



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

**Four Hundred and Fifth Meeting – September 13, 2021**  
**Department of Environmental Conservation, 625 Broadway,**  
**Albany**

**Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 9:05 AM.

**Meeting Adjourned** – The meeting was adjourned at 12:46 PM.

**Roll Call: 9:05 AM**

**Ex-Officio Members Present**

*Chief of Staff:*

Sean Mahar

*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 |
| Tom Williams      | Region 4 |
| Jason Kemper      | Region 5 |
| Dave Corr         | Region 6 |
| Vacant            | Region 7 |
| Marc Osypian      | Region 8 |
| Dale Dunkelberger | Region 9 |
| Bill Conners      | 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; Steve Hurst, Bureau Chief of Fisheries.

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

*Division of Lands and Forests:* Peter Innes, Assistant Director; Jim Sessions, Conservation Easements; Justin Perry, Bureau Chief of Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health

**Voting Board Members Excused**

**Guests**

**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 Dunkelberger to accept June minutes; motion passed.*

**Executive Report:**

Sean Mahar, Chief of Staff

Katie Petronis, Deputy Commissioner of Natural Resources

Kate McNamera, Deputy Director of Legislative Affairs

- Katie Petronis advised the group that at this time she did not have an update regarding Otterbrook Bridge. Once she received more information, she would provide an update.
- Katie welcomed James Farquhar as the new Acting Director of the Division of Fish and Wildlife.
- Sean Mahar and Katie provided an update of current critical fill requests and waivers that have been approved. Currently the position for Division Director has posted, the Assistant Director waiver has been approved and is currently being prepared to post. Sean also stated that while there are many retirements happening, they are working on getting positions filled.
  - Jason requested a list of waivers that have been submitted.

**Division of Lands and Forests**

Peter Innes, Assistant Director

Justin Perry, Bureau Chief of Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health

Jim Sessions, Conservation Easements

- Peter Innes and Justin Perry led a discussion regarding outreach concerning invasive species prevention. The Division has worked on outreach concerning the clean, drain, dry effort and feel that it is working. Dave Corr offered the idea of a fifteen-minute video sent to school children about invasive species. Justin advised that the new Boater Safety Course has a section which provides information about invasive species.
- Justin further advised that an outreach coordinator in the Division has been developing a high school curriculum about invasive species.
- Peter provided an update about the status of the health and safety landbank. The 2019 and 2020 reports can be found on the DEC website.
- Tom Williams expressed frustration regarding a press release that was issued on September 7<sup>th</sup> regarding the removal of the old Gooley Club House. He stated that the house was on the historical register and should not be removed. Staff advised Tom that the roadway was being closed

down to remove the building which was deemed as unsafe.

- The board requested a list of all Conservation Easements. The Division of Lands and Forest will follow up with a list.

### **Division of Fish and Wildlife**

James Farquhar, Acting Director  
Steve Hurst, Bureau Chief of Fisheries

- Steve Hurst provided an update regarding staffing in the Hatchery Positions. Currently there have 12 vacant positions; 2 of which are in Central Office.
- Steve provided an update regarding Rome Hatchery which suffered a flood and the loss of 21,000 fish. He stated that overall, this loss is not as significant as it could have been.
  - After digging five different wells which did not produce enough water and finding veligers in the spring water Steve advised that Rome will most likely be considered a zebra positive hatchery.
- Steve also provided over all updates regarding hatcheries. The bureau is shifting to cold water production in South Ostelic. He is concerned about the Chateagay Hatachery which has been pushed to the max.
- Dave Corr asked if there is any planning about adding a hatchery in the future. Steve advised that at this time no, the Division needs to work on logistics and completing larger tasks.
- Jason expressed frustration regarding the loss of positions for hatcheries and the constant need to push for positions to be approved and filled.
- Steve completed the hatchery updates by advising that the Salmon River fish ladder crowder is complete. The hatchery is closed to the public this fall but the ladder looks good.
- Jim Farquhar provided an update on License Sales. Dave stated that he has been contacted by a number of people who did not receive their lifetime hunting licenses. Jim will follow up with Mary Bailey regarding this.
- Jim also provided updates about filled positions and the status of current rulemakings.
- Jason requested an update regarding the Habitat Account which Jim will provide.

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

Todd Richards, Acting Director

- Todd Richards provided an update regarding the current staffing of the Division stating there currently there are 61 vacancies. They expect between five to ten retirements within the next month and are in the

process of selecting candidates for the next academy in April/May 2022. Todd stated that there are 60 waiver that have been approved for both Law Enforcement and Forest Rangers.

- An update regarding Cleveland was given. They are still in the process of renovating the building and have secured funding for a new roof. Todd expects that the renovations may take several years.

**CFAB BUSINESS:**

- The board discussed supporting the need to recruit and hire more staff for the Division of Law Enforcement. This topic will be placed on the agenda for the October meeting.

***Dave Corr motioned to adjourn the meeting, Bill Conners second – motion passed, Meeting Adjourned at 12:46 PM.***