

New York State FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD



Statewide Fish and Wildlife Management Board Meeting March 23-24, 2017 White Eagle Conference Center Hamilton, New York

Roll Call and Introductions

Fish and Wildlife Management Board Members Present:

Bill Conners	Region 3	FWMB to Conservation Fund Advisory Board
David McLean	Region 4	Sportsman Representative
Richard Steele	Region 4	Legislative Representative
Robert Hodorowski	Region 5	Sportsman Representative
Bill Pike ²	Region 5	Landowner Representative
Mike Candella	Region 6	Landowner Representative
Walt Paul	Region 6	Sportsman Representative
Lance Robson ¹	Region 7	Landowner Representative
Tim Evans	Region 7	Sportsman Representative
Jim Petreszyn	Region 7	Legislative Representative
Barlow Rhodes	Region 8	Landowner Representative
Tom Ryan ⁴	Region 8	Sportsman Representative
Matt Foe ⁴	Region 9	Landowner Representative
Dan Tone	Region 9	NYSCC Representative
Zen Olow ⁴	Region 9	Sportsman Representative

¹Statewide FWMB Chair

²Statewide FWMB Vice-Chair

⁴Statewide FWMB Executive Committee

Guests and Presenters:

Chuck Parker	New York State Conservation Council
Mark Rogers	NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historical Preservation
Shannon Farrell	SUNY – Environmental Science and Forestry
Dan Decker	Cornell University
Randy Jackson	Cornell University
Tony Wilkinson	NYSDEC – Fish and Wildlife
Douglas Stang	NYSDEC – Fish and Wildlife

Meeting Agenda –Approval

- Motion to approve agenda – Matt Foe
- Second – Jim Petreszyn
- Motion carried unanimously

Regional and CFAB reports were available to meeting participants and are attached to the meeting notes

Updates, Discussions and Presentations

Douglas Stang, DEC Fish and Wildlife provided updates on several DEC efforts

- Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) has a new Director, Tony Wilkinson
- DFW has a new Chief of Bureau of Fisheries, Stephen Hurst
- Bureau of Fisheries has a new Inland Fisheries Section Head, Greg Kozlowski
- DFW has new Chief of Bureau of Habitat, Chuck Nieder
- DEC acquired a new 690-acre Wildlife Management Area in Columbia County (aka Doodletown)
- Based on the successful 2016-17 work planning efforts with DEC Division of Operations resulting in lots of great work getting done on access projects and habitat projects, a similar effort is planned for 2017-18
- Renovations and improvements to DEC's Hatchery Infrastructure continue and an additional \$3 million is expected in the 2017-18 NYS Budget via New York Works funds
- Staffing in DEC fish hatcheries remains an issue with hatchery staff filling regional fish and wildlife positions with inability to backfill the hatchery positions
- Improvements to the Reynolds Game Farm continue with another \$1 million in New York Works funds expected in 2017-18
- Young Forest Initiative Update
 - o 17 Habitat Management Plans have been approved to date
 - HMPs are very detailed with specific actions planned and timeframe for actions
 - o Forestry prescriptions have been prepared for 11 WMAs

- Forestry cuts were conducted at Mongaup Valley WMA (40 acres, seed tree cut), Hi Tor WMA (66 acres, shelterwood cut), Ashland Flats WMA (27 acres, clearcut), and Cicero Swamp WMA (10 acres, patch clearcuts)
- National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) will continue in New York
 - DEC plans to hire a permanent NY-NASP coordinator
 - DEC has developed a strategic plan for expanded NY-NASP
 - DEC regional sportsman education coordinators will serve an role in NY-NASP delivery

Mark Rogers of New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation reiterated OPRHP efforts to increase hunting opportunities in New York State Parks.

- OPRHP is developing more detailed maps that clearly indicate which state park lands are open to hunting

Shannon Farrell of SUNY-Environmental Science and Forestry

- committed Jackie Frair to an update on the SUNY-ESF moose project at the fall 2017 statewide FWMB meeting
- will send out query to FWMB members regarding collection of mammal information from trail cameras as part of SUNY-ESF mammal project

FWMB Business

- Lance Robson will be moving out-of-state and will be stepping down in the fall
- Nominating Committee formed: Tom Ryan, Matt Foe, and Dave McClean
 - Slate to be developed for Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary

Conservation Fund Advisory Board

- Costs associated with ECO staffing and patrol efforts associated with the Dannemora prison break will not be reimbursed to the Conservation Fund
- Conservation Fund balance is falling and DEC promises to move staff off the Conservation Fund to preserve the balance of the fund
- Proposal for 2017-18 is to move approximately \$5 million in fish and wildlife program costs off the Conservation Fund

Antler Restrictions (AR)

- State Senator Tom O'Mara introduced proposal for [nearly] statewide implementation of antler restrictions (3-points or 4-points on a side) as part of 2017-18 Budget and as a separate bill with Member of Assembly Woerner
- Many false claims being foisted by Whitetail Management Coalition to promote AR
- FWMB submitted letter of opposition to these proposals (copy attached)
 - FWMB is categorially opposed to fish and wildlife management via legislation and fundamentally opposed to AR

- FWMB members and all hunters need to remain vigilant and continue to provide opposition to AR
- FWMB, NYSCC, and CFAB all in opposition to legislative implementation of AR and indications are that AR will not be implemented as part of 2017 legislation
- All FWMB members need to push for resolutions at the county level and via the NYS Farm Bureau, Grange, Forest Products Association and New York Forest Owners Association in opposition to AR
- FWMB to work with Chairs of the Environmental Conservation Committees in the Senate (Senator Ritchie) and Assembly (MOA Magee) as well as the Agriculture Committee

Dan Decker, Cornell University

- Called FWMB members attention to new project iSeeMammals which is a mobile app for collection data on presence / absence of bears in New York (see attachment)
- Introduced Randy Jackson, researcher at Cornell's Biological Field Station at Shackelton Point on Oneida Lake
- Randy's made presentation to FWMB about changes to New York's fish communities through time (copy attached)
 - o Canals, invasive species via canals (and other means), landscape changes, water level manipulation, changing climate all contribute to changes in New York's fish communities

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)

- FWMB to make statement at March 28th meeting at Agriculture and Markets regarding continued support for prohibition on importation of live cervids into New York
- FWMB requests DEC finalize its CWD Prevention Plan and get it out for public review ASAP

RESOLUTION: Statewide FWMB send a Memorandum of Support for measures to prevent CWD in New York

- **Supports continued prohibition of importation of live cervids into New York**
- **Supports prohibition on retail sale and use of natural deer urine products**
- **Supports prohibition of importation and possession of parts from CWD-susceptible cervids from all states and provinces outside New York**

Motion to support – Jim Petreszyn

Second – Barlow Rhodes

Motion carried unanimously

Fisher Trapping

- Concerns were voiced regarding the number of fisher that were trapped in Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) 7M – 136 fisher were trapped and pelt-tagged during the 6-day season.
- DEC responded:

That figure represents the number of animals that was pelt sealed. We are also collecting information from trappers on the number of traps they set and the number of days afield so we can estimate take per unit effort (TPUE). TPUE provides a more accurate estimate of harvest pressure and abundance than take alone. We'll have an estimate of TPUE in the coming weeks after we analyze the trapper logs from the 2016 season.

The relatively high number of fisher taken in 7M is not surprising based on the results of the occupancy research we did with Cornell. The East Appalachian Plateau aggregate had the highest occupancy rate in all of central and western NY outside of the Tug Hill and the Catskills.

As with any management, our goal is to be adaptive. We are collecting harvest, effort, and biological data (age and sex) for three seasons as described in the fisher management plan. If these data suggest that harvest opportunity is not sustainable, we will take action to change the season structure.

12-year old big game hunting

- FWMB members discussed support for the proposal to allow 12 year olds to hunt big game with muzzleloaders and firearms

RESOLUTION: Statewide FWMB send a Memorandum of Support that language proposed in the New York State Senate version of the 2017-18 New York State Budget that allows 12 year olds to hunt big game with muzzleloaders, crossbows, and firearms and that allows for increased use of crossbows during all archery seasons under a bow hunting privilege remain as part of the implemented 2017-18 New York State Budget.

Motion to support – Jim Petreszyn

Second – Tom Ryan

Motion carried unanimously

Mandatory blaze orange

- FWMB Chair Robson participate don a conference call with NYSCC, CFAB and DEC staff concerning desirability of requiring blaze orange while hunting big game with a firearm
- Opposition was offered by FWMB members
 - o Others (hikers, bikers, etc.) in the woods during big game season should have similar requirement for wearing blaze orange
 - o Hunters need to be sure of target and beyond, not just target with blaze/ no blaze
 - o Every NYSCC Committee voted in opposition to mandatory blaze at spring NYSCC meeting

- New York is safe hunting state with voluntary / recommended use of blaze orange
- New York hunters' use of blaze is comparable (estimated 80%) to states where blaze is mandatory
- Re: DEC assessment of hunting-related shooting incidents (HRSI) – if not lawful hunting, then incident should be included

RESOLUTION: Statewide FWMB send a Memorandum of Opposition regarding the imposition of mandatory requirement that hunters wear blaze orange while a field during the big game season

Motion to oppose – Walt Paul

Second – Bill Conners

Motion carried unanimously

Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP)

- DEC should remove the stipulation of only 2 DMAP permits per hunter
- Landowners should not have to try DMAP before they can request / use deer damage permits (DDP), particularly in nuisance situations
- Need for broader knowledge of how to get deer taken under DMAP or DDP as part of the venison donation program
- Request that DEC allow for greater consideration of DDP as a first option in control of deer damage – particularly in those areas of the state with leftover deer management permits (DMPs)

DEC Division of Fish and Wildlife Director, Tony Wilkinson

- Introduced himself and provided background
- Role of advocate for sportsmen and sports women, advocate for dedicated professional staff
- Sound stewardship of New York's natural resources
- Focus areas: health / status of deer herd, expanded use of crossbows, white-nose syndrome in bats, CWD prevention, strengthen prohibition on deer feeding, use and management of wildlife management areas, problems with urban wildlife, improving DEC's hatchery infrastructure, concerns about lead in wildlife
- Concerns offered by FWMB members:
 - Transfer of The Nature Conservancy lands adjacent to Deer Creek Marsh WMA to DEC
 - Poor silviculture and forest stewardship practices by Molpus ion easement lands
 - Prohibition of outboard use on Thirteenth Lake, ostensibly to reduce disturbance of loons
 - Hunter sensitivity re: lead poisoning in eagles when more eagles are killed by trains
 - DEC needs to improve "educating / informing people regarding rational behind and in support of rules

