

SARATOGA COUNTY COUNCIL OF FISH AND GAME CLUBS, INC.
MEMBER: New York State Conservation Council . Adirondack Conservation Council .
Great Sacandaga Lake Fisheries Federation . Fish and Wildlife Management Board

Next Meeting: Tuesday 18 November – 7:30 p.m. at Kayaderosseras Fish And Game Club – Corner Stone Church and Geyser Roads, Ballston Spa. (I was a part of a minority of two – who felt that Southern Zone Big Game Season opened on the 22nd, but it opens on the 15th. Those present had no objection to the conflict – holding the meeting during the first week, so we trust we will have a quorum present.)

Previous Minutes Approved .

Minutes: 21 October , 2008

DEC TIPP Line is being followed up on – resulting in speedy arrests for illegal hunting activities.
1 – 800 – DEC - TIPP (Reporting is done anonymously – 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.)

All State Agencies are to make budget cuts of 1/3 across the board for next year.

- Pheasant Farm may be in jeopardy – expensive cost per bird, less interest in pheasant hunting (May adversely impact successful youth pheasant hunt program.)
- Single fish stocking per year, rather than spring and fall stocking.
- Hatchery costs increasing \$150,000 – food cost increase, etc.
- “Unnecessary” travel is cut from DEC – fewer personnel will be able to attend County Federation meetings , etc. However, DEC personnel will continue to address large/special interest regional events.
- Trappers Concern: Will officers be available at meetings to tag furs – and at fur sale locations?
- Internet reporting up and running – however, continued problems with Verizon calls. \$230,000/month to run DECALS/2.6 million per year.
- CFAB Annual Report in progress.
- Still controversy over “Quiet Waters” designations – could affect research in remote waters.
- Comment; DEC wants to promote license sales, but continues to shut down access to ponds, lakes, etc.
- License fee increase proposal will come up this year, may include elimination of “free” licenses, to be replaced by a low (5 dollar) fee.
- Possibly mandate Habitat Stamp funding with out of state license purchase.
- Marine license moving along – if NYS doesn’t adopt one, the Feds will – and deny NYS revenue from the Marine License sales.

- Lake Desolation area has the 2nd highest moose population in the state – Speculator is number one.
- Sportsmen are encouraged to call Jason Kemper (CFAB Representative) at 884-4705, (cell-281-6864) with any statewide or regional issue or concern'
- Region 5 pesticide licensed personnel worked to eradicate invasive Snakeheads from waters in Orange County.
- Letter from Jean Raymond (Supervisor, Town of Edinburg), regarding the language choice used in the letters from Don Sage to DEC Commissioner Grannis – that did not represent the views or attitude of the FWMB. (A similar expression was noted by our Council Delegate to the NYSCC, Mick Elliott, at the Annual Convention – to Commissioner Grannis)
- Mention of Conservation Educator of the Year Award to Bill Schwerd – and OutDoor Education Program of the Year Award to Bill and Russ Nehr – for the 4-H Shooting Sports Program. It was further cited, that the program is the largest youth shooting organization in the country, with more than 300,000 participants, for more than thirty years.
- Outdoor Burning Ban proposal is getting massive opposition across the state. (One idea may be to issue a permit to burn brush – no doubt for a fee- is not met with a positive response)
- Small Game – squirrel hunting most popular
- Increased Big Game License Sales – Youth sales may have contributed to this.
- Habitat Stamp sales low and only half of the five dollar fee collected is available to use , due to cost of pin, mailing and other costs deducted from the final figure. It is not being promoted by license sellers . There are posters for water fowl stamp purchase, but not for Habitat Stamp purchase on display. Some comments dealt with use of "Habitat" funds for a sightseeing Manhattan boat trip that concerned sportsmen – as a misuse of dedicated funds. The Habitat Stamp program will be reviewed, with an eye to increasing Sales and a higher return on the sale price.

Present: Gansevoort, Ind. Members, Whitetails Unltd., 4-H Shooting Sports, Foothills Trappers, Clifton Park Sportsmen, Sara-Spa, Fish-House, CFAB. Kayaderosseras, Galway.

Herb Kopper, Secretary

Please Note: Membership mailing & e-mails – Annual Dues Registration form enclosed. Club/Organization forms: As voted on by membership – dues increased by \$5 to a total of \$35. Individual dues stayed the same. (The Kayaderosseras Club paid their dues for 2009 a couple of months ago – many thanks)