



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

Three Hundred Ninety-sixth Meeting – July 13, 2020
Department of Environmental Conservation, 625 Broadway,
Albany

Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 9:14 AM.

Meeting Adjourned – The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 AM.

Roll Call: 9:14am

Ex-Officio Members Present

Deputy Commissioner of Natural Resources:
Katie Petronis

Voting Board Members Present

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
Bill Conners	FWMB

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: Tony Wilkinson,
Division of Law Enforcement: Bernard Rivers,

Voting Board Members Excused

Tim Huss	Region 1
Dale Dunkelberger	Region 9
Raymond Merlotto	NYSCC

Guests

Jim Farquhar, Chief – Bureau of Wildlife
Mary Bailey, Unit Leader License Sales
Chet Van Dellen, Kalkomey
Adonis Bitar, Kalkomey
Mitch Strobl, Kalkomey

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

Correspondence: None

Minutes of Prior Meeting:

MOTION: Bill Connors to accept June minutes; Dave Corr, Second, Motion passed.

Executive Report:

Katie Petronis, Deputy Commissioner of Natural Resources

- Katie advised that she does not have any updates regarding the issue of appointments and reappointments. She advised that after speaking to the Chamber they were focusing on projects that need to go to the legislature. Tom and other Board members expressed frustration over the lack of interest regarding Region 3 appointment and the reappointments of members.
- Katie advised the Board to provide a recommendation for region 3 that she could push. Jason expressed concern that this was the same process that they had done previously with no results.

Division of Fish and Wildlife Report:

Tony Wilkinson, Director; Jim Farquhar, Chief, Bureau of Wildlife; Mary Bailey, Unit Leader, License Sales;

- Mary came in to provide information about the transition to the new license issuing system. The system went live on June 29, 2020. There have been multiple agent issues but not many issues with people obtaining licenses. 400 agents with active sales a month before they went live. Many agents did not find the messages sent until offices began to open back up. Retail locations have not been rolling out the new license system. Currently Walmart had 45 out of 78 stores running on the new system. NYS has approximately 1200 License Issuing Agents, 500-600 were up and running on Thursday, July 9, 2020. Mary encouraged the Board to let the public know what licenses can be purchased online or over the phone.
- Mitch from Kalkomey stated that they will have all agents set up and running by August 3, 2020. Their team is making outbound calls to assist with the License Issuing Agents who cannot get setup. Tony advised Kalkomey to provide a daily update of agents and retail stores.
- Mitch provided information regarding the new online Hunter Education and Bow Hunting courses. The course normally takes a day and a half to complete. They have noticed a shift in demographics with 38% of registrants being female. The Bow Hunting Course will be launched on

July 17, 2020. Tom brought up the idea of having a mentor. Mitch stated that they could connect to groups or have a learn to hunt clinic.

- Tony asked the Board about the idea of providing a Trapper Education online course. Dave felt that it would be a tough course to offer as it is nuanced.
- Dave asked if a plug for the Habitat Stamp could be on the login page for the courses. Jim followed up after the meeting that unfortunately it does not fit the model of how the course is delivered.
- Tony spoke to the Board regarding the issue of how the Amish would be able to take part in the Hunter Education Course. Jim expanded this by explaining that the Hunter Ed team is working on a home study course. Jim also advised the Board that staff, Josh Stiller, will be teaching a waterfowl ID course by webex.
- Tony advised the Board of updates regarding Filled Positions, Hatchery Staffing and Regulatory efforts.
 - Tony provided an update regarding hatchery work. Approval was given by Division of Budget for rebid regarding the fish ladder at Salmon River Hatchery. Steve Hurst will follow up with information about the original bid. Test wells at Rome Hatchery received emergency approval from executive and will occur this summer.
- Jim provided an update regarding Mute Swan Management. 18 sites have been identified as possible problem areas. Sodus Bay has an aggressive male will be working towards moving the aggressor.
- Comments on the Trout Stream Management Plan are being reviewed. Tony and Steve have a briefing with the Commissioner tomorrow, July 14, 2020. Steve will provide a follow-up after the briefing.
- Charlie asked if the Department has any plans or are considering opening more central NY areas to fisher trapping, specifically WMU 7J. Jim confirmed after the meeting that the Department has no plans this year to do so. It would be evaluated further next year.

Division of Law Enforcement Report:

Bernard Rivers, Director

- Law Enforcement staff are working multiple projects that they do not traditionally handle due to COVID-19.
- Bernie advised the Board that an extension request was submitted regarding the Homeland Security Boat grant. The extension was approved and would allow them to have a boat completed by August 2021.
- Tony invited Bernie to have Steve Smith attend a quarterly meeting with

Fish and Wildlife and Law Enforcement.

- Tom asked if the current backlash regarding law enforcement has caused any issues with DEC Law Enforcement. Bernie stated that in regards to the 2021 class, he estimated that 75% would complete the 25 years and then retire.
- Bernie anticipates that the next academy will not occur until 2021/2022.
- Dave expressed how supportive the Board is of all the DEC Law Enforcement.

CFAB BUSINESS:

- The Board discussed the issue of Board Representation. Tom would like to take a firmer stance. He offered options such as writing to the governor, legislature and commissioner. The Board agreed that something must be done to direct focus on this issue of representation.
- Tony suggested that Jason or the Board meet with the Commissioner to discuss how important this issue is.
- Charlie requested that on the next agenda there would be an update regarding the snowmobile usage and violations that occurred on the WMA's in Region 7.

Charlie Pace motioned to adjourn the meeting, Dave Corr second – motion passed, Meeting Adjourned at 11:35 AM.