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 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,

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
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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 15th 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.