

New York State FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD



Minutes-NYS Fish and Wildlife Management Board
100th Session, March 29, 30, and 31, 2007
Holiday Inn, Schenectady, New York

The meeting was called to order at 1:10 pm by Chairman Arnold
 Invocation was given by Judy Aldrich.

Roll Call (Present at all or part of meeting)

Board Members Present

Region	Landowner	Sportsman	Legislator
3	Bill Wilklow	Raymond Merlotto	Mary Conklin
4	Homer Casler	Michael Zeh	Jim Bertram
5	William Pike	Laurie Bruce	Robert Banks
6	Ann Tibbets	Patricia Arnold	Judy Aldrich
7	Eugene Blumer	Harry Woodfield	Barbara Brown
8	Gary Evans	Rick Page	Glenn Larison
9	Absent	Walt Hallbauer	Derwood Say

Advisors Members Present

NYSDEC- Gerald Barnhart, Jack Cooper
 NYS Farm Bureau- Barlow Rhodes
 NY Grange- Dwight Widger
 Izaak Walton League of America- John Tusch
 NYS Conservation Council- Tim Noga
 NYS Forest Practice Board- Richard Fox
 Conservation Fund Advisory Board- Bud Woodfield
 SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry- Jacqueline Frair

Guests

Charlie Hancock - CFAB
 Harold Palmer - NYSCC
 Russ Williams - NYCA
 Steve Schassler

Linda Sicily - CFAB
Debbie Nelson - NYSDOT
John Major - NYSDEC
Doug Stang - NYSDEC
Kelly Stang- NYSDEC
Kris McShane - NYSDEC
Jason Bried - Albany Pine Bush
Lisa Holst - NYSDEC

Approval of Previous Minutes, Fall 2006

Motion was made by Walt Hallbauer and seconded by Bud Woodfield to accept the Fall 2006 minutes. The motion was unanimously approved.

Welcome to the Spring meeting and Region 4 from Steven Schassler, Regional Director.

Regional Reports

Region 3 - Pre-filed report

Representatives attended the Fall State Board meeting, October 2006

- ▶ Held annual election of Officers:
 - Chairman - Bill Gaudette
 - Vice Chairman - Bill Conners
 - Representative to State Board - Joe Molinaro, Jr.
 - Alternate to above - Ray Merlotto
 - Landowner Rep to State Board - Bill Nichols
 - Alternate to above - Bob Underhill
 - Secretary - Tom Raffaldi
 - ▶ In the process of pursuing use of electric motors on New York City reservoirs
 - this process is expected to take some time
 - ▶ Selected a team to work with DEC for the upcoming Habitat/Access grant application review, which was held in late February. Five grant allocations were reviewed and ranked.
 - ▶ Advocated for more and better promotion of the Habitat/Access stamp to increase sales
 - ▶ Members are active in Hunters Helping the Hungry Venison Donation Program. Most active counties are:
 - Dutchess, donating 1,300 lbs since last fall
 - Ulster/Orange, donating over 560 lbs in their start up year of operation
- Additionally, through the efforts of Board Members, Venison Donation was officially started in the City of New York.
- ▶ Participated in the Westchester County Deer Management Task Force. The committee is considering ways to better manage the deer herd in this heavily suburbanized/urbanized county. A possibility under consideration is methods to open up hunting (archery only in unit 3S) on publicly owned lands. Some land has already opened to bowhunting.
 - ▶ Continued to discuss/explore means to open up more access on New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Parklands in the Hudson Valley. This has

- been an ongoing issue.
- ▶ The Board discussed a number of deer management issues, particularly QDM antler point restrictions.
 - Note: Region 3 has 4 WMU's with antler restrictions, with people who are both pro and con on this issue.
 - ▶ The Stewart State Forest UMP went into effect in December 2007. Hunting, trapping and fishing will continue at current levels. Also, additional acreage was added to the existing State Forest property, bringing it to 6700 acres in total providing additional lands for hunting, fishing and trapping recreation.

Respectfully submitted by,
Region 3 FWM Board

Region 4- Pre-filed report

Peter Innes, Region 4 Natural Resources Supervisor gave a report on the Open Space Plan. The plan establishes priority project areas and sets guidelines for land acquisition. Last year 2500 acres of land was purchased within Region 4 and is open to hunting, fishing and trapping. Over 1300 emergency permits were issued in Delaware and Otsego Counties because of last years flooding. The Landowner Incentive Program for Grassland Protection is available for areas in Otsego County. The NYSDEC and Green County reached an agreement for the purchase of Middle Ground Flats, an island in the Hudson River.

Dick Henry, Region 4 Wildlife Manager reported that 19,500 DMPs were issued in Region 4 compared to 34,300 in 2005. Eight WMUs had no permits issued in 2006. Three WMUs were opened for bear in 2006, 4F, 4G, 4H. Region 4 released 2900 state reared pheasants with birds provided for a youth hunt in Green County.

