

NYSDEC Region 8 Fish & Wildlife Management Board meeting was held on September 4, 2025 FWMB Delegate Tom Grasek attended the meeting. There were 20 people in attendance. Representing 9 Counties. This is the minutes from that meeting as recorded by the Board Secretary.

County Reports

Chemung County: No county representatives in attendance.

Genesee County: Genesee County Federation hosting an air rifle booth at Godfrey Pond for National Hunting and Fishing Day event. Holding a raffle to support LeRoy trap team.

Livingston County: Fishermen are complaining about gate blocking access road to 600 acre parcel along Genesee River. Locked gate (locked by DEC or Town of Portageville?) on formerly open road makes it very hard for less mobile sportsmen to legally access this good fishing location. Likely is referring to the Genesee River WMA which is managed by DEC Region 9. Wasilco will pass along suggestion to R9 make this a MAPPWD route.

Question on fisher season expanding—proposed regs were out to public comment but the regulations have not been finalized yet.

County has made authorization of the youth deer hunt permanent.

Monroe County: Crossbow bill status? Bill was signed and crossbows are now same as longbow with regard to hunting seasons and license requirements.

Ontario County: Public hearing scheduled for 9/11 on law to allow youth to hunt deer with gun/crossbow.

Orleans County: Hunter Ed course scheduled for 9/27 at Holley Rod & Gun Club is completely full.

Schuyler County: Reports of large webs on trees—likely fall webworms. Lot of algae blooms on Waneta-Lamoka and water is lower than normal.

Questions about rabies vaccine drop mentioned on news. This is occurring in western NY and not locally. Objective is to keep raccoon rabies from spreading into Ontario, Canada.

Hunter Ed course coming up in county is nearly full.

Youth hunt law-could another county share their language to make the authorization permanent? Kronenwetter to share.

Seneca County: Sportsman dinner coming up, should be well attended—at Interlaken Sportsmen Club. Spotted Lanternfly seems to be established in the county.

Question on Ischua Creek Fish Kill. Large kill in Region 9, likely will end up in large fines and Natural Resources Damages claim.

Steuben County: No county representatives in attendance.

Wayne County: Summer fishing derby had 54 youths participate. Awarded \$1200 in prize

money along with trophies which were donated by McDonalds. Youth Pheasant Hunt signups in progress.

Working with Fisheries to update Sodus Point boat launch. County is looking for funding to install a public launch on east side of bay by Conley's.

Yates County: No county representatives in attendance.

Advisory Organization Reports

Izaak Walton League – No representative present

NYSCC – Mike Elam via email

The New York State Conservation Council (NYSCC) Fall Convention is Sept. 5-7, 2025, at Great Camp Sagamore. A variety of reports will be presented by NYSDEC Reps, will vote on 9 resolutions and have an election of officers.

NYSCC continues to move forward at a brisk pace under President Dr. Keith Tidball, its officers and board of directors. The new publication, Grassroots Now, is a color version with updates and important information on NYS sportsmen's issues. Treasurer, Diane Steele and Executive Director, Bruce McGowen, continue to improve the NYSCC website. There is a link through the website that allows for comment on pending legislation and on any public comment periods. NYSCC used this as a direct link to Gov. Hochul for the signing of the crossbow bill. NYSCC is the only statewide organization supporting the sporting community's issues. I encourage FWMB delegates and all sportsmen and sportswomen to visit NYSCC.com to see all that the Council offers and to become a member. This will be my last report as I am stepping down as NYSCC Region 8 Alternate Director Greg Wadhams. I send my best wishes to all the dedicated members and friends I have made at FWMB over the last 20 years.

FLCC – FLCC is on pause.

Cornell Cooperative Extension – No CCE representative currently on the Board.

CFAB: No representative present

Farm Bureau: No representative present

SWCD – No report.

Agency Reports

NYSDEC

Natural Resources: Fish Kills. Big one in Ischua Creek discussed along with the more recent one in Flint Creek in Ontario County from Gorham to Canandaigua Outlet. The Flint Creek kill is the result of a large fire that released a plume of contaminants (firefighting foam, alcohol, ash, etc) to the stream and causing nearly complete oxygen depletion in the water

Wildlife:

Crossbows:

- Governor signed legislation, info available on DEC website.
- To use a crossbow in any season, need bowhunter education course.
- To purchase a bowhunting privilege (for early/late bowhunting seasons), need to show proof of bowhunter education from any state or proof of a NYS bowhunting license or stamp from 1980 or later.
- In-person bowhunter education classes are free and being offered. Online course is \$30 and only available to NYS residents. Need to be 11 years old or older to take bowhunter education course.

Electronic tagging and reporting window regulation change:

- Public comment period closed on August 17.
- Haven't heard anything yet, so assume will be in effect for 2025 fall seasons.
- Allows electronic tagging via HuntFishNY app, which also acts as reporting. o Must occur immediately after harvest.
 - o Nothing needs to be physically attached to animal while in hunter's possession.
 - o If possession is transferred, taker must affix a tag of their making that includes their name and reporting confirmation number to the carcass.
 - o If using normal Paper Carcass Tags and transferring possession, paper tag must remain on the animal and not be replaced by a tag with just name/confirmation #.
- Shortens reporting window for paper tags from 7 days to 48 hours.

Virtual Waterfowl Information Meeting:

- September 29, 2025. 6pm – 8:30pm.
- Additional webinars are being planned, look for DEC Delivers newsletters & DEC social media to announce. Future topics: upland game birds, furbearers, and deer health.

