

## NYSCC Fall 2023 Convention Minutes

Friday 8/11

Meeting began at 12:30pm

Began with welcome and pledge of allegiance.

### Jim Farquhar-

Opened with status of County Bills that allow rifles for big game. Bill banning of lead ammo for hunting on state land and NYC watershed died and coyote hunting bill made it to the gov.'s desk. Dec cannot take a stand on this so it's up to the sportsmen. Other bills would make it easier for DEC to manage deer herds in specific areas.

Pheasants 30,000 at farm. Working to improve farm to avoid future problems.

Bobcat study is ongoing with good feedback. What is the bobcat's range? Population density? Are bobcats subject to lead poisoning from gut piles? Contentious issue. Which led to discussion of lead vs. non-lead ammo. DEC prefers voluntary choice based on education as opposed to regulation. Either based on science.

Updating of duck species lists and regulations which have not been touched on since 1999.

1,500 acres of young forest now under management, goal is 13,000 acres.

Hiring in Habitat Management.

ANS. TO FLOOR QUESTIONS:

1. Discussion of sunset- easiest way would be to change language.
2. DEC manages its own controlled burns with Rangers. Besides, several wildlife staff are trained for this.
3. Legislative action necessary for establishing special season for seniors, ADA, etc. DEC has special licenses available.
4. Archery range in Saratoga.

5. Explanation of ban on using funds in federal school aid for teaching “dangerous weapons”. Funds can still be used for other areas. State funds can be used for archery and firearms.

6. In 2024 a new licensing system will be implemented.

7. Habitat management plans complete in 77 of 120 areas.

8. COVID really did a job on DEC. Forestry took a big hit, but no more than the rest. In fact, the administrative staff was so depleted that we had “no one to process anything.”

9. 67% of our forests are 120yrs. old and are held in private hands, a concern for wildlife and the forestry industry.

10. Discussion of lead in eagles- spike in lead in eagles’ blood in Nov. and again when snowpack melts and carcasses are exposed.

The general audience feeling is that non-lead ammo is coming.

### Leah Akins- DEC Universal Access

Providing access for people with disabilities. (ADA – Americans with Disabilities Act) Access on DEC managed lands. Provide the public with info. on what and where DEC provides disabled access. Fishing piers, campsites, trails. They assure us that DEC facilities are compliant with ADA. There is an Accessibility page on DEC website that has specially marked maps are also available.

### Presentation on Lake Sturgeon

Film on sturgeon history and the efforts to replenish the sturgeon in the lakes of NY, and the Hudson. Collection of roe and creation of spawning beds by the NY Power Authority in cooperation with DEC. Hard to describe in prose but the film is very good. Be good in H.S. classes.

“New York Sturgeon Plan” is on the DEC website. There are “Sturgeon for Tomorrow” groups in Michigan and Wisconsin that help in the spring spawning.

## Peter Rubin- DEC office of Indian Nation Affairs

DEC created this office to “consult” with the nation on cultural and environmental actions and plans. Of all the state agencies DEC seems to be the most willing to consult with the nation. Described the treaties that set the relationship between the US and the nation. Referred to the concept of “taking only what you need” as a guiding principle. Basically, explaining the Indian philosophy and therefore viewpoint toward nature and their fellow man. Non-specific on present day divergent views.

## Steve Hurst

Brook trout study. 46 pages coming out.

Not just a fishing plan, this goes into genetics. 16 organizations in a focus group. A broad swath of representatives. One of the premier trout ponds is in trouble because being accessible from the road people have introduced foreign fish through bait fish. Brook trout are incompatible with many species i.e., shiners. 50% of anglers surveyed weren't aware that bait fish are a problem.

De-oxygenated layers of water combined with warming surface layers are lessening the layer where fish live. Under study.

With T.U. stream protection and recovery.

Brown trout are failing. Breeding for better survival. The new strain is smaller.

Year-round trout fishing seems to have had no impact.

Cormorants taking birds, hazing not effective. Birds seem to know what DEC stocking trucks look like.

Using genetics to determine whether a fish is wild or stocked.

Invasive fish- Round Gobies working on keeping out of lakes. As anglers you can be a great help.

Pan fish some complaints that fish are not meeting size.

Bass tournaments- we have great bass fishing. DEC is looking into establishing some order among the various sizes and types of tournaments. We are only one of the two states in the N.E. that does not have a registry for tournaments.

How will DEC use \$75 million from the bond act earmarked for hatcheries. Habitat work, stream work?

Jim Boylan -DEC Law Enforcement

The biggest challenge is to meet the increasing requirements of regulations within the budget.

Issues surrounding treaty rights of the Indian Nations. Particularly around the walleye seasons. Individuals who wanted to make trouble by pushing what they consider their treaty rights.

