



STATE OF NEW YORK CONSERVATION FUND ADVISORY BOARD
625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4750
Monthly Meeting Minutes

Four Hundred and Seventh Meeting – December 13, 2021
Department of Environmental Conservation, 625 Broadway,
Albany

Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 9:07 AM.

Meeting Adjourned – The meeting was adjourned at 12:42 PM.

Roll Call: 9:07 AM

Ex-Officio Members Present

Deputy Commissioner of Natural Resources:

Katie Petronis

Senior Attorney Legislative Affairs:

Jeshica Patel

Voting Board Members Present

Tim Huss	Region 1
Gordon J Whiting	Region 2
Vacant	Region 3
Tom Williams	Region 4
Jason Kemper	Region 5
Dave Corr	Region 6
Vacant	Region 7
Marc Osypian	Region 8
Dale Dunkelberger	Region 9
Bill Conners	FWMB
Anthony Kordziel	NYSCC

Ex-Officio Members Absent

Senate Finance Committee

Senate EnCon Committee

Assembly Ways and Means Committee

Assembly EnCon Committee

DEC Personnel

Division of Fish and Wildlife: James Farquhar, Acting Director; Chief, Bureau of Fisheries, Steve Hurst

Division of Law Enforcement: Karen Przyklek

Guests

Voting Board Members Excused

Voting Board Members Absent

Abbreviations

Ag. & Mkts = Department of Agriculture and Markets

CFAB or the Board = Conservation Fund Advisory Board

DEC or the Department = NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

DFW = Division of Fish and Wildlife

DLE = Division of Law Enforcement

DLF = Division of Lands and Forest

DMBS = Division of Management and Budget Services

OGC = DEC Office of General Counsel

DOB = Division of the Budget

DOP = Division of Operation Services

OSC = Office of State Comptroller

FWMB = Fish and Wildlife

Management Board

Correspondence: None

Minutes of Prior Meeting:

MOTION: Dave Corr motioned to accept September minutes; Marc Osypian, Second, motion passed.

Executive Report:

Katie Petronis, Deputy Commissioner of Natural Resources
Jeshica Patel, Senior Attorney from Legislative Affairs

- Jeshica Patel provided updates regarding possible departmentals which include crossbow use, removal of back tags and pheasant hunting. The Department is limited to five departmentals each year. Jeshica advised that they are looking at a two-year extender to continue to manage pheasants on Long Island. Jason asked if crossbows are a departmental will it not be included in the budget. Jeshica advised that is correct as they were advised that it has no fiscal impact and should be part of the departmentals. Jim explained to the Board how the crossbow departmental would allow the use of crossbow in all seasons.
- Anthony brought up a concern regarding The Take Your Shot sweepstakes which provides an incentive when obtaining your COVID vaccination. It is unclear if the funding will be coming from the Department of Health. Katie assured the Board that it will not be coming from the Conservation Fund.
- Katie advised the Board that transition is still occurring and is being focused on with Executive. They continue working with the Governor's Office on updates.
- Katie advised that the letter regarding the Division of Law Enforcement was received and would like it to be included on the agenda for the next meeting so that it can be given time and she can prepare for it.
- The Otterbrook Bridge update is in the hands of Operations. Katie is still waiting for an update from Tom Lincoln.
- Jason asked for an update on the rule making package titled Holiday Hunt Opt-out. Katie advised the Board that there were many comments regarding the package. There were many comments that were supportive but wanted substantive changes. At this point they cannot move forward with the rule making and will need to look at possible making changes to the opt-out or removing the opt-out all together. They will be completing a pilot study to see how they should proceed.

Division of Fish and Wildlife

Steve Hurst, Chief, Bureau of Fisheries
Jim Farquhar, Acting Director

- Steve provided an in-depth presentation regarding the Notice of Proposed Rule Making for Fishing Regulations Clean-up. Dale asked that a copy of the Notice of Proposed Rule Making be mailed to him.
- In this presentation Steve advised the group that the regulations hope to regulate Rainbow Trout and Brown Trout separate from Brook Trout. The ponds will remain 5 fish a day and closed during the winter. Rainbow and Brown will be open all year with five fish a day and 2 over 12 inches Brook Trout will be five fish a day and two over 12 inches but will remain closed in the winter. This change is occurring because Rainbow and Brown are managed differently than Brook Trout. With Brook Trout they are largely trying to manage so that it can be a self-sustaining population. They are also extremely vulnerable through the ice.
 - Jason disagreed with this process in that feels only a handful Brook Trout are self-sustaining.
 - Steve explained that they are attempting to spread the larger trout out.
 - Steve walked through Lake Trout and Salmon which were normally closed in winter. They will be changing those that were closed to being open in winter. This should result in fewer special regulations.
 - The bureau also looked at season opening dates which would move to a hard date so that it is easier to remember. An example would be that Walleye would open May 1st and June 15th for Black Bass.
 - Jason expressed frustration regarding a change in opening dates. He stated that there isn't overwhelming support for a change, and it should not be changed with 45% not in agreement with changing dates. Jason felt that these changes were just thrown out without documentation or support. Steve referenced results of an angler survey that supported moving forward with the proposal.
 - This regulation would also pair down special regulations for ice fishing as well. Steve also advised the Board that Oneida Lake Walleye has been included in this package.
 - Steve also discussed the Priority waters Initiative which Trout Unlimited is going to take the lead on.
 - Steve provided an update on the Fish App, a contract was signed and they are hoping to have it rolled out for April 2022.
 - A hatchery update was also provided. Randolph will need a total rebuild and will be dredging in Spring 2022. Had to move all fish from Cedar Springs to Caledonia because of staffing shortages.

- Staffing is still down, with 12 positions down and obtained 6 positions to be filled.
- Jason feels that this regulation is moving too fast without being brought to the board before the regulation changes were initiated.
- Steve invited the Board to provide comment on the proposed regulation changes. Bill requested that the Board meet once the comment period closes.
- Jim provided a brief update regarding the non-lead taskforce. Sent out the survey to 20,000 hunters. As of this meeting there were 4,000 complete surveys returned. Almost 40% of hunters have used non-lead ammunition to hunt.
- There was a discussion regarding the pheasant stocking program. Several counties are not receiving a stocking of pheasants. Jim advised the group that pheasants are going into 44 to 45 counties with about 10 counties not being stocked. Most areas that are not stocked either do not have good state land or must rely on privately owned land. Jim encourages discussion about stocking and assistance with finding properties to stock. Dave stated that there is little to no outreach about the program so there is no one to pick up the program once someone steps down. Dave requested a write up or any material about the program that he could give to the public to encourage participation.
- Tom Williams asked if NYS has a stance regarding PFOAS in venison. Jim advised that they are currently testing in fish but in the future they will need to establish a plan to test in deer.

Division of Law Enforcement Report:

Major Brian Gillis introduced the new Acting Director of Law Enforcement, Karen Przyklek.

Marc Osypian motioned to adjourn the meeting, Bill Connors second – motion passed, Meeting Adjourned at 12:42 PM.