

New York State FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD



Minutes-NYS Fish and Wildlife Management Board 102st Meeting, held March 27-29, 2008 at the Clarion Hotel, Albany , NY

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm by Chairperson Arnold
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	Joseph Molinaro	Jerry Bierker
4	Homer Casler	Michael Zeh	James Bertram
5	William Pike	Laurie Bruce	Robert Banks
6	Ann Tibbets	Patricia Arnold	Tom Grow
7	Eugene Blumer	Jim Petreszyn	Barbara Brown
8	Gary Evans	Keith Kappel	John Pastrick, Jr
9	Jim Agle	Walt Hallbauer	Absent

Advisors Members Present

NYSDEC- Doug Stang, Jack Cooper
 NYS Farm Bureau- Barlow Rhodes
 NY Grange- Absent
 Izaak Walton League of America-Absent
 NYS Conservation Council- Dan Tone
 NYS Forest Practice Board- Richard Fox
 SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry- Jacqueline Frair
 Cornell University- Tommy Brown
 SWDC/Ag and Markets- Cliff Frasier

Guests

Gene Kelly-Director, Region 4
Thomas Raffaldi -Region 3 Board Secretary
Christopher Amato-Assistant Commissioner for Natural Resources
Karl Berger-Division of Public Affairs
Jeremy Hurst-Bureau of Wildlife
Steve Hurst-Bureau of Fisheries
Jeff Peil-Bureau of Wildlife
Marcelo DelPuerto-Bureau of Wildlife
Col. Walter Heinrich-Division of Law Enforcement
Col. Steven Gerould- Division of Law Enforcement
Matthew Hobart- Farm Bureau

Approval of Previous Minutes, Fall 2007

A motion was duly made Barbara Brown and seconded by James Bertram to accept the Fall 2007 minutes. The motion to accept the Fall 2007 minutes was unanimously approved.

Welcome to the Spring 2008 meeting and Region 4 from Gene Kelly, Regional Director.

Regional Reports

Region 3 - Pre-filed report

Written report filed with the State Board Secretary.

The Board held meetings in November (2007), January and March (2008)

Held annual election of officers:

Chairman - Bill Gaudette

Vice-Chairman - Bill Conners

State Board Landowner - Bill Wilklow Alternate - Bob Ewald

State Board Sportsman - Ray Merlotto Alternate - Joe Molinaro

State Board Legislator - Leigh Benton Alternate - Mary Conklin

Secretary - Tom Raffaldi

The Board is taking a lead in promoting considerations for Habitat/Access proposals in the Region.

In Dutchess County, resistance has been felt from local interests on the Sylvan Lake fishing access site. Work is continuing with the town planning board to resolve the issue.

The Board is active in exploring stewardship opportunities on various properties, especially within Dutchess County

The Board is participating in the DEC Region 3 Open Space Committee, with an emphasis on creating and preserving traditional sporting activities where possible.

The issue of electric motors on New York City owned water supply reservoirs continues, but with direction on the matter still uncertain.

The Board continued to gather input concerning the "Resort at Belleayre Mountain" and its habitat impact issues. The Board has been on record with a resolution opposing the project as originally proposed.

Board members participate in the ongoing Westchester County Deer Management committee.

Two private properties are being considered for access, one in Orange County for fishing access and another in Dutchess County for general sporting access. Nothing has been finalized yet, as talks with the landowners are still ongoing.

Respectfully submitted by,
Region 3 FWM Board by Joe Molinaro

Summarized from written report by State Board Secretary

Region 4- Pre-filed report

Region 4 held two meetings since the Fall State Board meeting, 11/28/07 & 02/27/08 at the Middleburgh Diner. Topics of discussion were as follows:

November:

Dick Henry, Region 4 Wildlife Manager, gave an overview of the southern zone big game season deer take is up about 20% over the same time frame for last year. Over 500,000 Deer Management Permits issued with 4,000 in the back-end Drawings for leftover DMPs. Wildlife staff noted an increase in both the number and quality of deer during their deer checking efforts at meat cutters and in the field. Region 4 Wildlife Staff also completed the CWD sampling shortly after Thanksgiving. EHD was detected in mid October in Albany & Columbia counties. A grand total of 379 (163 archery & 216 firearm) bear have been taken so far in the Catskills. The experimental bobcat trapping season in WMUs 4N, 4F, & 4O with 13 bobcats taken by trappers. 5 bobcats were surrendered for reward & were ultimately tagged and released by DEC to track. A young moose was immobilized and relocated twice ending in Perkins Clearing, Hamilton Co.

Steve Lorence, NYS DEC Region 4 Fish Manager gave a report on the fish stocking. 1900 rainbow trout were stocked between Batavia Pond & Launt Pond. As for Access issues, DOT has been partnering with DEC. Just finished a multiple car parking lot on the West Branch, Delaware River in Deposit and plans are underway for one at the NY Rte 8 near Stilesville. Fisheries is pursuing a purchase of 2 acres on another part of the West Branch so access can be gained to a half mile of existing Public Fishing Rights (PFR). An attempt is being made to get PFR on the Onesquethaw Creek in Albany Co. There are ongoing difficulties with PFR region wide as property changes hands. There is a need for a modern mapping of PFR. The Eastern Brook Trout survey is close to completion. 631 sites have been done with Delaware Co. next. This is a five year task. Rock Snott found in Delaware River.