- Otter plan is overdue and DEC should consider reopening otter trapping in southeastern New York as trappers are concerned about, inadvertently trapping otter during open beaver season (cuts down on willingness to trap beaver)

Allowable Uses on Wildlife Management Areas

- Discussed primary uses (hunting, wildlife production, wildlife habitat, wildlife-dependent recreation) vs secondary uses (hiking, biking, dog trails, camping)
- No snowmobile “loops” should be allowed on WMAs (okay with connecting trail across WMA property)
- Pheasant stocking should be allowed on Fort Edward grasslands
- Concerns over cited instances of guided (hired) torus on WMA lands
- DEC Bureau of Wildlife staff is working on clear explanation / guidance on allowable uses on WMAs

DEC Executive Deputy Commissioner, Ken Lynch

- Welcomed FWMB to Ken’s former DEC Region
- \$30 million expected in 2017-18 NYS Budget for AdventureNY
 - Improve access to public lands
 - Promote hunting and fishing
 - Improve outdoor recreation participation across New York and redirect effort away from “over used” areas (e.g. High Peaks)
 - Develop a better balance of where / when people can enjoy New York’s

Access to Easement Lands

- Hunters and anglers have been working hard to get suitable access via roads to access areas of particular interest on these lands
- Good maps, including topographical maps are needed to identify those areas of greatest interest / utility to hunters and anglers
- Need for clear, concise maps to be included as part of the recreation plans for easement lands
- Walt Paul described efforts and status of access to parcels / tracts of easement lands
 - Champion easement – Crohgan Tract
 - Kushaqua Tract
 - Oswegatchie

Boat Launch on Otsego Lake

- Lack of a suitable boat launch on Otsego Lake remains a problem
- Committee formed make a site visit and develop recommendation: Dave McClean, Mike Candella, Richard Steel, and Jim Petreszyn
- State statute that limits state boat launch site to 16 ft in length or less

RESOLUTION: Statewide FWMB send a Memorandum to DEC requesting that DEC discontinue fisheries management on Otsego Lake until such time that a state boat launch or fishing access site with adequate parking is situated on Otsego Lake

Motion – Dave McClean

Second – Jim Petreszyn

Motion carried unanimously

Nominating Committee Ballot

Chair – Lance Robson

Vice Chair – Bill Conners

Secretary – Barlow Rhodes

Executive Committee – Matt Foe, Zen Olow and Dave McClean

CFAB – Bill Conners

Motion: FWMB Secretary cast a single ballot accepting the recommendation of the Nominating Committee

Motion – Dave McClean

Second – Mike Candella

Motion carried unanimously

Note: Chair Robson will be moving out of New York in fall 2017 so FWMB Chair duties will be assumed by Vice Chair Conners

Next meeting – September 11 and 12 - tentative (possibly in conjunction with Conservation Fund Advisory Board meeting)

Meeting Adjournment –Approval

Motion to adjourn – Zen Olow

Second – Tom Ryan

Motion carried unanimously

New York State FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD



21 March, 2017

Spring 2017 meeting agenda, 23-24 March, 2017, White Eagle Conference Center, Hamilton, NY (DRAFT)

Thursday, 23 March, 2017

8-10 AM Arrive, review correspondence and reports and check in. A continental breakfast will be served.

10-10:30 AM Opening of the meeting, roll call, introductions and welcome and the adoption of the agenda.

10:30 AM-12:00 PM Report on Division of Fish and Wildlife activities- Doug Stang.

Appointment of the nominating committee.

Group discussions (See note)

12:30- 1:30 PM Lunch on site.

1:30-6 PM Presentations:

Update of Cornell University fish and wildlife related research- Dr. Dan Decker, Director of CU Human Dimensions Research Unit.

"The changing environment for fish and fisheries in New York"- Dr. Randy Jackson, Sr. Research Associate and Associate Director, CU Biological Station, Oneida Lake.

Group discussion; (See note)

NYS FWMB Spring 2017 meeting agenda (DRAFT)

NOTE: There are a number of action items for which a specific time has not been set. Among them are discussions on assisting in monitoring deer impacts on forests, supporting voluntary yearling buck protection efforts, efforts to encourage the taking of antlerless deer in areas where population reductions are desirable, incompatible uses of Wildlife Management Areas, pending antler restrictions, crossbow and youth hunting age legislation, off-trail sporting snowmobile registration bill, the long delay of the Chronic Wasting Disease Management Plan, the long delay of stream reclassification and classifications, etc. We will especially focus on what the board might accomplish in each of these areas.

Friday, 24 March, 2017

8 AM-12 PM Introduction of Tony Wilkinson, Director of the Division of Fish and Wildlife followed by an update from him and discussions with him.

Group discussion (See note)

Discussion of regional and advisor reports and activities. How can the regional boards be more effective in matters of sporting access and protecting and improving habitat?

12-1 PM Lunch on site

1 PM Until Completion: Continuation of morning discussions as needed.

Board internal business, any unfinished business and related discussions. Discussion of what do we need to do going forward. Election of 2017-2018 officers and executive committee. Completion of travel vouchers and a discussion of the 2017 Fall meeting dates, location and agenda.

NOTES:

1. As in the past, times are offered as general guidelines. We will get to everything and will remain flexible to accommodate the schedules of those traveling for presentations, visitors and etc.
2. For travel planning you can expect to be out the door and down the driveway no later than 3 PM Tuesday.

Lance Robson
Chairman, NYS FWMB

New York State FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD



17 March 2017

Memorandum of Opposition to Mandatory Antler Restrictions

The Fish and Wildlife Management Board is a 60 year old statutorily established volunteer board made up representatives of the sporting public, landowners and county governments of the State of New York. Board members are elected by the regional Fish and Wildlife Management Boards. The regional boards are made up of three representatives from each county within a DEC Region. Each county has a sportsman's representative recommended by the county sportsman's federation, a landowner representative recommended by the county Farm Bureau and a county government representative.

By law, the NYS FWMB members represent the more than 1.5 million members of the sporting public, the state's landowners and the county governments of 55 of the 62 counties of the state. The board's main charges are to advise on matters of fish, wildlife and habitat management and sporting access.

As a long standing matter of principle the board is strongly opposed to **any** management of fish and wildlife through legislation. Importantly, and most critically, such legislation usurps the constitutional and statutory authority and responsibility of the Department of Environmental Conservation to manage fish and wildlife resources through fact based science and prevents the DEC from responsibly reacting to changes as they occur over time.

Further, the board is opposed to any mandatory antler restrictions for any reason except, possibly, by regulation and only when indicated by fact based science to be for the improvement of the health of the deer herd.

The board is deeply concerned and deeply disappointed at the current attempt to enact mandatory antler restrictions in many additional Wildlife Management Units (WMUs).

We are also aware of and concerned by the involvement in this matter of a closed membership, unelected and self appointed organization that has long used tactics that include deliberate misrepresentation of statewide deer hunter survey data, out of context data and the suppression of data that clearly refutes their positions or claims.

The board notes that there are roughly 530,000 persons who purchase a hunting license in any given year and that over a several year period over 600,000 individuals will purchase a hunting license in at least one license year. No matter how many persons are claimed to be in favor of the proposed antler restrictions that number pales in relation to the overall number of hunters in New York.

We also note that successive surveys by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Census Bureau, as required every 5 years by federal law, have consistently shown that while roughly 85% of the American public support sport hunting when the primary purpose is for food only about 10% of Americans support hunting when the primary purpose is trophy hunting.

The NYS FWMB has a long history of steadfast opposition to mandatory antler restrictions. During my time on the board, the board first voted against mandatory antler restrictions at my first meeting in the spring of 2009. In order to gauge any possible change in feelings since 2009 the board has put the matter of mandatory antler restrictions to a floor vote at least four times since then. Each time the board has unanimously rejected mandatory antler restrictions with the most recent unanimous rejection being in the fall of 2016. We meet again on 23-24 March, 2017 at which time I will again place the matter on the floor for a vote. I am confident that the board will again reject mandatory antler restrictions.

We sincerely hope that the current attempt to legislate mandatory antler restrictions is withdrawn. If mandatory antler restrictions cannot be moved forward through the give and take of honest public involvement through the regulatory process we absolutely should not be enacting them.

As a truly “bottom up”, statutory, statewide and **elected** board we look forward to working with you on any and all matters of fish, wildlife or habitat management or sporting access. Please feel free to contact me at any time.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment,

Lance Robson
Chair, NYS Fish and Wildlife
Management Board

(315) 374-3587
nyfishandwildlifeboard@gmail.com

**CFAB Report to State FWMB
White Eagle Conference Ctr
March 23-24, 2017**

Conservation Fund Balance	Oct 2016	February 2017
	\$9,162,087	\$13,475,383

The Boards Remains concerned about revenue for Conservation Fund. Currently estimated crossover (Revenue drops below Expense) will occur during 2018-2019 F/Y.

DEC Legislative Affairs provided Board Members with an update on the 2017-2018 Session NYS sporting bill. Members expressed frustration that the language for universal hunting age of 12 was eliminated from this language.

Update on 480a and 480b provided to the board, departmental bill also submitted for this initiative. Participants in 480A will be able to remain in the program under this plan. New sign-ups would be 480B.

National Archery in Schools Program (NASP) – The position is listed on the Department’s Critical Fill requests; pending DOB approval. Former NASP program coordinator left the position. Discussion on possible regional assistance with NASP; draft plan for identifying roles and responsibilities. New York is holding virtual tournament; results in individual scores. Staten Island is an issue. Board has been assured that the Department is fully committed to restoring program to full capacity.

Use of Mobile App for license sales; still having discussions on single vs. combined. CFAB members expressed concern that the issue of single vs combined app has still not been resolved and therefore everything else is on hold. CFAB members reminded DEC staff of the demographics of the sporting community and that one simple single use app for each task may provide the most participation from the sporting community. Use of Mobile App for harvest report. For now this issue is on hold. CFAB again expressed concern because originally this app was going to be ready by spring (2017) turkey season.