Harold Palmer provide feedback on the third Summit Meeting between NYSCC, CFAB, FWMB and CANY. The Summit is recommending several initiatives: Statewide fishing license to include fresh and saltwater, NYS surcharge on outdoor equipment, enable junior hunters to hunt big game, recover penalties and surcharges for fish and wildlife violations, ban sale of angler caught panfish, Habitat and Access initiative and reduce age at which youth can handle a firearm, create visible fishing license, youth small game hunt, transfer fringe benefit costs to general fund, ways to increase the number of young people that hunt fish and trap and cost of negotiated raises/arbitration awards funded by general fund.

The Regional FWMB assisted Region 4 DEC staff in the review and scoring of five Habitat Access Stamp Grant Applications. Applications were submitted by: Catskill Watershed Corp., Green County SWCD, Village of Athens, Town of Glen and The Nature Conservancy.

Region 4 fish biologist, Dan Zelinski reported on the propose 2007 fish stocking for brown trout and rainbow. VHS has resulted in restrictions on baitfish use and transport. Regional Board discussed the 2006 deer kill, antler restriction pilot program in Ulster and Sullivan Counties. Discussed 2006 bear kill. Reviewed the Fetus Study being done in Region 4, 8 and 9. Region has collected 130 samples for this two year reproduction study. Also looked at Bobcat study which included 13 successful trappers with 22 bobcats taken.

County Federations have been sponsoring youth to DEC summer camps, holding ice fishing derbies and trapping education courses and youth archery programs held at Middleburgh Rod and Gun Club.

Respectfully submitted by Michael Zeh
FWMB Region 4 Sportsman Representative

Region 5 - No Report

Region 6 Pre-filed Report

Officers: Chairman- Robert Grose (sportsman), Vice-Chair-Judith Aldrich (Landowner), State Board Rep-Ann Tibbets (Landowner), Pat Arnold (Sportsman), Judith Aldrich (Legislative), Secretary - Dick McDonald (DEC)

International Paper land deal complete with over 200,000 acres open for recreational opportunities.

Region 6 Board has established an "Adopt-A-By-Laws Committee to draft By-Laws for the Region 6 Board. The Board assisted the Region 6 DEC in the review and scoring of 7 Habitat Access Stamp Grant Applications submitted by: Watervill Forest Fish and Game Club, Jefferson County SWCD, Town of Dexter, Lewis County Department of Economic Development, NYS DEC Region 6 Fisheries, Region 6 FWMB.

The Region 6 FWMB received a report from the CFAB which indicated that the deer take was slightly up for 2006, there will be a change in the color of the DECALS license for 2007.

The DEC provided a presentation on VHS which includes "emergency regulations" which will restrict the transport of the disease. The Occidental Chemical NRD is approximately \$12 million to fund development projects. There will be a creel census on West Canada Creek. A report on the Pilot antler point restriction for WMUs 3C and 3J was provided. About 75% of hunter surveyed feel the program should continue. Experimental (extended) Fisher Trapping Season studied. The 2007 national midwinter bald eagle survey was conducted on the St Lawrence River in January. The Second year of a study to monitor deer movements to assess the spread of CWD was conducted by SUNY ESF. The second year of a turkey capture and banding study continued with 30 turkeys captured in Region 6. A Short-eared Owl study by the continued.

Region 6 FWMB will host the Statewide FWMB meeting in October 2007.

Respectfully submitted,
Judith Aldrich
Vice Chair, Region 6

Region 7 - No written report

It was reported that Oswego County has had a very harsh winter, deer may have had a tough time. Redfield fishing access site completed. Water chestnut control continues in Oswego County.

Report provide by Barbara Brown

Region 8 - Pre-filed report

Officers: Chairman- Glenn Larison (Legislative), Vice-Chair-Wayne Housemen (Legislative), State Board Reps- Gary Evans (landowner), Rick Page (sportsman), Glenn Larison (Legislative)
Secretary- Randy Nemecek (DEC)

The Region 8 FWMB assisted the Region 8 staff review and score 2 Habitat Access Grant Applications from the Town of Ridgeway and from the National Wild Turkey Federation. The Board continues to push for more promotion of the Habitat Access Stamp to help increase sales.

Several key land acquisitions projects are ongoing in Region 8: the DEC is purchasing 80 acres from the Village of Lyons to add to the Junius Ponds Complex, the DEC is working on acquiring 95 acres adjacent to Canandaigua Lake in the town of Gorham, the DEC is also working on a land swap adjacent to a public fish site on Cayuta Lake, also a 537 acre addition to Ossian State Forest, 20 acres for High-Tor WMA and 200 acres for Braddock Bay WMA.

The Fall 2006 meeting of the Statewide FWMB was held in Region 8 in October 2006. The 2007 Empire Farm Days and the National Hunting and Fishing Day will be held in Region 8 in the fall of 2007.

Submitted by,
Rick Page
Gary Evans
Glenn Larison

Region 9 Pre-Filed Report

Officers: Chairman- Jim Agle, Vice-Chair- Walt Hallbauer, State Board Reps- Greg Tessman, Derwood Say, Walt Hallbauer.

The Region is looking for the number of miles of PFR on streams in Region 9.

Three Schools in Alleghany are including shooting in their outdoor education program. Schools are involved in hatchery operations and hunting as part of their outdoor program.

