

Deer Management Task Force

Meeting Notes

September 10, 2018

Commissioner Barringer called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM

Members Present: Commissioner Blake Barringer
Chief Jason Jones
Captain Bryan Walz
Animal Control Officer Farley Zuber
Leonard Spomer
Ron Catlin
Terry Johnson
GF&P John Murphy
Administrative Assistant Susan LaFave

Commissioner Barringer reports he has discussed with the Mayor and City Administrator and they have expressed keeping the group active with yearly meetings

Review of 10/2/17: Motion to approve by Chief Jones – 2nd by Mr. Spomer – All members voting Aye – Motion Passed

Commissioner Barringer discussed the emails received from members who were unable to attend: Brian Lee, Keith Senger, Jody Rausch, and Brad Schultz

Report on vehicle accidents involving deer in city limits: ACO Zuber reports in 2017 – 16 accidents. So far in 2018 – 8 accidents

- slightly above last year
- most accidents occur on 4th, Garfield, and Hwy 14

Report on complaints of property damage or other conflicts involving deer within city limits – ACO Zuber reports 4 complaints in 2017. So far in 2018 5 reports. He did mention the reports were more of a sighting in nature rather than actual damage

Comments/Concerns:

GF&P Murphy commented:

Hughes County numbers are down but going up

EHD – has not seen yet

Mule deer population is struggling

GF&P would like to have data when counts are done

GF&P staff would be willing to assist with counts

Would be best to do counts approx. every 3 years just to show history if another harvest is needed in future years

Best to do counts in Sept/Oct

Noticing most deer are on the islands as the islands have recovered since flood

Opened deer season 3 weeks early (sept 1)

Mr. Catlin commented:

Has not seen deer in 2 years

Mr. Spomer

Believes the deer have lost habitat with the building in the area north of 4th St

Ms. Johnson

Agrees not seeing deer

---It was decided not to do a count this year as it is late in the year and the low sightings and accidents do not indicate an increase in population over last year.

---It was decided to set a meeting date for next year early in September to decide on doing a count.

Set next meeting date: August 19, 2019 @ 5:30 pm

Adjourn:

Motion to Adjourn by Chief Jones—2nd by ACO Zuber—All members voting Aye—Motion carried

Meeting adjourned at 6:03 PM

Submitted by:

Susan LaFave

Administrative Assistant