Printer solution (Accela) is still an issue, how much money is due back from the vendor. CFAB commented that it appears there are a number of issues (reporting, secured printing, etc.) that were not provided by the vendor, however, NYSDEC has paid for these items. Will we recover funds for work not completed.

Convicted felons to serve License Issuing Agents, re-acclimation; Background checks will be done on LIA agents that come in.

Concerns circulating that DEC will close WMA’s to dog trials. Assistant Director Stang informed Board Members that Mr. Berger filed a FOIL request with regards to an internal working document pertaining to Dog Trials. Stang: Department is not anti-dog trials!

Division of Law Enforcement provided storm assistance to NYC/LI as part of Gov. Storm Stella Response.

Academy currently underway: Academy kicked off February 12th and is as full as it will be for the year (after early withdrawals) with 32 ECOs and 11 Rangers. ECO Graduation is scheduled for August 25, 2017. DLE currently down 60 Officers and many retirements looming on horizon.

New Vehicles for ECO’s are coming; dual radios are being placed in the new vehicles.

ECO James Davey; shooter to be sentenced on April 28th. Could serve up to seven (7) years.

Discussion on HRSI and how the NYSDEC can clarify which incidents were the result of an ECL violation.

Board Member Dave Corr oDave Corr provided sample of Field Trauma Kits

Board looking at possible rack card to disseminate info about CFAB. Funding for production is a concern.

Members discussing open CFAB positions for Regions 1 and 3 (Region 1 due to passing of Charles Bevilacqua and Region 2 due to resignation of Mickey Scarzafava.

Department has appointed a Special Assistant for Outdoor Recreation Focus on Partnerships

30 Million in NY Works projects including 4 Million for Hatchery and game farm, possible for operations staff; (3 million to hatcheries and 1 million to game farm).

Environmental Protection Fund has 40 million for Land Acquisition; 33 million down from 40.

Effective February 1, 2017 Steve Hurst is now the Chief for Bureau of Fisheries and the Division is working on filling the Bureau of Habitat Chief Position.

Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) Discussion: working on changing regulations for WMAs; (Gordon Batchellor had originally drafted the changes). Division reached out for compatible uses that could occur on WMAs; set of uses sent out to everyone for survey.

CWD and Ag & Markets hearing on 3/28/17. Prevention is the priority. Possible ban on real urine.

Approval to move forward with 5 FC2 (Fish Culture) positions; down 5 or 6 positions

YFI (Young Forest Initiative) Stats: 16 plans approved, 26 in preparation; 19,000 acres inventoried, 450 acres projects have approved silviculture prescription. Completed 27 acres of commercial timber sale contract cuts, completed clear cut on Ashland, 10 acres cut on Cicero swamp. NYS Tree Nursery provided stock on occasion.

NYWORKS: 34 of 50 projects completed out of NYWORKS 3, 9 out of 29 completed out of NYWORKS 4 and 0 of the 15 projects have been completed out of NYWORKS 5.

2017 Budget Proposals, DEC not losing any staff, other agencies are taking cuts.

HRSI's: 14 personal injury, 16 property damage, 4 possibly 5 fatalities.

2016 Issues:

2016 License sales appear to be trending up from the same period last year. License sales started earlier this year so by October 1st any changes from previous years should be noticeable. Licenses sold are up 7.6% (109,374) and revenues are up 7.9% (\$1,827,524) as compared to same period in 2015.

Pop up window for the habitat/access stamp appears to be working out well. Sales have nearly doubled of the stamp (1794 in 2015, 3341 to date in 2016). Board members thanked DEC for these efforts.

Board members reviewing the monthly financials supplied to the board and looking at improvements that could be made to those so that the information is easier to comprehend.

New York State FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD



Region 3 FWMB

Report to State FWMB

White Eagle Conference Ctr

March 23-24, 2017

Received a report from Kevin Clarke Region 3 Young Forest Initiative(YFI) Biologist. Provided general overview and progress report. Clarke explained the work that is being done to assess the needs of the WMA's across the state. Clarke was asked to address public opposition to what they see as simply "cutting trees". Clarke will be providing additional updates as work progresses on the YFI .

Clarke explained the new fisher trapping permit requirement that is being rolled out. All trappers in the state have to get the (FREE) permit and are required to submit the lower jaw of any fisher they trap.

Bill Conners (Dutchess County) provided summary of the State FWMB Fall Meeting at White Eagle Conference Ctr.

County Reports:

Dutchess: annual youth pheasant hunt will be held September 24 at Lafayetteville MUA. Total of 36 kids invited to hunt. County Legislature is exploring access opportunities along County's Hudson River shoreline. Archery classes will be held at Dutchess county's Bowdoin Park.

Orange: Robert Ewald reported that 55-acres of land in Otisville is being used as an Education center and 4-H park by Cornell Cooperative.

Putnam: Ray Merlotto reported that a private company has proposed a new indoor shooting range in the county. The county federation did outreach and county 4-H fair and will be holding a youth pheasant hunt at Cranberry Mtn. WMA in September.

Rockland: Stan Pascoo reported that the county organization is planning a National Hunting and Fishing Day event (on September 24th).

Pascoo reported that a Hunter Ed class had 60 registrations, but 30 no-shows the first night. Fortunately there were 25 walk-ins.

MEMBERS: Representatives of County Boards of Supervisors/County Legislators, Landowners and Sportsmen.

ADVISORY MEMBERS: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, New York State Conservation Council, Inc., New York Farm Bureau, New York State Pomona Grange, New York State Forest Practice Board, New York State Izaak Walton League, New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee, New York State College of Environmental Science and Forestry at Syracuse University, New York State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell University.

Sullivan: Carl Lindsley reported that he and other volunteers assisted DEC at Camp DeBruce during the summer sessions and they conducted seven hunter ed classes.

Ulster: Tom Raffaldi reported that the annual youth hunt was held at the Kelder Farm. They also did outreach at the Ulster County Fair. They are also planning a youth hunt for September 24th.

NYCDEP: Paul Lenz of the New York City DEP reported that a new recreational access specialist has been hired and will be working under Lenz's supervision.

DEP has been expanding its outreach and increasing recreational opportunities on the watershed lands. There is an electric trolling motor pilot program underway. There were 92 participants in 2016.

Bill Conners updated the board on the work that is being done to have the Region 5 Boreas Ponds Tract classified as Wild Forest by the APA. A Wilderness classification will make the land inaccessible to far to many people, especially the elderly and physically limited.

Conners also reported that the fiscal health of the Conservation is an ongoing concern of the Conservation Fund Advisory Board. Crossover (Expenses outpace Revenue) is projected to occur during the 2018-2019 fiscal year.

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Respectfully,

Bill Conners

New York State FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD



REGION 4 FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING

February 22, 2017

Middle Village Pizza and Pasta

Middleburgh, NY

NEXT MEETING: April 26, 2017

DINNER 6:30 PM

Middleburgh Rod and Gun Club

Middleburgh, NY

COUNTY

Albany	Chris Smith, Legislative Representative Kevin Busch, Sportsman Alternate
Columbia	Absent
Delaware	Mike Zagata, Chairman/Landowner Randy Davidson, Sportsman
Greene	Richard Steele, Legislative Representative Walt Bennett, Sportsman
Montgomery	Absent
Otsego	David McLean, Sportsman Harold Palmer, Sportsman Alternate and Farm Bureau Rep.
Rensselaer	Absent
Schenectady	Ray Gawlas, Sportsman Tracy Lemanec, Landowner
Schoharie	David Simkins, County Supervisor David Wood, Vice Chair/ Landowner Carl Stefanik, Sportsman
SCCA	Michael Zeh, Representative
DEC Personnel	Keith Goertz, Regional Director Peter Innes, Natural Resources Supervisor Chris VanMaaren, Fisheries Manager Marlin Henry, Recording Secretary
Guests:	Duncan S. Davie, Chief of Staff to Senator James Seward

Members: Representatives of County Boards of Supervisors/County Legislators, Landowners and Sportsman

Advisory Members: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, New York State Conservation Council Inc., Farm Bureau of New York, New York State Grange, New York State Forest Practice Board, Izaak Walton League of America; New York State Division, New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee, New York State College of Environmental Science and Forestry at Syracuse University, New York State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell University.

Chairman Mike Zagata called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. following the Pledge of Allegiance. Introductions were made for those new to the meeting.

MINUTES

A motion to approve the meeting minutes of November 16, 2016 was made by Ray Gawlas; second by Dave McLean. All were in favor; none opposed. So carried.

On behalf of Senator James Seward, Duncan S. Davies reported that the Governor's 2015 State of the State address proposed an amendment to the 480a Forest Tax Law program. The State conducted stakeholder meetings, however, nothing went to the Legislature. In the fall of 2015, Senator Seward's office received letters from landowners in opposition; however, there was no such response in 2016. There are no proposals in the 2017 budget to provide tax credits for 480b. The proposal is still under discussion; possible \$3 million impact in the first year; needs Senate Finance Committee approval.

Mr. Davies provided copies of the draft legislation, which proposes that forestry stewardship and habitat conservation credits shall be allowed for 25% of the real property taxes paid on eligible land (as determined by NYSDEC) to promote private ownership, avoid fragmentation, and make it more affordable for land to stay in private hands. This tax credit legislation would require joint Forestry and Wildlife participation. The local assessor would not be involved; tax credit would be transferred from the local government to the State. Mike Zagata noted that under 480a, landowner's pay back 6% of timber sales to the County, which would be eliminated. Peter Innes noted that the 480a subscription rate is approximately 5%.

The Schoharie County Supervisor noted his objections to 480a. Harold Palmer related that the 480a Forest Tax Law survives the sale of the land; there are currently no changes to 480a. Under the proposed 480b, landowners can withdraw from the program within one year without penalty, or pay full taxes for 10 years while adhering to the management plan to withdraw. Under 480b, the 50-acre minimum would be reduced to 25-acres, half of which must be forestland; there are several qualifying activities. Dave McLean stated that the 2,000-acres currently in the 480a program dramatically impact his Town.

Peter Innes, Natural Resources Supervisor

Peter began with the introduction of our new Regional Director, Keith Goertz. He also advised that Tony Wilkinson was appointed Director of the Division of Fish and Wildlife in mid-December. Steve Hurst is the new Bureau Chief of Fisheries in the Division of Fish and Wildlife; there is still a vacancy in Albany for Bureau Chief of Habitat and Bureau Chief of Fisheries and Wildlife Services.

