



St. Lawrence County Environmental Management Council

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MEETING MINUTES

January 20, 2021 - 6:00 PM - Via ZOOM

Action items in bold italics / Motions underlined.

1. **Call to Order:** At the request of Catherine Bennett, EMC Chair, J. Tenbusch called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.
2. **Roll Call, Determination of Quorum:** *A quorum was present.*
Member present: Catherine Bennett, *Chair*; Ryan Burkum; Donald O'Shea, *Vice-Chair*; Sue Rau; Tiernan Smith; Nicole Terminelli, *BOL Liaison*; Rod Tozzi; Brian Washburn; Pat Whalen, *Secretary*.
Members absent: David Barnes; Aaron Barrigar; Joseph Brant; Richard Marshall; Lance Rudiger.
Guests: Emily Sheridan, DEC; EMC Board Candidates: Lukas Hanss; Herb Bullock; SLC Youth Bureau: Alexa Backus, Drew Demers, Cole Siebels.
Staff: John Tenbusch; Dakota Casserly.
3. **Acceptance of Order of Business, Items for New Business, Items for Unfinished Business**
 - a. Smith would like to propose the writing of a letter of support for fish ladders on the Grasse and Oswegatchie Rivers.
4. **Approval of the Minutes of the July, October, and November 2020 EMC Meetings:**
Minutes were unanimously approved (Washburn/Bennett).
5. **Hearings, Comments from the Public:**
 - a. Drew Demers and Cole Siebels, youth members of the Youth Advisory Board (YAB) and Alexa Backus, Director of the SLC Youth Bureau, talked about a green energy education program for youth.
 - i. Demers talked about ideas to reduce carbon footprint, attracting carbon neutral businesses, and clean energy alternatives in SLC (solar, wind, geothermal). He would like to promote in the County via PSAs, farmers' market, etc.
 - ii. Siebels talked about reducing carbon footprint, illegal killing of protected animals (migratory birds), and pollution (dumping in wetlands).
 - iii. Backus talked about promoting a virtual trash dash on coming Earth Day.
 - iv. Tenbusch said that EMC holds an annual event in April in conjunction with Earth Day, and they could coordinate efforts.
 - v. Pat Whalen (Conservation of Resources Committee) agreed to work with YAB.
 - vi. Brian Washburn talked about online carbon footprint calculators and their use.
 - vii. Bennett suggest the YAB have a table at farmers' markets to promote their ideas

viii. Sheridan shared DEC youth seedling program.
<https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/9393.html>

- b. The speaker for this EMC meeting will be Catherine Bennett, who also serves as Chair of the EMC. In 2017, Bennett launched a small-scale certified organic, regenerative-based potato company named Milkweed Tussock Tubers, located in DePeyster.

Bennett talked about her farming practices, which include “growing for both seed and consumption, with an emphasis on regenerative agricultural practices; integrated pest management; no-till methods and companion crops to enhance soil; air and water health; as well as encouraging the proliferation of native species.”

Bennett presented: *Re-thinking the Way We Grow: What the majority of the world does, why the industrialized world needs to mimic their practices, and how we can change the world through agriculture.*

The current situation, in Bennett’s opinion, is that industrialized agriculture (ag) is killing the planet. Industrial ag uses 70% of Earth’s ag resources while producing 30% of the world’s food, and it produces 44-57% of global greenhouse gases.

Peasant agriculture (often synonymous with indigenous food production) is small-scale community-based and feeding the planet. It uses 30% of Earth’s ag resources and produces 70% of global food supply.

Regenerative ag is the production of diverse foodstuffs through practices that rejuvenate and balance local and global ecosystems. Uses peasant ag methods.



Global Impact Of Regenerative Agriculture On Climate Change

Maintains the pasture, breeds and microbial diversity to reduce methane and nitrous oxide emissions (e.g. organic farms in Germany store 402 kg/ha of CO₂)

Organic and peasant agroecology with soil restoration can store an additional 3-8 tons of carbon per ha, reducing up to 60% of GHGs;

Artisanal fishers protect seagrass meadows, which help sequester over 300 million tons over carbon annually.

Researchers for the French government estimate that, were global agricultural production converted to regenerative practices, 6 gigatons of carbon would be sequestered annually. Currently, global emissions are 4.3 gigatons.

Produces diverse food with regards to animals (incl. aquatic) and plants. Farms that use this practice are often lead by women.

Most importantly, regenerative ag can significantly impact climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emission.

