



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

Four Hundred and Third Meeting – May 10, 2021
Department of Environmental Conservation, 625 Broadway,
Albany

Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 9:00AM.

Meeting Adjourned – The meeting was adjourned at 11:32AM.

Roll Call: 9:04 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

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	NYS CC
Carrie Gallagher	NYS DEC
Sean Mahar	NYS DEC
Bill Conners	FWMB

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

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: Dale Dunkleberger made a motion to accept previous minutes, Gordon Whiting 2nd, motion passed.

Executive Report:

Katie Petronis, Deputy Commissioner of Natural Resources

Jane McLaughlin, Legislative Affairs

Kate McNamera, Legislative Affairs

- Kate gave updates regarding the hunting package; in Region 6 the legislative process has begun, numerous counties have been contacted in Region 5, Region 9 will be putting it before the legislator this week, Region 8 is moving ahead with it, though there are some anti-hunting groups in Wyoming County who oppose, and Region 4 is pleased with the level of activity. Kate said there is nothing definitive saying that certain counties are adamantly opposed. The Board discussed outreach and keeping opt-in counties in the loop and maintaining connections.
- Kate provided an update on lead ammo, which moved quickly in the senate where they voiced concerns about outright bans and asked for further information. We have not heard from the Assembly regarding lead ammo.
 - Jim and Mike gave updates regarding the non-lead working group, where information is being gathered to form solutions. The working group is talking to other States about their non-lead legislation, and Jim met with one of the largest manufacturers of ammunition. Jim said that there is a huge cost to make non-lead ammunition, and that they are currently behind on orders.
 - Tom asked how non-lead would be enforced. Jim replied that it will be a challenge as they look similar. Tom commented that it seems impossible to fund and execute and suggested more education and outreach.
- Tony and Katie discussed setting up a meeting for CFAB members with the Lands and Forest staff to discuss trail maintenance and other items.
- Steve gave updates on the Imperial Dam, mentioning that it is at 60% in the design phase, and permits are being put in. Steve has asked that it entertain better yield passage, which should be relatively affordable at \$100,000.

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 there are new issues with Kalkomey and that they are working on creating profile problems, duplicate profile problems, and agent sales report problems. Mary also gave a staffing update, citing that they are down two permanent staff in License Sales.
- Steve gave an update on the Trout App, saying that it is looking doable though it will be challenging to do this year. Kalkomey shared a work around for those under 16 who would like to use the app, by signing them up under their parents document number. Steve learned Apple takes 30% of app revenue and there is now a discussion of whether to charge for the app or not.
 - Dave mentioned that people seem happy to pay \$5 for the app and that so far people seem to love the new regulations book, from what he has seen.
- Steve gave an update on Trout Stream Signage, mentioning plans to put in signs with regulations and information will be placed at boundaries of reaches, trail markers for wild quality, and a mini kiosk with a map showing up/down stream, parking areas, regulations and emphasis on carry in/carry out.
- Steve gave updates regarding hatchery infrastructure, mentioning the cisco building at Bath hatchery restoration. The engineer hired for the project has left and taken a job elsewhere. Department is working with SUNY Cobleskill for students to assist with building as part of their curriculum. Steve mentioned they are having a hard time getting over the goal line for Salmon River.
- Steve provided a staffing update, citing that 30% of staff could retire now and there are some retirements coming in June.
 - Dave asked about the stocking program. Steve replied that they are 71% of the way there and it seems to be working out well even though we cannot always stock the way we want. Steve would like to formalize things with the volunteers by having actual meetings for them as opposed to just meeting up at the truck.
- Jim gave updates on WMAs, mentioning that the comment period for Part 51 rulemaking will end on May 24th. Jim said they have been receiving a lot of letters from people who do not understand what WMAs are. Unsanctioned trails will be evaluated and shut down or reworked.

- Jim provided updates on the deer plan, saying they are within days of getting the plan out. The package will include: requiring hunters wear orange when big game hunting, elongating hunting hours, changes to deer urine usage, and early firearm season for 8 WMUs.

Division of Law Enforcement Report:

Bernard Rivers, Director

- Bernie provided a staffing update, reporting 51 vacancies and anticipating another 3-5 retirements this year. DLE is pushing for an academy for March/April 2022 but have not heard anything from upstairs. Bernie mentioned that they are down 13 investigators, which are needed to do the background checks on new hires. 50 vehicles are waiting for Chamber approval. Board members sent a letter to the Commissioner last month in support of having an academy soon.
 - Dale asked how many positions short we anticipate being by the time there is another academy. Bernie estimated that we would be down approximately 60 positions by the time there is an academy if the retirement bill doesn't leave more vacancies.
 - Jason asked about incidents so far during turkey season. Bernie responded that there was one guy driving turkeys who was accidentally shot by the person he was hunting with.
 - Tom asked how law enforcement plans to enforce non-lead ammo laws. Bernie responded that he would get back with this information as a procedural document for this was just given to him recently.

CFAB BUSINESS:

- Tom inquired if the CFAB should be participating in non-lead working group meetings, and/or kept more in the loop.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 10:59am, motion passed unanimously.