



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

**Three Hundred Ninetieth Meeting – October 15, 2019 Department
of Environmental Conservation, 625 Broadway, Albany**

Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 9:08 AM.

Meeting Adjourned – The meeting was adjourned at 11:48 AM.

Roll Call: 9:08am

Voting Board Members Present

Tim Huss	Region 1
Vacant	Region 3
Jason Kemper	Region 5
Dave Corr	Region 6
Charles Pace	Region 7
Marc Osypian	Region 8
Dale Dunkelberger	Region 9
Bill Conners	FWMB
Raymond Merlotto	NYSCC

Voting Board Members Excused

Gordon Whiting	Region 2
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Voting Board Members Absent

Tom Williams	Region 4
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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

DEC Commissioner represented by:
Sean Mahar, Chief of Staff
Jeffrey Stefanko, Deputy Commissioner for Administration

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: Anthony Wilkinson,
Division of Fish and Wildlife: Doug Stang,*

Guests:

James Farquhar, Bureau Chief-Bureau of Wildlife
Matthew Marko, Regional Director-Region 7

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

Minutes of Prior Meeting:

MOTION: Dave Corr to accept September minutes; Marc Osypian, Second, Motion passed.

Executive Report:

Sean Mahar, Chief of Staff, Matthew Marko, Region 7 Director, and Jeffrey Stefanko, Deputy Commissioner for Administration

- Sean Mahar provided an update to the Board regarding the Lake Ontario Free Fishing Promotion. The Board Members were provided a summary of reduced fishing license sales that could be attributed to the promotion. The estimate of the loss to the Conservation Fund is \$228,000 which does not include the potential loss of federal aid. The analysis only looked at the 8 counties that border Lake Ontario and St. Lawrence River. This analysis did not include the overall effect statewide on license sales. Sean stated that the Conservation Fund is healthy and has a projected positive balance for the foreseeable future. Sean also stated that they will continue to monitor the Conservation Fund and make adjustments as necessary. The Board strongly disagreed with this statement. Board Members expressed frustration regarding the lack of consistency with actions and previous conversations.
- Matthew Marko provided the Board with a summary of snowmobile usage and violations that have occurred on the WMA's in Region 7. Matt advised that improvements on the trail system (reduced number of loop trails) have been made and trail maintenance agreements have been strengthened. Because of pending enforcement action no final outcome of the violations could be discussed. The Board expressed frustration and concern regarding the amount of time and effort spent by Fish and Wildlife staff on non-wildlife dependent activities on WMA's. The Board suggested that DEC place time limits on clubs for establishing trail connections and that clubs with numerous violations be removed and not allowed to remain in the future.
- Jeffrey Stefanko provided a follow up on issues relating to Management and Budget. He provided several possible options for reimbursing the Conservation Fund. Jeff also discussed the Port Authority Grant and stated that the Department supports the replacement of the marine enforcement vessel and is working on a solution to the deadline in the grant. Jeff also provided an updated in regard to the 11 electrofishing boats needed and hopes that can be

moved forward.

Division of Fish and Wildlife Report:

Tony Wilkinson, Director and Doug Stang, Assistant Director

- Doug provided an update regarding the License Sales contract negotiations with Kalkomey. The contracts are at the Comptrollers Office waiting for approval.
- Provided an update on the License Sales trends.
- Summary provided on Hatchery positions.
- An update was provided on the Hatchery system infrastructure improvements.
- Updates on regulations.
- A discussion was held regarding the suggesting of setting up a Time and Activity Code so that working on non-wildlife dependent activities on WMA's can be tracked.

Dave Corr motioned to adjourn the meeting, Marc Osypian second – motion passed, Meeting Adjourned at 11:48 am.