

**Region 8 Fish, Wildlife Management Board (FWMB) June 1, 2023 meeting held at the Elks Club in Canandaigua. This is my report and may not contain everything that was discussed at the meeting. Tom Grasek**

There were 23 people of which 3 were DEC personnel , in attendance. With nine out of eleven county's delegates present which is enough for a quorum.

Ontario County asked when will the sluice on Honeoye creek will be repaired it has been 4 years. DEC reported that it is being held up awaiting a permit. Report of lots of fishers would like an extended trapping season on them.

Orleans County stocked Lake Ontario with 10K steelhead at dusk and the DEC had a harassment boat there to get the cormorants out of the area before the stocking. It seemed to go well. They will be manning the log cabin at the Orleans County fair July 24<sup>th</sup> thru the 29<sup>th</sup>.

Steuben County also having issue with fishers and would like a longer trapping season plus lots of bobcat sightings. Will be manning the log cabin at the Steuben county fair August 15<sup>th</sup> thru the 21<sup>st</sup> . There will be a turkey calling contest at the fair.

Wayne County Held their annual banquet first one since covid it was very well attended and raised much needed funds.

Yates county Also reports of fishers and good amounts of deer and turkey. They held a youth turkey hunt which went well. There is a youth fishing derby scheduled for June 24<sup>th</sup>. The high school trap teams are up and running. They need ECO's as recently two of them have been promoted and are no longer working Yates County.

**Issacs Walton** - No one in attendance.

**CFAB** – Youth hunting bill was extended. Oppose the lead ammo bill there is no data to support the banning of lead ammo. Habitat and access fund has money to spend asking for large projects 250 K. Will support the crossbow bill. Western NY is not very good on reporting deer take.

**Finger Lakes Conservation council** did not have enough members at there last meeting for a quorum. Did discuss the lead ammo bill and the need for an extended fisher season.

**Farm Bureau** – No one in attendance.

**Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation**-No one in attendance.

**NYSCC:** The Fall meeting is scheduled for August 11<sup>th</sup> thru the 13<sup>th</sup> at Delta Lake. They still need a President, First VP, secretary, and a treasurer. These positions need to be filled. If you know anyone who would be interested, please contact them. The council is an important link between the NYS government and us as sportsmen and women. The web site is being upgraded to square space. Goal is to increase visits by reorganizing the site to make it easier to use. The council is going to advance the hunting and shooting sports. R3 program Recruit new people, Retain the existing sportsmen/women and reactivate those that are no longer active. People age out due to medical reasons and just not being as mobile as they were.

**NYSDEC:**

Natural Resources: Hiring to fill vacant positions is getting better. Hiring rate is barely keeping up with retirements and people taking better paying jobs in other agencies.

DEC summer camps is now up to two they were able to hire enough people to open both Rushford and Pack Forest. They are paying \$18 to \$24 an hour and still cannot hire enough people to run all four camps.

**Fisheries:**

June 6<sup>th</sup> there was a about Lake Ontario at the Irondequoit Fish and Game club. Update to follow.

There will be open water boat surveys on Lake Ontario and its tributaries. If stopped by a DEC boat please complete the survey.

The DEC is working on a conservation easement with the NYS canal systems on a parcel of land along sandy creek. Canal system has money and will be working with the DEC to obtain Permanent fishing rights.

Inland trout stream access verification program is in its second year. They will be working on Chemung, Schuyler, Yates, and Seneca counties in region 8 this year. Steuben was completed last year. The goal is to buy fishing rights or at least renew the signs. There was some concern that this survey will result in less fishing access. DEC stated it probably will but they will be able to stock larger trout and more of them at the sites that remain.

### **NYSDEC Wildlife:**

Hunter Ed now in person as well as on line.

Avian flu update less birds reported that last year DEC very interested in raptor deaths and request any deaths be reported to them. There will be no day-old pheasant chick program this year.

Turkey harvest is up 6%

Most DMP's need more does taken. A survey will go out to hunters about their deer hunting preferences.

The Tonawanda WMA (Wildlife management area) shooting site lead removal is ongoing and once complete area will be returned to grassland habitat. No longer a shooting range.

There was a timber sale at the Rattlesnake Hill WMA.

60 hemlock trees were treated for hemlock woolly adelgid at Briggs gully.

Be on the lookout for Oak wilt disease DO NOT PRUNE OAK TREES NOW as it makes them susceptible to the disease.

Some apple trees are being infected with fire blight. It can be treated, if not treated the trees will eventually die.

Due to a few days of below freezing temperatures this spring there is some frost damage of all species of trees in parts of Region 8.

Improving habitat is a way of improving prey species chance of survival. Better food availability and more places to avoid predators.

If you come upon someone in distress on state land you should call the DEC forest rangers as they may be the closest help available and can readily get the needed resources to respond. 833-697-7264

**NYSDEC Law enforcement:** No one in attendance.