Bennett then talked about how regenerative ag is integrated on her farm, Milkweed Tussock Tubers, and her parent’s, Bittersweet Farm. Milkweed is about 6.5 acres and primarily grows “rare, unusual and endangered root crops for seed and eating.” Some of their production methods include: oxen use to replace fossil fuel use, soil building, and native crop restoration. To market and sell their products they have options: pay-what-you-can, farmers’ markets, local wholesale, barter and volunteer, and non-monetary CSA. On the environmental side, these farms are able to protect and restore wildlife habitat which aids in ecological diversity.

In conclusion, Bennett shared action items for individuals and the EMC. A few highlights for individuals: support peasant farm activism, find and purchase from local regenerative farms, and, advocate and educate others about agroecology. The EMC could: organize public forums, promote regenerative farming, and better understand the ag industry in the County.



- O'Shea asked about [Seed Savers](#) and how Bennett is not listed.
 - Bennett responded that she is not listed presently, but possible in the future.
- O'Shea asked about early, late blight resistance.
 - Bennett responded that she is focused on mostly late blight.
- Hanss asked how long does it take to build soil using regenerative ag.
 - Bennett responded 1"/year if you have lots of organic matter and have animals to help.
- Hanss asked, is there an apex, would you reach a point where regenerative soil equates to normal quality.
 - Bennett responded, she hasn't consider this, but elements are changing all the time.
- Source: ETC (Erosion, Technology, and Concentration) Group: <https://www.etcgroup.org/>

6. Report by the Representative of the Board of Legislators (Nicole Terminelli)

- a. [The Northside Solar Energy Project](#) (180 MW solar array in the following Towns: Norfolk, Massena, Brasher) was referenced. Town of Massena opted out of NYS Real Property Tax Law, but approved a PILOT.
- b. At the January 4th BOL meeting, Rau and Rudiger were approved, and Brant will be approved in the near future.
- c. [Office of the Aging and NYPA are hosting a virtual weatherization event February 23, 2021 @ 9 AM via Zoom](#)
- d. EMC has 4 applications for 2 vacancies; Terminelli is the chair of a group of Legislators that will conduct interviews.
- e. Grasse River Blueway Trail meeting is scheduled for January 21st.

7. Report of the Committees

- a. **Executive:** No report.
- b. **Conservation of Resources Committee:** [See attached.](#)
 - i. Tenbusch summarized the committee report.
 - ii. Hanss talked about SUNY Potsdam and Professor Glenn Johnson's local turtle studies.
 - iii. [Washburn talked about a Clarkson turtle study in upper/lower lakes area.](#)

- c. **Environment and the Economy Committee:** See attached.
 - i. Chair Burkum presented the report.
 - ii. Burkum recommended a speaker from the DEC to discuss ecology and regulation with regards to fish ladders. **Casserly or Tenbusch will coordinate.**
 - iii. Washburn asked about his reports on the Madrid Dam. **Casserly will check on this.**
 - iv. Upcoming Grasse River Blueway Trail meeting, Tenbusch will mention fish ladders.
 - v. Washburn talked about ducted wind turbines. This is a new company that is based in Potsdam: <https://www.ductedwind.com/>
 - vi. Whalen would like to know the economics of fish ladders, is it worth pursuing.
 - vii. Washburn talked about report(s) on Hogansburg Dam removal.
 - 1. **Staff will check for material on the web.**
 - 2. Smith commented on fish stocking efforts.
 - viii. Emily Sheridan shared: NYSEFC is funding green infrastructure, energy efficiency, and water efficiency projects, and applications are due February 12th: <https://www.efc.ny.gov/GIGP>
 - ix. Resources: [EMC Google Drive space for fish ladder material.](#)
- d. **Invasive Species Committee:** See attached.
 - i. Tenbusch summarized the committee report.
 - ii. Emily Sheridan shared:
 - 1. The SLELO PRISM annual report is available: <https://www.sleloinvasives.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/2020-SLELO-PRISM-Annual-Report.pdf>. Robert Smith would be a good presenter for the SLF/Tree of heaven presentation- his email is: robert.l.smith@TNC.ORG
- e. **Watershed Management Committee:** See attached.
 - i. Tenbusch summarized the committee report.
 - ii. Washburn commented on the DEC presentation and asked about Ash trees and EAB in Fish Creek WMA. DEC did not respond directly and have no plan and this was concerning. In regards to SLWRP, Washburn asked about phosphorous pollution in the Fish Creek drainage due to failed septic, also algae blooms and water testing in WMA. DEC is more focused on forest not watershed.
 - 1. Sheridan asked about [Young Forest Initiative](#) and Tenbusch responded that DEC is planning to do some of this.