Mike Zeh gave a report on the Fall State FWMB Bd. Meeting. Other issues reviewed: FWMB Term Limits, Back Tag removal for southern zone, Blaze Orange recommendations by DEC (360degree – vest or hat), Antler Restrictions Programs and the Otsego Boat Launch (Gene Kelly is meeting with Commissioner Grannis & Commissioner Ash).

County reports included less coyotes seen, more fawns noticeable, venison donation program going slow, pheasant program stocking going well, several coyote hunts planned, grouse numbers are up, several Conservation College scholarships awarded at SUNY Cobleskill, several ice fishing derbies planned, Middleburgh Rod & Gun Youth archery program recognized and Harold Palmer, President of NYSCC met with DEC legal staff regarding the youth hunting bill. DCE stated that any 12 year old big game bill would not pass the NYS Legislation so any junior big game bill submitted would be for 14 years old and up.

February:

Steve Lawrence received a promotion to the DEC Central Office, which leaves the Region 4 Fish Managers position open. Watervliet Reservoir is closed for Ice Fishing until new agreements can be negotiated between DEC and the City of Watervliet. (There was never an agreement in the first place) Gene Kelly our Region 4 Director has been meeting with NYS DEC Commissioner Pete Grannis and NYS Parks & Recreations Commissioner Carol Ash on the car top boat launch/parking problem at Glimmerglass State Park on Otsego Lake. Gene is also working on gaining access to NYC DEP watershed lands for hunters, fishing and trapping. A meeting of the NYS DEC Natural Resource Supervisors, Chris Amato, Commissioner Grannis's assistant and Pat Riexinger discussed the Term Limit issue of FWMB members. They don't feel this is a problem unless the individual county has a problem, which that county can resolve. Region 4 Open Space Committee has requested a delegate from the FWMB. Tim Barnard Sportsmen Rep. from Albany Co. will serve on this committee.

Major Tim Duffy, who is responsible for NYS ENCON officers Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, gave a brief report. New ECO Academy starts up in April. Trapped three Bald Eagles using rocket nets and placed tracking devices on each bird. There were eagles nesting as early as February 19th in Sullivan Co.

Jeff Peil, NYS DEC Sportsman Educational Coordinator gave a brief report on the Reproductive Study being done in Region 4 & Region 8/9 for 2008. This is the second year of this survey. The deer study count was 56 for Region 4 and 44 for Regions 8 & 9. Road killed deer numbers are lower this year in both areas. Last year numbers were 217 for Region 4 & 185 for Regions 8 & 9. May do a third year survey because of low numbers. Currently four recent Cobleskill grads are doing the bulk of the work for this study. They are Steve Swenson, Marisa Gnoinski, Beth Cooper and Josh Choquette. Selinda Schlierman was also working on the study until she was recently promoted to the pesticides unit in the Schenectady office. Jeff also reviewed the (EHD) Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease. NYS loss approximately 100 deer to disease. No risk to humans, common down south, (over 1000 in Penn.) and disease moved by midges (tiny flying flies).

The two resolutions, which were voted on at the Feb 27th meeting of the Region 4 FWMB, were sent to the State Board for approval:

1. Resolution to Create Equal Opportunities for Disabled & Senior Hunters
 2. Access to Car Top Boat Launches by Individuals with Disabilities or the Elderly
- Other resolutions reviewed were the Boat Launch on Otsego Lake and the Antler Restriction program.

A discussion on the hunting accidents was reviewed. From 1960's there were 137 average, For 2000's the average was 41. From 1987 through 2003 there were 18 Fatal shootings of which none were wearing Blaze Orange. A vote was taken for Mandatory Blaze Orange –Vest or hat (8 No & 3 Yes). A vote was taken on Back Tag issue (6 Yes & 6 No –Obtained).

Elections were held for the FWMB Region 4 representatives. Chair-Dave McLean, Vice Chair – Dave Wood, Secretary – Scott Van Arsdale. NYS State Representatives for Region 4. – Sportsmen Rep. -Mike Zeh, Legislative Rep. - Jim Bertram, Land Owner Rep. – Homer Casler.

