



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

Three Hundred Seventy Seventh Meeting – February 12, 2018
Department of Environmental Conservation, 625 Broadway, Albany

Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 9:11 AM.
Meeting Adjourned – The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 PM.

Roll Call: 9:11am

Voting Board Members Present

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

Voting Board Members Excused

Voting Board Members Absent

Ex-Officio 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

Ex-Officio Members Present

DEC Commissioner represented by:
Kathy Moser, Deputy Commissioner for Natural Resources; Jeff Stefanko, Deputy Commissioner for Administration

Senate Finance Committee
Senate EnCon Committee
Assembly Ways and Means Committee
Assembly EnCon Committee

DEC Personnel

Division of Fish and Wildlife: Anthony Wilkinson, Director, Doug Stang, Assistant Director,
Division of Law Enforcement: Scott Florence, Major

Guests:

Laura DiBetta, DEC Executive
Andy Rowinski, DMBS
Danielle Schittino, Legislative Affairs
Anthony Kordziel, Director of Natural Resources and Environmental Science at Frost Valley YMCA
Casey Guyer, Assistant to Anthony Kordziel

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
DPAE = Division of Public Affairs & Education
OSC = Office of State Comptroller

Correspondence: Out going: (Jason will provide copies)

Comments on Roadside Camping Regulations.
Memorandum of Support to Senate on Universal Hunting Age Bill

Minutes of Prior Meeting:

MOTION: Dale Dunkelberger motioned to accept January's minutes, Dave Corr, Second, Motion passed.

Executive Report:

Kathy Moser, Deputy Commissioner for Natural Resources, provided Board members with the following:

- Environmental Budget hearing will be held on February 27th, this is open to the public, encouraged Board Members to attend.
- Discussion on downstate involvement with Legislators.

Jeff Stefanko, Deputy Commissioner of Administration

- Update on status on Conservation Fund
Moving costs off the Conservation Fund (personal service, non-personal service). Board Members expressed concerns regarding moving funds from the Conservation Fund as there has been no communication as to where the additional program support would come from and if the fish and wildlife program would remain "whole"; (questions and concerns were addressed).
Board Members expressed frustration with the lack of a long range plan to keep the Conservation Fund in the black.
Jeff informed Members that the Conservation Fund is in good shape and will provide a more detailed summary to Board Members.
The Board requested that information include the actual deficit and **specific write offs** as they pertain to the Conservation Fund.

Laura DiBetta, Adventure New York

- Update on I Love my park day
- Highlight work on WMA's, Young Forest Initiative and NASP
- Outdoors Day: Open House style event, scheduled for June 9th at 11 or 12 locations.
- Dave Corr requested a list of participating Parks and Sporting Groups.
- Laura will provide Board Members with more detailed information.

Legislative Affairs: Danielle Schittino:

- Danielle continues to encourage Board Members to stay involved and continue to reach out to Sporting Groups and the Legislature. Discussion on the Universal hunting age bill continues.
- Jason Kemper and Dave Corr provided the update; the Universal hunting age bill has been passed at the Senate.
- Jason thanked DEC staff with briefing assistance for meeting Cathy Calhoun, Director, State Operations, feels the meeting went very well.

Division of Fish and Wildlife Report:

Doug Stang, Assistant Director:

- Update provided on license sales, DECALS system outages, additional features, etc.
- Hatchery staff update and infrastructure upgrade efforts were provided.
- ITS is seeking request for information for potential new DECALS back-end system in contemplation on moving away from Accela.
- Update provided on the Fish Culturist 1-6 Exams.
- Regulatory effort updates: no movement on Regulation packages.
- Update on CWD Plan; currently with Julie Tighe.
- Chuck Dente presented a brief summary on his retirement
- Jason Kemper requested that Doug put titles on DEC tables of information so groups will know where information is coming from.