Mike Clark is out of town. Peter noted that the Sportsmen's Ed and Furbearer Biologist has been back-filled with the addition of Stacy Preusser, who is uniquely qualified as an existing Sportsman Education Instructor in Columbia County. ECO Lt. Thomas Harrington has retired. New ECO/Ranger Academy will graduate on August 25th (34 ECO's and 11 Forest Rangers).

The Open Space Plan was approved in December 2016. The Department just closed on 690-acres in Columbia County: Doodletown WMA in Ancram and Taconic, where management will be focused on restoring habitat for the New England Cottontail, which is

a species of special concern in NYS. The purchase was made with Federal Pittman-Robinson money from gun sales; \$10 million is allocated to buy land over several years.

Big Thicket is a Federal Wildlife Refuge for New England Cottontail; the first acquisition of a few hundred acres in DEC Region 3 was purchased last month. The 15,000-acres of Federal land to be purchased over the next 30 years will be under the authority of US Fish and Wildlife. Harley thinks that the State should have some control regarding uses; Mike Zagata advised that DEC input will be advisory only. Harold Palmer noted that regulations come from the Senate.

Open Space: The Department is working with landowners in Columbia and Rensselaer Counties on conservation easements for landowners who are willing to sell development and limited recreational rights, but will likely not include hunting rights. The Federal Forestry Legacy Program contributes 50% of the funds.

Habitat/Young Forest Initiative: four habitat management plans have been approved: Louise E. Keir, Margaret Burke, Stockport and Vinegar Hill. Public information meetings were recently held for Louise E. Keir and Vinegar Hill. The Environmental Protection Fund Budget Executive Proposal was decreased from \$40 million to \$33 million. Two WMA's in Otsego County have no public access. Large WMA's are located at Bear Spring in Delaware County, Capital District in Rensselaer County, and Partridge Run in Albany County.

State forests: biologists are looking at stands and treatments; significant clear cuts of plantations at maturity. This fiscal year, foresters' timber harvests sold 2,300 acres generating about \$2.4 million; Region 4 harvests are approximately 25% of statewide totals. Harley noted not many are not replanted. Peter advised that some are undergoing herbicide treatment, others will be new natural forests; frequent cuts are proposed. Dave McLean noted that there used to be snowshoe hare because of plantations. Clapper Hollow in Schoharie County wildlife goal was hare. Plantings will be used in some of Wildlife's Young Forest Initiative work in Region 4.

Bear harvest report statewide: 1,500+; Southern Zone: 1,000+; both slight decreases from 2015. Southern Zone early season: 228; there are no changes in management units in 2017. The region is still hopeful in our efforts to expand early bear hunting in WMU 4W, 4O and 4S, but it will not be happening in 2017. The law gives beekeepers the right to shoot bears that are damaging hives without a permit. If farmers are experiencing damage to their corn, they can get a nuisance permit to shoot black bears; contact our Stamford Wildlife office at 607-652-7367 for details.

Sportsmen's Ed leader's workshop is scheduled for April 1st in Cobleskill. Stacy Preusser and Jessie Gardner-Lewis are starting to line up refreshers in the month of May; one per county plus a couple additional.

Operations has four dedicated staff for WMA's. NY Access project at Thompson's Lake is not yet finished due to a supplier that went out of business; the new boat launch site will be completed this year. DEC will be working on the road at Aikens Marsh and improving access at Beals Pond; a lot of work is scheduled for Basswood Pond this summer. Glimmerglass State Park at Otsego Lake is not amenable to expansion of their very limited boat launching opportunities. The Chairman asked Peter to determine if the State owns any land on Otsego Lake (note: DEC does not own land on Otsego

Lake). Mr. Davies noted that the major issue is parking for boats, trailers and vehicles.

The Chairman has also spoken with Sloan Crawford/Forestry, and asked Peter to get Wildlife involved with 480b. Harold Palmer asked if funds are available to buy access from landowners. Peter advised that it takes 3-10 years to procure. Administrative surveys are performed when needed, maintenance of boundary lines is an issue with less people on staff. WMA's have dedicated staff; more work was done last year than in the previous five years.

Mike Zeh inquired about a resolution he received from Dave Hartman regarding antler restrictions statewide; Peter and Kevin Busch both requested copies. DEC promotes voluntary restrictions; there have been no changes to regulations. Mr. Hartman does not work for DEC.

Tracy Lemanec noted that Dick's Sporting Goods, Gander Mountain and others are selling deer food; he was advised that selling deer food is not illegal as long as the labeling does not say 'wild' deer food. DEC is looking at tightening up this loophole in the regulations.

Chris VanMaaren, Region 4 Fisheries Manager

- Approximately 70 people participated in the ice fishing event today at Canadarago, catching 30 perch and a few pickerel; the event was rescheduled from Glimmerglass due to the insufficient ice.
- DEC will be double-stocking at Canadarago with 40,000 50-day walleye and 40,000 pond fingerlings for a few years in response to the difficulty establishing walleye in this alewife dominated water.
- Still hoping to build spawning reef for whitefish and lake trout in Otsego Lake but have not had sufficient ice for the past two years; DEC will pursue different options.
- Will PIT-tag trout in the Delaware Tailwaters downstream of Cannonsville and Pepacton. This is part of a study to identify the utility of the tribs and track movement within the mainstems.
- Interest in expanding catch and release zone for the Tailwaters; will do public meetings in April and May in Hancock and Deposit before regulation proposals (includes three DEC regions and two states); hope to simplify regulations.
- Ice fishing event scheduled at Thompsons Lake at Thatcher State Park on Saturday, 2/15, in conjunction with Parks and Recreation.
- Considering trap and transfer of walleye from lower Ouleout into sections above East Sidney Reservoir.
- New Bureau Chief Steven Hurst will be a strong leader. Shaun Keeler's position remains vacant.
- Region 4 Fisheries and Habitat has a new staff biologist, Georgette Walters working with large energy projects. There are four large hydro-projects in the works which require public meetings. Chris requested input from Board members regarding recreational components at Goodyear Lake, Blenheim-Gilboa Reservoir, Crittenden Falls on Kinderhook Creek in Hudson, and the Watervliet Reservoir on the Normans Kill (5-year license process; Watervliet will begin the process in June).
- DEP is still developing a method for something other than a low level outlet for water out of Schoharie Reservoir heading north into Schoharie Creek.
- DEC will revisit public access to the Watervliet Reservoir as part of the hydro relicensing.

- Will hire a new stream protection biologist; Steve Swenson will focus on habitat improvement projects and develop habitat-specific carrying-capacity of the waters. Mike Zagata requested looking at beaver dams.
- Currently interviewing for new Fisheries Tech II.
- Not stocking Ouleout first this year (scheduled for April 4th); new technician will coordinate stocking with Fish Chairs.
- Sampling schedule being developed this month.
- Looking to be part of a trial for new brown trout product; concerns that browns have become too domesticated.
- PFOS in Hoosick Falls and Petersburg landfills have non-active drainage issues. Fish samples from the area are being analyzed for PFOS concentrations. Keith Goertz noted that hundreds of closed landfills throughout the state need better management.

COUNTY REPORTS

Delaware County/Randy (Harley) Davidson:

- Seven kids sent to camp;
- Objects to pistol recertification.

Otsego County/Dave McLean:

- Will changes to the National Concealed Carry Law trickle down to the State? Mr. Davie advised that the Feds interpreted Social Security Disability to be a mental defect prohibiting firearms; the House voted to change that. Doesn't affect New York's pistol licensing; can opt out of public information.
- To ascertain cost of beaver damage to roads, reach out to Town Highway Supervisor and DOT. Harley noted very low prices for beaver pelts.
- Otsego County sent 34 kids to camp. The special one-week session was filled up in three minutes; can DEC do a second week? Peter acknowledged that most camps for boys are full; some openings left for girls. Camps are co-ed.

Schenectady County/ Ray Gawlas:

- Conservation Council sent three kids to camp; another club sent seven to camp.
- Ice fishing derby on Mariaville Lake last Sunday had 40 kids participating; over 100 people caught pickerel, a couple of perch, and one bullhead.

Greene County/Richard Steele:

- Trout Unlimited received a \$287,000 grant to open up 20-miles of streams in Columbia County for brook and brown trout spawning.
- \$189,000 grant to Town of Chatham to improve culvert system along those two streams Columbia County.
- Ten Mile Creek will be finished this year in Greene County.
- Catskill Advisory Board will give \$2 million to save the hemlocks.
- World-class shooting range coming to old Catskill Game Farm; \$1 million investment; work being done by Rivenburgh Construction; no IDA involvement; ownership unknown.
- 5/20/17: Greene County Fishing Derby at Catskill Point.
- 4/29/17: tree planting; 5,200 tree grant to Greene and Columbia Counties, Westkill and Schoharie.
- Wounded Warriors event in May; hunting/fishing at Rhinebeck Fairgrounds.
- 4/5/17: trout stocking

Albany County/Kevin Busch:

- 41 adults and 16 kids participated in the ice fishing derby at Warner's Lake last Saturday.
- Approximately 25 kids sent to DEC's summer camp.
- Albany County Sheriff recommending hesitancy re pistol recertification; deadline is 1/31/2018.
- Would like to regain public access to Watervliet Reservoir.
- Discrimination lawsuit has been filed over Safe Act based on reaction to cough syrup; 2 ½ months after incident, Sheriff confiscated guns.
- Rensselaer County ATV club successfully approached landowners to put together network of trails; now looking at Schoharie County.
- The Chairman advised that if landowners charge a fee, they are liable for injuries.