Respectfully submitted by Michael Zeh
FWMB Region 4 Sportsman Representative

Region 5 – No report submitted

Region 6 Pre-filed Report

Written report filed with the State Board Secretary

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

- 1.Planning for and hosting the Fall 2007 State FWMB meeting in Watertown.
 - a.Provided coordination for Hotel Accommodations to the State FWMB
 - b.Provided logistics and coordination of Field Trip to Ft. Drum
- 2.Maintained open communications with the Region 6 Wildlife, Fisheries, Lands & Forests, Law Enforcement, and the Department of Environmental Conservation in general.
- 3.Maintained and promoted interest in the Habitat/Access Stamp Program within Region 6.
 - a.A total of eight (8) projects were submitted for consideration in Region 6. Seven (7) projects were Access related and one (1) project was a Habitat enhancement initiative.
 - b.Two projects were selected for Region 6 and groundbreaking will start as soon as the weather cooperates.
 - i.Sears Pond/Deer River Habitat Enhancement (Lewis County)
 - ii.Improved Access at Felts Mills/White Creek (Jefferson County)
- 4.The R6 FWMB provided support for the R6 DEC staffing needs through resolutions and informal requests.
 - a.Utica Wetlands Biologist (position filled after a 1-year vacancy)
 - b.St. Lawrence River Fish & Wildlife Technician II (position filled after a 3-year vacancy)
 - c.Division of Law Enforcement (R6 were at full complement of ECO's for much of 2007)
- 5.Youth Hunting Legislation
 - a.The R6 FWMB offered support at every opportunity.
- 6.Youth Pheasant Hunts
 - a.The R6 FWMB is helping to coordinate with CANY 7 Youth Pheasant Hunts for 2008.
 - i.1 in St. Lawrence County in conjunction with the St. Lawrence County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs
 - ii.6 in Lewis County in conjunction with the Lewis County Association of Sportsmen's Clubs
- 7.R6 FWMB Administration
 - a.The R6 FWMB has developed a committee for drafting and adopting by-laws specifically for the R6 FWMB. The Adopt-a-By-Laws Committee should have a draft version of the R6 FWMB By-Laws for June 2008.
- 8.The R6 FWMB was consulted and kept informed of a number of issues with both regional and statewide importance. The R6 FWMB offered support or resolutions on a number of these issues such as the following:
 - a.Proposed Trapping Regulation Changes ("dog proof issues").
 - b.Wildlife diseases (e.g. VHS, CWD, Type E Botulism ... etc.).
 - c.Wind Farm Development within the region.
 - d.Low Water issues (e.g. Hinckley Reservoir – West Canada Creek fishing closure).
 - e.Various proposed fishing regulation changes.
 - f.Identifying Public Fishing Rights/Fishing Access Sites development and operational issues.
 - g.Invasive Species Issues – (State lands, potential habitat impacts)
 - h.All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Impacts
 - i.UMP development process

j.Fort Drum Development Related Issues and Hunting & Fishing Access through FWMA agreement.

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

Region 7 Pre-filed report

Written report filed with the State Board Secretary

The Region 7 FWMB continues to engage projects, which allow for greater access for Sportsmen and women of New York State involving both private and public lands.

The Region 7 FWMB fought very hard against a proposal submitted by the DEC that would have drastically reduced a trapper's ability to use body gripping traps on public lands in New York State. The R 7 Board would like to thank the State FWMB for also passing a resolution opposing portions of the DEC's regulation. As a result of combined efforts, all of the DEC Wildlife Management Areas were exempted from the 100-foot trail buffer component of the regulation.

The Region 7 FWMB did complete the review of a request by a Chapter of Trout Unlimited to establish a catch and release (no kill) site on 1.7 miles of Captaining Creek. It was decided that this proposal would add access to a unique (to the area) type of fishing experience. Furthermore, this TU Chapter has agreed to establish a "kids only" fishing section along this stream where youth will have access to a high quality fishing experience, but to angler mentors as well.

The Region 7 FWMB was successful getting access to the McNitt State Park property on Cazenovia Lake. This area was open for the first time for this year's ice fishing season. The parking area allows for 17 ice angler parking spaces. This site is also available for hand launching of small (car top) watercraft during the open water months.

The Region 7 FWMB was also successful **in** working with the Village of Cazenovia to allow lake access through the Village Boat Launch on East Lake Road for non village residents. The Village of Cazenovia, starting this spring will be selling annual launch permits to non-residents for \$40.00. Half of the spaces at the launch parking area will be available for non-residents. The opening of Cazenovia Lake to the general public had been worked on for the past twenty years.

Now that the R7 FWMB has successfully gained access for anglers on Cazenovia Lake we will be moving our attention to Sandy Pond, a 3,000 acre embayment of Lake Ontario. Presently there is no DEC or other "public" access to Sandy Pond. There are private marinas where one can launch a boat for a nominal fee. Ice fishing access is almost non-existent as a result of adequate parking availability. DEC Commissioner Grannis announced earlier this year that funding will be made available for development of a public launch and ice fishing access site at Sandy Pond using funds from the "Love Canal" settlement. Members of the R7 FWMB and R7 DEC have already met with local officials regarding the availability of sites on the Pond, and have a field visit scheduled for April 8th.

Our Habitat! Access sub committee drafted bill language intended to revive legislation for a mandatory IDA Stamp. Although Senate bill 6974 introduced by Senator Winner calls for a mandatory IDA stamp, the bill does nothing to change any criteria for how the funds should be used. The R7 bill not only addresses the stamp's need to be mandatory, but completely overhauls the criteria for how the funds can be used, including which types of projects will be funded using *H/A* funds. We will have a bill ready by mid spring and will be looking for Senate and Assembly sponsors.

The NYS Open Space Committee Plan is up for renew this year. The first meeting of the Region 7 Committee will be held in April. It is imperative that the interests of NYS sportsmen/women are voiced during the open space process. The R 7 FWMB will continue to look for properties that will add direct access or enhance existing access for Sportsmen and women of New York State through this planning process.

Respectively submitted,

Jim Petreszyn, Chairman
Region 7 FWMB

Region 8 - Pre-filed report

The Region 8 Board has actively discussed and provided ideas regarding the sales and promotion of the Habitat and Access Stamp. Of particular concern is the promotion of the stamp by agents at retail establishments. Board members want to ensure that agents specifically ask those purchasing sporting licenses whether they would be interested in buying a Habitat and Access Stamp. The Board also discussed the possibilities of requiring Habitat and Access Stamp purchases by non-resident licensees. This requirement has been proven successful in other states that have similar programs.

