



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

Four Hundred and Tenth Meeting – June 27, 2022
Department of Environmental Conservation, 625 Broadway,
Albany

Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 9:07AM.

Meeting Adjourned – The meeting was adjourned at 12:30PM.

Roll Call: 9:07am

Ex-Officio Members Present

Katherine McNamara, Director of
Legislative Affairs

Voting Board Members Present

Tim Huss	Region 1
Gordon J Whiting	Region 2
Vacant	Region 3
Tom Williams	Region 4
Jason Kemper	Region 5
Vacant	Region 6
Vacant	Region 7
Marc Osypian	Region 8
Dale Dunkelberger	Region 9
Bill Conners	FWMB

Ex-Officio Members Absent

Senate Finance Committee
Senate EnCon Committee
Assembly Ways and Means Committee
Assembly EnCon Committee
Deputy Commissioner of Natural
Resources
Executive Deputy Commissioner

Voting Board Members Excused

Anthony Kordziel NYSCC

DEC Personnel

Division of Fish and Wildlife:
Director, Jacqueline Lendrum
Chief, Bureau of Wildlife, James Farquhar
Chief, Bureau of Fisheries, Steve Hurst
Chief, Bureau of Ecosystem Health, Chuck
Neider
Mary Bailey, License Sales
Kerry Weiskotten, Personnel

Voting Board Members Absent

Guests

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:

Minutes of Prior Meeting:

Being reviewed

Executive Report:

Katherine McNamara, Director of Legislative Affairs

- Boreas Tract update – Maintenance completed up to the dam,
 - Bill Conner's thought that was the same status as the last meeting, he mentioned we were looking into the engineering updates for the dam itself because there was particular access or was traditionally across the dam. It led to the western end where there was additional opportunity for camping, hunting etc. They would like more of an update on that status. There was discussion about when the land was bought it was promoted as having lots of access and they are not seeing that done. The board feels Boreas Tract was promoted so much and they don't think there have been many benefits from this. Board members feel the issues relating to the fishing and wildlife there is no benefit.

- Katherine McNamara discussed the 3 bills that are currently at the governor's office now that we have close eyes on and are trying to get some better resolution on than we have now.
 - Holiday Hunt – which has passed both houses
 - The hunting guide we are hoping goes to print this week. The Holiday Hunt right now has general language saying there's legislation pending please check the website before you go. Katie has not heard anything on the Bill. She does think it is one we should have on our radar due to timing. Jason discussed it is tough when staff is changing, and he feels they must re-educate again and again. Katie replied yes, the changing staff and the new gun law is an issue
 - Gun Law
 - Tom made a comment that the commissioner needs to stand up and say something to the Governor that the sportsman is not the problem. He thinks this board and others just sit and talk about the same thing over and over and why bother nothing is being done and the sportsman are the people getting penalized. Jackie & Katie replied that we are standing up and saying sportsman are not the problem, it has been made clear to the chamber, we have voiced

how we feel about the gun bill. We help to educate people as much as we can on how these issues are and how they intertwine. There was language that was much broader, and we were able to get reworded so there are no unattended consequences.

- Flax Pond co-owned with SUNY
 - Flax pond – Tim gave a background on the flax pond, he heard from staff in region 1 that they are looking at it and see if we can amend it or prevent it from passing. Katie expressed concerns re: how this affect us and that we have been working with SUNY for many years to try to get a unit management plan. DEC is working on another memo hoping to send to chamber this week indicating DEC is more than happy to have a discussion with SUNY. There was mention of the Henry's Hollow state land that bill was drafted where it prohibited deer hunting.
- Alexander Wildlife Rehabilitation Facility
- Recent gun package.
 - Jackie is expecting this week the language on the first package from the Chamber, she asked to have by the 30th.
 - Bill got word indirectly from Dutchess County legislator to be allowed to use straight wall cartridges for Dutchess County. They were told the reason it has not been moved is because DEC is against it. – Jim replied we have not weighed in on any of this, we left it up to the counties to decide. We would not weigh in against it even if we were to weight in. Jackie asked Bill to get more specifics.
- CFAB Vacancies
 - Tom – mentioned not having a region 3 rep for 5 years and region 7 for a while and now region 6 is vacant. The board would like to recognize and appreciate everything David Corr did on this board and how incredibly hard it will be to replace him if at all. The board is concerned because there are vacancies in several regions for CFAB board members.
 - Jackie replied to the vacancies that herself and Katie did meet with the appointment's office here regarding vacant spots more to come. They are going to have a meeting with Jason to see what they can do about the vacant spots being appointed. They are looking at how things have been appointed and does it need to stay the same way or can we change it. We may be able to move a few forward through the chamber. Jason wants to all work together to get the board back to fully staffed. Having a schedule ahead of time would help board members know when the meetings are a head of time, Jackie did send a memo of proposed dates for the remainder of the 2022 and beginning of 2023 year.