8. Report of the Staff

- a. Tenbusch provided an update on lead projects and Casserly reported on the status of Hammond land use regulation revisions.

9. Unfinished Business: None.

10. New Business

- a. Smith, mentioned that E+EC would like to publish a report, and a PSA about fish ladder projects.

11. **Announcements**
 - a. Sheridan said that the [Indian River Lakes Conservancy](#) has a new watershed manger.
12. **Message to Board of Legislators:**
 - a. Share the regenerative ag presentation and prepare an E+EC project update when ready.
13. **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Patrick Whalen

Patrick Whalen, Secretary

Minutes drafted by Dakota Casserly



St. Lawrence County Environmental Management Council Conservation of Resources Committee Meeting Wednesday January 13, 2021

Overview of the *Conservation of Resources Committee*.

- “Conservation” can mean “saving” or “effective/efficient/wise use”.
 - Thus, “conservation of resources” might include topic areas including solid waste management; household hazardous waste management; recycling; energy efficiency; wise use of natural resources of St Lawrence County
 - “Conservation” might also mean “preservation”, as in preservation of endangered/ rare/ significant flora (plants) or fauna (animals/creatures).
 - “Conservation” also means addressing issues such as the climate crisis that threatens environmental devastation for our region.
-

Present: Pat Whalen, Chair; Catherine Bennett; Sue Rau. J. Tenbusch attended as staff.

The meeting began at 4:45 PM.

Review of Committee Overview:

- The Committee decided to keep the three priorities listed above.

Priority Projects for 2021

- Efficient / effective / wise use of resources
 - Reduce the use of single-use plastics.
 - Possible topic: reduce the use of Styrofoam. General discussion.
 - C. Bennett may develop a Press Release on this topic.
 - Bennett received additional information about Trashpresso. A mini-machine is available for lease on a one-year term.
 - One sponsor of Trashpresso is McDonald’s Corp. We might approach the corporation to sponsor our costs to bring Trashpresso to the North Country.
 - General discussion on how we might bring Trashpresso to the region.
 - S. Rau mentioned growing hemp as an alternative to wood
 - Canary grass pellets was briefly discussed
- Conservation to protect endangered flora and fauna
 - Bennett spoke about Blanding’s turtles, which are found at her farm.
 - Rau has them on her farm.
 - Inquire about effectiveness of turtle fences, and bypasses
 - Tenbusch to check with Tom Langen
 - P Whalen mentioned spruce grouse, whose populations are dwindling

- Climate Crisis.
 - Bennett described that her upcoming talk to the EMC about alternative farming methods will include a discussion about regeneration of soil. She explained that this will retain carbon, and thus be a brake on climate change.
 - Tenbusch suggested a future EMC presentation about the Green New Deal.
 - o Rau suggested that such a presentation compare the GND with whatever plan the incoming Biden administration will propose.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 PM.



St. Lawrence County Environmental Management Council Environment + Economy Committee Meeting Monday, January 11th, 2021

Purpose of the Environment + Economy Committee.

- To explore the relationship and interactions of the environmental resources of St. Lawrence County with the local and regional economy.
 - To reach out to individuals, business, and organizations involved in the use of natural resources in an economic capacity and to learn from these individuals and organizations about the challenges and opportunities in their endeavors.
 - To act as the interface between business, residents, and lawmakers of St. Lawrence County with regards to the role of natural resources in the economy, with an emphasis on sustainable use.
-

Meeting started at 5:00 PM. **Present:** Ryan Burkum, Chair; Tiernan Smith; Rod Tozzi. D. Casserly attended as staff.

Report of Last Meeting. The Committee briefly discussed the December meeting report. They all agreed as to the general objective of exploring a single project that will result in a document which summarizes their findings. This document will then be shared with key stakeholders. While focusing on a single project for a period of time, the Committee will continue to examine a variety of projects to explore in the future. Also, the Committee felt strongly about including the assigned BOL legislator (Nicole Terminelli) with Committee work progress and future meetings.

Priority Projects for 2021. Fish ladders on the Grasse and Oswegatchie Rivers are the priority project for the next 3-4 months. Additional projects will be discussed at the February 8th meeting. Smith expressed that the Committee should draft letters of support for the fish ladders and then bring to EMC for vote.

Speakers for EMC. The Committee discussed potential speakers for projects:

- Fish ladders: Lee Harper (check with John Tenbusch); DEC (Burkum will check with his contact); Tony David, Environment Division Director at Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe (Smith will contact if needed).
- Maple Industry: Gavin McKeller, Mack Maple Supply (Burkum will coordinate for May or June)
- Forestry: Curran Renewables
- Fishing Tournaments: TBD.
- Agriculture: TBD.

