



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

Four Hundred and Ninth Meeting – April 18, 2022
Department of Environmental Conservation, 625 Broadway,
Albany

Call to Order –
Meeting Adjourned –

Roll Call:

Ex-Officio Members Present

Deputy Commissioner of Natural Resources:
Katie Petronis
Legislative Affairs, Jeshica Patel,
Deputy Commissioner of Law Enforcement,
Stephen Smith

Voting Board Members Present

Gordon J Whiting	Region 2
Vacant	Region 3
Tom Williams	Region 4
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

Voting Board Members Excused

Tim Huss	Region 1
Jason Kemper	Region 5

DEC Personnel

Division of Fish and Wildlife:
Director, Jacqueline Lendrum
Chief, Bureau of Wildlife, James Farquhar
Chief, Bureau of Fisheries, Steve Hurst
Chief, Bureau of Ecosystem Health, Chuck Neider
Mary Bailey, License Sales
Division of Law Enforcement:
Director, Karen Przyklek
Major, Brian Gillis

Voting Board Members Absent

Guests

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: Letter to Commissioner regarding Division of Law Enforcement

Minutes of Prior Meeting:

--

Executive Report:

Deputy Commissioner of Natural Resources, Katie Petronis
Legislative Affairs, Jeshica Patel

Budget Updates

- hire cap, 90 positions
 - o Wetlands mapping
- NY Works Money
 - o Used for bridge repairs, putting in culverts, for example
 - o Started 11 years ago
 - Steve Hurst researching how much was spent each year to share with CFAB members
 - o Hatchery money: Game Farm, Salmon river
 - o Otter Brook Bridge (Division of Lands & Forests)
- Borris Funding
 - o Katharine Petronis looking into the status of this
- 2023 fees increasing
 - o Article 24
 - o Conservation Fund instead of EPF
 - o Submitted extenders
 - o Getting rid of fish suspenders – fresh and saltwater

Legislative Updates

- Crossbows
 - How are we addressing?
 - Put into Departments
 - NYS Bowhunters Association membership dropped from 5000 to 800
 - Deliver message to supporting communities
- Eliminating back tags
 - Still out for discussion
- Long Island legislation
- Venison Donation Coalition
 - Region 3 has a model factory/distribution center and Region 8 has a great program
 - Availability of donated deer is an issue

- Goal: Half of all Deer Damage Permit takes go to Venison Donation Coalition
 - o Looking for a good faith effort
 - o This could be a great article for the *Conservationist* magazine
 - o Challenge: there are very few NYS certified processors which some food banks require when accepting the deer meat donation
- Take-away items
 - Summary of Revenue reports
 - o Highlight/Show/Explain major transfers, large transactions, major changes, unusual situations
 - o Look at report templet and send to Bill Connors for updating, requests for certain information, and feedback on what information is useful
 - Advisory groups meet quarterly
 - Annual Cycle
 - o Specific focus per meeting
 - o Agreed schedule
 - o Expectations
 - o Specific topics at certain times of the year
 - o Expectations for Financials
 - o Expectations for Regulations

Division of Fish and Wildlife

Director, Jacqueline Lendrum
 Chief, Bureau of Wildlife, James Farquhar
 Chief, Bureau of Fisheries, Steve Hurst
 Chief, Bureau of Ecosystem Health, Chuck Neider
 Mary Bailey, License Sales

- License Sales
 - Sales are up
 - Habitat Stamp sales = 40-50,000/year
 - o Software system has an upsell feature
 - o Poster – new species for 2022 to be obtained by public vote
 - Suggestions for Venison Donation program: upsell Venison Donation, target License Sales Agents
- Filled Positions
 - Priority: stocking fish
 - Challenge: new standards for commercial driving licenses
- Regulatory Efforts (list carried over from January discussions)
 - Fishing Guide going out this week
 - o New printing vendor contract as of last year, at the mercy of low bid
 - Turkey