Waterfowl lottery:

- For opening weekend at Tonawanda and Oak Orchard WMAs, deadline is September 15. Apply online, or if cannot, call 585-948-5182.
- Drought is affecting water levels at Tonawanda and Oak Orchard WMAs.

How DEC came up with the Canada Goose West Central Zone daily bag limit of only one goose, while South Zone daily bag limit is 5?

- The written shorthand version: In the South Zone, banding and telemetry data demonstrate that goose hunters are primarily harvesting non-migratory geese, whereas in the other zones they are harvesting a significant number of migratory Atlantic Population (AP) Canada geese. AP geese are slower to reproduce, have worse productivity, and lower annual survival than resident geese, thus they cannot sustain the same harvest pressure.
- For a thorough explanation, please refer to the recording of our spring waterfowl webinar. Virtual Waterfowl Information Meeting-20250414 2205-1 - State of NY Enterprise Webex From 21:09 to 32:15 it explains in great detail why the boundaries are drawn where they are and why the bag limit is just one in the Atlantic Population Zones.

Sponsored Youth Hunts:

- 18th Annual Robert F. DeRoo Memorial Youth Waterfowl Hunt: o Montezuma Audubon Center, Savannah, Wayne County.
 - o Hunt is on 9/27/25. Registration deadline is 9/17/25.

- **Youth Pheasant Hunts:**

- o Montezuma Audubon Center, 10/11/25. 19 of 25 seats remaining.
- o Honeoye Creek WMA, 10/11/25. Registration opens 9/20/25.
- Sponsored Pheasant Hunts: o FWMB should spread the word to try and recruit people to sponsor a hunt.
- o Any group, club, organization, or individual can apply to sponsor a hunt.
- o Hunts are to benefit novice hunters, youth, women, people with disabilities, veterans, and other underrepresented hunting groups.
- o 6,000 pheasants available. Free, typically 2 birds per registered hunter.
- o Open to public participation, all participants must have valid hunter education and hunting license.
- o Registration must be available on HuntFishNY.
- o Must occur during an open pheasant season or Youth Pheasant Days.
- o Can be on private or public land. No TRP needed for DEC lands.

Pheasant Hunting on Lake Shore Marshes and Northern Montezuma WMAs:

- Now closed to pheasant hunting and training dogs on pheasants on Tuesdays and Fridays (stocking days).
- Press Release went out, updating the webpages, and will post signage.

Invasive control on WMAs:

- Water chestnut: o Hand-pulls at Braddock Bay and Northern Montezuma WMAs.
- o Herbicide contract, drone spraying, at Braddock Bay WMA, Long Pond south of Parkway.
- Phragmites: o Spraying beginning soon, ongoing work on multiple WMAs, some contracts, some in-house treatments.
- Oak Wilt – suspected at High Tor WMA. Several suspected trees in Ontario County. o Good time to remind FWMB to: ☐ Spread the word for people to be aware of symptoms and how to report. • 518-402-9425, foresthealth@dec.ny.gov
- ☐ How to prevent spread: • Avoid pruning or harvesting oak in spring and summer.
- If an oak wound occurs during spring or summer, it should be sealed immediately with wound covering.
- Adhere to NYS firewood regulations which limit untreated firewood movement to no more than 50 miles.

Parking Lot, South Sodus Bay 104, Lake Shore Marshes WMA

- Started prepping the lot and anticipate laying the geotext, gravel and posts sometime in the next few weeks.
- Can't easily remove existing gate, will leave it open. New gate install timeline TBD.
- Parking lot should be complete and available this fall.

Fisheries:

Cohocton Fishing Rights and parking area project is delayed.

Working on agreement to allow funding of improved ramp at Town of Sodus boat launch in Sodus Point.

Trout Stream Access—Sugar Creek in Livingston County may have access issues causing stocking to end.

Report of Round Goby in Keuka Lake—Not sure if established there but presence has been confirmed.

Cayuga Lake is very clear this year, reason is uncertain.

Law Enforcement:

Regulation changes—E-tagging now allowed using Hunt/Fish NY phone app to tag. Must have an actual paper tag attached to animal if leaving somewhere, tag must have name and reporting confirmation number, but can be handwritten on any material to make tag. Along with E-tagging option is reduction in time to report harvest. All harvest reports must be submitted within 48 hours of harvest-either online/phone report or post-marked paper report.

Crossbows now same as long bow except that setback distance for discharge is still 250 and crossbow has minimum 100lb draw weight.

Div of Law Enforcement is hosting annual youth deer hunt at former Seneca Army Depot with the dinner being hosted at the Kunneytown Sportsmen Club. Hunt is full with 8 kids wait listed to next year.

Processing candidates for next academy. Next exam is already scheduled for November 1.

Discussion on how deer harvest is calculated and how E-tagging might affect that.

NYS Parks(OPRHP) - No representative present

Old Business –

A. Landowner Representative Appointment Letters—Landowner Rep terms expired at end of 2024 and counties need to appoint the reps for the next 2-year term. Only about half of the counties have sent the appointment letters at this point. Mike Wasilco will be following up with the reps in need of re-appointment and their counties. Still needed for Chemung, Genesee, and Livingston Counties.

New Business

Question on why West Central Goose Zone season is so short and has such small bag limit. This is addressed in the Wildlife report above.

Next meeting is December 4 at 5:30pm.