The Region 9 Board heard a report on the habitat management at Tift Farm in Buffalo. Marsh pond restoration involves the creation of five pond sites. The DEC will hold a free fishing day event at the preserve in June. The DOT is funding a major fishing access site along I-86 in Alleghany. Once complete it will be transferred to the DEC. Region 9 Board assisted the Region 9 staff in the review and scoring of 3 Habitat Access Grant Applications.

A report on VHS was provided to the Board. Emergency regulations will control the possession of bait fish. The is concern that there could be conflicts between hunters and trappers with regard to Bird Conservation Areas on State WMAs.

There has been a problem reported with Coyotes in Chautauqua County.

Submitted by, Jim Agle, Chairman, Region 9

Advisory Members Reports

Farm Bureau- Barlow Rhodes

Spring meeting establish policies including:

- DEC should study wildlife damage to crops
- Continue DMAP
- Support additional Landowner liability protection
- Support cost sharing and low interest loans for deer fencing
- Support to allow landowners to charge fees for access without impacting liability
- Support continued use of steel jaw and body traps
- Support goose management
- Support maintaining DEC as the sole responsibility for management of fish and wildlife and season setting
- Support compensating landowners for damage or loss to livestock caused by wildlife species
- Support allowing landowners to protect their lands from damage by wildlife
- Support removal of beaver
- Support venison donation program
- Oppose importation relocation and introduction of wildlife into NYS
- Support opening public parks to hunting
- Recommend DEC better manage deer populations
- Support harvest of antlerless deer
- Support the same opening day for deer and bear in the southern zone
- Support year around season on coyotes, crows and seagulls
- Support age limit for big game license be reduced from 16 to 14
- Increase numbers of hunter training courses and hunter orange for big game hunting
- Recommend improving landowner/hunter relations

Izaak Walton League Report-Written report provided

Want to refresh for the Board the mission of the IWLA. “To conserve, maintain, and store the soil, forest, water, and other natural resources of the United State and other lands; to promote means and opportunities for the education of the public with respect to such resources and their enjoyment and wholesome utilization.”

In New York IWLA chapters are involved in a wide variety of conservation issues with education being a common theme throughout. Some chapters with land holdings practice wildlife habitat management and provide access to the public. Other chapters maintain trail systems. Programs support and encourage educational and volunteer programs. The IWLA supports legislation to protect the health of the Great Lakes and is working with other Great Lakes States to help control invasive species. The IWLA supports reauthorizing the Farm Bill and helping to close some of the damaging loopholes in the program.

John A. Tusch, National Director

New York Grange by Dwight Widger

Working with Future Farmers of America to stress values of conservation. Many schools are losing these programs. Working with school districts to get FFA programs back into the school systems.

New York State Conservation Council by Tim Noga

Tim referred to the NYSCC’s Grass Roots News as a source of information about what’s going on with the Conservation Council now. Tim also recognized the 50th anniversary of the FWM Board and FWMA. He also talked about the loss of FWMA cooperative hunting areas and the need to re-energize the process.

In addition, Harold Palmer, President of NYSCC provided a one page handout with requested support for

passage of the youth hunting bills: A04623 and S00113 Junior Archery bills and A03878 and S00857 Junior Big Game Bills. The NYSCC is requesting support from sportsmen across New York.

Conservation Fund Advisory Board Report - Bud Woodfield

Bud passed around a summary of license sales from April 1, 2006 to March 31, 2007 which showed the total licenses sold (4/06-3/07) as 1,784,057 for a total value of \$35,888,822.66. This is down \$337,726 from the period 4/1/05-3/31/06. The total habitat stamp sales during this period was shown as 8,091 for a total value of \$38,462.36 (resident and non-resident).

The CFAB is down a couple of members, including the Chairman who recently resigned. The fall field trip and meeting of the CFAB will be held in Region 7.

New York State Forest Practice Board- Richard Fox

Recent meeting of active members of the Board. New chairman elected. The Board is being reorganized.

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences-Cornell University by Tommy Brown

Deer Related Research- Hunters attitudes toward antler restrictions in central NY WMUs 7F, 7H and 7J. Statewide deer hunter survey, Deer Damage survey around Cornell campus, proposed biofuels facility proposed at Seneca Army Depot.

Landowner Liability Research- study of New York's General Obligations Law by Tom Brown. This is on-line at <http://www.dnr.cornell.edu/hdru/PUBS/HDRURreport06-12pdf>

The 2006 Annual report of the Human Dimensions Research Unit is available on-line at <http://www.dnr.cornell.edu/hdru/pubs/2006annualreport.pdf>.

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

Updates on Selected Fish and Wildlife Research in New York State

- Chronic Wasting Disease in Deer- Second year of study in Oneida Count and Cortland County. Fifty five new deer were fitted with GPS collars for monitoring. Models of deer movement will be developed.
- Statewide Study of Coyote Populations- Little is known about the ecology of coyotes in the northeast. The study will look at foraging ecology with focus on implications of coyote predation on deer. Coyotes seem to be larger in NY than other states, this may be because wolves and coyotes may have cross bred.