The Region 8 Board was continually apprised of two key acquisitions over the last several months. After years of effort and negotiations, the Department officially became the new owner of the Junius Ponds complex in the Town of Junius, Seneca County. Staff will now begin accessing the property to determine what areas require restricted public access. Staff will also conduct fishery surveys to for resource management purposes. The Junius Ponds complex is roughly 80 acres in size and has a unique assemblage of bogs, fens, ponds and other wetland types that support an endangered species, rare plants, and unusual ecological communities. The Village of Lyons once utilized the complex as a public water supply. The purchase price was \$104,500. The Department first attempted to acquire this parcel during the late 1980's. The Department is also pursuing acquisition of a roughly 30 acre parcel contiguous to the Junius Ponds complex. The Department has executed an agreement with the owner to purchase the property. Several key acquisition projects are at various stages of review. Adjacent landowners are now contacting the Department to determine whether their property would be considered for acquisition. This particular parcel includes the ponds and supports threatened, rare and endangered flora and fauna.

The Department also purchased a 95 acre parcel of land immediately east of Canandaigua Lake, in the Town of Gorham, Ontario County. This steep-slope parcel lies in an area of high development, provides exceptional views of Canandaigua Lake and is an important component of the lake's watershed. The parcel is now included in the Bare Hill Unique Area which is situated just to the south in the Town of Middlesex, Yates County.

The Western Finger Lakes, Open Space Priority Project that involves watershed lands of Canadice and Hemlock Lakes in Livingston and Ontario Counties continues to draw significant interest by the public. The Region 8 Board is extremely interested in ensuring that the lands, if acquired by the Department, are managed in the same manner as they are currently administered. To ensure that the Board's position on this matter was clear, a resolution was passed identifying the

need to continue current management practices. This resolution was passed to the State Board level where it was once again approved.

The Board is continually apprised of the developments of the Canadice-Hemlock Acquisition. Regional staff had the unique opportunity to provide Commissioner Grannis a firsthand inspection of Hemlock Lake by boat during the Fall of 2007.

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 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.

Other notable acquisition projects include a parcel adjacent to a Public Fishing Site on Cayuta Lake in Schuyler County, a 537 acre addition to the Ossian State Forest in Livingston County and additions to the High-Tor (20 acres, Yates County) and Braddock Bay (200 acres, Monroe County) Wildlife Management Areas.

Once again, Empire Farm Days and National Hunting and Fishing Days will be "highprofile" public events during 2007. Empire Farm Days will be held in August; National Hunting and Fishing Days in September.

During the December 14, 2007 meeting the Election Committee presented a slate of FWMB nominees for 2008. The following is the list of new Officers for 2008:

Chairman Vice-Chairman Secretary
State Board Legislative Rep. State Board Alt. Legislative Rep. State Board Landowner Rep. State Board Alt. Landowner Rep. State Board Sportsmen Rep. Alternate Sportsmen Rep.

John Andrews- Seneca/Legislative Mike Pastrick -Chemung/Legislative Randy Nemecek - NYSDEC

Mike Pastrick - Chemung

Wayne Housemen - Ontario

Gary Evans - Ontario

Royce Kilmer - Steuben

Keith Kappel - Yates

Marc Osypian - Livingston

Respectfully submitted, Mike Pastrick, Gary Evans, Keith Kappel

Region 9 Pre-Filed Report

Written report filed with the State Board Secretary

Region 9 Report - Spring 2008

The Region 9 Board has held two meetings since the Fall State Board meeting. At our December meeting, Megan Gollwitzer, Region 9 Citizen Participation Specialist, briefed the Board members on how she could get FWMA information out to various media contacts. The group felt this could help keep interested people informed of Fish & Wildlife activities.

Several informational meetings on Black Bear population were held across the region. Attendance was way above what was expected with the general public in Western NY wanting to know more about bears.

Wildlife Manager, Mark Kendel, reported that the trapping, banding and releasing of wild turkey has been completed with their targeted goals being met. This is the third year of a four year study in cooperation with NWTf and the University of Pennsylvania.

At the organizational meeting held in March, Chuck Couture, was elected the new Chairman and Walt Hallbauer as Vice-Chairman.

Fisheries biologist, Joe Evans and Wildlife biologist, Mike Ermer, will be retiring from their duties in Region 9 after many years of service. Fishing rights on a one-half mile section of Mansfield Creek, a popular trout stream in Catt. Co. have been obtained by DEC. Plans are being developed for a new fishing access site on Cattaraugus Creek at Routes 5 & 20. This is in conjunction with a bridge replacement at the location. It appears that a boat launch site will finally be developed at Cuba Lake with cooperation from the Office of General Services. OGS will own the site and set the launch fees. After discussion, the Region 9 Board passed a motion to support DEC on getting access to a location on Silver Lake. This location has been a problem area for ice fishermen.

DEC will contact Region 8 asking for a larger improved habitat area and more pheasant stocking at the Tonawanda Management area. This is a popular area for Region 9 hunters. FWMA members were encouraged to participate in the upcoming Open Space meetings. Fish and wildlife habitat will be a priority in any land acquired.

