



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

Three Hundred Ninety-fourth Meeting – May 18, 2020
Department of Environmental Conservation, 625 Broadway,
Albany

Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 9:21 AM.

Meeting Adjourned – The meeting was adjourned at 11:52 AM.

Roll Call: 9:21am

Ex-Officio Members Present

Deputy Commissioner of Natural Resources & Acting Executive Deputy Commissioner: Judy Drabicki
Chief of Staff: Sean Mahar
Deputy Commissioner for Public Protection: Steve Smith

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

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; Steve Hurst, Chief - Bureau of Fisheries; Jim Farquhar, Chief – Bureau of Wildlife

Voting Board Members Excused

Marc Osypian	Region 8
Raymond Merlotto	NYSCC

Guests

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

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

Correspondence: Letter from Melody A. Goetz, Office of the State Comptroller providing a summary of activity related to the Conservation Fund – State Fish and Game Trust Account.

Minutes of Prior Meeting:

MOTION: Dave Corr to accept March minutes; Gordon Whiting, Second, Motion passed.

Executive Report:

Judy Drabicki, Deputy Commissioner of Natural Resources & Acting Executive Deputy Commissioner; Sean Mahar, Chief of Staff

- Judy introduced Steve Smith, Deputy Commissioner for Public Protection, to the Board.
- Dave requested an update on the Imperial Dam issue. Judy advised that they are evaluating a path forward. Hoping to have a discussion with town and county which has been suspended because of COVID-19. Bill stated that he had sat through a meeting regarding the Bond Act and a discussion regarding Imperial Dam came up. The group felt that Imperial Dam work would fit well in the Bond Act.
- The Bond Act was included in the budget and is a priority.
- Jason asked about Fish and Wildlife spending. Judy stated that at this point Fish and Wildlife is not looking at any reductions in workforce.

Division of Fish and Wildlife Report:

Tony Wilkinson, Director; Steve Hurst, Chief, Bureau of Fisheries; Jim Farquhar, Chief, Bureau of Wildlife

- Steve provided an update on stocking during COVID-19. Have completed 91% of stocking completed, 403,000 fish. The Board will send a note of thanks to the hatcheries. Dave motioned for a letter and Dale second. Motion was passed to write letter or thanks.
 - Bill Connors advised that FWMB will also send a note of thanks. A Gov Delivery will be issued that details the stocking and egg takes efforts.
- Steve provided an update on the Rome Hatchery situation. Found that the pump back system was infested. All water supplies in the hatchery are infested. The plan is to attempt six test wells in the summer.
- An update regarding the Salmon River project was given.
- Tony provided an update regarding the development of the new license sales and game harvest reporting system by Kalkomey. The date for roll

out has been pushed to the end of June.

- Provided an update on License Sales trends, there has been an increase in sales of 9%.
- Summary provided on Hatchery positions.
- Jim provided a report regarding the new Hunter Education online program. This program is just the firearm course and currently there are 45,346 registered for the course and 18,848 have completed the course and obtained a certificate. 39% of people taking the course are women and 29% are people aged 11-20 years of age. The Board's critique of the course included the lack of a field day and that registrants could potentially cheat on course. The Board expressed concern and frustration at the lack of prior discussion if what was being planned/implemented. The Board requested a dialogue and discussion regarding the future of the online course. Jim will provide to the Board a breakdown of the age, gender and zip code for each region.
- Tony and Jim provided an update regarding Green Lakes State Park. Tony is going to ask Ron to attend the June 8th meeting if the office is opened. Hoping to work together for a plan on what to open in the park.

CFAB BUSINESS:

- The Board discussed the Region 3 Appointment. Unfortunately, the candidate may need to relocate from Region 3. This would mean they may need to rethink the appointment and start the process over.
- Still no word on reappointment letters. The Board will bring this up in the next meeting with executive.

Dale Dunkelberger motioned to adjourn the meeting, Gordon Whiting second – motion passed, Meeting Adjourned at 11:52 AM.