Chairmans Report - Pat Arnold

Pat reported about her work with kids on sportsman education and trapper training and provided members with a "summary of Sportsman Education Program - 2005" which listed the numbers of classes and students attending class throughout New York. Pat would like to know how many of the students that attend classes actually buy a hunting or trapping license. Pat also indicated that she has been talking with Sports Afield about a youth mentoring program. She suggested that members go back to their Region and see if there are youth with an interest in getting involved

with the Fish and Wildlife Management Board and its activities.

There was considerable discussion about schools who have been organizing shooting activities and hunting activities throughout New York.

Report on the SUMMIT by Charles Hancock, CFAB

Meetings between:

New York State Conservation Fund Advisory Board
(CFAB)

New York State Fish and Wildlife Management Board
(FWMB)

New York State Conservation Council
(NYSCC)

Conservation Alliance of New York
(CANY)

Overall Goals to present a consistent position between conservationists and sportsmen within New York State and to increase revenue to the Conservation Fund.

Action Targets to be considered include:

Legislative

1. Statewide Fishing License (to include the Marine District)
2. NYS Surcharge on Outdoor Equipment
3. Enable junior Hunters to Hunt big Game
4. Penalties/Surcharge for F/W Law Violations
5. Ban of sale of angle caught panfish
6. Habitat and access initiative
7. Reduce age at which youth can handle a firearm (8)

Regulatory

1. Visible Fishing license
2. Youth Small Game Hunt

Policy

1. Transfer Fringe Benefit Cost to the General Fund
2. Ways to increase the Number of Young People into Hunting , Fishing and Trapping
3. Cost of negotiated raises/arbitration awards funded by General Fund

Priority topics discussed:

Legislative

- 1.Statewide fishing license; Hudson River fishing license; Salt water fishing license.

2. NYS surcharge on Outdoor equipment.
3. 14-15 year old big game license (lower??) (Reduced fee for 16 and 17 year olds??)

Regulatory

1. Pre-season youth pheasant hunt
2. Visible fishing license (single back tag for all privileges?)

Policy

1. Fringe Benefits to General Fund (~50% at this time)
2. Ways to increase the number of young people into hunting, fishing and trapping

Accomplishments:

The Summit has had meetings in Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec., Jan. and Feb. as a group and has work on seven Legislative, two Regulatory and one Policy topics.

CFAB, FWMB, NYSCC, CANY met in Dec. as a group with Judith Enck to discuss a portion of the Summit's agenda.

CFAB, FWMB and CANY as a group testified before the Assembly Environmental Conservation Committee in Albany in January.

CFAB, FWMB and CANY as a group attended the Environmental budget presentation in Albany in February.

The NYSCC and CANY released a joint Press Release in February.

The Summit is moving ahead with legislation on three bills. They are:

- Enhance opportunities for junior hunters to hunt all legal game.
- Increase penalties and create a surcharge for Fish and Wildlife Law Violations.
- Ban sale of Angler-caught panfish

Panel discussion was held with members of SUMMIT Panel
Panel took questions from the Board.

There is a plan to outreach to single interest sportsmens groups in the future.

There is also a goal not to raise license fees in the foreseeable future.

DOT- Providing Public Access by Debra Nelson

NYSDOT Environmental Program

- Broad range of environmental expertise (150 staff statewide)
- Environmental Analysis Bureau - Albany
- Regional Staff - Environmental Units
- DOTs Stewardship Goal "NYSDOT as the state's largest public works agency, has an obligation and a responsibility to the people of New York to enhance, improve and protect the environment."

- DOT's Environmental Initiative: Promote and strengthen an environmental ethic throughout the Department; Advance State environmental policies and objectives; Strengthen relations with environmental agencies, groups and local municipalities.
- DOT has Engineering Instruction 99-026 Environmental Initiative Guidelines and Procedures that directs DOT capital and maintenance projects to incorporate items related to fishing access, parking, launch sites, signage, etc.
- Accomplishments: DOT has installed more that 150 fishing access sites, DOT has a website with the locations of 107 sites statewide;
www.nysdot.gov/portal/page/portal/divisions/engineering/environmental-analysis/environmental-initiative/fishing-access-sites
- DOT also provides Canoe/kayak launch, roadside pull offs, trail access and scenic overlooks
- DOT coordinates with the DEC to identify opportunities, and conservation organizations
- DOT has partnerships with agencies and organizations for access, the DOT just needs to know where the opportunities exist and relies on input from these partners.
- Note: The DOT relies on its partners to do the maintenance of these sites. DOT will enter into a formal agreement with a partner to conduct long term maintenance.

Friday March 30, 2007

Committee Reports

Executive Committee presented by Walt Hallbauer

Fall meeting will be held in Region 6 in the Watertown Area, October 25, 26, 27. Executive Committee meeting will be August 29 in Herkimer. The Fall meeting may involve a field trip to Fort Drum or to Cape Vincent. Discussed term limits, will be further discussed at an upcoming Natural Resources Supervisor. Many members are reaching their maximum term limits. The Board will be ordering patches for State and Regional Board members. The Board will order 500 patches.

Habitat Committee presented by Gary Evans

Discussed submitting a resolution on sustainable forestry.

