

**DEER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
AGENDA
Wednesday, February 19, 2014 - 2:30 P. M.
City Conference Room**

(A quorum of the City Council may attend this meeting.)

1. Members.

Voting Members

Chair Elbert J. Rackow, 1824 Gilkay Street, Stevens Point, WI 54481, 715-341-1393

Alderman Roger G. Trzebiatowski, 3309 McCulloch Street, Stevens Point, WI 54481, 715-344-2322

Member Barb Jacob, 2408 Division St., Stevens Point, WI 54481, H: 715-342-1390, B: 715-343-1730,

E-Mail: huncie@spcglobal.net.

John Okonek, 2916 Dixon St., Stevens Point, WI 54481, 715-630-0230, E-Mail: johno64@att.net

Advisory Members

DNR Rep. Lesa H. Kardash, 473 Griffith Ave., Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494, 715-421-7813,

E-Mail: lesa.kardash@wisconsin.gov

Police Chief Kevin Ruder, 1515 Strongs Ave., Stevens Point, WI 54481, 715-346-1500

Aaron Geistfeld, Absolute Wildlife Control, 3711 Haga Dr., Plover, WI 54467, 715-252-1714,

E-Mail: awc@wildlifeproblem.com

Mel Dow, Interfaith Food Pantry of Portage County, 821 Sixth St., Plover, WI 54467, 715-341-5379,
mpdow@charter.net

Bryan Lockman, bryan.lockman@wisconsin.gov, 715-344-3694.

Jon Scharbarth, jon.scharbarth@wisconsin.gov. 715-344-3694.

2. Deer Management Committee minutes of January 23, 2014.
3. Review of the 2012-2013 culling project and possible action. The City paid the culler for culling 25 deer in 2013-2014.
4. Planning for the 2014-15 culling project and possible action.
 - A. Review of the funds available for deer culling for 2014-2015. A note from the Treasurer's Office shows we have \$1,500.00 in the City budget and \$705.00 in the non-lapsing account for a total of \$2,205.00 available for deer culling in 2014. We have 30 Damage Control tags from the DNR for 2014.
 - B. Review the attached Memo dated January 30, 2014, outlining the deer culling method used in the Wisconsin Rapids area.
5. Possible methods of funding deer culling in the future and possible action.
6. Date, time, and location of next meeting.
7. Adjournment.

Any person who has special needs while attending this meeting or needs agenda materials for this meeting should contact the City Clerk as soon as possible to ensure a reasonable accommodation can be made. The City Clerk can be reached by telephone at 715- 346-1569, or by mail at 1515 Strongs Ave., Stevens Point, WI 54481.

Copies of ordinances, resolutions, reports and minutes of the committee meetings are on file at the office of the City Clerk for inspection during the normal business hours from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

DEER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Thursday, January 23, 2014 - 2:30 PM
City Conference Room

MINUTES

Present: Chair Rackow, Ald. Trzebiatowski, Member Okonek

Also Present: Mel Dow, Interfaith Food Pantry of Portage County

Absent: Member Jacob, DNR Rep. Lesa H. Kardash, Police Chief Kevin Ruder, Aaron Geistfeld,
Absolute Wildlife Control

1. Deer Management Committee minutes of December 18, 2013.

Ald. Trzebiatowski, moved to approve the minutes, Member Okonek seconded. Ayes, all; nays; none; motion passed.

2. Planning for the 2013-2014 culling project and possible action.

A. Review of the antlerless deer culled and funds available for deer culling and possible approval of increasing the number of deer the culler may cull. The culler has culled 25 antlerless deer. The number that went to the food pantry is 23. Culled deer unfit for consumption were 2. The culler was given 28 tags, so the 3 remaining tags, which expired December 31, 2013, need to be returned. We need to settle up promptly with the DNR for 2013.

B. Progress in approaching the College of Natural Resources at UW-SP about getting students to cull antlerless deer. Per a telephone call from the College of Natural Resources at UW-SP, the College has considered offering its students an opportunity to help the City cull deer. The College has decided not accept the offer of the City to participate partly because of liability issues.

3. Possible methods of funding deer culling in the future and possible action. This topic will be explored further.

4. Progress report on applying for a grant under the DNR's Urban Wildlife Damage Abatement and Control Grant Program and possible action. In a letter dated January 16, 2014, the DNR said our grant program will not be funded. A paragraph from the letter follows.

"The Department received thirteen applications for the \$24,700 allocated for this program. Seven of the applications are being funded. Unfortunately, the remaining six did not rank high enough to receive funding this year."

5. Review of revised rules for allowing hunters to use archery tackle in urban areas during regular archery deer seasons and possible action. The Legislature said municipalities could not ban archery hunting and archery hunters must shoot toward the ground. The City ordinance was amended to exempt deer cullers hired by the City.

6. Date, time and location of next meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday February 19, 2014, at 2:30 PM, in the City Conference Room.

7. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 PM.

MEMO

TO: Members, Deer Management Committee
Chair Elbert J. Rackow, 1824 Gilkay Street, Stevens Point, WI 54481, 715-341-1393
Alderman Roger G. Trzebiatowski, 3309 McCulloch Street, Stevens Point, WI 54481,
715-344-2322
Member Barb Jacob, 2408 Division St., Stevens Point, WI 54481, H: 715-342-1390, B:
715-343-1730, E-Mail: huncie@spcglobal.net.
Member John Okonek, 2916 Dixon St., Stevens Point, WI 54481, 715-630-0230,
E-Mail: johno64@att.net
FROM: Elbert J. Rackow, Chair
SUBJECT: Telephone Call to Wayne Hall, DNR, Sand Hills, 715-884-2437
DATE: January 30, 2014

On January 29, 2014, I had a telephone conversation with Wayne Hall of the DNR at Sand Hills. I told him that we work with Lesa Kardash of the DNR on deer culling and that we were told he works with Wisconsin Rapids and Marshfield. I told him we heard that both cities use archers to cull deer and that cullers were given a competency test. I told him our City Attorney requires that our vendors carry a \$1,000,000 liability insurance policy and that the cost is a barrier to most individuals unless the vendor already has liability insurance and gets a rider on the policy. I told him the City Attorney also requires this clause in the agreement.

The City of Stevens Point and the vendor consider the vendor to be an independent contractor, and all decisions relative to the actual culling will be made by the vendor, except as set forth herein.

I told him the City Attorney says that if the City tests cullers for competency and there is an incident, that the City becomes liable because it has certified the vendor. Mr. Hall said he did not have much information about liability.

Mr. Hall said the culling in Wisconsin Rapids is done through a multi-municipality entity called the Urban Deer Hunt Program composed of Wisconsin Rapids, Biron, and two other municipalities. The program has been in effect since 2006. The entity applied for and received a DNR grant for the program. Jim Borski, the Streets Superintendent, 715-421-8218, obtains the tags and monitors them. There are team captains in each member municipality and cullers are assigned to certain areas in which to cull. The program culls 60 to 100 deer per year.

An archery club administers a competency test to culling applicants. Cullers can keep the first deer the culler culls. The culled deer does not count as the culler's regular archery season deer. The culler can give a second deer to a person of his choice. Third and succeeding deer go to persons who signed up to receive culled deer. The culler keeps track of time culling, gas used, shots missed, etc., to be reimbursed from the grant.

Cullers are given a sign to be displayed on their vehicle that they are authorized to cull deer. Cullers who cull at least one deer may cull again the next year. A culler who fails to cull at least one deer must sit out the next year.

When the local McDonald's got a new cooler, somehow the program got the old one which it uses to store culled deer.