comment period on the review and comment on the environmental impact statement. The committee did not feel that this was adequate time frame to provide comments. It was suggested that the Board prepare a letter requesting that the comment period be extended. The Chair will prepare a letter to be forwarded to the secretary or Chairman Zeh.

Access Committee

The committee has concerns about the impact that the yellow FWMA posted signs are having on access. They questioned if Cornell could do a study. It was indicated that the Department has a contract with Cornell to do studies by that this would need to be a separate paid study.

Resolutions Committee

The following resolution was submitted by the Region 5 Fish and Wildlife Management Board, presented to the resolution committee and submitted to the statewide board for consideration. A phone call was made to Pete Finelli to verify the information about violation fees being deposited into the Conservation Account.

New York State Fish and Wildlife Management Board
Resolution # 2009-02-01

Title: Resolution in support of requesting newly enacted Environmental Conservation Law Violation Surcharges be placed in the Conservation Fund

WHEREAS, it has come to the attention of the New York State Fish and Wildlife Management that Environmental Conservation Law (ECL) Violation Surcharges currently are placed in the General Fund of the State of New York,

And, WHEREAS, it is crucial to keep the Conservation Fund solvent to ensure adequate funding for fish and wildlife programs to support the law abiding sportsmen and women of New York,

And, WHEREAS, by placing ECL surcharges in the General Fund they are not being used to fund fish and wildlife management programs,

THEREFORE, let it be resolved that the New York State Fish and Wildlife Management Board respectfully request that ECL surcharges henceforth be placed in the Conservation Fund rather than the General Fund.

A motion was made by Jim Petreszyn and seconded by Vincent Johns to support Resolution 2009-02-01 to place ECL violations surcharges in the Conservation Fund. The motion was unanimously approved.

Nomination Committee

- strengthen wildlife habitat improvement efforts on land enrolled in special conservation reserve enhancement program by providing incentives to increase public hunting and other recreational access
- use grant money in conjunction with other Federal, State, or tribal resources to carry out program
- notify public of location of land enrolled

Grants to be reduced by 25% if opening dates for migratory-bird hunting in State are not consistent for residents and nonresidents.

(more information on the farm bill can be found on-line at www.ers.usda.gov/FarmBill/2008/)

There was a brief discussion on involving the Region Fish and Wildlife Management Boards in using this program to promote a private landowner access program in New York. We will discuss further at the Spring 2010 meeting.

New PFD Law

There was a brief discussion about the new law requiring boaters to wear a Personal Flootation Device (PFD) between November 1 and May 1 while underway in certain watercraft. Board members felt that this requirement will adversely impact sportsmen, especially waterfowl hunters. The Board may submit a resolution at the spring 2010 meeting to request the exemption of hunters.

A motion was duly made to adjourn the fall 2009 meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

The Board was adjourned by Chairman Zeh at 2:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by:

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

(Last updated 11/20/09-Draft minutes from Fall 09 meeting3.doc)

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.