



Federation of Dutchess County Fish and Game Clubs, Inc.

P.O. Box 3201, Poughkeepsie, New York 12603
www.dutchessfishandgame.org

The Voice of the Sportsman since 1932

February 10, 2022 Regular Delegates Meeting

Elks Lodge, Poughkeepsie, NY

The meeting was opened at 7:48 PM by President Anthony Pittore

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mike Nunes.

A moment of silence was observed for deceased armed services personnel, first responders, and past Federation members.

Roll Call: 31 people were in attendance, representing 21 clubs.

Guests

Anthony Pittore recognized and welcomed the following new and guest attendees:

- **Rich Ebner**, new delegate for East Hook Sportsmen Assn.
- **Sal Maiello**, President of Viola Rod & Gun Club
- **Mike Nunes**, President of Whortekill Rod & Gun Club
- **Tom Harding**, member of Northern Dutchess Rod & Gun Club

Anthony introduced **Deo Reed**, Dutchess County Environmental Conservation Officer (ECO), who gave a report including:

- The low deer take from the 2021 season.
- They have seen some deer that had or have EHD and that their misshapen hooves will hopefully not hurt them dealing with the hard ice cover left by the recent ice storm.
- An ECO/Ranger academy is in progress and that there are indications that another is already planned for 2023.
- There is a new DEC Director of Law Enforcement.

The Treasurer's Report was accepted upon a motion by Scott Emslie and a second by Adam Yaszko. All-in-favor (AIF).

The minutes of the previous delegates meeting on January 13, 2022 were approved upon a motion by Scott Emslie and a second by Adam Yaszko. AIF

The minutes of the Board of Directors meeting on January 24, 2022 were approved upon a motion by Scott Emslie and a second by Adam Yaszko. AIF

Committee Reports

Annual Dinner

Anthony Pittore reported that he is looking into having some sort of dinner event sometime during the summer, probably here at the Elks Lodge

Hunters Helping the Hungry

Anthony reported that 2155 pounds of game meat was distributed in 2019, 3068 pounds in 2020, and 4176 pounds in 2021. So far this program year, 550 pounds have been distributed with about 40 more pounds awaiting processing. This includes 20 deer received from the cull at Vassar College farm. The program got another volunteer to help process deer, but the program can use several more. Call Anthony at 914-755-9667.

Fish

Ken Rose discussed the 2021 stocking report that was handed out with the minutes. The Wappingers Creek was stocked more often, but overall, the county received much less fish than in previous years: 34,500 versus previous years of around 50,000. Some of the smaller streams and ponds were no longer stocked. This appears to be the trend across the state. Bill Conners will discuss more during his report later in the meeting. Upon a question from the floor, Ken had not yet received any information regarding the 1st stocking date this year.

Conservation Education

Scott Emslie reported that he is still compiling sponsorship applications. Scott spoke about the difficulties in getting/consolidating the registration codes related to our money that is still on account with the DEC due to the Covid related camp cancellations the last 2 years. Registration opens on March 4th. We will probably still have some openings to fill.

Jr. Hunter Pheasant Hunt

Anthony Pittore reiterated that the hunt is scheduled for September 24th.

Legislation (and other conservation news)

Bill Conners spoke on the following topics, many of which were included in a report that he handed out:

- The decrease in trout stocking is apparently due to the new DEC method of calculating the amounts. There are new formulas for stream distribution and calculations. The expected results of this were not made clear to the sporting community when the information was first presented for public comment.
- More fishing regulations changes are being proposed. There are a lot of concerns, especially in the northern parts of the state. But if history is any indication, these will probably be adopted as well, regardless of those concerns.
- The current legislative focus is on the budget bill, which impacts conservation related bills. There are a lot of bills dealing with firearms, of course. One example is a bill to require a hunting license before a person can purchase any gun. Bill will present a more concise list next month.
- There are additional free fishing/hunting license rules being proposed, such as for former military and first responders. While admirable in theory, it would mean less money the state would receive from federal Pittman-Robertson funds for conservation.
- There is a new DEC Director of Law Enforcement. The person has 26 years of experience, but is of a less rank (Captain) than other employees. This is causing some concern.
- There is also a new DEC Director of Fish & Wildlife. The person came from the collegiate/science community, which actually may be of benefit to the sporting community. It remains to be seen.
- The Boone & Crocket organization has new rules regarding the use of electronics when considering submissions for trophy records. For example, live-feed trail cams.
- In the non-toxic (green) ammo vs. traditional lead-based ammo arguments, the NYC DEP determined that there is no impact of lead ammo on the NYC water system. However, that does not appear to hold much sway with those legislators pushing green ammo bills. Last year's bill failed to pass, but expect it to be submitted again this year. Hopefully it will fail again.

Scott Emslie reported that there is a draft regulations amendment for Striped Bass fishing available for public comment. He will have more information next meeting.

New York State Conservation Council

Bill Conners reported that there is nothing really new. But he did say that the Council ended financially in the black in 2021.

Communications

None reported.

Unfinished (Old) Business

Treasurer Pete Kraayenbrink reported that 2 clubs still have not paid their 2022 Federation dues: Red Hook Rod & Gun Club and Hudson Valley BassMasters. Per Federations By-Laws, if dues are not paid by the April meeting, the club becomes a non-voting member until the dues are paid.

New Business

Dave Compton suggested that in addition to the \$1 50/50 raffle that we have every month, a second voluntary \$5 50/50 raffle be held. The main reason is to provide a chance for higher take-home winnings. The suggestion was tabled for now until the delegates have a chance to consider it further.

Announcements

Whortekill Rod & Gun Club will be having a Game Dinner on 2/19/22.

Manchester Hunt Club will be having their annual game dinner on 3/12/22.

Washington Hollow Rod & Gun Club is having a gun raffle, with the drawing held in May.

Scott Emslie stated that the Mid Hudson Friends of NRA banquet is scheduled for April 8th. There are still some prize underwrites available.

50/50 raffle winner – Ken Foster.

Next regular meeting date: March 10, 2022.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Holsopple,
Secretary