



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

**Three Hundred Ninety-seventh Meeting – September 17, 2020**  
**Department of Environmental Conservation, 625 Broadway,**  
**Albany**

**Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 2:02 PM.

**Meeting Adjourned** – The meeting was adjourned at 5:04 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  
Mary Bailey, Unit Leader License Sales  
Lori Severino, Press Officer  
Stephen Smith, Deputy Commissioner Public Protection

**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 July minutes; Gordon Whiting, Second, Motion passed.***

**Executive Report:**

Katie Petronis, Deputy Commissioner of Natural Resources

- Katie and Tony provided a discussion regarding the Regulatory Package, Part 1.11 Holiday Hunt. The Notice of Proposed Rule Making was published on September 9, 2020. As of September 16<sup>th</sup>, there are over 1,000 comments received. The comment period is 60 days. The package was an agency priority. Katie advised that this package does not have to do with a deer management plan.
  - Tom asked for the reasoning behind the rule making. Tony explained that it is a recruitment opportunity.
  - Charlie expressed concern about how the package was created and submitted and how this will affect those who snow mobile. Also, how this will affect deer management.
  - Jason expressed frustration with how the Board will express recruitment proposals/legislation that do not move and this rule making was able to move very fast.
- Katie provided an update on the violations on the Little John WMA. She advised that enforcement proceedings have begun and served the club with notice. They are currently scheduling the law judge hearing. Because of COVID-19 there is a delay and not a date determined at this time. Once a date is provided Katie will provide an update.
- A conversation was opened regarding Imperial Dam. Dave expressed frustration regarding the lack of communication. Katie suggested to have a conversation later with regional and Central Office staff who are well versed in the matter.
- Katie discussed Otter Brook Rd/Bridge where a culvert had washed out. DEC has been trying to find a way to replace the culvert. The replacement will be very involved with an estimated cost of over \$100,000.00. Have been working with the town to use a temporary bridge but it will not allow vehicles. Dave stated that he spoke with the town supervisor who stated that if DEC provides materials the town will put in the culvert.
- Katie discussed with the Board about appointment process issues. She is open to ideas on how to obtain new appointments. Tom expressed frustration regarding the appointment/reappointment process and the loss of the Region 3 candidate. Katie encouraged brainstorming on candidates but feels that a conversation with a potential candidate should not occur

until they there is a possibility that the candidate could be accepted. Dale asked who on the Board is currently up for reappointment. A list of the current appointments was provided to the Board.

- The Board agreed to discuss DEC Proposed Rule Making and CFAB at the next meeting.

### **Division of Fish and Wildlife Report:**

Tony Wilkinson, Director; Jim Farquhar, Chief, Bureau of Wildlife; Steve Hurst, Chief, Bureau of Fisheries; Mary Bailey, Unit Leader, License Sales;

- Mary provided an update on DECALS. Sales are going well and are up 15%. License Sales is extremely busy and working hard to keep up with phone calls. Customers are having an array of errors. There are lingering printer issues, engaged Zebra Printing Company to assist. Kalkomey has added staff and improving functionality to fulfill licenses.
- Steve provided an update regarding the Trout Stream Management Plan. The plan is being formatted with the Office of Communication Services and the rule making package is being routed through the Department. An interactive map is currently being worked on.
- Steve also provided an update on the Rome Hatchery. Four test wells were dug and hit bedrock on each one. Will be attempting one more test well to drill through the bedrock. In a sampling of the spring box they have not found any zebra mussel veligers since the initial sighting. Hoping to cover the spring box to protect it.
- Steve also provided an update on the Salmon River fish ladder. Bids went out and are closed. A vendor has been selected and the cost has come in under the estimate. They will have a contract in 2 weeks.
- Steve provided an update regarding Hatchery Positions. Currently are down 7 staff. No manager or assistant manager in the Catskill Hatchery and no assistant manager in the Rome Hatchery.
- Tony advised the Board that the Conservation Fund has doubled and is currently near 13 million.
- Tony provided an update regarding the online Hunter Education program. 85,000 people have registered for the Hunter Education program and 46,000 have completed. For the online Bow Hunter program 29,000 have registered and 17,500 have completed.
- Bill requested an update on the counts regarding Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD). Tony advised that there have been over 200 cases recorded.

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

Bernard Rivers, Director

- Law Enforcement has not been able to fill any vacancies. Currently they have vacancies for the following: Assistant Director, 3 Uniformed Captains, 10 Supervising Officers, and 13 Investigators.
- Currently there is no indication of when a 2020-2021 Academy can occur.
- Bernie stated that they were directed to return the Boat Grant and have not applied for any new grants.
- Bernie provided an update on vehicle purchases.

### **CFAB BUSINESS:**

- Tom discussed outreach to legislators. He spoke about the need to educate elected officials regarding firearms. He met with Congressman Antonio Delgado who received a presentation on firearms. Suggested that the Board share ideas on how to get elected officials together to expose them to hunting and fishing and outdoor activities.
- Bill requests that Law Enforcement track HRSIs and how the person obtained their Hunter Education training.

***David Corr motioned to adjourn the meeting, Bill Connors second – motion passed, Meeting Adjourned at 5:04 PM.***