Jim Agle

Respectfully Submitted by,
Jim Agle, Chairman, Region 9

Advisory Members Reports
Farm Bureau- Barlow Rhodes

Barlow Rhodes presented an overview of some of the top 10 hunting issues of the Farm Bureau:

1. Support harvest of antlerless deer during muzzleloader season and recommend extending season for an additional week statewide and allow for issuance of second tag.
2. Support free deer hunting license for farmers to hunt on their own and rented land
3. Support removal of the sunset clause from the current muzzleloader season law which allows an extended season
4. Recommend that opening day of bear season coincide with the opening day of the gun season for deer in the southern zone
5. Oppose new restrictions on Canada goose hunting, recommend limit be 3 per day and support early season and late spring season
6. Support increase take for turkeys to 4 toms during spring and 4 either sex in fall
7. Support year around season on coyotes, crows and seagulls
8. Support competitive fish and game events without interference
9. Support a lifetime sportsman's license for a fee of \$5.00 at age 65
10. Recommend the DEC encourage sportsmen to take does as well as bucks and issue the adequate permits to balance the herd

The Farm Bureau has a total of 28 hunting issues, 38 nuisance wildlife control issues and 7 landowner's rights issues.

More information on the Farm Bureau can be found on their website <http://www.nyfb.org/>

Izaak Walton League Report- Provided by Les Monostory, President (not in attendance)

A summary report of Izaak Walton League actions and initiatives at the State and National levels
Regional and National Initiatives

The New York Division, IWLA, has been actively involved with two regional organizations of the Izaak Walton League:

- (1) Great Lakes Committee - representing IWLA State Divisions from each of the eight states surrounding the five Great Lakes
- (2) Mid Appalachian Council (MAC) - representing six states from New York to Virginia that are located within the Susquehanna River - Chesapeake Bay watershed basin.

State Level (New York and Lakes Erie and Ontario)

The New York Division represents five active local Chapters that are generally within a 60 mile radius of the City of Syracuse. Chapters are involved separately with local conservation issues, and also work collectively through the New York Division on issues of statewide concern.

Onondaga Lake Reclamation

The New York Division's Central New York Chapter is a member and an active participant with the Outreach Committee of the Onondaga Lake Partnership.

Conservation and Youth Education

Izaak Walton Chapters support the following programs and initiatives:

- (1) Support NYSCC resolution for lowering the age of youth eligible for hunting big game in New York State
- (2) Sponsor hunter education programs
- (3) Sponsor youth and family fishing derbies and learn-to-fish programs
- (4) Support Save Our Streams and Project Watershed volunteer stream monitoring programs
- (5) Support local, state, and national initiatives to improve public access for hunting, fishing and conservation education activities.

Control of Invasive Species

- (1) The Izaak Walton League of America sponsors a nationwide *Clean Boats Campaign* to educate boaters and anglers on proper procedures to reduce the risk of spreading water-borne invasive plants and animals
- (2) Introduced aquatic invasive species such as zebra and quagga mussels have caused major adverse environmental and economic impacts on the Great Lakes and connecting waters. Many of these invaders have entered the Great Lakes via ballast water discharges from foreign shipping.
- (3) Avian botulism has resulted in the loss of tens of thousands of loons, ducks and other waterfowl along the Great Lakes coastlines. Scientists strongly suspect a link between the spread of avian botulism and the proliferation of invasive species such as round gobies and quagga mussels.

Ballast Water Initiatives

- (1) New York Division supports a 2007 NYSCC resolution recommending that New York State adopt ballast water control legislation for Lakes Erie and Ontario similar to ballast water legislation passed by the State of Michigan in 2006.
- (2) IWLA's Great Lakes Committee has developed a position paper on ballast water control programs recommended to control the discharge of invasive species via ballast water discharges from foreign commercial shipping entering the Great Lakes.
- (3) The New York Division supports a recent report prepared by the Environmental Law Institute for the Chesapeake Bay region that recommends ballast water and invasive species control programs be developed at the state and regional levels due to lack of effective control programs developed to date at the federal government level.

Conservation and Protection of Water Supplies

The New York Division supported recently passed legislation, and congratulates New York State for adopting and signing the Great Lakes Compact legislation. Four of the eight Great Lakes States have not yet signed the Compact legislation that is intended to prevent diversion of water supplies from the Great Lakes Basin to locations outside the Basin watershed. The Great Lakes have a limited water supply, and those supplies should not be diverted to outside sources or for commercial use outside the Basin.

New York Grange

No Report

New York State Conservation Council by Dan Tone

Bills beneficial to habitat and access supported by the council at the recent Legislative Meeting.

A5826 (Forest land management for game species.) A7534 (Tax deduction; landowner liability.)

S2179 (Habitat/Access tax credit, 25% of tax.) S6974 (Mandatory Habitat/Access Stamp.)

Other Bills supported.

AI092 (Mercury Reduction Act of 2007) A1325/S1123 (Dead timbering forest land.) A2465 (Boating Safety Certificate.)

A2663/S526 (\$100,000 exemption for club land.) A3057 (Snowmobile fee exemptions.)

A3876 (Hunting & Fishing education in high school gym class.) A4326/S6872 (Global warming emissions reduction.) A6069/S23272 Deposit on bottles and containers.)

A6903 (ECL: revoke permit /deny application.) A7266B/S4324B (Great Lakes/St. Lawrence Water Compact.) A8112/S2395 ("Great Swamp" Dutchess/Putnam Counties.) A914 (File findings for need of land acquisition.) A9936/S6668 (Oswego River Basin Commission.) A9941/S6730 (Oatka, Tonawanda Creeks.)