SCCA/Mike Zeh:

- 13 deer donated to Venison Donation Coalition.
- Attended Wildlife Task Force meeting in January.
- Power Authority walk-way bridge out for bid; funding approved; 100-300' long.
- 15 attending the scope meeting last month; pistol recertification – Sheriff recommended holding off
- Middleburgh Rod and Gun Club has new inexpensive competitive pistol shooting league
- Youth Archery – 140-150 kids every Saturday; finished archery building extension; if pistol league is shooting on Wed; FWMB meetings can be held there; waiting on DEC for reimbursement; approval for \$14,500; cost in excess \$26,000 to build
- W. Fulton Club will build 10 x 20' pavilion by swimming pool in Middleburgh.
- Four youths requested sponsorship for DEC camp; two girls were signed up; two boys are on waiting list. Suggested that since the program going so well, maybe DEC could add additional weeks, take more kids, or increase number of camps. The Chairman suggested re-opening Boy Scout camps or possibly Hartwick College can do something at Pine Lake during the summer. Kevin Busch asked why slots should be held for girls that don't apply.
- Ice fishing derby held on 1st Saturday in February; Richmondville last Saturday; Bear Gulch had 60+ entries.
- Franklinton Viaie requires TRP for over 20 participants.

Schoharie/Dave Wood:

- 4/20/17: fish stocking; meet at Gilboa Post Office at 11:00 A.M.
- Town Supervisor David Simkins related that Schoharie County has passed a Resolution scrapping the Safe Gun Act to support the Sheriff; he believes the cost factor should be on the State; advised holding off on recertification (submitted copy of Minutes and video to Chairman).

Albany County/Chris Smith:

- Wait on pistol permit recertification.
- Local law on the table for tax breaks to large landowners in Albany County.
- Attended fishing derby on Saturday.

Mike Zagata will advise Marlin to notify members if the State FWMB meeting conflicts with the Region 4 FWMB meeting.

Peter advised that Central Office is aware that sportsmen would like to see the State FWMB Minutes posted on the DEC website and are making progress. Dave McLean will speak with State Chair Lance Robson.

STATE FWMB

Nominating Committee/Election of Officers - The 2017 Region 4 representatives to the State FWMB are: Richard Steele, Legislative Representative; Mike Zagata, Chairman and Landowner Representative; Dave Schoellig, Alternate Landowner Representative; Dave McLean, Sportsman Representative. Ray Gawlas made a motion that the nominations be closed and the secretary cast one vote; second by Dave McLean. All were in favor; none opposed. So carried.

Marlin Henry will continue as recording secretary.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

NEXT MEETING

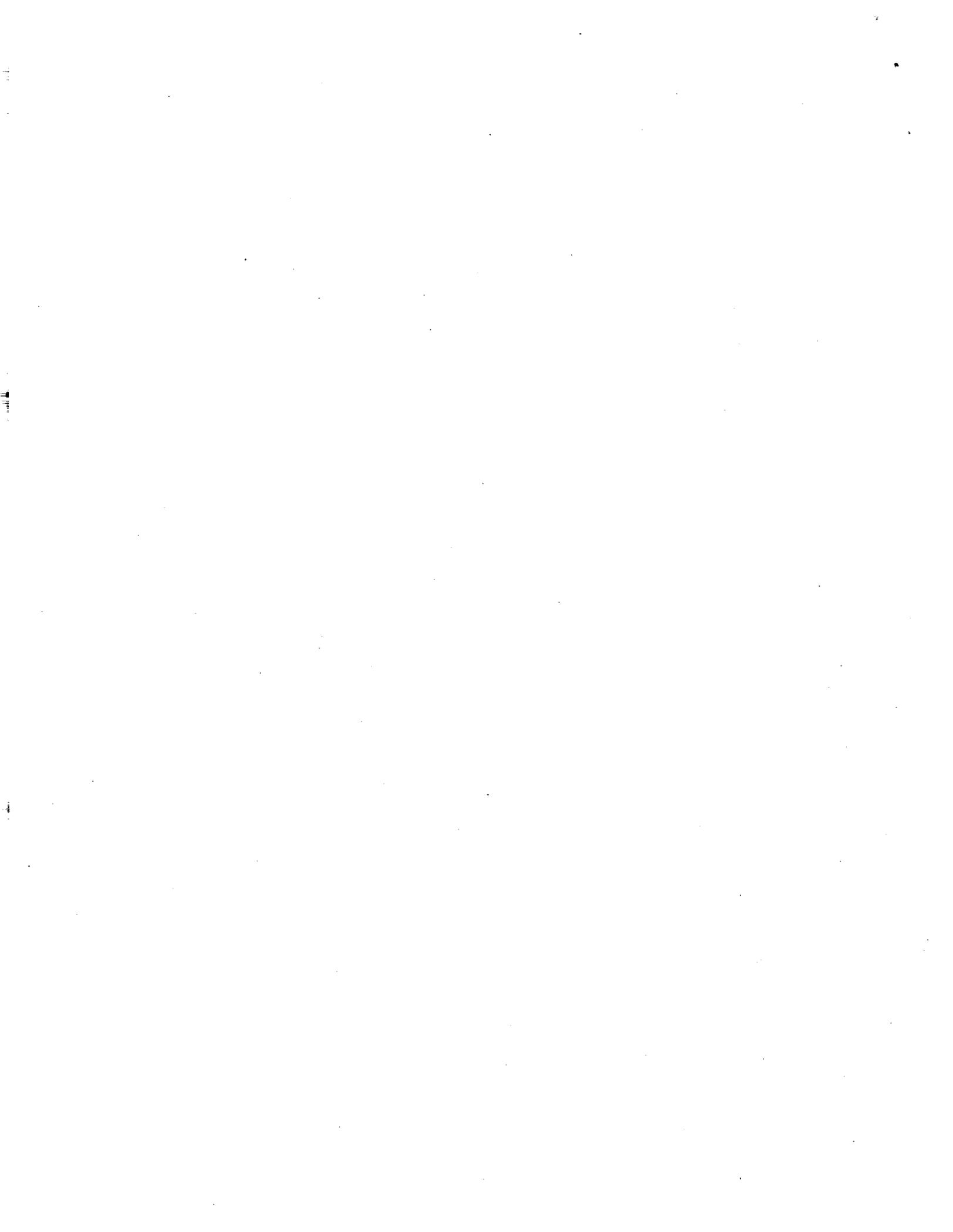
The next FWMB meeting is scheduled for April 26, 2017 at the Middleburgh Rod and Gun Club.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Harold Palmer at 9:15 p.m.; second by Randy Davidson. All were in favor; none opposed. So carried.

Respectfully submitted,

MARLIN A. HENRY
Recording Secretary



New York State FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD



New York State Fish and Wildlife Management Board
Resolution # 2016-12-15

Title: Resolution in support of Alternative 1 of the Boreas Ponds Tract classification proposals

WHEREAS, the Fish and Wildlife Management Board was created by the New York State Legislature with adoption of Environmental Conservation Law § 11-0501,

And WHEREAS, the Region 5 Fish and Wildlife Management Board is comprised of county-appointed representatives of government, landowners and sports persons from each of its eight counties,

And WHEREAS, the Region 5 Fish and Wildlife Management Board represents the thousands of sportsmen and women who reside or recreate in its eight county region,

And, WHEREAS, the Fish and Wildlife Management Board's purpose is to improve public recreational access to fish and wildlife resources,

And, WHEREAS, it has come to the attention of the Region 5 New York State Fish and Wildlife Management Board that the Adirondack Park Agency is soliciting public comments on State Land classification and reclassification proposals to 54,418 acres of state lands in the Adirondack Park which include the Boreas Ponds Tract located in the Towns of Newcomb and North Hudson in Essex County,

THEREFORE, let it be resolved that the New York State Fish and Wildlife Management Board fully supports Alternative 1 which provides for the Boreas Ponds Tract to be classified as a combination of Wilderness, State Administrative and Wild Forest, the latter of which affords reasonable public access to its fish and wildlife resources.

Resolution to be forwarded to: the Adirondack Park Agency and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Region 5 Regional Director.

This resolution is recommended by the Region 5 Board and was approved by vote by the Board on December 15, 2016.

Members: Representatives of County Boards of Supervisors/County Legislatures, Landowners and Sportsmen

Advisory Members: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, New York State Conservation Council Inc., Farm Bureau of New York, New York State Grange, New York State Forest Practice Board, Izaak Walton League of America; New York State Division, New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee, New York State College of Environmental Science and Forestry at Syracuse University, New York State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell University

Region 5 Fish and Wildlife Management Board March 2017 Highlights

Wildlife

Moose Project Update – Aerial transect surveys were completed by late January. This year's survey was designed to maximize moose detections, thus helping to develop a more reliable formula for estimating moose populations during future surveys. To achieve the desired numbers of detections, some transects in high moose density areas were surveyed multiple times. We saw 89 moose groups, totaling 161 moose on transect, and about a half dozen moose off transect.

Moose capture and collaring took place in mid-January – Pictured below is one of five moose that were instrumented with GPS collars. Across the Northeast, several states, including Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont, are collaring moose to study herd dynamics, analyze movement ecology and habitat selection, determine the impact of disease and parasite related mortality, and estimate calf survival. This is the 3rd year moose have been successfully captured in New York, totaling 23 animals currently instrumented with GPS collars. Capture was conducted by Native Range Capture Services, an expert wildlife capture crew, using helicopters, net guns, and handling techniques that minimize stress and injury to the animals. Research partners include the State University of New York: College of Environmental Science & Forestry, Cornell University, and the Wildlife Conservation Society.



Bear Take -- Bear hunters in New York State took 1,539 black bears during the 2016 hunting seasons. Hunters took a total of 1,025 black bears in the Southern Zone, about ten percent fewer than in 2015, but slightly more than the recent five-year average. Nearly equal numbers of bears were taken during the bow season, 379 bears, and regular season, 398 bears. The early season, which occurs only in a handful of management units in the Catskill Region, yielded 228 bears.

In the Northern Zone, 514 bears were harvested, approximately 12 percent fewer than in 2015, but on par with the historical average. Bear harvest in the Northern Zone tends to alternate between strong harvests during the early season one year, followed by strong harvests during the regular season the next year, based primarily on cycles of food availability. In 2016, hunters were most successful during the early season, taking 238 bears, while the regular season produced 167 bears.

New in 2016, junior hunters were allowed to take black bears during the Youth Firearms Big Game Hunt over Columbus Day weekend. That hunt overlapped with the early bear season in the Northern Zone. Ten junior hunters in the Southern Zone were able to take advantage of the new opportunity and harvest a bear.