The Committee agreed that they will try to meet a goal of three public service announcements per year on their priority projects.

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 PM.



St. Lawrence County Environmental Management Council Invasive Species Committee Meeting Tuesday January 12, 2021

Overview of the Invasive Species Committee.

- The Committee decided that the variety of “invasive species” topics is so large, that it might be best for this committee to work on specific areas.
 - Emerald Ash Borer
 - Eurasian Watermilfoil
 - Wild Parsnip
 - Others
-

Meeting started at 1:05 PM.

Present: Don O’Shea, Chair. Sue Rau. John Tenbusch attended as staff.

Review Previous Committee mtg report. John Tenbusch reported on the previous meeting, held in November. No comments were made.

Review of Committee Overview Statement:

- Add Spotted Lanternfly, Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, Beech Leaf Disease, Tree of Heaven
 - These are new / soon to arrive in the North Country
- Literature indicates that Spotted Lanternfly might need Tree of Heaven as part of its life cycle
 - Tree of Heaven is an ornamental / found in urban areas
 - Find/eradicate Tree of Heaven to control Spotted Lanternfly?
Find lit / Web resources
- Drop tench / ask another committee to take on monitoring

We will monitor all invasives on this list; will concentrate on EABs, Spotted Lanternfly and Tree of Heaven.

Possible Speaker:

- Tenbusch will ask for report from Black Lake re their Milfoil control program
- Speaker on Tree of Heaven

Public Service Announcement: Spotted Lanternfly and Tree of Heaven.

Priority Projects for 2020:

- EABs
 - Discussion about Sue Rau’s report that she has a number of ash trees on her property in northern Norfolk. She plans to take them down later this fall/over the winter.

- It was suggested that volunteers might come and peel her ash trees after they get felled, to see if they are infested with EABs, and as a training opportunity for people to learn how to peel ash trees.
- Next EAB TF meeting will be held on Thursday January 21st at 9 am.

The meeting ended at 1:45 PM.

St. Lawrence County Environmental Management Council

Watershed Management Committee

Brian Washburn, Chair

Review of NYSDEC 2020-2029 plans for Fish Creek WMA and Swallow Bluffs WMA

Introduction

The complete plans for the two WMA's in St. Lawrence County can be found at NYSDEC(<https://www.dec.ny.gov/press/122063.html>) with the links to the documents found at the bottom of the page. Both documents present the history of the WMA's from inception to the current condition as well as extensive mapping of the WMA's. The only changes anticipated for the Fish Creek WMA watershed proper are the creation of several potholes within the existing area. For the Swallow Bluffs WMA land based projects to enhance the swallow community are proposed. Since the aquatic component of this WMA is the St. Lawrence River no changes are possible.

Opinion

There appears to be two, in my opinion, issues not specifically addressed in the Fish Creek WMA plan. The first issue is the presence and curtailment of EAB. Given the location of the WMA with its 2,697 acres of forest and the known presence of EAB in the St. Lawrence shoreline corridor has the WMA been inventoried for ash trees and has the presence of EAB been detected? Does NYSDEC plan to evaluate the WMA annually for this known invasive organism? Secondly over my repeated concerns the St. Lawrence River Watershed Revitalization Plan final document presented a phosphorus pollution concern for the Fish Creek watershed identifying the causative pollution source failed or inadequate septic systems. Since the Fish Creek WMA contains 37 acres of open water and 1,476 acres of natural wetland has NYSDEC observed an increase in algae growth in the open water zone and has the presence of toxic blue/green algae been detected? Has the aquatic environs of the WMA been evaluated for phosphorus?

Swallow Bluffs WMA Proposed Changes and Management Objectives Summary

Habitat Type	Current Conditions (as of 2018)			Desired Conditions	
	Acres	% WMA	miles	Acres	% of WMA
Forest	10	18		8.5	Decrease to 16%
Young forest	0	0		0	No Change
Shrubland	4	7		4	No Change
Grassland	41	75		42.5	Increase to 77%
Agricultural land	0	0		0	No Change
Wetland (natural)	0	0		0	No Change
Wetland (impounded)	0	0		0	No Change
Open water	0	0		0	No Change
Other (easements)	0	0		0	No Change
Roads	0	0		0	No Change
Rivers and streams	0	0		0	No Change
Total Acres:	55	100		55	

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

- Monitor fields for invasive species and eradicate where feasible.
- Monitor the area for woody stems and remove by mowing through agreements until formal access is granted.
- Plant conservation wildflower mixes to attract pollinators to the area. Swallows are insectivorous.
- Increase grassland habitat within Stand A-2 from zero to 1.5 acres.

