



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

**Three Hundred Ninety-eighth Meeting – October 13, 2020**  
**Department of Environmental Conservation, 625 Broadway,**  
**Albany**

**Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 1:05 PM.

**Meeting Adjourned** – The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 PM.

**Roll Call: 2:02 PM**

**Ex-Officio Members Present**

*Deputy Commissioner of Natural Resources:*  
Katie Petronis

**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
Marc Osypian	Region 8
Dale Dunkelberger	Region 9
Bill Connors	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,  
*Division of Law Enforcement:* Bernard Rivers,

**Guests**

Jim Farquhar, Chief – Bureau of Wildlife  
Steve Hurst, Chief – Bureau of Fisheries  
Jeremy Hurst, Big Game Unit Leader  
Kelly Stang, Hunter Ed Program  
Tom Lincoln, Professional Engineer Operations  
Gary Dale, Operations  
Rob Fiorentino, Region 5 Fisheries Manager

**Voting Board Members Excused**

Raymond Merlotto NYSCC

**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

**Correspondence:** None

**Minutes of Prior Meeting:**

***MOTION: David Corr to accept September minutes; Dale Dunkelberger, Second, Motion passed.***

**Executive Report:**

Katie Petronis, Deputy Commissioner of Natural Resources

- Katie asked Tom Lincoln, Rob Fiorentino, Gary Dale and Steve Hurst to provide information and updates regarding Imperial Mills Dam. Steve provided some background regarding the dam. Plans to modify Imperial Mills dam have been in the works since the 1996 Environmental Bond Act. The original objective in 1996 was to have a fish passage and not a dam removal.
- David Corr expressed frustration about the lack of discussion regarding cost of removal. He feels that the dam should be removed as it is a high hazard dam. Gary advised that if they did remove the dam it would double the amount of sediment that would need to be removed. They would also have to fill a wetland. Dave stated that the city had offered that the site could be used. Tom stated that in order to remove the dam it would need to be in compliance prior to removal.
- Rob Fiorentino also advised that if they were to remove the dam it would make it harder to treat the water for sea lamprey. Applying lampricide is a very complex process and the effectiveness would be lower by removing the dam. It would go from 3.5 miles of treatment to 14 miles of treatment.
- Katie advised that currently there is no update on the Otter Brook Bridge. She is waiting to hear from the region regarding this. Dave suggested that DEC put in for FEMA flood grants which are available for the flood damage and asked for a commitment from Katie that the bridge be completed. Katie agreed but cannot promise when it will be done.
- Katie proposed that similar to the annual legislation discussion she would like to set up a meeting at the beginning of the year the board and program to share rulemaking opportunities and ideas.

**Division of Fish and Wildlife Report:**

Tony Wilkinson, Director; Jim Farquhar, Chief, Bureau of Wildlife; Jeremy Hurst, Big Game Unit Leader; Kelly Stang, Hunter Ed Program

- Steve provided an update on the Salmon River Hatchery. Today was the 1<sup>st</sup> day of egg take and looks to be going well. They found a 30.5 lb fish in the ladder. They received a bid to repair the ladder which came in under

estimate which was reviewed and agreed that it is a solid bid. Preliminary work will begin this fall and will be completed by August 15, 2021. They will also be getting a new fish crowder and 2 new back up generators.

- Marc asked about a Perch Survey he saw. Steve said the bureau is looking for anglers opinions on pan fish and perch fishing. He is looking to engage the public in every step of the way.
- Steve provided an update regarding the Rome Hatchery. There was a power outage over the weekend that caused a small fish kill. In regard to the test wells, they dug 4 to 5 test wells and hit bedrock on each one. They are looking into fracking the bedrock.
- Kelly Stang provided updates regarding the online Hunter Education Program. Currently there are 98,083 registered and 53,211 have passed. Of those who have passed the course, 35% are female, 32% are ages 11-20 and 24% are ages 21-30.
  - The online Bow Hunter Education Course currently had 38,000 registered and 24,000 completed. Normally in-person classes have 10,000 registered each year. Currently those who have passed 23% are female, 24% are ages 11-20, 27% are 21-30, and 25% are ages 31-40.
  - On September 1, 2020 in-person classes were reopened. Not many instructors feel comfortable with in-person courses. Completed 18 Hunter Educations courses in-person.
  - Staff have begun a home study program for Amish and those who do not have access to internet. All three courses are available and we have mailed 224 Hunter Education packets and 116 Bow Education packets.
  - Dale asked if the Division can track Hunting Related Shooting Incidents and those who have completed the online course. Fish and Wildlife and Law Enforcement will be tracking this.
  - The Division is looking to plan a two to three-hour hunt safe session for Spring 2021. This would be an optional course with firearms and tree stand safety for those taking the online courses.
- Jeremy provided information regarding the upcoming Deer Management plan. 2011 was the first plan written and this ran from 2012 to 2016. The major themes on the new plan will follow the structure of the last plan.
- Tony provided updates on License Sales trends. Tony would like to have an in-person meeting with Kalkomey's leadership later in the fall. He also provided an update on filled positions, regulatory efforts and habitat account financials.

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

Bernard Rivers, Director

- In the process to replace older outdated vehicles.
- Bernie anticipates that at this time there will not be any academies until 2022.
- Bernie provided an update on Hunting Related Shooting Incidents from January. There have been 6 since January and 6 damage to property.

**CFAB BUSINESS:**

- Tom asked about future in-person meetings. Advised that at this time the agency is still only allowing 25% of staff in the office and no visitors in the office.
- Dave asked that car top boat launches be added to the agenda for the November meeting.

***Jason Kemper motioned to adjourn the meeting, Gordon Whiting second – motion passed, Meeting Adjourned at 3:45 PM.***