2016 Black Bear Harvest & Recent Trend Comparison

	2016 Total	2015 Total	Recent 5-year Average (2011 - 2015)	Historical Average (1991 - 2000)
Northern Zone	514	583	472	515
Southern Zone	1,025	1,132	987	207
Statewide	1,539	1,715	1,459	722

Notable Numbers

- One bear per 3.3 square miles -- by Wildlife Management Unit (WMU), the greatest bear harvest density occurred in WMU 3K, which includes portions of Sullivan and Orange Counties. However, the Town of Minisink in Orange County (WMU 3M) produced one bear for every 1.9 square miles.

- 107 – the greatest number of bears reported taken on any one day, the opening day, of the regular firearms season in the Southern Zone.
- 555 pounds -- the heaviest dressed weight bear reported to DEC in 2016, was taken in the Town of Brandon, Franklin County. A 540-pound dressed weight bear was reportedly taken in the Town of Walton in Delaware County, and seven bears were reported with dressed weights between 400-500 pounds. Scaled weights of dressed bears were submitted for 22 percent of the bears taken in 2016.
- 25 -- the number of tagged bears reported in the 2016 harvest. These included six bears originally tagged in Pennsylvania, five from New Jersey, and one from Vermont. The remainder were originally tagged in New York for a variety of reasons including research, nuisance response, relocated urban bears, or released rehabilitated bears.

Deer Take -- Here is a comparison of deer harvest reports through the end of late muzzleloader season. Final deer take by County, Town, and WMU will be announced soon.

**Northern
Zone**

	male	female	total
2016 to 2015	+15.9%	-0.8%	+10.7%
2016 to 2014	+9.0%	-23.9%	-2.7%

**Southern
Zone**

	male	female	total
2016 to 2015	+13.1%	+3.2%	+8.7%
2016 to 2014	+4.4%	-8.4%	-1.3%

Task Forces Help Set Season Dates for Waterfowl Hunting in New York -- Hunters were invited to submit recommendations to regional Waterfowl Hunter Task Forces to help set the dates of the fall 2017 duck hunting seasons for each of the State's waterfowl hunting zones by February 19.

DEC evaluates Waterfowl Hunter Task Force recommendations in setting waterfowl seasons, which must comply with Federal rules. New York is divided into five waterfowl hunting zones: Western, Southeastern, Northeastern, Lake Champlain, and Long Island. DEC appointed task forces for each zone (except Lake Champlain) are soliciting recommendations for the fall 2017 hunting seasons, including opening and closing dates, split seasons, and a special hunting weekend for junior hunters (hunters ages 12-15).

Each task force includes representatives from the New York State Conservation Council, established waterfowl hunting organizations, and individual waterfowl hunters who provide input representing diverse points of view.

Waterfowl seasons in the Lake Champlain Zone will continue to be set by the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Management Board with input from DEC and waterfowl hunters in New York and Vermont. Although there is no formal task force for this zone, hunters can send their suggestions to any DEC season-setting Task Force member (see below).

The recommended season dates must be within Federal guidelines established by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). For fall 2017, DEC expects the USFWS to allow a 60-day duck season, split into no more than two segments per zone, opening no earlier than September 23, 2017, and closing no later than January 28, 2018.

In an effort to encourage input from the public, DEC developed an on-line input tool for hunters to provide opinions on waterfowl seasons. The feedback received will be summarized and shared with the task forces at their annual meetings in March. The task force uses this feedback, as well as feedback received from other sources to develop season date recommendations.

There are three ways for interested hunters to provide their opinions on future waterfowl seasons:

- Via DEC's on-line [hunter input tool](#).
- Directly contacting one of the Task Force members in the hunter's zone. The list of members can be found online at the [Waterfowl Season Input](#) web page on DEC's website.

- Sending an e-mail to the Waterfowl Season Input mailbox (seasonwaterfowl@dec.ny.gov). Suggestions sent to this mailbox will be forwarded to all of the task force members in the zone.

The bag limit for black ducks has been increased from one per day to two per day, starting in the fall of 2017. See the DEC website for a full explanation of the reasons for this change.



Bear Cub Rescued – Keene Valley -- Following reports of a road-killed female bear, at least two bear cubs were witnessed near Keene Valley and reported to DEC by several concerned citizens. Of the two cubs, one was reported to be very small. On November 7th, wildlife staff met with community members in Keene Valley to encourage locals to avoid feeding the young bears, and to continue reporting sightings of the cubs to DEC. During the visit, the larger of the two cubs was observed and it was determined that the cub was in good health and of appropriate size and weight to survive the winter without human interference. It had been feeding on a nearby deer carcass and was reluctant to move from the area, but otherwise it was in good physical condition. When the carcass was fully consumed, the cub moved out of the area. On November 11th, the smaller cub reappeared in the Village of Keene Valley and was reported to DEC. A decision was made to capture the cub and transport it to a wildlife rehabilitator for care over the winter due to its small size and diminished physical condition. Wildlife staff and ECOs were able to capture the cub and it is now in the care of a rehabilitator in central New York who has successfully raised many cubs that are subsequently released to the wild. This cub will stay at the facility until spring, when it will be released back into the wild near its capture location.



Photo Credit: Larry Master

Fisheries

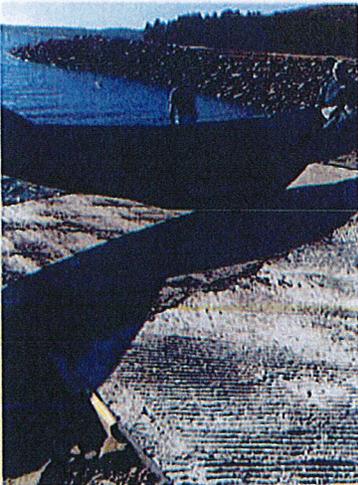
Landlocked Salmon Egg Take -- The 2016 landlocked Atlantic salmon egg take at Adirondack Hatchery commenced on Monday, November 7 and Region 5 Fisheries staff were there to collect biological data. By the end of the week, hatchery personnel had slightly surpassed their target of 1.1 million eggs. Of these, 173 came from wild females that reside in nearby Little Clear Pond. The remainder were collected from captive females in the hatchery's indoor brood ponds. The adult fish that were handled looked to be in good condition and this year's egg take should be entirely comprised of Sebago strain salmon. **Tom Shanahan (518) 897-1334**

New Meacham Lake Boat Launch – The new boat launch at Meacham Lake is essentially completed, with just the landscaping left to complete. The project was funded by Governor Cuomo's NY Open for Fishing and Hunting Initiative. The new launch is located in a deeper water area, and provides much better trailering capacity than the too-shallow launch at the old location. The old launch site will remain open as a hand launch and for ice-fishing access.



The newly constructed boat launch at Meacham Lake.

Saratoga County Boat Launch Ramp Extended -- Staff from both the Warrensburg and Northville DEC Operation's offices, along with assistance from the Town of Day, worked together to extend the Saratoga County Boat Launch ramp by 20 feet. This project was initiated due to the very low water on Great Sacandaga Lake. A power loading hole had developed at the end of the paved ramp at the launch which was causing issues for users. Permits were obtained and the project was completed in a few weeks without any issues as the water level continued to fall. In "normal" water level years, the extension should allow for an extended season on the water. Thank you again to the Town of Day and DEC Operation's staff for a great project! **Rob Fiorentino (518) 623-1234**



The newly constructed ramp extension at the Saratoga County Boat Launch on Great Sacandaga Lake.

Pine Pond Fisheries Survey -- Pine Pond is a five-acre water located West of Blue Mountain Lake in Hamilton County. An Adirondack Lakes Survey Corporation (ALSC) survey in 1985 found the pond fishless despite reasonable chemical and physical characteristics. Around 2001, conservation easements made this water

more accessible to the public and an annual stocking policy of 250 Temiscamie x Domestic hybrid brook trout was begun. The 2016 survey was the first performed since the 1985 ALSC survey. Pine Pond is currently a brook trout monoculture, and 17 brook trout were collected, ranging from about 6 to 14 inches in length. This pond has a maximum depth of about 22 feet and dissolved oxygen was abundant throughout the water column. The current stocking policy should be maintained. *Jon Fieroh (518) 897-1337*

Lake Trout Egg Take -- This effort is undertaken each year in Raquette Lake by staff from the Chateaugay Hatchery. Total lengths and weights of these spawning adults were recorded during the first two days of this effort. The egg take was successful this year with a steady take of around 20,000 lake trout eggs per day for eight days. The target of 165,000 eggs was reached and nets were pulled. Seemingly, the spawning run was just beginning to peak as the quota was met. *Jon Fieroh (518) 897-1337*

Heritage Strain Brook Trout Egg Take – The Windfall strain brook trout egg take, conducted at Mountain Pond (Franklin County), was accomplished with staff from both Regional Fisheries and the South Otselic Hatchery. A total of three trap nets were set for two nights and 112 brook trout were collected. A total of 26 pairs were stripped and these fish provided about 16,000 eggs, most, but not all, of the Windfall strain eggs needed for stocking in the coming year. About 1,800 brown bullhead were also collected during the survey. *Jon Fieroh (518) 897-1337*

Heritage Strain Brook Trout Egg Take and Milt Collection – A total of two trap nets were set for a single night in Black Pond (Franklin County) for the collection of fertilized eggs and milt from the Windfall strain of brook trout. Only eight pairs were stripped, but these fish produced almost 14,000 eggs, fulfilling the need for this strain in the coming year. The milt collection, which is used for the production of the experimental Windfall x Domestic hybrid brook trout, was also successful. A total of 90 brook trout were collected, including several individuals in the 17-19 inch range. *Jon Fieroh (518) 897-1337*

Fishbrook Pond Heritage Strain Brook Trout Egg-Take – Fishbrook Pond was netted to collect brook trout eggs to provide a source of native Horn Lake heritage strain brook trout for supplemental stocking in other brook trout waters throughout the Adirondack Park, an essential part of the brook trout restoration program. Fisheries staff, in coordination with the state police aviation unit, flew the necessary trap nets and other equipment into the pond for a single overnight set, to be pulled the following morning. After successfully stripping 13 ripe female and 15 ripe male brook trout on day two, a total of just under 16,000 fertilized eggs were transferred to the Warren County fish hatchery for propagation. This was slightly under the target of 20,000 eggs. *James Pinheiro (518)623-1264*