Fish Creek WMA Proposed Changes and Management Plan Summary

Habitat Type	Current Conditions (as of 2016)			Desired Conditions	
	Acres	% WMA	miles	Acres	% of WMA
Forest	2697	59		2456	Decrease to 57%
Young forest	0	0		241	Increase to 5%
Shrubland	118	3		134	Slight increase
Grassland	195	4		179	Slight decrease
Agricultural land	0	0		0	No change
Wetland (natural)	1476	33		1476	No change
Wetland (impounded)	0	0		0	No change
Open water	37	<1		37	No change
Other (easements)	0	0		0	No change
Roads	14	<1		14	No change
Rivers and streams					No change
Total Acres:	4537	100		4537	

Management Plans

Habitat	Management Action	Acres	Time Frame
Forest	Mix of seed tree, shelterwood, and patch clearcut harvests in Stands A-47, 48.1, and 49.3.	108	2020-2024
Forest	Timber stand improvement thinning in Stands A-61 and 80.2.	16	2020-2024
Forest	Shelterwood harvests in Stands A-76.1, 86, and 89.	25	2020-2024
Forest	Mix of seed tree, shelterwood, and patch clearcut harvests in Stands A-4.1, 36, 55, 57, 58, 68, and 69.	98	2025-2029
Forest	Shelterwood harvest in Stand A-127.	10	2025-2029
Shrublands	Thin several stands of heavy shrubs or brush. Stands A-4.2, 4.3, 63, 88, and 118	60	2025-2029 as needed
Shrublands	Thin/clearcut Stand A-99 of heavy shrubs or brush.	16	2025-2029
Shrub/Grasslands	Stop mowing in parts of Stands A-49.1 and A-125.1 to allow patches of shrubs and small trees to grow.	16	2020
Grasslands	Continue mowing grassland fields on an annual rotation and add a prescribed fire component. Stands A-2.1, 49.1, 116, 125.1, and 126	+/- 195	Annual
Grasslands	Create feathered edges for Golden-winged Warbler on boundary of Stands A-71 and 68.	20	2020-2029
Wetlands	Create 4-6 potholes connected via channels (~0.5 miles) within the monotypic areas of vegetation.	TBD	2020-2029

**Habitat Management Plan
for
Fish Creek Wildlife Management Area
2020 - 2029**



Wetland at Fish Creek WMA.

Photo: NYSDEC

Division of Fish and Wildlife
Bureau of Wildlife

317 Washington Street, Watertown, New York 13601

August 5, 2020



**Department of
Environmental
Conservation**



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

Fish Creek Wildlife Management Area



[icon key](#)

- **Open for Recreation:** Year-round
- **Fee:** Free
- **Contact Information:**
 - DEC Region 6 Potsdam Office (M-F, 8:00AM - 4:00PM), (315) 265-3090; information.R6@dec.ny.gov
 - Enforcement Matters: (518) 408-5850 (24/7)
- **Location:** Towns of Macomb and De Peyster, St. Lawrence County
- **Wildlife Management Unit:** 6A
- **Map:** [Fish Creek Wildlife Management Area Map \(PDF\)](#) || [Google Earth](#) || [DECinfo Locator](#)



DEC will host a virtual presentation on the habitat management plans for Collins Landing, Fish Creek, and Swallow Bluffs WMAs on January 19, 2021 at 1 PM. View the [plan for Fish Creek \(PDF\)](#). The event will feature a 60-minute presentation, followed by a question-and-answer period. [Registration is required](#) for this event. Questions can be sent by [email](#) or call 315-785-6457.

The primary purposes of Fish Creek Wildlife Management Area (WMA) are for wildlife management, wildlife habitat management, and wildlife-dependent management. This WMA is a 4,537-acre tract of land located in southwestern St. Lawrence County, eight miles west of the city of Ogdensburg and one mile south of Black Lake.

Fish Creek WMA consists of a 2,046-acre natural wetland which is primarily an emergent marsh whose water level is dependent on the many beaver dams on the Fish Creek drainage. It contains 2,392 acres of upland, most of which is forested. The emergent marsh is mainly cattail, with flooded shrubs interspersed throughout the area.