S711 (Repeal related to ballistic i l l bank.)

S955 (Personal tax credit on purchase of gun safety equipment.) AI0151/S2733 (Confidentiality of information in pistol license applications.) S4452 (Damage to Wildlife Decoys.)

S6710 (Online purchasing of fishing licenses.)

S6746 (illegal deer penalty increase, 10 year license loss.) S6923 (Able to possess pistol/revolver during safety course.)

Commissioner Grannis spoke at the council's Legislative Meeting about bills the department submitted to the Senate and Assembly for the 2008 Legislative Session.

One of the bills pertains to the Junior big game hunting license. This legislation would allow 14- and 15-year-olds to obtain a license to hunt big game with a firearm. The junior hunter would have to be accompanied by a parent or guardian or a youth mentor (an adult age 21 or older having written permission from parent or guardian); the accompanying adult must have at least three years of big game experience. The adult would be required to exercise control over the junior hunter at all times while hunting, meaning that the adult must be able to issue verbal direction and instruction, maintain constant visual contact and provide guidance and direction to the minor. There are safety requirements added for those who would participate in the junior hunting program: both the junior hunter and the supervising adult must wear a vest or hat with at least 50% blaze orange visible from all directions. Neither the youth nor mentor may hunt in a tree stand. The Council President said after talking to legal staff at the DEC

and Governor's office who are concerned with safety, he believes these are compromises that must adhere to if we are going to see our junior hunters allowed to hunt big game. This bill also has a trapper mentoring program attached; this would allow licensed trappers to serve as "mentors" and allow someone younger than 12 (who doesn't have a trapping license) to assist with trapping.

The NYSCC legislative priority this year is to get a Junior Big Game License for fourteen and fifteen year olds.

The council is looking for information on access. How many of the people use Department of Parks to access your fishing spot? What are the conditions of car top access sites? Can the access sites be used by the handicapped or elderly? Is the parking area large enough? Is the launch too far away? President Palmer, has met with the commissioners and will get back with them. He is requesting answers to these questions from people that fish in our state.

Council delegates were updated at our recent All Conservation Conference about Natural Resources Programs for private Landowners. The Habitat and Access Committee will meet on Saturday, April 12, 2008 at Herkimer Community College along with many other committees of the council.

Last January members of the NYSCC Legislative Team sponsored a "Taste Of Wild New York" social gathering at the Legislative Office Building, with members of the Senate and Assembly Environmental Conservation committees invited to try venison, rabbit, pheasant, duck, goose, grouse, trout and perch, along with cheese made in New York State. The event was a great success, with many attending experiencing their first taste of some of these foods.

The council is also looking for support concerning the Conservation Fund from going into debt any further. The council is asking legislatures to include the Conservation Fund in this year's budget. At this time there is nothing in the budget for the Fund. President Palmer is requesting County Federation write letters of support and forward them to him to be submitted.

Respectfully submitted,

**Conservation Fund Advisory Board Report -
Report by William Pike-**

There have been many changes in the CFAB delegation since the spring FWMB meeting. Charles Hancock is Chairman as Bob Monarchic resigned in April. Charles Bevilacqua is Vice Chairman. John Long was Vice Chairman but John had a stroke and died. Howie Cushing took John's place as representative from NYSCC. Bill Pike took Bud Woodfield's place as representative from FWMB. Region 3 representative Wally John resigned because he took a job with DEC. Region 7 representative Craig Tryon resigned because of health reasons. Jason Kemper is the new Region 5 representative.

We have some big problems that we are trying to tackle, mainly the Conservation Fund deficit. By April 30, 2008 we will be approximately 24 million dollars in the red. Certainly this can not go on

like this so CFAB, FWMB and many other organizations have been asked for recommendations on how to fix the problem. Unfortunately this is not a easy thing to do. We wrote letters to the legislature trying to get at least 14 million to pay the benefits. If we do get this it is just a temporary fix and we still have to come up with a long range plan to fix the problem. All of the organizations that I have talked to said they will not even talk about a license fee increase unless youth big game legislation is passed and signed into law. There have been many suggestions such as a tax on all outdoor equipment, raising fines, and many others. So far none of these ideas have flown. There will be future meetings on ideas. Unfortunately if this problem isn't solved there may have to be programs dropped and employees laid off. This will not be good for the sportsmen and women. In the next 5years the Conservation Fund will loose 7million 500thousand in revenues from hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses as baby boomers become 65years old and go from regular licenses to \$5 licenses.

One good thing that has been accomplished by the board is this year the CFAB Annual Report to the Commissioner is as of April 2007. I brought enough of these reports so everybody can have one.

The CFAB is also going to be more active on pieces of legislation in the legislature. We are going to send letters or comment on all bills that have something to do with hunting,fishing or trapping.

New York State Forest Practices Board – Richard Fox - Mr. Fox expressed concern that the Forest Practices Board is no longer an effective advisory group.

State Soil and Water Conservation Districts/State Ag and Markets by John Shumacher .

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

Report to the Spring 2008 Fish and Wildlife Management Board

Deer-Related Research

Here are some highlights of the 2007 statewide deer hunter survey conducted by the Human Dimensions Research Unit (HDRU) for DEC.

The hunter population continues to age; the average hunter now is 48 years of age and has over 25 years of hunting experience. About 92.5% of licensed hunters went afield in 2007.