Access Committee presented by Bob Banks

Discussed the need for submitting a resolution for the fall meeting in support of the general obligations law to reduce liability of landowners. Bud Woodfield indicated that there will be a Department Bill from the DEC to revise the general obligations law.

Resolutions Committee presented by Judy Aldrich

Four resolutions were submitted

- 1) Resolution 2007-1-01 New York State Fish and Wildlife Management Board Requests for Positions to be Filled
- 2) Resolution 2007-1-02 Request for Additional Canine Unit in Region 6

- 3) Resolution 2007-1-03 in Support of Mandatory Habitat and Access Stamp Purchase with Non-resident Hunting, Fishing and Trapping License(s)
- 4) Resolution 2007-1-04 in Support for a visible fishing license with increased fines and penalties for violations

One additional resolution was received from the Region 7 Board that constituted comments/recommendations from the Region 7 board in opposition of the visible fishing license proposal being considered by the State Board and the SUMMIT.

5) Resolution 2007-1-05 The New York State Fish and Wildlife Management Board Requests that the Commissioner of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation practice "Sustainable Forest Management" in accordance with the Forest Practice Act of 1946.

There was discussion about proposed resolution 2007-1-03 dealing with the mandatory habitat stamp for non-residents. Board members remembered that this resolution was sent out originally as Resolution 2006-1-03 after the Spring 2006 meeting and was resent out as Resolution 2006-2-10 after the Fall 2006 meeting.

A motion was duly made and seconded to send out Resolution 2007-1-03 as a reaffirmation of previous resolutions 2006-1-03 and 2006-2-10 with respect to the creating a mandatory habitat stamp for non-resident hunting, fishing and trapping license buyers. The motion was unanimously approved.

Publicity Committee by Dick Fox

No report or meeting held

There was discussion about how to get more publicity for the Board. Should the Board invite reporters or the Conservationists staff to meetings? Perhaps a news release. In might be a good idea to take a group picture or photos of Regional members for use in local newspapers. We could put together a release for the Fall meeting in Watertown.

There was a suggestion to prepare a press release that could be used by state board representatives. Chairman Arnold charged Dick to put together a something, either a group picture or news release that can be used.

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

Round 2 request for projects:

News release on November 1 with a deadline for applications February 5, 2007.

Target award date April 1, 2007.

Award amounts between \$1500 to \$15,000 the maximum amount to be awarded no more than \$100,000.

Scoring and ranking to be conducted similar to first round.

Summary of Actual Grant Applications Received:

35 project applications received

At least one from each region

Over \$300,000 requested

Applications were reviewed by Regional Staff and FWMB reps and returned
Projects were reviewed by a Central Office team and a final selection of 10 projects were made;
5 habitat and 5 access
Selected projects were presented to Statewide FWMB meeting on March 29-30 for their
approval

Region 1 – Friends of Connetquot, Suffolk Co. – Access - \$9,325

Region 2 – Prospect Park Alliance, Kings Co – Access/Habitat - \$15,000
- NY City Audobon, New York – Access - \$10,700

Region 3 – Town of Beekman, Dutchess Co – Access -- \$7,873.25

-- Putnam County SWCD, Putnam Co – Access – \$10,500

-- Town of Amenia, Dutchess Co -- Access -- \$15,000

-- Catskill Center for Conservation and Development, Ulster Co --
Habitat -- \$ 7,600

-- Garrison Fish and Game Club, Putnam Co – Habitat -- \$2,000

Region 4 – The Nature Conservancy, Albany Co – Habitat -- \$14,998.50

-- Town of Glen, Montgomery Co – Access -- \$15,000

-- Village of Athens, Green Co – Access -- \$12,000

-- Greene County SWCD, Green Co – Habitat -- \$10,000

-- Catskill Watershed Corporation, Delaware/Green Co – Access -- \$7,900

Region 5 – Town of Halfmoon, Saratoga Co – Access -- \$15,000

-- Clearwater Chapter TU, Washington Co – Habitat -- \$3,057

-- Friends of Monreau Lake SP, Saratoga – Access -- \$1,806

-- Warren Co SWCD, Warren Co – Habitat -- \$8,500

-- Saratoga P.L.A.N., Saratoga – Access -- \$9,500

-- Franklin County, Franklin Co – Access -- \$14,000

Region 6 – Jefferson Co SWCD, Jefferson Co – Access -- \$15,000

-- Village of Dexter, Jefferson Co – Access -- \$15,000

-- Department of Economic Development, Lewis Co – Access -- \$14,000

-- NYS DEC Region 6 Fisheries, Jefferson Co – Access -- \$15,000

-- Lewis Co SWCD, Lewis Co – Habitat -- \$15,000

-- Region 6 FWM Board, Herkimer Co – Access -- \$8,020

--Waterville Forest, Fish and Game Club, Oneida Co – Access --
\$6378

Region 7 -- Town of Plymouth, Chenango Co., Habitat -- \$15,000

--Tioga Co SWCD, Tioga Co., Habitat -- \$10,000

-- Village of Pulaski, Owsego Co., Access -- \$15,000

Region 8 – National Wild Turkey Federation, Schuyler/Seneca Co., Habitat -- \$5,000