There is a hardwood swamp along the fringe of the emergent marsh. The upland portion contains

approximately 1,000 acres of softwood scattered

throughout the area, which deer use as wintering areas, and 861 acres of young northern hardwoods. There are 93 acres of open grassland maintained for ground nesting birds.

There are no developed hiking trails on the area. No special permits are required to use the area.

Featured Activities

Hunting & Trapping

[Wildlife Management Unit: 6A](#)



Paddler enjoying Fish Creek.



[General information on hunting](#) and [general information on trapping](#) include how-to and safety tips with links to seasons, rules, and regulations.

The diverse habitat provides a variety of hunting and trapping opportunities. [White-tailed deer](#), [turkey](#), cottontail rabbit, and [grouse](#) can be found on the area as well as waterfowl and marsh birds, which are attracted to the large wetland complex. Furbearers include beaver, muskrat, fisher, bobcat, and otter. Please be sure to abide by all game laws (view [hunting seasons](#) and [trapping seasons](#)).

Fishing



[General information on fishing](#) includes how-to and safety tips and links to seasons, rules, and regulations.

Two parking areas are located near hand launch sites for small car-top boats, one near the village of Pope Mills and the other near the Macomb/Depeyster town line off of State Route 184. There are numerous obstacles along the Fish Creek drainage, such as beaver dams and cattail mats.

Wildlife



[General information on animals](#) includes links to information about birds, mammals, fish, reptiles, amphibians, and insects that inhabit or migrate through the state.

Deer, turkeys, whip-poor-wills, waterfowl, marsh birds, raptors, and a host of songbirds frequent the area. Use the [Wildlife Management Area Mammal Checklist \(PDF\)](#) and the [Wildlife Management Area Bird Checklist \(PDF\)](#) as wildlife viewing guides.

Accessible Features



[General information on accessible recreation](#) includes links to other locations with accessible recreation opportunities and information on permits for motorized access.

There is an accessible kiosk and parking area. **Note: The trail to the water's edge is not accessible at this time due to erosion.**

Directions

Fish Creek is located approximately 0.2 miles east of Pope Mills (intersection of State Route 58 and State Route 184) on State Route 184 in the town of Macomb in St. Lawrence County. Parking Areas are located at various locations on the edges of the WMA.

All Google links leaves DEC's website.

- Route 58, western end of the WMA (44.499149°N, 75.582406°W) - Get [Google Map Driving Directions](#)
- Bishop Road, northern edge of the WMA (44.528601°N, 75.547664°W) - Get [Google Map Driving Directions](#)
- West Lake Road, northern edge of the WMA (44.537451°N, 75.526685°W) - Get [Google Map Driving Directions](#)
- Factory Road, near the corner of State Route 184 and Factory Road on the eastern corner of the WMA (44.539914°N, 75.483294°W) - Get [Google Map Driving Directions](#)
- Route 184, near Black Creek boat launch (44.517396°N, 75.526104°W) - Get [Google Map Driving Directions](#)
- Accessible Parking Area at the intersection of State Route 58 and State Route 184 (44.484855°N, 75.579899°W) - Get [Google Map Driving Directions](#)

All coordinates provided are in decimal degrees using NAD83/WGS84 datum.

Rules, Regulations and Outdoor Safety



Practice [Leave No Trace Principles](#) (leaves DEC website) when recreating on state land to enjoy the outdoors responsibly; minimize impact on the natural resources and avoid conflicts with other users.

All users of Fish Creek Wildlife Management Area must follow all State Land Use Regulations and should follow all Outdoor Safety Practices for the safety of the user and protection of the resource.

Activity Rules & Regulations

- [Hunting Regulations](#)
- [Trapping Regulations](#)
- [Fishing Regulations](#)
- [Public Use of Wildlife Management Areas Regulations](#) (leaves DEC website)

The following activities are not permitted in Fish Creek WMA:

- Using motorized vehicles, including:
 - all-terrain vehicles
 - snowmobiles
 - motorboats
- Swimming (no lifeguard on premises)
- Camping
- Using metal detectors, searching for or removing historic or cultural artifacts without a permit
- Damaging or removing gates, fences, signs, or other property
- Overnight storage of boats
- Cutting, removing, or damaging living vegetation
- Construction of permanent blinds or other structures such as tree stands
- Littering
- Storage of personal property

Outdoor Safety Tips

- [Hunting Safety Tips](#)
- [Hiking Safety Tips](#)

NOTE: Ticks are active whenever temperatures are above freezing, but especially so in the late spring and early fall. Deer ticks can transmit Lyme and several other diseases. More information on deer ticks and Lyme disease can be obtained from the [NYS Department of Health](#) (leaves DEC website).