- The board wants updates on the Imperial Dam and the Otterbrook Bridge.

Division of Fish and Wildlife

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Mary Bailey, License Sales

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- Updates to Fish and Wildlife
 - Stephanie joined us about 6 weeks ago.
 - Michael Schiavone has joined the director's office as the new Assistant Director for the division last Thursday.
- New gun bill
 - Jim expressed that the most problematic for us was the semi-automatic legislation. DEC provided a bit of input on the wording of this bill. They are unsure of the actual date of the bill but its 90 days after signature, you will need a permit to be able to purchase a semiauto, 18-21 would not be able to own one. All owners now are grandfathered in. Law enforcement has been involved with all conversations and know and agree with all fish and wildlife is doing. Jason asked if this would interfere with hunter ed at all, Jim replied at this time with their interpretation no. Students can handle a semi-automatic firearm just cannot own one.
 - Tom wants to know if it will be a big process like it is to get a pistol permit. Jim replied there will have to be a form probably like the pistol permit, how the counties are going to handle them is up to them. We are not ready for outreach or to answer a bunch of questions. Tom asked what happens to the people grandfathered in, they don't have paperwork saying they own that long gun so what happens if they get questioned. Jim replied that is another thing being discussed, Jason said that isn't something that Fish and Wildlife will be in charge of. Question of any word on where the money is coming from again Jason said that is out of this department.
 - Mike talked about muzzleloaders, under the penal law they expanded the definition of firearms to be much more inclusive of essentially explosive devices and unintentionally prohibited the possession on muzzle loading shotguns and rifles. DEC has put together a draft to be able to allow the possession of muzzle loading shotguns and rifles. 255,000 muzzleloader privilege holders so this is a big deal. The ones writing the law never thought of the muzzleloaders when they wrote the bill. There is a memo with OGC and law enforcement that has been sent to executive to change the wording.

- Jim discussed the language was broadened so much that the muzzleloaders were not thought of. Jackie mentioned we have been working on this for a solid week and hope for some change, but we don't know where it will go. Time frames the draft memo is hoping to hit Jackie's desk today and then she will send up to executive late today or tomorrow. Katie doesn't think it was written with the intent to prohibit muzzleloaders so she can't speak much about it. Katie commented we won't be able to change the mindset, but we can try to educate and engage on what hunting does in NY State.
- Regulatory agenda
 - Proposed rule for hunting wild turkey to open the spring season on Long Island. Jason asked how many comments we received regarding this; Mike replied over 1000 but 85% - 90% were supportive. The only concerns were the conflicting use on public lands on Long Island, which was drafted in the regulation to address those concerns. Except for the endangered and threatened species all other proposed rulemaking were put as placeholders this year and are probably slated now for 2023.
 - Endangered and Threatened Species started out with endangered and threatened fish. Then the herps and through the birds. It will be a multistep process.
 - Jason asked if we were concerned on a delay on the regs regarding deer feeding. Jim responded except for the urine band these regs are in pretty good shape.
 - Discussion on the DMP and whole package, Jim replied probably 2024. There are a few things we might like to do including contracts and license sales system changes. We may have to change things if we are going to change the way we issue and distribute DMPs and other tags.
- License sales
 - Kalkomey is looking to sell out and is looking at other vendors such as Brandt and Aspira. We should hear more about this decision within 45-90 days. Please keep confidential until all decisions are made. The \$1.81 per transaction fee is fixed in contract. At the end of the 5-year cycle they will have to do an amendment. Brandt is more around \$3.00 per transaction charge. Mention of the habitat stamp we put out as a competition and people voted for the Red Eft.
- Filled positions
 - The numbers in the chart provided were from time period ending June 8, 2022. We are currently working on 8 fills throughout the division. 4 of them are wetlands. Jason asked if we go over the filled positions if we could get a chart that shows the difference from meeting-to-meeting timing. We will add the annual average and changes between meetings.
- Fish hatchery update
 - Since the report was issued the Randolph Hatchery Pond dredging was