- Only in New York City-Long Island did over 17% of hunters indicate currently living in a city of more than 25,000 population.
- Deer hunting is *one* of the most important forms of recreation for about 50% of hunters, and *the* most important for of recreation to about 25% .
- There appears to be some erosion in interest in deer hunting among licensed hunters in southeastern New York over the past 5 years. On the other hand, the overall level of interest increased somewhat in other regions of the state.
- The change from the previous Monday opening day to the current Saturday opening day of deer season allowed about 10% more hunters of all ages, and more than 20% more hunters under 25 years of age to hunt on opening day. Some increase in hunting satisfaction occurred as a result in the change in opening day for all regions except southeastern New York.
- 52% to 53% of hunters in northern and central-western New York reported harvesting at least one deer, compared to 39% in southeastern New York. The main reason for the difference in harvest appears to be a lower willingness to shoot antlerless deer in southeastern New York (hunters there saw as many deer as hunters in other regions).
- Moderately strong support was found for experimental regulations to protect year-old bucks.

HDRU Annual Report

Copies of the HDRU annual report, summarizing a number of fish and wildlife studies, are available at this meeting. The report is also on the web at [http://www.dm.cornell.edu/hdru/pubs/2007 annualreport. pdf](http://www.dm.cornell.edu/hdru/pubs/2007%20annualreport.pdf)

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

During the fall board meeting the request was made for me to provide an update on the coyote diet study undertaken at ESF during the spring meeting. Christina Boser, ESF M.S. student, delivered the report in person. Coyote diets have been analyzed from the summer of 2007 in each of two study areas, Steuben County (near Bath) and Otsego County (near Worcester). We had one main expectation, which was that deer would comprise a greater proportion of coyote diets in Steuben County (where deer occur in relatively high density) versus Otsego County (where deer occur in relatively low density).

Approximately 90 scats were collected from each area, washed, dried, and hand-sorted to determine prey identity and relative percent occurrence in scats. Prey identification was made from bone fragments, teeth, and hairs. Identification of all hair types were made by making an impression of the scale pattern of individual hairs, which was examined under a microscope and compared to museum standards.

Initial results indicate that deer and small mammals comprise the majority of the summer diet. In Otsego County, deer represented 50% and small mammals 17% of the diet. In Steuben County, 30% of the diet was deer while 43% was small mammals. These observations run contrary to our expectation, and may be a function of the abundance of alternative prey. Preliminary data indicate that differences in deer consumption by coyotes between study areas were observed for fawns but not adult deer.

Currently, we are collecting data on deer and small mammal abundance in both study areas and beginning analysis of the winter diet. This diet study will continue through Fall 2008 with the final results reported in Spring 2009.

For ongoing project updates on this and other components of the ESF coyote study, please visit our web site http://www.esf.edu/efb/frair/coyote/coyote_main.htm.

Chairmans Report - Pat Arnold

State Board Secretary Jack Cooper presented a power point presentation on the background and justification for the Fish and Wildlife Management Act of 1957. The Act went into effect on April 1, 1958 which makes the Act and the Boards 50 years old.

The presentation went on to discuss the:

- ◆ Duties and Functions of the Statewide and Regional Boards
- ◆ Interpretation of duties by the (then) Conservation Department and (later) by the Environmental Conservation Department

- ◆ What are fish and wildlife management “practices” as defined by the Act
- ◆ How has things changes in the 50 years since the Act
- ◆ What should the Board’s duties be going into the 21st Century
- ◆ How has the DEC changed in the last 50 years
- ◆ What are the new administrations “priorities”

Update on Round 2 Habitat Access Stamp Grants by Jack Cooper

Ten Grants were issued for round 2, all awardees were notified and mailed a “next steps” package which included the contract package. Awardees were instructed to update their workplan, sign the contract signature pages and return the package to the DEC. The Department is currently working to execute those contracts as they return.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee presented by Walt Hallbauer

Habitat Committee presented by Gary Evans

Access Committee presented by Bob Banks

Resolutions Committee presented by Barbara Brown

The following resolutions will be presented to the Board for approval:

- 1) Resolution 2008-01-01 **TITLE: Resolution to Create Equal Opportunities for Disabled and Senior Hunters**
- 2) Resolution 2008-01-02 **TITLE: Access to Car Top Boat Launches by Individuals with Disabilities or the Elderly**
- 3) Resolution 2008-01-03 **TITLE: Resolution in Support of Continued Payment of Taxes on NY State Lands Managed as Open Space by NY State Department of Environmental Conservation and NY State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and Expand that Payment to All Lands so Managed.** This resolution was not provided to the Board in a timely manner. The Board decided to act on the resolution.