How We Manage Fish Creek Wildlife Management Area



Like most of the state's Wildlife Management Areas, Fish Creek WMA is managed by DEC's Division of Fish and Wildlife for wildlife conservation and wildlife-associated recreation (hunting, trapping, wildlife viewing, and photography). Funding to maintain and manage this site is provided by the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration or "Pittman-Robertson" Act, which is acquired through excise taxes on sporting arms, ammunition, and archery equipment.

View the [Habitat Management Plan for Fish Creek Wildlife Management Area \(PDF\)](#), approved in October 2020, which identifies the WMA-specific target species and habitat goals for the WMA.

Nearby State Lands, Facilities, Amenities & Other Information

Web links below can provide information about other recreation, attractions, and amenities in this area.

- [St. Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce](#) (leaves DEC website)
- [Black Lake Chamber of Commerce](#) (leaves DEC website)

State Lands and Facilities

- [Beaver Creek State Forest](#)
- [Eel Weir State Park](#) (leaves DEC website)
- [Hickory Lake State Forest](#)
- [Jacques Cartier State Park](#) (leaves DEC website)
- [Lonesome Bay State Forest](#)
- [Pleasant Lake State Forest](#)
- [St. Lawrence State Park Golf Course](#) (leaves DEC website)

Numerous guide books and maps are available with information on the lands, waters, trails, and other recreational facilities in this area. These can be purchased at most outdoor equipment retailers, bookstores, and on-line booksellers.

Additional information, outdoor equipment, trip suggestions, and guided or self-guided tours may be obtained from outdoor guide and outfitting businesses. Check area chambers of commerce, telephone directories, or search the internet for listings.

Consider hiring an outdoor guide if you have little experience or woodland skills. See the [NYS Outdoor Guides Association](#) (leaves DEC website) for information on outdoor guides.

**Habitat Management Plan
for
Swallow Bluffs Wildlife Management Area
2020 - 2029**



Swallow Bluffs WMA along the St. Lawrence River.

Photo: Mike Morgan, NYSDEC

Division of Fish and Wildlife
Bureau of Wildlife

317 Washington Street, Watertown, New York 13601

January 15, 2020



**Department of
Environmental
Conservation**



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

Swallow Bluffs Wildlife Management Area



icon key

- **Open for Recreation:** Year-round. **Currently, public access is by water vessel only.**
- **Fee:** Free
- **Contact Information:**
 - DEC Region 6 Potsdam Sub-Office (M-F, 8:30AM - 4:30PM), (315) 265-3090; information.R6@dec.ny.gov
 - Enforcement Matters: (518) 408-5850 (24/7)
- **Location:** Towns of Lisbon & Waddington, St. Lawrence County
- **Wildlife Management Unit:** 6A
- **Map:** [Swallow Bluffs Wildlife Management Area \(PDF\)](#) || [Google Earth](#) || [DECinfo Locator](#)



DEC will host a virtual presentation on the habitat management plans for Collins Landing, Fish Creek, and Swallow Bluffs WMAs on January 19, 2021 at 1 PM. View the [plan for Swallow Bluffs \(PDF\)](#). The event will feature a 60-minute presentation, followed by a question-and-answer period. [Registration is required](#) for this event. Questions can be sent by [email](#) or call 315-785-6457.

The primary purposes of Swallow Bluffs Wildlife Management Area (WMA) are for wildlife management, wildlife habitat management, and wildlife-dependent recreation. The WMA overlooks the great St. Lawrence River, and consists of five separate parcels-approximately 55 acres in total.

DEC acquired this unique property in 2016 through a transfer of jurisdiction from New York Power Authority to preserve the bluffs for nesting Bank Swallows (*Riparia riparia*) and to provide lasting protection of important muskellunge (or "musky") spawning habitat. Bank Swallows are not rare in New York; however, their nesting habitat is often vulnerable to disturbance during their nesting period. The slowly eroding banks of this WMA provide high quality nesting opportunities for the swallows. Muskellunge are a very important fishery in the St. Lawrence River, but quality spawning habitat is limited and one of the acquired parcels protects a targeted spawning area for musky.

Featured Activities

Hunting and Trapping



[Wildlife Management Unit: 6A](#)

[General information on hunting](#) and [general information on trapping](#) include how-to and safety tips with links to seasons, rules, and regulations.

