



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

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**Four Hundred and Fourth Meeting – June 14th, 2021**  
**Department of Environmental Conservation, 625 Broadway,**  
**Albany**

**Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 9:05.

**Meeting Adjourned** – The meeting was adjourned at 12PM.

**Roll Call: 9:06 AM**

**Ex-Officio Members Present**

*Deputy Commissioner of Natural Resources:*

Katie Petronis

Jane McLaughlin

**Voting Board Members Present**

Tim Huss	Region 1
Gordon J Whiting	Region 2
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 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,

**Voting Board Members Excused**

Raymond Merlotto NYSCC

**Guests**

Steve Hurst, Chief – Bureau of Fisheries

Mike Schiavone – Bureau of Wildlife

James Farquhar – Bureau of Wildlife

Kate McNamara – Legislative Affairs

Mary Bailey – License Sales

Sean Mahar - Executive

**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: 9:07am Jason Kemper made a motion to accept previous minutes, Dale Dunkleburger 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed.***

**Executive Report:**

Katie Petronis, Deputy Commissioner of Natural Resources

Jane McLaughlin, Legislative Affairs

Kate McNamera, Legislative Affairs

Sean Mahar, Executive

- Sean gave an update regarding the 12- and 13-year-old opt-in, stating that Erie County was opposed.
  - Jason added that Ulster, Thompkins, Rockland, and Oneida Counties may be potential holes/that there is potential opposition. Jason also mentioned taking a targeted outreach approach.
  - Bill stated that Ulster, Putnam and Dutchess Counties should be okay, but Rockland County may be difficult to get on board.
- Kate provided an update on lead ammo; the bill didn't pass because senators did not want to see a ban. An education and outreach approach was discussed, citing updates from the Non-Lead Ammo Working Group. Kate said she will continue the conversation with legislators.
- The Board discussed the Antler Restriction Bill. The Bill was not supported by legislators as they are unhappy with it. The Board discussed continuing education for legislator and the public regarding the Bill.
- Sean provided updated on the Deer Management Plan, stating that it is looking good.
  - Dave mentioned that Region 6 is very opposed to taking more, as the doe and fawn population is lowering, and the archers take enough.
  - Dale asked how this would work, and if tags would be issued separately.
  - Jim and Tony explained that hunters would use the tags they already have, and that the plan is adaptable, and we can review and monitor results to adjust accordingly.
- Tom mentioned the ongoing issue of some people accessing water bodies without washing their boats/kayaks/canoes. Kate stated the Department would like to handle this issue similar to the way firewood was handled, with laws, education and outreach combined.

## **Division of Fish and Wildlife Report:**

Tony Wilkinson, Director; Steven Hurst, Chief, Bureau of Fisheries; James Farquhar, Chief, Bureau of Wildlife; Michael Schiavone, Bureau of Wildlife; Mary Bailey, License Sales

- Mary gave an update on License Sales, mentioning that License Sales will be meeting with Kalkomey and that Kalkomey will be overseeing the Hunt/Fish NY + Trout App. Mary mentioned that Kalkomey is apprehensive about working with ITS Lawyers, despite there being no business reason to be opposed.
  - Charlie asked if license agents numbers have been consistent. Mary replied that there have been gains and losses but overall, it has been consistent.
- Updated were given regarding the Deer Plan, which is out and approved with the public comment period ending on August 8<sup>th</sup>. There was not much reaction in public comment at this time. Tony mentioned some things may not get off the ground this year.
  - Jason mentioned Chronic Wasting Disease, asking how the Department plans to continue managing it. Tony mentioned surveillance, roadkill and coordinating with Pennsylvania. Jim mentioned sampling wild deer in certain areas.
- Mike gave updates regarding the Non-Lead Ammo Working Group, stating that they are getting program experts together to gather and exchange data. Department of Health provided statistics that roughly 15%-30% of ground venison packages that are donated are contaminated with lead. Mike mentioned that there are no quick fixes, and no single group or authority can solve this issue alone, and that awareness varies within groups. Mike also mentioned that hunters don't want regulatory changes and would likely be more willing to change after education.
  - Dale asked if a non-lead bill were to be adopted, would the ban exist for only WMAs or would it take place everywhere. Mike responded that he wasn't sure, but that it would likely be across the board.
  - Jason asked if there would be guests/ability for others to come into the working group to listen and speak on the issue. Mike responded that the group continues to bring in people, DOH, Ammunition Manufacturers and others.
- Steve provided updates on the Trout App, stating that development is going well and mentioning the Department may tie it to the Hunt and Fish App. Steve acknowledged this would make it harder for 16-year-old anglers to get a fishing license on the app. Steve went over financial aspects of the app, citing that charging \$5 for the app could be viable, and that the money could potentially go into the Conservation Fund.

- Steve gave updates on hatcheries, citing the loss of a well at Chautauqua Hatchery. Dale asked where the Department stood man-power wise with Chautauqua and Randolph Hatcheries. Steve responded that their new manager at Chautauqua is doing an outstanding job, and that Randolph Hatchery will hopefully start gaining more traction in the beginning of July.
- Steve provided a staffing update, explaining that they initially were down nine positions, hired about six, but are now back down to nine open positions. It is estimated the number will grow to twelve by fall. Steve emphasized the need for an Aquaculture Engineer, stating that they are currently holding fish from the Rome Hatchery at other hatcheries.

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

Bernard Rivers, Director

- Bernie provided a staffing update, stating that they have been approved for an academy. Bernie expressed concerns with how many positions Law Enforcement would get to fill, stating that Forest Protection typically would get upwards of 40 new staff whereas Law Enforcement would only get around 20. Bernie communicated that Department of Law Enforcement currently has 55 vacancies.

### **CFAB BUSINESS:**

- The board discussed expediting the Trout App, and a letter of opposition to the antler restrictions. The board also discussed a letter to show support of Department of Law Enforcement having jurisdiction on WMAs.

***Motion to adjourn meeting at 12:00pm, motion passed unanimously.***