anticipated to be done the week of 6/21 there has been an extension to that project to build a temporary road around the backside of it to dredge out the corner of it. Then the other change is with South Otselic Hatchery, punched a second well in for extra water was getting 450 gallons per minute. Then turned it on last week and got 60 gallons of water per minute, the well has collapsed. Now a new well needs to be done as soon as possible.

- Discussion on the new Tackle Box fishing app that is currently being worked on. In the final steps of completing this app. Hoping to get done by August 1, 2022
- A few of the board members brought up that their legislators didn't get the youth deer hunting report. Jason asked us to check with legislative affairs on where copies of the youth deer hunting report went too. Jason has been asked by two minority members and one majority members where the report is because they didn't get it. Law states the reports need to be sent out to legislative and they haven't gotten it.
- Discussion on future CFAB meetings
 - Jackie asked the board members to go over meeting notes from the past whether that is a year or years ago to see what they liked to see, what was beneficial and let us know what they would like to see in the agenda to discuss at the meetings. Part of the discussion was having a yearly meeting concentrating on capital projects including NY Works and then a yearly meeting concentrating on budget/funds where and how they are being used with comparison to past year.
 - Discussion of having CFAB meetings quarterly instead of monthly with the annual financials meeting in September then annual report development in October.
 - Along with what CFAB wants on the agenda, what divisions would they like at the meetings to give updates or ask questions of.

CFAB Business

- Corr Foundation donation
 - The board members want to give a donation to David Corr's sons foundation in honor of David. Jason let everyone know that if everyone could give him a dollar amount of what they would like to donate by end of day Thursday he can front the total amount and make the donation to the foundation on behalf of the board. Jason said they are working on a draft letter as well.
 - Family was very appreciated with the board members that came out for the service and was appreciated with all of the comments from what David had done for the sporting community.
 - Discussion about doing an article about David in the outdoor news. Bill OConnor did a piece in his paper.
- More discussion on the vacant spots

- Tom wants the 3 vacancies to be priority to get filled. Then when they are filled, he would like to see the board at least meet in person once a year and at a spot they can all make it in person, maybe a retreat or something fun planned and they can have discussions about board stuff. He thinks having people on webex takes away from having 100% participation.
- Tim Huss asked about having an executive session in the future that won't end up in the minutes or recorded.
- Discussion about meetings and when they should hold them. Jason asked them if they want to meet monthly or quarterly. Bill suggested the board can meet monthly but without Fish and Wildlife staff only Stephanie for the minutes. Then quarterly the F&W staff can come in to give updates. There was also discussion about every other meeting being all in person if possible. Dale asked about driving down and staying the night, asked if the costs could be covered for the lodging.
 - Dale asked about doing the regional reviews again, he said it has been years and the last one was Region 9. Jason wants to try to get the vacancies filled so there are more involved. Bill agreed let's fill the vacancies and maybe next August they could do a regional thing.
- Discussion about the youth deer hunting permit and how the legislators haven't received the report. The legislation mandated the department would be submitted to the legislature around possibly February 14, 2022. The report was finished about 3 weeks after that and some of the board members got via email and shared with the legislators because the legislators didn't get their copy. But its not something that should be sent out right now with the new gun law being discussed.

Jason motioned to adjourn the meeting, Mark second – motion passed, Meeting Adjourned at 12:30PM.