-- Town of Ridgeway, Orleans Co., Access -- \$5,446

Region 9 -- NYS Parks and Recreation, Niagara Co., Access -- \$15,000

- Cattaraugus Local Development Corp., Cattaraugus Co., Access -- \$4,995
- Chautauqua County Dept of Public Facilities, Chautauqua Co., Access -- \$9,000

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 8-- National Wild Turkey Federation, Schuyler/Seneca Co – Habitat -- \$5,000
 - Town of Ridgeway, Orleans Co – Access -- \$5,446
- Total amount selected \$99,119.25

There was considerable discussion on how to promote the sales of habitat stamps. The Board wants to continue to sell stamps at the Empire Farm Days. The Board would like to see it made easier to sell stamps at various outdoor events.

Striped Bass in the Hudson River by Kris McShane, Hudson River Fisheries Unit

There are about 20 million striped bass that use the Atlantic Coast during migration, about 2 million of those use the Hudson River as a spawning estuary. Stock sampling occurs in the Hudson River to monitor the status and populations of stripers using the River. Sampling starts in April and continues through June. Sampling conducted with haul seine and electro fishing. Fish are caught measured, weighed, tagged and released.

During the 2006 Spawning Stock Survey

Striped Bass Caught: 697 males, 480 females, 22 unknown
 Tagged: 614 males, 454 females, 15 unknown
 Total 1203

American Shad: 133 males, 294 females, 8 unknown
 Tagged: 131 males, 284 females, 5 unknown
 Total 435

Females are larger and longer than males. Most of males were age 5 years while females were age 8 years

Hudson River Cooperative Angler Program is a diary which anglers keep to record their catch.

The program recorded a 76% success rate with over 600 fish caught.

Regulations are going to be changing on the Hudson River, the size limit will go to 28 inches and anglers must be using circle hooks.

There were questions about contamination in striped bass: Striped bass are anadromous so they don't spend all their life in the Hudson River, so they are fairly low in contaminants.

Threats, management, monitoring and recreation in the Albany Pine Bush by Jason Bried, Stewardship Ecologist

The Albany Pine Bush is a rare environment .

Formally 25,000 acres of scrub oak and pitch pine, currently 3,000 acres owned by Pine Bush Commission of which about 1,000 acres are oak/pine.

Conservation protection targets:

- Scrub Oak/Pitch pine Barrens
- Vernal Ponds
- Species of Greatest Conservation Need (40 species)
- At risk species

Threats: Development, Habitat Fragmentation, Fire Exclusion and Invasive Species

Management: Fire Management, Weed Management, Invasive research, Current Management (tree removal, native plantings, control sprouts)

Monitoring: using coarse-filter targets such as vegetative communities and fine filter targets such a species. Also using habitat suitability indicators

Recreation: Trail systems, fishing, hunting and trapping

Conservation Supported by:

- Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission and NYS
- USFWS
- USFS
- USDA/NRCS
- NYSDEC
- NYS Parks and Rec
- Towns of Colonie and Guilderland, Albany, Nature Conservancy

Department Reports

Gerald Barnhart, Director, Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources

DECALS-

- Focus of the program is to provide the best customer service possible.
- Contract with Verizon to maintain system. Working on 5 year extension of contract.
Changes are being made.
- Some vendors are not selling licences and will be removed from the system.
- A few agents will be added at some locations to improve coverage.
- Major sporting goods stores are selling licenses, municipalities through their town or county clerks are required to sell licenses.

- Access to the system will be over the internet within the next year. This could save the Department \$300,000 a year on phone charges.
- Software is being changed to improve services. To allow first time license buyers on the internet. It will also be possible to buy hunting licenses over the internet by signing an affidavit that you have had hunter training.
- The colors of the licenses will be changed on a rotational basis. Some of fonts on the licenses will be changed.
- NYS is in a pilot program to issue Federal Duck Stamps.
- New Habitat Stamp and pin will be whitetailed Deer.

Game Reporting system

- New changes to phone in system
- New system will allow for internet reporting.

The DEC Website now has information about license sales trends (Sporting Licenses)

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

- Youth Pheasant Hunt will happen this fall
- Youth Turkey has been a success, this will be the second year of this program
- Chronic Wasting Disease - no new detects from original 2. Over 1700 deer tested in containment area and 7,905 statewide.
- Avian Influenza - lethal strain not detected in US, low impact on wild birds and humans, 1619 birds sampled
- Landowner Incentive Program -to protect and manage habitat on private lands for at-risk species Focus Areas: Grassland birds, Bog Turtles/Open Canopy wetlands, Listed Species Conservation Funding is lacking from the 2008 Federal Budget.
- Deer Take-Hand out
- Harvest Reporting and Calculations -improving methods for reporting
- Antler Restrictions-WMUs 3C, 3H, 3J and 3K Pilot DEC looking at hunter satisfaction and response of deer population
- Bear Management in NYS
- Range of Bears expanding
- Bear harvest peaked in 2003 at around 1400
- Nuisance problems are growing, peaked in 2004
- Research is ongoing on the effectiveness of nuisance control
- Stakeholder input groups to help develop management plans
- Developed a Black Bear Response SOP Manual
- Public Education on Bears is important
- Regulations are important to control nuisance problems (feeding, High Peaks Bear Canister, Dog Training)
- Community Education in the Catskills
- Other studies (Ft Drumm, Allegany Population Biology, Bear Management Cooperator, "State of the Bear Sleuth," condition/production of mast crops

