



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

**Four Hundred and Sixth Meeting – October 12, 2021**  
**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 10:58 AM.

**Roll Call: 9:03 AM**

**Ex-Officio Members Present**

*Deputy Commissioner of Natural Resources:*

Katie Petronis

*Deputy Director of Legislative Affairs:*

Katie McNamara

**Voting Board Members Present**

Tim Huss	Region 1
Gordon J Whiting	Region 2
Vacant	Region 3
Jason Kemper	Region 5
Dave Corr	Region 6
Vacant	Region 7
Marc Osypan	Region 8
Dale Dunkelberger	Region 9
Bill Connors	FWMB
Anthony Kordziel	NYSCC

**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:* James Farquhar,  
Acting Director

*Division of Law Enforcement:* Todd Richards,  
Acting Director

*Division of Management & Budget Services:* Erin  
Hovish, Associate Budget Analyst

**Voting Board Members Excused**

Tom Williams	Region 4
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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

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: Bill Connors motioned to accept September minutes; Dave Corr, Second, motion passed.***

**Executive Report:**

Katie Petronis, Deputy Commissioner of Natural Resources  
Kate McNamera, Deputy Director of Legislative Affairs

- Katie Petronis advised the group that with the removal of the hiring freeze they have had more flexibility for hiring. In the last round of hiring nine new positions were filled. Will be including hatchery positions in the next round of hiring. Have been receiving strong applications for both the Division Director and Assistant Director positions.
- Katie also advised that Erie County vetoed the youth hunt opt in.
- Tim Huss brought up staffing for Law Enforcement. He would like to send a report regarding the staffing issues to the Commissioner.
- Katie also provided an update regarding the Otterbrook Bridge. A private party has offered to cover the cost of the bridge. An estimate of the cost has been submitted. Part of the delay is that the one bridge designer had retired in September.
- Bill Connors requested how much funding DEC derives from the Farm Bill. Katie advised she would look into it.
- Dale brought up an issue with the paper that is used to print licenses on. People in his area were receiving last year's color. He asked if there was a supply issue. Jim stated that he would check with Mary Bailey regarding any issues with the paper supply.
- Katie McNamara advised the board that Jeshica Patel will be attending the meetings while she is out on leave.

**Division of Fish and Wildlife**

James Farquhar, Acting Director

- Jim provided an update regarding pending regulatory actions. Subchapter G will be filed but the official adoption will be for January 1, 2022. Made this decision to hold the adoption so that the regulations would not be changed right as hunting season starts and because signage needs to be updated.
- Received approval to replace old elector-fishing boats. Will begin process to replace.

- Jim provided an update regarding EHD. Have had several cases in St. Lawrence that is being looked into. Have also received reports from Staten Island and the Bronx. Had over 1500 reports of dead deer to date. Having a hard frost would help curb the deaths.
- Annual letters regarding CWD are being mailed to hunters in Pennsylvania.
- Jim provided a quick update on License Sales. Sales are up from 2019 and has dipped a bit from 2020. They remain strong.
- Bill brought up a discussion regarding the online Hunter Education course. Bill thinks the price should be changed from \$20.00 to \$35.00 so that revenue could be made. Dave advised that legislation would have to be changed to allow that.
  - Dave asked if we could charge an in-person course. Jim believes that you cannot charge for an in-person course.
- Jim advised that Habitat Stamp sales are still up. Currently there are 42,071 sold.

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

Todd Richards, Acting Director

- Todd Richards advised the board that the Division is still going through potential candidates for the next class. Law Enforcement held a discussion with Executive regarding the start of the next academy. They may try to start in April 2022.
- They submitted a request to replace aging boats and are waiting on approval from DOB.
- Tim will be sending a report regarding staffing issues and will update with the correct numbers.

### **CFAB BUSINESS:**

- Dale wishes to discuss restarting regional reviews and would like to have one in Spring 2022. The board would visit each region and meet with staff for updates and concerns. The board will follow up with a chart and planning.

<p><b><i>Dave Corr motioned to adjourn the meeting, Bill Connors second – motion passed, Meeting Adjourned at 10:58 AM.</i></b></p>
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