



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

Four Hundred and Thirteenth Meeting – January 9, 2023
Department of Environmental Conservation, 625 Broadway, Albany

Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 9:06AM.

Meeting Adjourned – The meeting was adjourned at 3:30PM.

Roll Call: 9:06am

Voting Board Members Present

Vacant	Region 3
Tom Williams	Region 4
Jason Kemper	Region 5
Scott L. Faulkner	Region 6
Vacant	Region 7
Marc Osypian	Region 8
Dale Dunkelberger	Region 9
Bill Conners	FWMB
Anthony Kordziel	NYS CC
Richard Davenport, Guest	Region 9

Voting Board Members Excused

Tim Huss	Region 1
Gordon J Whiting	Region 2

Voting Board Members Absent

Abbreviations

Ag. & Mkts = Department of Agriculture and Markets
CFAB or the Board = Conservation Fund Advisory Board
DEC or the Department = NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
DFW = Division of Fish and Wildlife
DLE = Division of Law Enforcement

Ex-Officio Members Present

Sean Mahar, Executive Commissioner
Katherine McNamara, Director of Legislative Affairs

Ex-Officio Members Absent

Senate Finance Committee
Senate EnCon Committee
Assembly Ways and Means Committee
Assembly EnCon Committee
Executive Deputy Commissioner

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 Nieder
Kevin Maloney, License Sales
Ben Sears, Administrative Unit
Kerry Weiskotten, Personnel
Katherine Yard, Young Forest Initiative
Division of Law Enforcement:
James Boylan
Brian Giles

Guests

FWMB = Fish and Wildlife Management Board
Matthew Krug = PBA

Correspondence:

Minutes of Prior Meeting:

Being reviewed.

Executive Report:

Sean Mahar, Executive Deputy Commissioner

Katherine McNamara, Director of Legislative Affairs

- Sean Mahar
 - Budget will be coming out in early February; expect a climate focus.
 - Work Force turnover – need more hatchery staff.
 - Working with DEC Leadership Team on strategic framework.
- Bill Conners
 - 18 graduates from the Academy. Want to know if they can get a bigger piece in upcoming academies
 - Environmental Bond Act allocations – West Mountain – 800 acres. Concerned about the dam they are talking about removing and the impact on hunting and outdoor recreation.
- Tom Williams – no CFAB representation in Region 3 and Region 7.
- Sean Mahar - aware of the situation, Katie and Jackie are working on it.
- Jason Kemper says membership has been a problem and CFAB will need to work with Assembly.
- Tom Williams - gun laws - asking for Department support. Believes we are losing members of the sporting community due to gun law changes.
- Sean Mahar – conversations continue; encourages members to continue to write and work with Legislature on concerns.
- Katie McNamara – Addressed solutions for the Youth Hunt. Successful program, figure out how to get it extended or permanent.
- Jason Kemper – Holiday Hunt concerns. Sean addressed there are no indications that it is changing but will keep members informed.

Guest Speaker:

Matt Krug, Conservation Officer, Representation PBA of New York State

- Matt Krug – Introduced himself. Director of the Conservation Officers and Investigator's local for about a year and the second in charge before that. Represents about 187 conservation officers, represent about 30 to 35 investigators out of the 286 officers on the books.
- Discussion of FOIL request for records.
- Jason Kemper asked about the number of academies. Matt says the number should be 342 max capacities for conservations officers but currently the number is 286 on the books (several of those numbers include people on extended leave, some will be retiring in the next 6

- months) which will bring the number down to close to 280 total.
- Discussion of the last academy: 18 graduated, 12 to New York City, 6 to Long Island.

Division of Law Enforcement

Assistant Director, James Boylan

Colonel, Brian Giles

- 9 personal injury incidents – one fatality. 6 property damage incidents, 13 elevated hunting stand incidents – 4 fatalities including 1 possible cardiac arrest prior to the fall. Youngest involved was 18 years old.
- One of the safest years we have had. Numbers are falling annually.
- Hunting enforcement efforts for 2022 - Operation Safe Harvest.
- Discussion of academy numbers.

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 Nieder

Kevin Maloney, License Sales

Ben Sears, Administrative Unit

Kerri Weiskotten, Personnel

Katherine Yard, Young Forest Initiative

- Jacqueline Lendrum – Informed CFAB about the recent DECALs outage. DEC will likely be transitioning from Kalkomey to Gordon Darby. The new RFP will be on a parallel track with an option to extend the Gordon Darby contract. Things will look the same for 2023. Updates planned for 2024.
- Kevin Maloney, License Sales – Sales for 2022 were down from Covid spikes.
- Tom Williams asked for a breakdown of numbers for Non-Residents. (Please see the February 2023 CFAB Report for these updates.)
- Kerri Weiskotten – DFW staff numbers from January to October are approximately the same. Currently filling positions for 1 Environmental Program Specialist, 2 Biologists and another Biologist in play.
- Tom Williams – Addressed the shooting range that was closed. Asked if there were any plans to bring more complexes in like that. Jacqueline Lendrum answered that there is a memo upstairs proposing a complex but lacks a local community sponsor. Archery ranges discussed.
- Michael Schiavone – WSFR projections
 - Sportfish Restoration - \$750 million nationally in receipts last year; up about 5% of the previous year with an estimate of \$9.6 million for New York; about \$5.8 million for freshwater and about \$3.7 million for saltwater.
 - Wildlife Restoration - \$1.2 billion in receipts nationally last year; New York apportionment approximately \$31 million. Last year was \$30 million. Typically, we receive about \$17 million dollars a year of wildlife restoration funds. Of that \$31 million, about \$7 million is Hunter Education, while the rest goes to wildlife restoration, WMAs, research, etc.

- Tom Williams and Scott Faulkner – discussion re: Hunter Ed course being held in person again and not online.

DFW Regulatory Agenda Highlights: Please see the February 2023 CFAB Report for these updates.

- Chuck Nieder – discussion re: changes to Wetlands Maps.
- Steve Hurst
 - Discussion on Part 182 Regulatory Package for Rare Fish Species.
 - Trout Stream management plan – discussion of recategorizations
 - Fishing Tournaments in New York. Want to implement a Registry for tournaments in New York.
 - Regulations for Lake Erie. The minimum size from 15 down to 12.
 - Waste reductions discussion.
- James Farquhar – Part 182 Endangered and Threatened Species Mitigation Fund Bank Rule-making Package. Deer Regulations have been deferred for now.

Presentation: Young Forest Initiative (Printed out and placed in meeting folders).

CFAB Business

- Vote on old minutes to get them posted on the website – Motion to approve September 2022 minutes, motioned was seconded and approved.