



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

**Three Hundred Ninety-third Meeting – March 9, 2020**  
**Department of Environmental Conservation, 625 Broadway,**  
**Albany**

**Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 9:03 AM.

**Meeting Adjourned** – The meeting was adjourned at 1:43 PM.

**Roll Call: 9:03am**

**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
Dale Dunkelberger	Region 9
Bill Conners	FWMB
Raymond Merlotto	NYSCC

**Voting Board Members Excused**

Marc Osypian	Region 8
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**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

**Ex-Officio Members Present**

**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, Director; Doug Stang, Assistant Director; Steve Hurst, Chief - Bureau of Fisheries

*Division of Lands and Forest:* Rob Davies, Director, Jim Sessions, Forester 3, Kramer Kwacala, Forester

*Division of Law Enforcement,* Bernard Rivers, Director, District Major, Matt Revenaugh

*Legislative Affairs:* Jane McLaughlin, Director

*Management and Budget:* Erin Hovish

*Office of Media Relations:* Maureen Wren, Director; Lori Severino

*Outdoor Recreation:* Laura DiBetta, Director

**Guests**

Steve Piatt, New York Outdoor News  
Dan Ladd, New York Outdoor News  
Robert Smullen, Member of Assembly

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:** email from Julia Horst regarding the Columbia County Sportsmen's Federation. Letter from New York State Outdoorsmen Hall of Fame selecting Doug Stang for the Outdoors Person of the Year Award.

**Minutes of Prior Meeting:**

***MOTION: Dave Corr to accept January minutes; Dale Dunkelberger, Second, Motion passed.***

**Executive Report:**

Jane McLaughlin, Director, Legislative Affairs; Maureen Wren, Director, Office of Media Relations; Laura DiBetta, Director, Outdoor Recreation

- Jane provided some information regarding the Bond Act. The Bond Act is meant to help community resilience and attempt to make habitats healthier. The board expressed concern regarding lack of specifics on what is included in the Bond Act. Jane explained that at this point she is not aware for specific projects. Concerns were brought up regarding what happens with the New York Works if the Bond Act is approved. Dave brought up issues with culverts and connectivity issues that could be addressed in the Bond Act.
- Tim requested an update on the DLE Boat Grant and wished to make it known that the board has been asking for an update on the grant since June of 2019 and to date have not received a response.
- Laura DiBetta gave some information regarding the leveraging private dollars at the state agency. In the past the agency could not solicit donations. Have worked to have legislation passed to enable DEC to be more engaged in soliciting donations.
- Jane provided an update on Mandatory Boat Washing.

**Division of Fish and Wildlife Report:**

Tony Wilkinson, Director; Doug Stang, Assistant Director; Steve Hurst, Chief, Bureau of Fisheries

- Doug provided an update regarding the development of new license sales and game harvest reporting system by Kalkomey. Remain on target for June 1<sup>st</sup> "go-live" date.
- Provided an update on the License Sales trends.
- Summary provided on Hatchery positions.
- Steve Hurst provided an update on the Rome Hatchery. Zebra mussels were located and have a plan in place for stocking for this year. Managers working on plan for stocking next year and plans to have the

hatchery run solely off well water.

- The Board brought up concerns regarding staff not having state-issued phones.

### **Division of Lands and Forest**

Rob Davies, Director; Jim Sessions, Forester 3; Kramer Kwaczala, Forester

- Rob Davies provided information regarding the concern of overcrowding on trails in the Adirondacks. Staff is working on a focus for road access and safety. Will have a short-term report and actions by June 2020.
- Jim Sessions discussed the easement program. Dave Corr brought up concerns regarding ATV usage and connectivity of trails in Lewis County. Dave also discussed the pending RMP ATV Access and the overall motor vehicle access along with concerns that no fisheries plan has been included. Jim will be reaching out to have the comment period extended.

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

Bernard Rivers, Director; Matt Revenaugh, District Major

- Matt Revenaugh provided information and answered questions regarding Penal Law 265.20. SUNY ESF lands are exempt from firearms restrictions.
- Advised that there was no new information regarding the training facility.
- Exam grades have not come back yet.

### **CFAB BUSINESS:**

- The Board discussed the Region 3 Appointment. Letters of support were mailed.
- The Board discussed the Bond Act. Bill Connors motioned for a letter of support and Jason second, motion was passed to write a letter of support for the Bond Act.
- Tom provided an overview with the Legislative Breakfast.
- Tom met with Congressman Delgado regarding sportsman issues.
- Tim provided updates regarding the possibility of a Taxidermy License. The United Taxidermists Association have a conference in April. Spoke with Cornell regarding this and would support licensing. A survey will be handed out at the conference.

***Dave Corr motioned to adjourn the meeting, Charles Pace second – motion passed, Meeting Adjourned at 1:43 PM.***