

26 January 2010

St. Lawrence County Fisheries Advisory Board

Members Present:

Richard Matzell
Jim Boyce
Don Lucas
Lewis Barkley
Mike Seymour
Bob Flavin

Guest:

Lt. Matt Revenaugh NYSDEC Police

Legislative Rep

Dave Forsythe

Absent:

Al O'Marah
Tim Damon
Jim Snyder
Larry Kring
Darren Goodrow

Call to Order 19:10

Minutes from 24 November 2009 Approved

Old Business:

Letter from the Boar Of Legislators to Region 6 NYS DEC Director Judy Drabicki regarding the cormorant committee presented.

Mike Seymour presented news story from Detroit Free Press Outdoor Writer on 2009 cormorant issue in Michigan. Michigan Department Natural Resources (DNR) has gone from lip service to making anglers a partner in areas where the birds have harmed local sport fisheries. Now the state, the USDA, The Grate Lakes Fishery Commission and the Mississippi Flyway Council (which regulates migratory waterfowl) have agreed on a plan to bring down cormorant numbers by doubling the annual kill of adult birds from 10,000 to 20,000 along and increase annual spraying of nests

preventing eggs from hatching. Russ Manson Michigan's DNR Chief would like to see the cull rate raised to 20,000 for Michigan " or even no cap if we think the situation requires it". Saginaw Bay five years ago you hardly saw a cormorant there. Now the estimate is 2,000 nests. That means they eat 854 tons of fish in the bay every summer.

NYSDEC and USFW estimate that we have 8,000 birds on the St. Lawrence and they eat 1 pound of fish per day are here 154 day a summer eating only 616 tons of fish. Using Michigan's numbers of 2000 eating 854, we have 4 times as many birds this is 3416 tons of fish removed from the river or 170.8 tractor trailer loads a year.

Don Lucas reported on Grass River Dam in Massena Meetings have been moved to Syracuse making it difficult for stake holders to make the meetings. Bob Flavin asked why the Fisheries Board was not brought in as a concerned member, also the New York State Conservation Council (NYSCC). Also noted the email address given is not correct. Don also reported that the Massena Electric was required to do more studies on fish migration. Sturgeon and Salmon. Report was that there were no salmon seen by divers or observed from the bridge. Not mentioned was the fact a silt screen placed below the lower bridge prevented the migration.

New Business:

Bob Flavin on the RDRVA brought up discussion. One might wonder what this has to do with fishing. The money going to this non existing group that has no official meetings, no official minutes, very little press notices if any and believed by many that they are breaking the Sun Shine Laws. This group is looking to take 16,000 dollars once destined for the Aquarium project for educational and environmental project. This money needs to be used for the education and environment restoration to the St. Lawrence River that was destroyed by the building the St. Lawrence Sea Way/Power Project.

Other Business:

Question on the riprap placed on the east side of Coles Creek. Was placed there for the Blanding turtles.

Question on the 11,000 brook trout placed in Cranberry Lake. What will the survival rate be with the northern pike having been released into the lake?

Adjourned 20:56

Next Meeting 23 March 2010