Long Pond Fisheries Survey -- This survey was undertaken to explore the possibility of using Long Pond (Franklin County) as a brood stock water for the Windfall strain of brook trout. This pond has been used as a brood stock water in the past. Natural reproduction is adequate to maintain the fishery here and Long Pond has not been stocked since 2007. A total of 250 brook trout were caught, including 129 ripe females, 12 spent females, and 97 males. Most of the fish were between 7.5 and 10 inches in length. This water is not roadside, but with a carry of only a few hundred yards it appears to be a possible brood stock water. **Jon Fieroh (518) 897-1337**

Little Green Pond Fisheries Survey -- This survey was conducted as part of the Adirondack Hatchery staff's effort to take and raise round whitefish eggs. Total lengths were measured at the hatchery, and data was taken on 177 round whitefish. The round whitefish from Little Green Pond are much larger than those from Lower Cascade Lake, with the females producing up to 2,500 eggs per female. **Jon Fieroh (518) 897-1337**

Egg Take for Round Whitefish -- Region 5 Fisheries staff conducted an egg take for round whitefish in Lower Cascade Lake (Essex County) in late November. Lower Cascade Lake is an important brood water for this species which is endangered in New York State. The timing of the spawn for round whitefish often makes this effort problematic and 2016 was no exception, as the road conditions associated with a winter storm postponed the survey for one day. A total of 208 round whitefish were collected and 33 pairs were stripped, yielding about 8,000 eggs. The eggs were immediately transported to the Oneida Hatchery to be raised as part of the ongoing effort to support this rare native species. **Jon Fieroh (518) 897-1337**

Toxic Substance Monitoring Program Samples Collected -- This January, Fisheries staff collected yellow perch from Lower Chateaugay Lake, and northern pike from Lake Clear. These fish will be submitted for testing for contaminants like mercury or PCB's, which the Department of Health will then use to modify the fish consumption advisories on these waters if indicated. **Adam Kosnick (518) 897-1338**

Advanced Water Chemistry Surveys -- For the second year, an effort was made to identify and begin to quantify the recovery of some Adirondack waters from acidification. Region 5 staff and the Adirondack Lakes Survey Corporation (ALSC) have collected and will analyze water from a number of mostly remote Adirondack lakes. ALSC provides various chemical metrics for these lakes including the "Base Cation Surplus," which should provide a superior tool for the evaluation of the possible recovery of these waters. Some of the waters tested

are currently fishless and others have experienced marginal or low pH/ANC values in the recent past. The following waters sampled in 2016 show signs of recovery and a preliminary analysis indicates they may support fish once again: Trout Pond (Town of Inlet), Broomstick Lake (Town of Caroga), Pigeon Lake (Town of Long Lake), Spoon Lake (Town of Morehouse), Feullard Lake (Town of Morehouse), Gull Lake (Town of Long Lake) and Upper Wallface Pond (Town of North Elba). **Jon Fieroh (518) 897-1337**

Unit Management Planning – Fisheries staff are part of the interdisciplinary DEC teams that are revising or developing several Unit Management Plans (UMPs). These include revision of the **Hammond Pond Wild Forest** UMP which is comprised of more than 45,500 acres of Forest Preserve lands in the Towns of Crown Point, Elizabethtown, Keene, Moriah, North Hudson, Schroon, Ticonderoga and Westport in Essex County. DEC will also develop a UMP for 5,850 acres of public lands in the **Fulton County State Forests**. The Fulton County State Forests include the state forests of Lassellsville, Peck Hill, and Rockwood. The lands are located in the Towns of Ephratah, Oppenheim, and Johnstown. DEC is also revising the **Debar Mountain Wild Forest** UMP, with more than 88,000 acres of Forest Preserve lands and includes the Madawaska Pond/Quebec Brook Primitive Area and the Deer River Primitive Area. The lands are contained in the Towns of Brighton, Duane, Franklin, Santa Clara, and Waverly in Franklin County. **Lance Dufey (518) 897-1290**

Marion Pond Reclamation Planning – Fisheries staff has begun the planning and permitting process to conduct a reclamation of Marion Pond (Town of Schroon in the Hoffman Notch Wilderness) to restore a native fish community in this ten-acre pond. The pond has become dominated by non-native golden shiners. An application to the Adirondack Park Agency for a necessary wetlands permit was submitted, and the potential reclamation using rotenone was addressed in the SEQR process, with the project review published in the Environmental Notice Bulletin. Following the reclamation, the pond will be stocked with a native strain of Adirondack brook trout. The reclamation, if approved, would likely be conducted this fall. **Rob Fiorentino (518) 623-1234**

Lake Champlain

Lake Champlain Sea Lamprey Control -- The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife (VTDFW) conducted two sea lamprey control treatments in Vermont this fall. Both

Stonebridge Brook and the LaPlatte River were treated with TFM, the chemical used for controlling sea lamprey larvae in streams. The application point on the LaPlatte River was moved downstream from its original spot because of low stream flow. However, both treatments appeared to be successful. The planned treatment of the Missisquoi River was postponed, because of a new, more restrictive water use advisory: required by the Vermont Department of Health (VTDOH). That new advisory resulted in a much larger advisory zone in the lake, and there just wasn't enough time this fall to expand the required landowner notification process. In the meantime, the Great Lakes Fishery Commission will oversee a study to determine a definitive drinking water standard for TFM. Presumably, that will allow the VTDOH to establish a much higher TFM water use advisory threshold in future permits. **Lance Durfey (518) 897-1290**



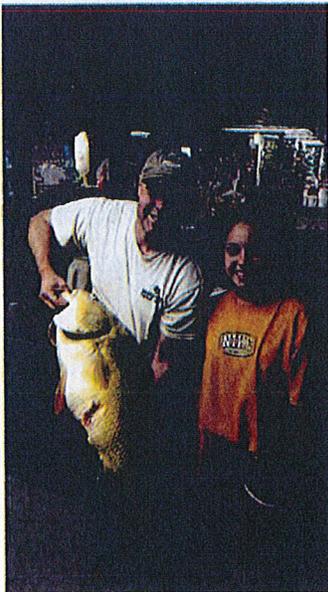
A nice, late October landlocked salmon from the Saranac River.

Fungus Infections Prevalent in Spawning Salmon -- We received numerous reports of late-spawning season landlocked salmon in the Saranac River with patches of fungus on them. The fungus is likely Saprolegnia, which is ubiquitous in water. Ordinarily, it does not affect fish. But when fish become stressed and their immune systems are compromised, the fungus can take hold. Spawning is an inherently stressful event, and it may have been even more so this year because of the warmer than normal river temperatures and lower than normal flows. Male salmon are most susceptible, and our Vermont coworkers also saw numerous salmon, mostly males, with fungus running up Hatchery Brook at the Ed Weed Fish Hatchery. **Lance Durfey (518) 897-1290**



A Saranac River landlocked salmon with Saprolegnia. Note the white patches of fungus on the lower jaw, the dorsal fin, pectoral fins and the tail.

New state record drum – On June 4, 2016, Amelia Whalen caught a 29 lb. 14 oz. freshwater drum from Lake Champlain, breaking the previous state record by more than 3 pounds. Congratulations, Amelia!



Amelia Whalen with the 29 lb. 14 oz. state record freshwater drum she caught from Lake Champlain, Essex County.



Region 6 FWMB Report to the State Board March 23rd & 24th 2017

The Region 6 Board continues to meet quarterly and currently all positions, sportsmen, land owner and County Legislator, are filled from each County. Advisor representatives from the Conservation Fund Advisory Board, the N.Y.S. Conservation Council and the Jefferson County Fish Advisory Board are represented as well. The Board did not meet in December due to inclement weather. Dec staff including the natural Resource Supervisor, and Fish and Wildlife Staff are generally in attendance as is the Regional Director.

The following summarizes some of the areas under review and discussion and board actions at Region 6 FWMB meetings:

- **Conservation Easements** –Many recreation management plans are being developed in Region 6 where over 300,000 acres of easement lands exist. During our March 16, 2017 meeting three recreation management plans under development were on the agenda. The Grass River Tooley Pond RMP's, the Oswegatchie RMP and the Croghan RMP. Comments have been submitted on the Tooley Pond and Oswegatchie RMP's.

Oswegatchie RMP - The nature of the Oswegatchie RMP is of great concern to both the Region 6 FWMB and Lewis County; the County has passed a resolution rejecting the plan and the Region 6 FWMB comments raised many concerns and deficiencies. The amount of motor vehicle access that will be allowed under the plan is not sufficient to afford reasonable sporting access to all sections of the property, there are no seasonal road openings and ATV use, an affirmative right purchased for the public is being denied. Another serious flaw in the plan is that the camp lessees will no longer be able to use ATV's to access hunting and fishing locations and retrieve game and they will only be able to operate a motor vehicle on roads open to the public with the exception of accessing their specific camp. Short and long of it is the historical uses of the lands are being eroded and denied!

Croghan Tract RMP - Lewis County was also an agenda item at our last meeting and a brief overview was given by the Department. Concerns must also be raised about the process and availability of information provided to the Region 6 FWMB. More specifically the public scoping session for the plan was held in 2001 and from what I can determine another session to obtain more current public input is not planned. The overview for the Board consisted of presenting a map of the property reflecting current access, reviewing info on the purpose of the easement, highlighting that protection of the resource was paramount and noting species of special concern. When a more specific map was requested that shows the existing road infrastructure, not what is currently opened, we were told "it was still being developed". The chairman has no doubt a map of the road system that existed at the time the easement was purchased exists and will be asking for additional information to facilitate preparation of comments on the plan.

Conservation Easement RMP Maps – RMP Maps being provided by Region 6 make it difficult to provide meaningful comment. A request for TOPO Maps to be provided that include more detail on the properties has been denied by Region 6 staff.

To enhance the Region 6 FWMB's effectiveness five Issues need the attention of the State FWMB:

- At what point does the board engage in the planning process.
- What information is available to the board and how is it accessed.
- The Boards role and relationship with the Department.
- Is the board bound by comment period dates?
- Consistency across regions on the above.

The Chair of the Region 6 Board participated in the following activities:

- Access Adirondacks meeting March 10, 2016.
- Adirondack Park Aquatic Invasive meeting.

In the coming months focus areas for the Board will be:

1. Educating Board on Access Adirondacks initiative and decision to endorse effort via M.O.A.
2. Learn more about the Departments Statewide WMU aggregates and provide feedback.
3. Engage early in the process of Conservation Easement Recreation Plan Development; provide feedback and recommendations that enhance access and wildlife management.
4. Learn more about WMA regulations under development and provide feedback and recommendations.
5. Continuing to monitor and educate on issues relating to invasive species.
6. Education on Wildlife Migration Corridors being proposed
7. Education on Land Trusts and A2A Initiative.
8. More in depth, data driven discussion on important issues.