Public Relations- Karl Berger- Division of Public Affairs

Public Relations involve:

- Setting goals
- Assessing strengths and weaknesses
- Establishing goals, needs, priorities, competing activities
- Receiving input
- Formulating issue statements
- Communicating with constituents
- Assess who can best carry the message forward
- Staying on message
- Lobbying for interests
- Evaluating what your constituents want and need

Public Relations is really “much to do”

- Learning how to communicate (direct contact, newsletters, e-mail, meetings, etc)
- Must know who your constituents are and where they are
- Its nice to be informed by we are competing with other “stories” that are more dramatic
- Learn how organizations fit into current issues and how various groups view these issues
- Communicating involves: know your “audience” “prepare” “message”
 - what action is desired
 - what do we have to say
 - who do we want to say it too
- Stay on message!!!!
- Measure success of communication-did we gain understanding of our issues, accomplish our objective
- Everyone in organization must
 - know their role
 - listen
 - know who their Regional DEC Citizen Participation Specialists is

Farm Bureau Report - Matthew Hobart

- Overview of 2008 policies
- Support Mentor Bill
- Concerned about landowner liability
- Concerned about Conservation Fund funding gap
- Support language on hunting license those would relieve landowners of liability

Department Reports

Assistant Commissioner for Natural Resources - Chris Amato

- NYS has diverse group of people who use fish and wildlife resources

- New challenges for fish and wildlife management and use
- Habitat loss
- Climate Change
- Invasive Species
- Smart Growth
- Endangered Species
- Wetlands
- Wildlife health
- Fish and Wildlife Management Boards should get involved with these issues

Division of Law Enforcement-Col. Walter Heinrich and Col. Steven Gerould

- Update on: trout season, adjust officers shifts, turkey season
- Enhancing boat patrols
- New ECO Academy
- Priorities include: staffing, dangerous animals, marine fisheries, commercialized fishing on lakes

Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources:

FWM Board Opportunities and 2008 Departmentals- Doug Stang - Assistant Director

NYSDEC Bureau of Fisheries - Steve Hurst - Chief, Bureau of Fisheries

2007 Big Game Report - Jeremy Hurst - Bureau of Wildlife, Central Office

Deer Reproductive Study - Jeff Peil - Bureau of Wildlife, Region 4

Engaging Private Landowner in Wildlife Conservation - Marcelo DelPuerto - Bureau of Wildlife, Central Office

Copies of the Power Point presentations for all of these have been provided to the Regional Board Secretaries.

Barbara Brown suggested that the Board establish some long range plans to include goals and objectives for the Board based upon discussions and recommendations made by Assistant Commissioner Amato and other Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources presentations.

A motion was duly made by Barbara Brown and seconded by Jim Petreszyn to establish a planning committee as outlined in the By-Laws, to establish long range plans and goals for the Fish and Wildlife Management Board. The committee will be appointed by the chairman and have representation from all Regional Boards and include members of the Executive Committee. The motion was unanimously approved.

Saturday, March 31

Resolutions

Actions on resolutions submitted for consideration at the Spring 2008 Statewide meeting of the Fish and Wildlife Management Board. The Resolutions Committee presented the following resolutions:

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

Resolution 2008-01-01 TITLE: Resolution to Create Equal Opportunities for Disabled and Senior Hunters

A motions was duly made and seconded to approve Resolution 2008-01-01, discussion followed. A motion was duly made and seconded to amend the original resolution to change wording to “military service” in place of “Afghanistan and Iraq.” The motion was unanimously approved. The motion to approve the resolution was unanimously approved.

Resolution 2008-01-02 TITLE: Access to Car Top Boat Launches by Individuals with Disabilities or the Elderly

A motion was duly made and seconded to approve Resolution 2008-01-02, the motion was unanimously approved.

Resolution 2008-01-03 TITLE: Resolution in Support of Continued Payment of Taxes on NY State Lands Managed as Open Space by NY State Department of Environmental Conservation and NY State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and Expand that Payment to All Lands so Managed

A motion was duly made and seconded to bring Resolution 2008-01-03 to the floor for a vote, the motion was unanimously approved. A motion was duly made to approve Resolution 2008-01-03, the motion was unanimously approved.

Unfinished Business

Gary Evans asked the Board for suggestions on how to best use the limited space at the Empire Farm Days. He also asked for volunteers, they should contact Randy Nemecek at the Region 8 office. The dates of the Empire Farm Days will be August 5, 6, 7, 2008.

It was also requested that the State Board Secretary send copies of the power point presentations give at the Spring 2008 meeting be sent to the Regional Secretaries for distribution to Regional Board members.

Elections

Walt Hallbauer presented a slate of Candidates for election of Officers to the Board for 2008-09. The following individuals were included in the slate of candidates:

Chairman- Mike Zeh

Vice-Chair- Tom Grow

Secretary- Jack Cooper

Conservation Fund Advisory Board- Jim Bertram

Executive Committee- Jerry Bierker, Laurie Bruce, Jim Petreszyn

A motion was duly made and seconded that the Secretary cast a single vote for each of the candidates, the motion was unanimously passed. The Secretary cast one vote for each and the slate was elected.

At this point, Mike Zeh assumed the duties of Chairman. Mike recognized the significant contribution of Pat Arnold as the Board Chair during the last two years.

New Business

The new chairman proceeded to activate the Planning Committee as outlined in the By-Laws. The planning committee will include the Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Executive Committee, plus two additional members to insure that all Regional Boards are represented, they included: Gary Evans and Walt Hallbauer. The Planning Committee will meet on April 18. The charge to the Planning Committee is to discuss the future direction of the Fish and Wildlife Management Boards, consider goals and objectives for the boards and to also look at the term limit issue.

A motion was duly made and seconded to adjourn. The motion was unanimously approved.

Meeting was Adjourned by Chairman Zeh at 10:30 am

Respectfully Submitted by:

Jack G. Cooper

Biologist 3 (Ecology)

Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources

Statewide Fish and Wildlife Management Board Secretary

Members: Representatives of County Boards of Supervisors/County Legislators, Landowners and Sportsman

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