Division of Law Enforcement Report:

Major Scott Florence, provided the following updates:

- Next academy possibly 2019
- HRSI Update: 18 Personal injuries; 10 property damage.
- In the process of making 30minute video presentation
- Down 34 sworn members, 4 Civilian; no permission to fill vacancies.
- Alan Blanchard making video on hunting and shooting***
- DLE purchased new cameras

***As part of Alan Blanchard's sentence the judge imposed 100 hours of community service specifically, to attend hunter training classes and speak to young hunters about his crime and how to avoid being in the same situation. DEC law Enforcement staff and Wildlife staff have worked with Blanchard all winter refining his speech and editing content. The final product will be a 10-15 presentation to hunter training classes under the supervision of an ECO. Blanchard will recount the facts of his reckless act of shooting in the dark, after hours at what he thought was a deer, but in reality was ECO James Davey investigating a complaint of late shooting. But for the heroic efforts of Lt. Bobseine, ECO Davey certainly would have died. The ECO will follow up with info about what happened to our officer, the law and answer questions....

CFAB Business:

- CFAB Summary discussed
- NYSAC Meeting being held in March, need 2 Board members to attend
- Lifetime license account; Dave Corr will set up a meeting with NYS State Comptroller to discuss strategy; Jason will send out last year's letter.
- CFAB Rack Card update; Jason will reach out to Sean Mahar after the meeting.
- Board Members and Tony Wilkinson discussed the Spruce Grouse Recovery Plan, it's impact on UMPs and propagation opportunities.

Dale Dunkelberger motioned to adjourn the meeting, Raymond Merlotto second – motion passed, Meeting Adjourned at 1:14 pm.

Update on DEC's E-Licensing system and sporting license sales:

e-Licensing:

Status Summary and Activities Completed This Period

- DEC is still awaiting a cost estimate and timeline for the DECALS citizen application (for purchase of licenses, tags, and associated privileges) to be converted to a responsive design (useable with all devices, including mobile devices).
- Accela upgrade is being migrated into the TEST environment.
- The New York State Office of Information Technology Services (ITS) is initiating a request for information (RFI) for a back-office system to support a statewide hunting and fishing licensing process. The preferred solution is API compatible and can support and integrate with both a public website that is mobile responsive, a mobile office application and a retail point-of-sale system.

License Sales

- A comparison of license types 2015 – 2017 indicates, for the most, a general, slight downward trend in hunting, fishing, and trapping license sales (please see attached table).

Filled Position report:

Division of Fish and Wildlife

<u>Account</u>	<u>Number of Staff</u>	<u>Change</u>
Access Land Acquisition	1	
Habitat Conservation and Access Account	8	
Hazardous Waste Cleanup Account	2.8	
State Purposes Account	3	
Federal Fish and Wildlife Grants Account	48	
Conservation Fund (Traditional Account)	242.35	
Environmental Regulatory Account	5	
Total	310.15	

Division of Fish and Wildlife items for Conservation Fund Advisory Board meeting
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Conservation Fund (Main Account)

<u>Division</u>	<u>Number of Staff</u>	<u>Change</u>
Fish and Wildlife	242.35	
General Counsel	1	
Law Enforcement	78	+1.0
Operations	4	
Management and Budget Services	2	
Office of Communication Services	1	
Regional Affairs	<u>3</u>	
Total	331.35	+1.0

Status of Regulations (changes from previous month in bold): no changes from previous month

Status of DEC Hatchery System Infrastructure Work:

Updated table providing the status of DEC Hatchery projects funded via New York Works III, New York Works IV, and New York Works V, and New York Works VI is attached.

Highlights:

- OSC approved purchase of fish pumps for Bath, Catskill, Salmon River, and Van Hornesville hatcheries
- OGS plans for construction bid for Salmon River Hatchery to be out by end of summer with construction in 2019
- Construction underway for raceway enclosures at Bath Hatchery
- New Salmon River Hatchery generator to be delivered 2/14



Construction of predator exclusion enclosure - Bath Hatchery

Hatchery Staffing Update:

Current number of permanent filled positions: 74

Recent transactions (fills):

- Fish Culturist 1 – Catskill (filled 1/26/2018)

Recent transactions (separations)

- Office Assistant 1 – Rome (retired 1/31/2018)

Hiring process underway:

- Fish Culturist 2 – Chautauqua

Other vacancy(ies):

- Fish Culturist 3 – Rome
- Fish Culturist 3 – Salmon River
- Office Assistant 1 – Rome