- Out 1.5 weeks ago in State Regulations
 - Comment period open until June 2022
 - Long Island proposals and conflicts
 - Larger shot
- Part 182 Regulations
- Canal Corp
 - More proactive and less reactive
 - Gobe work
- Capital Reports and Revenue Expenditure Reports (make this a standard agenda item)
 - Highlight/explain how resources are being used
- WSFR Quarterly Grant Reports
 - Available in July (end of year reports)
 - Meet quarterly, show if/what grants were received and how much spent
 - Wildlife restoration
 - 17-30 million
 - 7 million towards Hunter Education
 - Sport fishing: marine and freshwater
 - Capital fund not finished
 - Remain strategic in the use of funds
 - Cove Road
 - 1.6 million
 - Cost of doing business has increased tremendously
- Additional Updates
 - Lead ammunition
 - Has moved through all levels of approval, waiting for response from Chamber and the working group report
 - Shooting ranges
 - Tonawanda closed
 - Reasons: neighbor complaints, Seneca Nation's expressed concerns of lead contamination, EPA, 6-10 years of discussions
 - Why now: Part 51 (cannot target shoot on WMAs) became effective
 - Hunter Education
 - Range shooting discussions
 - In possession of and reviewing schematics of ranges in other states
 - Researching costs
 - Considering possible liability issues
 - Looking at WMAs
 - Considering "another Tonawanda" – updated, new and improved
 - Model Rhode Island ranges
 - 45 states use PR funds for ranges

- New regulations, shooting on WMAs
 - None – “except where designated” (we can designate)
 - No ranges on WMAs currently
- **Hartland Swamp WMA**
 - ❖ **FWL Niagra 18. Colosimo property, Seaman Road, Town of Hartland, Niagara County (SBL 42.00-1-3.1) ---- 115 acres**
 - ❖ **Appraisal is complete. Sent to Albany Real Property office for review on 11/9/2021. Central Office Real Property staff are reviewing the appraisal(s) and preparing a real property declaration (RPD) for this project. This is a step that can take quite some time since there are limited certified appraisers and several projects being reviewed at any one time. The property will be paid for with EPF (no federal).**
- Scriba Creek incident
 - Written statement from Council by next week
 - At one point, people were on hatchery land
 - Nation members helped to settle and defuse the situation
 - Barriers to be removed this week, by the end of May
 - Fish are gone
 - Hatchery is closed due to COVID
 - Responsibility to tax-paying, law-abiding citizens
 - Pursuing consultation

Division of Law Enforcement

Deputy Commissioner of Law Enforcement, Stephen Smith
 Director, Karen Przyklek
 Major, Brian Gillis

- Staffing
 - 2008 – 337 officers (have not been at that number since)
 - 2016 – 298
 - 2022 – 20 officers from this year’s academy and 20+ expected to retire
 - (There was a difference in agreement on staffing numbers)
 - Increasing number of Forest Rangers
 - Civil service test – discontinued
 - 25-30 short for adequate staffing
 - Lieutenant numbers are good
 - Union issues for Captains – getting paid less than Lieutenants
 - Waiver currently in place for an Assistant Director
 - 2- or 4-year degree requirements is currently on the table for discussion

- 2-year degree if military experience, previous experience or have certain credits – discussions to relax this as a way to improve pool of applicant numbers
- Staffing improvement ideas: target audiences and get into the schools earlier
- Challenge:
 - o State land acquisitions (Region 5, for example) have created some Forest Ranger staffing issues
- Invasive Species enforcement
 - Being handled by check points, boat launch stewards, for example
 - Handled by Division of Lands and Forests in large part.
 - CFAB suggestions
 - o reach out to kids and schools with a 10- to 15-minute program for science classes addressing the impacts of invasive species
 - o Educating the population of folks coming into New York from other states by getting more messages out there about Invasive Species. This is proactive and could lessen the workload on the DLE side.
 - o Get wash stations installed at every boat launch
 - Inconsistencies in the bodies of water where these are located
- Important for law enforcement
 - Public Information Campaigns
 - Public compliance
- Work in progress
 - Academy – May 2022
 - Completed recruitment video
 - Recruitment and pools of candidates

Deputy Commissioner Steve Smith provided a letter that was written to the Commissioner regarding Division of Law Enforcement. Steve Smith stated that the letter sounded like it came from a lobbyist, Bill Connors would like it reflected in the minutes that he was offended that CFAB was referred to as lobbyists. Bill stated that this is a statutory board and that he will be putting this in writing to the Commissioner.

Future Items to discuss

- Deer Harvest statistics
 - Currently, data being compiled
- Article in the *Conservationist* magazine regarding DDP takes and the venison donation program
- Land acquisitions
- NY Works Money
 - Steve Hurst researching how much was spent each year for the past 11 years to share with CFAB members
- Peruse report template and send to Bill Connors for updating, requests for certain information, and feedback on what information is useful
- Borris Funding

- Katharine Petronis looking into the status of this
- Fish Hatchery Staffing Report
 - Include a column for “Staffing Level” in addition to “Filled,” “Vacant,” and “In Process” (79-80 staff should be in fish culture, including Central Office)

Meeting Adjourned