Copies of meeting agendas are attached.

Submitted by,

Walt Paul

Walter H. Paul

Chairman

Region 6 Fish and Wildlife Management Board

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Prepared: March 21, 2017

Members: Representatives of County Boards of Supervisors/County Legislators, Landowners and Sportsman

Advisory Members: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, New York State Conservation Council Inc., Farm Bureau of New York, New York State Grange, New York State Forest Practice Board, Izaak Walton League of America; New York State Division, New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee, New York State College of Environmental Science and Forestry at Syracuse University, New York State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell University.



Call to order and Roll Call: – 10:00 AM (Lunch will be served at 12:00 PM)

Review Minutes: – from the September 15, 2016 meeting held in Lowville

General Housekeeping and Correspondence:

Administrative Business:

Election of Officers

Chairman Report:

Natural Resources Report:

Old Business:

- Aquatic invasive species decontamination station locations for 2017.
- Update on the future of cormorant management.
- Mute Swan Update

New Business:

- Review, discussion and comment on Oswegatchie RMP – Lewis County
- Review, discussion and comment Croghan Tract RMP
- Review and comment on Grass River UMP, Tooley Pond RMP and Grass River RMP – St. Lawrence County
- Review and comment Upper and Lower Lakes WMA Plan
- Wildlife management regulations under consideration
 1. Use of Deer Lure
 2. Deer Feeding Regulation
- Antler Restrictions Bill
- Member Items

Conservation Fund Report:

DEC Reports:

Fisheries

County Reports:

Herkimer

Advisory Board Reports:

Jefferson County Sportfish AB

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ADVISORY MEMBERS: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, New York State Conservation Council, Inc., Farm Bureau of New York, New York State Grange, New York State Forest Practice Board, Izaak Walton League of America; New York State Division, New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee, New York State College of Environmental Science and Forestry, New York State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell University.

REGION 6 FWMB Quarterly Meeting Agenda for June 16, 2016 (continued)

Wildlife	Jefferson
Law Enforcement	Lewis
Lands & Forests	Oneida
	St. Lawrence

Agenda Items for next meeting - - - Next meeting to be held on:

March 16, 2016 at the Lowville/Dadville Conference/Training Room, in Lowville, NY

MEMBERS: Representatives of County Boards of Supervisors/County Legislators, Landowners and Sportsmen

ADVISORY MEMBERS: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, New York State Conservation Council, Inc., Farm Bureau of New York, New York State Grange, New York State Forest Practice Board, Izaak Walton League of America; New York State Division, New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee, New York State College of Environmental Science and Forestry, New York State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell University.

Region 8 Fish and Wildlife Management Act Board 2016 Report

Unit Management Plans have been drafted for the Northern Finger Lakes and Livingston Units. Members are involved in the planning process.

Habitat Management Plans have been completed for Rattlesnake Hill, Helmer Creek, High Tor and West Cameron WMAs. FWMB members have attended the public meetings and encouraged others to attend also.

A Waterfowl and Wetlands workshop was held at Northern Montezuma WMA on August 25 with talks on wetland management by Dr. Mike Schummer of SUNY-ESF and tours of some of the marshes there. The following day was the 2nd part of the workshop with a brief discussion followed by a tour of the Iroquois complex wetlands. A big topic of discussion was the impacts of the drought on the marshes and a comparison between the two areas' ability to respond to dry weather.

Routine reports on regulation changes, staffing, management actions (duck banding, bear den visits, turkey tapping, fisher surveys), maintenance and rehabilitation of infrastructure, acquisition, construction of new facilities and budgets are provided by DEC staff.

Advisory and Ad Hoc members provide information on landowner assistance programs, forest health issues, research projects and organization's activities.

County reports usually include a discussion of county federation activities, current events, legislation and concerns/questions for staff. The story below describes an event members are involved with.

DEC and USFWS worked with Monroe County Parks to provide stream bank stabilization along several sections of Irondequoit Creek using NRD Funds.

DeRoo Youth Conservation Event

A perfect example of offering outdoor recreational opportunities for young adults is the annual DeRoo Youth Conservation Event. This event recently celebrated its ninth year providing youngsters with the opportunity to partake in hunting experiences for pheasant, waterfowl, and whitetail deer. The entire event takes place over a two-week period, which started Friday, Sept. 30 with the Youth Conservation Dinner at the Montezuma Audubon Center (MAC). The waterfowl hunt was on Saturday, October 1st and the pheasant and whitetail deer hunt took place on October 8. Every youngster wishing to partake in any of the three hunts had to attend the mandatory dinner where safety, conservation, and hunter ethics were emphasized. They are required to be accompanied by an adult mentor during the dinner and hunts. During the Friday dinner, the 30 youngsters and mentors were treated to waterfowl calling and dog handling demonstrations, featuring Dino Amino, and some expert waterfowl calling from Duel Calls and Mossy Oak pro-staffer Jason Pollack. NYSDEC Wildlife Technician Kent Kowalski talked about the importance of wildlife management and Gene Van Deusen, president of the Wayne County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs told the youngsters that they will remember these hunts the rest of your life. Environmental Conservation Officers (ECO) Scott Angotti and Kevin Thomas discussed 'Hunting Ethics' and 'The 10 Commandments of Firearm Safety'. DEC Lt. Matt Lochner presented each youth hunter with appropriate hunting gear for their upcoming hunts. The youngsters also received additional prizes from the Wayne County Federation including three DEC summer camp reservations and Fur- Fish and Game magazine subscriptions for three lucky hunters. Every youth present received a gun case, a cleaning kit and blaze orange and camo hats to wear during their hunts. Lochner told them to look inside their caps. "If your hat has LL written on it you have just received a lifetime hunting license. Ben Freeman, from Liverpool, raised his hand and the excited youngster was told he'd receive his license in January.

Early the next morning the waterfowlers met at the MAC and were divided into two groups to hunt DEC and NWLR land. The weather was perfect for waterfowl hunting, wet and cool, and the youths with their guides bagged 36 ducks and 9 geese. The following Saturday it was the pheasant and deer hunters turn. The youth hunts coincide with the special New York State Youth Hunting dates. The five whitetail hunters were scattered in different locations while the 20 pheasant hunters roamed the fields at the MAC. Before the blaze-orange attired pheasant hunters started their hunt, they shot rounds of trap under the guidance of ECO Scott Sincebaugh. Sincebaugh is a DLE firearms instructor. After powdering some clay pigeons, the young pheasant hunters were organized into groups of four and introduced to their dog handlers, who would be leading the youngsters through the fields surrounding MAC. The youth deer hunters hunted Saturday morning and afternoon and harvested four whitetails. However impressive the number of harvests was for the three youth hunts, it was the combination of conservation, ethics, safety and appreciation for wildlife and habitat that have been the goals of the DeRoo event.

Volunteers and Organizers:

Lt Matt Lochner, Lt Aaron Gordon, ECO Scott Angotti, ECO Kevin Thomas, ECO Mark Colesante, ECO Scott Sincebaugh, ECO Tony Drahms, ECO Adam Johnson, Kameron Brown, DEC Biologist Jim Eckler, Chris Lajewski, Chris Kenyon, Kent Kowalski, Jason Pollack, Donna Richardson, Andrea VanBeusichem, and Gene VanDeusen. Dave Schueler, and all our youth hunt guides, dogs, and dog handlers.

The DeRoo Conservation Event is sponsored by the following:

Bass Pro Shops, Bay Bridge Sport Shop, Canandaigua Lake Duck Hunters, Cayuga County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Daniel DeRoo, Dawn DeRoo-Nelson, Friends of the Montezuma Wetland Complex, Friends of the NRA, New York State Conservation Officers Association, NYS DEC, Papa's Pizza of Clyde, Reed Farms and Processing, Seneca County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Ted and Terry Sutherland, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, V&C Development, Wayne County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, and the Wayne County Office of Tourism.

New York State
FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD



Region 9 FWMA Board
Issues for Spring, 2017
March 16, 2017

- **Expansion of Allegany State Park Hunting Opportunities.** R9 FWMB and ASP administrators continue to maintain a dialogue towards increasing hunting opportunities in the park. They have attended Region 9 FWMB meetings and presented proposals to increase hunting opportunities. These changes were implemented for the 2016 hunting season and included opening the park to Sunday hunting and approximately 1/2 of the park to rifles and pistols. The board voiced full support for the proposals and sent a letter to the Allegheny Region Supervisor, Jay Bailey indicating our support.
- **Rushford Lake Access.** Access is restricted to the Balcomb Beach boat launch, shoreline at the dam and fire lanes to the lake (owned by the lake commission). The charter between the commission and NYS requires that reasonable access be available to the public and the commission has received substantial state monies for repairs to the dam. The lake commission-operator of the launch, has imposed restrictions (operating hours, days open) and higher fees purportedly to minimize introductions of invasive species. Local anglers contacted Senator Cathy Young to complain about the restrictions and DEC has met with both the commission and Senator Young to push for better access and more reasonable fees. The R9 FWMB sent a letter to Senator Young requesting better access and thanked her for her support. Progress has been made but anglers are still concerned that the launch is not open early or late in the day during preferred angling hours. The board will continue to track the situation.
- **Grand Island Duck Hunting Blinds.** Duck blinds along the western side of Grand Island are available for public use and administered through OPRHP. Presently they are easily accessed from the West River Parkway. OPRHP is proposing to remove the parkway and replace it with a bike/walking trail, thereby requiring hunters to transport their gear relatively long distances to the blinds. They would prefer that the parkway remain or that other parking options be provided within a reasonable distance of the blinds. R9, FWMB has sent a letter to OPRHP asking that they consider the hunters concerns.

MEMBERS: Representatives of County Boards of Supervisors/County Legislators, Landowners and Sportsmen.

ADVISORY MEMBERS: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, New York State Conservation Council, Inc., New York Farm Bureau, New York State Pomona Grange, New York State Forest Practice Board, New York State Izaak Walton League, New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee, New York State College of Environmental Science and Forestry at Syracuse University, New York State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell

