

**25 September 2007**  
**St. Lawrence County Fisheries Advisory Board**  
**BOCES Canton, New York**  
**19:00 hours**

**Present:**

**Jim Boyce**  
**Bob Flavin**  
**Don Lucas**  
**Dick Matzell**  
**Mike Seymour**  
**Jim Snyder Chair**

**Excused:**

**Larry Kring**

**Absent:**

**Lewis Barkley**  
**Jerry Lincoln**  
**Tim Damon**  
**Al O'Marah**

**Old Business:**

**Cormorants:**

Ed LaBaff gave chairman Snyder the name of a contact on the Canadian Side of the river. A Mr. Mark Caddie from Cornwall has spoken with the sportsmen and the elected officials on the cormorant issue. General thought is sportsmen are fed up with these birds. They do feel that the birds are down about 3 to 5% but the fish are still being depleted. Jim is attempting a meeting up between himself and Mr. Caddie. Jim also reported that the county cormorant meetings are back on schedule.

**Trout Waters:**

Water is quite low in the trout streams and general feeling is we may loose several fish from the lack of water and the temperature being up from the extended heat. Jim will contact Frank Flack DEC Fisheries on the issue.

**Grass River:**

A long discussion went on over the proposed dam in Massena. There are many issues that have come to light from the DEC and Massena Electric's surveys.

DEC has found Sand Darters where Massena Electric people have not. These were found in the area where Dam is to be placed and along the riffles. Darters are of little or no importance to anglers. Regionally, however, darters are an important food source to gamefish.

**A second fish found was the mooneye it is a protected fish in our waters.**

**Questions were raised about the fish ladder that will be constructed with the dam. At this time it is felt only salmon will use a ladder. Most native fish have not been seen in passage.**

**Placement of the dam will flood out the present long set of rapids between the old dam and new one. As water has a chance to fall over rocks, ledges, and other obstacles it starts the cleaning process, adds oxygen, and cools. Many fish use these areas in the summer as warm water holds less dissolved oxygen than cool.**

**Other issues are sediment behind the dam covering the present sand, with is the loss of sand darters, food for game fish. Questions on the dikes, sewer lines, housing and who knows maybe even issues could come from the cemetery. It will take the whole river system and turn it upside down. This is Alcoa's way of addressing the pollution that they have dumped into the waterway over the years and not have to clean it up.**

**Nation wide a movement is to remove dams not be adding them to a waterway.**

## **New Business:**

### **Invasive Species:**

**Jim Snyder held a meeting at the Black Lake Fish & Game Club subject Eurasian Watermilfoil. Earlier in the day Jim and I took an Employee of ES Enviro Science Inc. 3781 Darrow Road Stow, Ohio 44224 out on the lake looking for milfoil weevils. She did find where the lake did have a small population. Question was asked at the meeting as to why they were not controlling the weeds answer was that the lake has such a large population of Eurasian Watermilfoil that the weevil do not get together and breed. This company sells larvae at a cost of \$1.20 each. They do have a better control of the plant due to the large quantities of larvae placed in the water. They will breed expanding the population. The weevil cannot bite, or sting. It will only spread until the plant population decreases and the weevil will then slowly die off. Today these are being used on Lake Bonaparte in Jefferson County.**

**Questions were would the spraying of insecticide kill of these weevils?**

**Other options were presented and explained why the weevil though costly were a better solution than chemicals, mowing, dredging, ECT.**

**Jim has contacted DEC Region 6 for information on who is licensed to use chemicals and information on mowers.**

**I went to the Public Hearing on Invasive Species and pathogens Monday, 17 September 2007 11:00 a.m. at the Clayton Opera House 403 Riverside Drive Clayton, New York. This meeting was co-chaired by Assemblyman Darrel J. Aubertine, Member of Assembly Chairman, Legislative Commission on State and Local Relations and Robert K. Sweeney Member assembly Chairman, Committee on Environmental Conservation.**

**Speakers were from NYSDEC**

**Assistant Commissioner Office of Water resources James Tierney**

**NYSDA&M**

**State Survey Coordinator Kenneth Carnes**

**These two gentlemen spoke of the invasive species in the water and effect this issue could do to the fruit, vegetable, and forests of New York State.**

**Next Panel included Fisheries Specialist, New York Sea Grant David MacNeill.**

**Extension Associate Cornell University College Of Veterinary Science Dr. Geoffrey H. Groocock**

**Professor Cornell Biological Field station Dr. Edward L. Mills**

**They spoke of the many spices brought into the Great Lakes and Rivers System. The devastation that has come from these foreign ships. Every 28 weeks a new species is introduced. The federal government must move and put a stop to these.**

**Several years back NYSDEC stated in a meeting with our county legislature that fishing is a big business bringing in roughly \$18,000,000.00 on the St. Lawrence River with \$5,000,000.00 alone from**

**Black Lake. This year it was estimated that camps were down roughly 25% on Black lake. This is \$1,250,00.00 loss part due to the weeds as fishermen unable to move the boats around, or fish the heavy weeds.**

**Alliance Power looking at the possibility of underwater turbines in the St. Lawrence. I am looking to contact Alliance to get information. Also let them know that we as a board would like to be part of this licensing.**

**Last we felt that we need to be involved in the re-licensing of the 8 Oswegatchie Dams, Licensing of Massena Dam, and Alliance Power's power project.**

**Robert George Flavin  
Secretary**