Swallow Bluffs may provide good waterfowl hunting opportunities. The St. Lawrence River is host to several species of ducks and geese during their migration. Furbearers likely to inhabit Swallow



Bluffs include muskrat, mink, otter, and raccoon. Please be sure to abide by all game laws (view [hunting seasons](#) and [trapping seasons](#)).

Swallow Bluffs WMA as viewed from the St. Lawrence River.

Fishing



[General information on fishing](#) includes how-to and safety tips and links to seasons, rules, and regulations.

Wildlife



[General information on animals](#) includes links to information about birds, mammals, fish, reptiles, amphibians, and insects that inhabit or migrate through the state. Swallow Bluffs provides a unique opportunity to view a large colony of Bank Swallows, as well as birds associated with grassland and riverine habitats.

Use both the [Wildlife Management Area Mammal Checklist \(PDF\)](#) and [Wildlife Management Area Bird Checklist \(PDF\)](#) as wildlife viewing guides.

Directions

Swallow Bluffs WMA is located in St. Lawrence County, approximately 7 miles west of the village of Waddington along the St. Lawrence River. Currently, Swallow Bluffs WMA is only accessible from the St. Lawrence River. Coordinates for the 5 separate parcels (from west to east) are as follows (all Google links leave DEC website):

- 44.802544°N, 75.330360°W - Get [Google Map Driving Directions](#)
- 44.804737°N, 75.325597°W - Get [Google Map Driving Directions](#)
- 44.811648°N, 75.319375°W - Get [Google Map Driving Directions](#)
- 44.815483°N, 75.312465°W - Get [Google Map Driving Directions](#)
- 44.825161°N, 75.287483°W - Get [Google Map Driving Directions](#)



Bank Swallows emerging from burrows along the bluffs.

Rules, Regulations and Outdoor Safety

Practice [Leave No Trace Principles](#) (leaves DEC website) when recreating on state land to enjoy the outdoors responsibly; minimize impact on the natural resources and avoid conflicts with other users.

All users of Swallow Bluffs Wildlife Management Area must follow all State Land Use Regulations and should follow all Outdoor Safety Practices for the safety of the user and protection of the resource.

Activity Rules & Regulations

- [Hunting Regulations](#)
- [Trapping Regulations](#)
- [Fishing Regulations](#)
- [Public Use of Wildlife Management Areas Regulations](#) (leaves DEC website)

The following activities are not permitted in Swallow Bluffs WMA:

- Swimming (no lifeguard on premises)
- Using metal detectors, searching for or removing historic or cultural artifacts without a permit
- Damaging or removing gates, fences, signs, or other property
- Overnight storage of boats
- Cutting, removing, or damaging living vegetation

- Construction of permanent blinds or other structures such as tree stands
- Littering
- Storage of personal property
- Camping
- Using motorized vehicles, including:
 - all-terrain vehicles
 - snowmobiles

Outdoor Safety Tips

- [Hunting Safety Tips](#)

NOTE: Ticks are active whenever temperatures are above freezing, but especially so in the late spring and early fall. Deer ticks can transmit Lyme and several other diseases. More information on deer ticks and Lyme disease can be obtained from the [NYS Department of Health](#) (leaves DEC website).

How We Manage Swallow Bluffs Wildlife Management Area



Like most of the state's Wildlife Management Areas, Swallow Bluffs is managed by DEC's Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources for wildlife conservation and wildlife-associated recreation (hunting, trapping, wildlife viewing, and photography). Funding to maintain and manage this site is provided by the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration or "Pittman-Robertson" Act, which is acquired through excise taxes on sporting arms, ammunition and archery equipment.

View the [Habitat Management Plan for Swallow Bluffs WMA \(PDF\)](#), approved in February 2020, which identifies habitat goals for the WMA.

Nearby State Lands, Facilities, Amenities & Other Information

Web links below can provide information about other recreation, attractions, and amenities in this area.

- [St. Lawrence County Tourism](#) (leaves DEC website)

State Lands and Facilities

- [Coles Creek State Park](#) (leaves DEC website)
- [Wilson Hill Wildlife Management Area](#)
- [Sodom State Forest](#)

Numerous guide books and maps are available with information on the lands, waters, trails, and other recreational facilities in this area. These can be purchased at most outdoor equipment retailers, bookstores, and on-line booksellers.

Additional information, outdoor equipment, trip suggestions, and guided or self-guided tours may be obtained from outdoor guide and outfitting businesses. Check area chambers of commerce, telephone directories, or search the internet for listings.

Consider hiring an outdoor guide if you have little experience or woodland skills. See the [NYS Outdoor Guides Association](#) (leaves DEC website) for information on outdoor guides.