



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

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**Three Hundred Ninety-fifth Meeting – June 15, 2020**  
**Department of Environmental Conservation, 625 Broadway,**  
**Albany**

**Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 9:09 AM.

**Meeting Adjourned** – The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 AM.

**Roll Call: 9:09am**

**Ex-Officio Members Present**

*Executive Deputy Commissioner:* Judy Drabicki  
*Deputy Commissioner of Natural Resources:*  
Katie Petronis

**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
Bill Connors	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,

**Guests**

Jane McLaughlin, Legislative Affairs  
Jim Farquhar, Chief – Bureau of Wildlife  
Ron Rausch, Division Director Environmental  
Stewardship and Planning  
Mary Bailey, Unit Leader License Sales  
Patrick McBrearty, Legislative VP, NYSCC

**Voting Board Members Excused**

Dale Dunkelberger	Region 9
Raymond Merlotto	NYSCC

**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: Dave Corr to accept May minutes; Bill Conners, Second, Motion passed.***

**Executive Report:**

Judy Drabicki, Executive Deputy Commissioner; Katie Petronis, Deputy Commissioner of Natural Resources

- Judy introduced Katie Petronis the new Deputy Commissioner of Natural Resources.
- Judy provided updates on reopening DEC and the budget. Staff is slowly being brought back in with a priority on staff who cannot work from home. There will be limitations on travel, field work, etc. There will be no summer camps, but campgrounds are opening.
- The issue of reappointment letters was discussed. Currently outstanding reappointments are Charlie Pace, Gordon Whiting, Tom Williams, and Dale Dunkelberger. Jane asked that a list be sent to her and she will work on this.
- Tom brought up Legacy Planning for Future CFAB Members. He stated that there is a need to begin to think how to move forward with the future of members. There is a need to recruit within the regions for younger people and women. Tom asks that executive participate in this process and would like to know how to get more active participants on the board.

**Division of Fish and Wildlife Report:**

Tony Wilkinson, Director; Jim Farquhar, Chief, Bureau of Wildlife; Mary Bailey, Unit Leader, License Sales; Ron Rausch, Division Director Environmental Stewardship and Planning

- Mary came in to provide information about the transition to the new license issuing system. The new system will go live on June 29, 2020. Agent training began this week and are waiting on many offices to respond. There will be a gap in data migration that will be uploaded to the new system. DEC staff would like to see changes in user interface and Mary encourages feedback from all the agents. The plan is that on August 1, 2020 the system will be a finished project. Kalkomey will be taking customer and clerk phone calls.
- Ron Rausch addressed additional potential deer hunting opportunities in Green Lakes State Park. In November/December 2019 they acquired an additional 160 acres which they hope to have open for bow hunting in

2020. They have partnered with municipalities to work on a deer management program which removed 40 deer. Charlie Pace expressed frustration about deer culling and hearing about the plan for culling from media and not the agency.

- Tony provided an update on License Sales trends. Hunting license sales continue to grow. Non-resident is still down. Municipalities are starting to come back online.
- Summary provided on Hatchery positions, no changes.
- Jim updated the Board regarding the online Hunter Education Program. Jim suggested a discussion about a voluntary field day. Bill suggested that there should be an online course that includes mandatory hands-on section. Currently there are 24,344 people who have completed the course and 54,690 registered. They are hoping to offer the traditional course in September. Tom suggested the idea of having a mentor with the course. Tony agreed and suggested the possibility of having the applicant list a mentor or taking a field day.
- Tony announced that the online hunter ed course will be extended through August. Starting July 15<sup>th</sup> there will also be a bowhunting course.
- Charlie brought up that a clerk who is Amish would like to take the hunter ed course. The clerk would like to assist the person with the online course. Tony will look into having the ability for municipal assistance with the online hunter course.
- Jim advised that opening a Spring Turkey Season in Suffolk County would necessitate a regulatory changed. A package to do so has not been initiated at this point.

### **Division of Law Enforcement Report:**

Bernard Rivers, Director

- Bernie updated the Board with the new Deputy Commissioner, Steve Smith.
- Law Enforcement has been assisting with COVID-19 assignments and local municipalities regarding recent protests.
- 13 people are eligible to retire. By next April there will be 22 people eligible to retire. There are 40 vacancies currently.
- Budget for Law Enforcement has been reduced to 50%.
- Dave asked if there were any Shooting Related Incidents for Turkey Season. Bernie provided a report to the Board after the meeting which shows that there was one hunting related shooting incident during the Spring Turkey Season.

### **CFAB BUSINESS:**

- The Board discussed providing a letter of comment on the Trout Stream Management Plan. Dave motioned and Charlie second. Motion passed to provide a letter of comment.
- The Board also proposed letters of comment on the rulemaking Part 2.3 amendments to migratory game bird hunting and rulemaking Part 6.1 and 6.2 amendments to mink muskrat and beaver trapping dates.
- The Board proposed a letter of support and thanks to the hatcheries regarding their hard work with stocking.
- Tom proposed drafting a letter of thanks to Anthony Kordziel, the candidate for the Region 3 appointment.
- Patrick McBrearty thanked the Board for allowing him to listen to the meeting.

***Jason Kemper motioned to adjourn the meeting, Bill Conners second – motion passed, Meeting Adjourned at 11:20 AM.***