Bureau of Fisheries Update by Douglas Stang, Chief- Bureau of Fisheries

- Overview of Bureau staffing and funding (156 staff) and a budget of \$20.2 million
- 50 % of staff is in the regions, 33 % of staff in Hatchery System

- Extension Efforts-include; I fish NY, PFR mapping, web-site, fishing NY brochure, Lake Maps
- Boat Launch modernization and construction
- Hatchery System overview- 13 facilities (12 hatcheries, 1 fish disease lab) - one million pounds of fish produced
- Hatchery needs assessment: \$21.4 million for Rome (\$8 mil), Caledonia (\$3.5 mil), Randolph (\$3 mil)
- Some hatcheries are in “good shape”- Adirondack, Bath, Chautauqua, Oneida, Salmon River, VanHornesville
- Between 2003 and 2007 DEC has received \$7.9 mil in hatchery appropriations
- Summary of hatchery improvements: current funds sufficient for projects through 2009
 - Significantly improve Rome hatchery, Rome Lab, South Otselic hatchery
 - Improve Randolph hatchery
 - Continue to produce quality fish to enhance NY sport fishing and fisheries restoration efforts

Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS)

- Poses no risk to human health
- Goals of response actions
 - Protect NYs fisheries resources
 - Minimize spread of VHS to uninfected waters
 - Protect DEC Hatchery system
 - Determine current distribution in NY waters
 - Minimize impact of our actions to recreational fish and economic interests
 - Learn more about VHS impacts to fisheries resources: fish health, population effects
- Potential Pathways
 - Natural fish movement
 - Transfer of fish from one water to another*
 - Bait fish use*
 - Recreational angling/boating
 - Ballast water discharge
 - Fisheries management activities*
 - *greatest risk pathways
- Regulations
 - Enacted emergency regulations effective November 21, 2006
 - Personally harvested bait fish can only be used on the water from which it was collected
 - No overland transport
 - No limit on number
 - Receipts issued and retained for purchased bait fish
 - Commercial collection of bait fish and “on the water” sale allowed
 - Require disease-free fish for importation, stocking, use, placement into NY waters
- **Simple Message**
 - **Don’t use fish from one water to another**
 - **Use certified bait fish**
 - Change anglers practices**

State Wildlife Grants Program and the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy by Lisa Holst, State Wildlife Grants Coordinator

- Background
 - Authorized by congress in 2002
 - Grew out of Conservation and Reinvestment Act compromise language
 - Subject to annual congressional legislation
- What does it do?

- Assist state in biodiversity preservation (species of greatest need, intended to avoid listing new endangered species)
- Funding in NY has been between \$2.33 million in 2001 to \$2.9 million in 2006
- Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy - required to remain eligible, contains required elements and was submitted to USFWS in 2005 for acceptance
- Strategy Structure- organized by watershed, species information analyzed by watershed, information from other sources reviewed
- Collaborative Process- steering committee, species and species groups, staff input, peer review, partnership group
- Highlights Species of Greatest Conservation Need- birds, fish, marine and diadromous fish, invertebrates, herpetofauna
- Some Species highlights
 - Assessment and recovery of longear sunfish
 - Golden-winged warbler habitat and hybridization
 - Summer survey of tree bats
 - Assessment of factors affecting hellbender status
 - Surveys of high priority amphibians and reptiles
 - Odonate inventory
- Top Threats to species of greatest need
 - Habitat loss and fragmentation
 - Contaminant deposition
 - Degraded water quality and altered hydrology
 - Invasive species
 - Changing farm and forestry practices
 - Direct human-wildlife interactions
 - Climate change
- Outcomes- Conservation Recommendations - Data Collection, Planning, Management and Restoration, Land Protection, Regulatory and Legislative, Information Dissemination, Incentives and Disincentives
- Outcomes- Policy and Practice- Moving away from single species management, Better integrating fish and wildlife management with environmental quality, Dealing with Species Metapopulations, Integrating Fish and Wildlife disciplines through habitat management
- New Staff - 9 new ecologists and 1 data coordinator
- SWG outlook for 2007 - \$2.94 million, Request for application made, watershed teams to be created to prioritize conservation efforts, plans created for each watershed, partners and sources of matching funds identified

Becoming an Outdoor-woman by Kelly Stang, Bureau of Wildlife

- Breaking Down the Barriers to Participation of Women in Hunting and Angling

- Almost all Barriers are directly or indirectly related to a lack of education, experience or opportunity
- This year 45 states and 5 Canadian Provinces will offer Becoming an Outdoor Woman Workshop (over 200,000 women have attended since 1991)
- The objective is to provide opportunities for women to learn skills that enhance and encourage their participation in hunting, angling and other outdoor activities
- Since 1994 nearly 2000 women have participated in a New York BOW workshop (they range in age from 18-82, average age 45)
- It is an old adage that: If you educate a man, you educate an individual, if you educate a woman you educate a whole family. The same goes for hunting.
- 70% of attendees took at least one “hook and bullet” class
- Participants had good reviews for the workshops
- Women who participate in BOW workshops also: buy more sporting licenses, buy outdoor stuff, are positive about shooting sports
- Between 2001 and 2005 the number of women who hunted with firearms increased 72%, number of women participating in target shooting increased 50%

Chairperson Arnold reminded the Board that it needed to provide concurrence on the Habitat Access Stamp Grants that were selected during the second round as described by Jack Cooper in the earlier presentation on Round 2.

A motion was duly made by Bob Banks and seconded by Judy Aldrich to concur with the grants as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

Saturday, March 31

Resolutions

Resolution 2007-1-01– Title: Resolution 2007-1-01 New York State Fish and Wildlife Management Board Requests for Positions to be filled.

A motions was duly made by Judy Aldrich and seconded by Bud Woodfield to support resolution 2007-1-01. The motion was unanimously approved.

Resolution 2007-1-02–Title: Resolution 2007-01-02 New York State Fish and Wildlife Management Board Requests for Additional Canine Unit in Region 6.

A motions was duly made by Judy Aldrich and seconded by Bud Woodfield to support resolution 2007-1-02. The motion was unanimously approved.

Resolution 2007-1-03–Title Resolution 2007-1-03 in Support of Mandatory Habitat and Access Stamp Purchase with Non-resident Hunting and Fishing License(s).

A motions was duly made by Judy Aldrich and seconded by Barbara Brown to support resolution 2007-1-03. A motion was duly made by Gary Evans and seconded by Rick Page to amend the resolution by changing the “Therefore” to read: Therefore let it be resolved that the New York State Fish and Wildlife Management Board supports the drafting and passage of Legislation to require the sales of a Habitat and Access Stamp when purchasing a non-resident license for any type of hunting, fishing and trapping in New York State. The motion was unanimously approved. A motion was duly made by Robert Banks and seconded by Bill Pike to remove the last sentence of the resolution which reads “The Regional Conservation Fund Advisory Board Representative, in an advisory capacity, also supports this resolution.” The motion was unanimously approved. The motion on the resolution as amended was unanimously approved.

Resolution 2007-1-04–Title Resolution 2004-1-04 in Support for a visible fishing license with increased fines and penalties for violations. The Resolution Committee did not send this resolution forward for a vote because it could not be determined who was the sponsor. The resolution was withdrawn.

Resolution 2007-1-05–Title–Resolution 2007-1-05 The New York State Fish and Wildlife Management Board Requests that the Commissioner of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation practice “Sustainable Forest Management” in accordance with the Forest Practice Act of 1946.

A motion was duly made by Judy Aldrich and seconded by Bud Woodfield to support resolution 2007-1-05. The motion was unanimously approved.

The resolutions approved at the Spring 2007 meeting will be sent to the other members of the SUMMIT for their information.

Region 7 submitted a resolution (Resolution No. 001-07) which opposes the proposed visible fishing license requirement. This resolution constitutes the Region’s recommendations in opposition to this proposal and is not intended as a resolution to be considered by the State Board.

Elections of Officers

The nominating committee consisted of Walt Hallbauer, Jim Bertram and Gary Evans.

Walt recognized the officers who held office during the past year: Pat Arnold, Chairperson; Bill Pike, Vice-Chair; Secretary, Jack Cooper; Bud Woodfield, CFAB; Executive Committee: Joe Molinaro, Emory Green, Walt Hallbauer.

Nominations include:

Chairperson: Pat Arnold
Vice-Chair: Mike Zeh
Secretary: Jack Cooper

CFAB: Bill Pike

Executive Board Members: Joe Molinaro, Rick Page, Walt Hallbauer

Alternate Executive Board Members: Ray Merlotto, Gary Evans, Chuck Couture

Voting for Officers:

Chairperson: Secretary was directed to cast one ballot for Pat Arnold.

Vice-Chair: Secretary was directed to cast one ballot for Mike Zeh

Secretary: Secretary was directed to cast one ballot for Jack Cooper

CFAB: A nomination from the floor to nominate Bud Woodfield. Ballots were passed out and voting for the two nominees: Bud Woodfield and Bill Pike. Ballots were collected and counted with Bill Pike elected to the position of CFAB representative.

Executive Board Members: Secretary was directed to cast one ballot for Joe Molinaro, Rick Page and Walt Hallbauer and their alternates.

That concluded the Election Process

Chairperson Arnold discussed the Board's participation in the SUMMIT. Pat indicates that the SUMMIT will continue to meet and the FWMB will continue to participate.

Walt Hallbauer recognized Bud Woodfield's service as the Board's representative to the CFAB.

Chairperson Arnold asked Dick Fox to present some suggestions with respect to publicity committee. Dick expects to put something together about the SUMMIT meetings. He also asked for any photos from the meeting. He also requested feedback from the Regional Boards to get information on what is going on.

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.