The Commissioner has authorized an academy class for 2024. Hiring is a challenge. True throughout all police agencies. Decline in recruiting particularly in downstate. 2100 people canvassed from old list; normal loss is 50% during interview stage. Surprised at # of no-shows. Investigation reveals that many lost interests due to lower pay and 25 yr. retirement. 150 left of 2100. Expect to lose 15-20% through psych. screening. Polygraph will eliminate some. Their hope is to have enough for a class of 40, with graduating 30.

Even while enforcing the regulations, it is the intention of law enforcement to avoid degrading the sportsman's experience.

Attorney Paloma A. Capanna [www.2AMPatriot.com](http://www.2AMPatriot.com)

The council, its member organizations, and their members are the best channel to get info. out in the public space.

1700 dealers with FFLs that are targeted. Palomma has the only lawsuit, (Gazzola v. Hochul), dealing with restrictions on these dealers.

The state police have been instructed to start inspections of dealers and in turn have assigned this duty to the Joint Terrorism Task Force. The first dealer inspected was on 7/25 and is a retired trooper. Advice to dealers is for them to say nothing to inspectors who will ask for help in interpreting the inspection instructions.

When the NYSPD takes over background checks, NYS dealers will be disconnected from the federal system. Further the charge will be \$9 for a firearm check and \$2.50 for ammo checks. The speculation is that the system will change over on 9/13, although the state police have backed off on this

date. Also, if you are denied by the background there is no appeal system, you probably have to sue in county court.

NYS is the test state for this legislation. Massachusetts recently passed an even more restrictive law based on the CCIA.

On the website is the 4-page checklist the agents have left with the dealers.

Pre-order forms for 81pg. book on CCIA is on website.

Because we are the law abiding, (and silent), citizens we are always going to be the low hanging fruit.

9/13 there is scheduled to be a strike by all gun dealers in NYS. All stores should be closed.

#### Chuck Parker-

Explained that the new NYSCC website is not up yet but coming soon.

Listed open positions and suggested that he would step down but help in the transition if someone were interested.

Complemented Casey for the smooth running of the administration.

#### Anthony Kordziel CFAB Report

CFAB advises DEC on monetary issues. Vacant seats on Board 3 (seat vacant for at least 6 yrs.) and 7 (vacant for 2yrs). Neither the governor nor the legislature seems interested in filling any positions that interest our sports.

CFAB and the NYSCC have sent letters requesting a veto on the “contest ban” bill. This bill would ban contests that result in injury to non-tagged wildlife, coyotes, squirrels while exempting tagged game, deer, turkey, etc. CFAB minutes are posted on the DEC website.

Scott Faulkner - Urged sportsmen to contact their legislators to introduce bills that would ban lead ammo, but in a phased in time schedule. He pointed out that we must realize that the ban is coming. Phasing it in over the years would give those with lead time to use it up. DEC cannot comment on pending legislation.

Request that the Council write a letter in support of the bill allowing 20yr. retirement for ECOs. Requirement now is 25 yrs. And prior service with other law agencies does not count toward that total.

Chuck- looking for an opinion on representing Associate members by a seat on the NYSCC Board. Requires a bylaw change. Dan Owen suggests that if we are going to look, and possibly change, the bylaws, the review should be of all the bylaws.

Mike Elam Great Lakes Restoration is looking for input from sportsmen.

Facility- what about having the convention here next year. Show of hands. Comment- this room might not have accommodated our spring meeting. This is centrally located. Motion made by Mike Elam to come to Camp Delta next year but in the late summer or early fall. Motion passed.

Proposed Cobleskill for spring meeting. Casey offered a YMCA camp 30 minutes north of Liberty in the Catskill. Has lake and stream access. Conference, and meals, Casey worked there previously. 2 Nights - \$380. \$180 access - miles of hiking trails. Double occupancy \$688. Private room \$534. Day use fee-? Motion to go there for spring meeting not passed want more information.

Casey working on a new brochure. Would like feedback.

Because we don't have a Treasure, we instituted a financial review committee. Reviews checking, credit card expenses, we also have a line of credit (\$1,000) which it has not been necessary to use.

Elections – no nominations to fill or change officer positions.

Region 2 continues to be vacant. Region 7 vacant. Region 9 – Dan Tone  
Dan Owen – agrees to stay on.

Treasure - Diane Steel Region 9, will start in a couple months. Secretary-open. Legislative VP – Pat Mc Brearty. 2<sup>nd</sup> VP – Zen Olow. President – Chuck Parker.

Any nominees from the floor? None. Motion for a delegate to cast one vote for the above slate. 1<sup>st</sup> Bill Wilbur, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mike Elam, Passed.

Cast one vote for the existing slate Mike Elam.

Motion to adjourn 1<sup>st</sup> Mike Elam 2<sup>nd</sup> Don Sage, unanimously carried!