

**CITY OF STEVENS POINT
DEER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
9 January, 2019, 3:00 PM
CITY HALL, 1515 STRONGS AVE., CITY CONFERENCE ROOM**

Voting Members Present

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

Member Dr. Scott Hygnstrom, Email: scott.hygnstrom@uwsp.edu

Member Mike Bialas, 1825 Gilkay St., Stevens Point, WI 54481, 715-340-8054, wbialas@hotmail.com

Member Alder Mary McComb, 2100 Elk Street, Stevens Point, WI 54481, 715-570-8836, Email: marymccombalder@gmail.com

Voting Members Excused

Member Barb Jacob, 1616 Depot St., Apt. A, Stevens Point, WI 54481, H: 715-342-1390, B: 715-343-1730, Email: barbjacob22@gmail.com (extended leave of absence).

Advisory Members Present

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

Advisory Members Absent

Operations Chief Tom Zenner, 1515 Strongs Avenue., Stevens Point, WI 54481, 715-346-1500, zenner@stevenspoint.com

William J. Horvath, 350 McDill Ave., Stevens Point, WI 54481, 715-341-4021, billjhorvath@gmail.com .

DNR Rep. Lesa H. Kardash, 473 Griffith Ave., Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494. 715-421-7813, lesa.kardash@wisconsin.gov

Bryan Lockman, bryanlockman@wisconsin.gov 715-344-3694

Jon Scharbarth, jonscharbarth@wisconsin.gov . 715-344-3694

Others Present

Culler: Greg Klug

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm by Chairperson Okonek. The Chair indicted a quorum was present.

1. Deer Management Committee minutes of 28November, 2018.

McComb moved and Bialas seconded to approve. Passed unanimously.

2. The 2018-2019 culling project

A. Update

46 does and 3 bucks were culled. All CWD stuff submitted. 48 deer processed for a total of 1550 pounds for the food pantry, higher than last year. In 2018 4800 households received venison from the pantry. Seniors especially love the venison. Maybe one of four families take venison of all

food pantry clients. Greg lets people know that the meat goes to the food pantry.

B. Culling locations.

There are problems with people feeding deer and turkeys, which draws them into neighborhoods, and exposes humans to CWD. Greg estimated numbers of deer in the different areas: West side – 75, East side – 100, North side – 75. Whitetail residents are also concerned about high deer population. If the airport is not open for hunting next season, culling will need to happen there.

C. Any issues pertaining to deer culling within the city.

Baiting was approved by the DNR. The benefits are that it draws out the large number of deer who hang around in inaccessible areas. Baiting helps the culler do his/her job more efficiently. The point was made that the City is culling, not hunting.

Hygnstrom moved to approve baiting next season, seconded by McComb. Passed unanimously. Okonek will follow up with Lisa about baiting approval.

Next season, gutting locations will be needed. There used to be several locations and cullers had keys.

We need to ask Whiting if the City can work on the north side of HH by the wellfields.

The public relations piece was discussed for which Scott's students will develop an outline. Do coyote, turkey, and geese issues need to be addressed in that? Culling coyotes actually raises the population because they compensate by producing more young. The question of the committee scope was brought up. McComb volunteered to ask Council President Melessa Johnson about that.

Someone is needed to handle the tags next season.

The next 3-year RFO for cullers should go out in May, decision made in a June meeting.

Bialas will take the CDAC position.

D. 2018-19 grant update.

The City got the grant. Included is \$500 to hire a student to do goose scaring, and 700 for habitat modification.

3. Date, time, and location of next meeting.

No specifics, but the next meeting will be in early June 2019.

4. Adjournment.

*Hygnstrom/McComb **moved** to adjourn with unanimous consent at 4:02.*

Mary McComb 5 June 2019