

Deer Management Task Force

Meeting Notes

October 2, 2017

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

Members Present: Commissioner Jim Mehlhaff
Chief Dave Panzer
Captain Jason Jones
Animal Control Officer Farley Zuber
Keith Senger
Jody Rausch
Ross Scott
Ron Catlin
Terry Johnson
GF&P John Murphy
Administrative Assistant Susan LaFave

Report on vehicle accidents involving deer: ACO Zuber reports in 2016 – 17 accidents so far in 2017 – 7 accidents

Report on complaints of property damage or other conflicts involving deer within city limits – ACO Zuber reports 4 complaints in 2016 and so far in 2017 4 reports. He did mention the reports were more of a sighting in nature rather than actual damage

Review of 2015 deer counts:

2 Counts completed in 2015. 9/23/15: 20 deer & 10/21/15: 67 deer

Comments/Concerns:

Murphy commented:

Hughes County numbers are down

Lost some deer last year due to EHD

May be issues in a couple of years as population recovers

Senger: Best to do a deer count annually just for numbers, but is okay if don't complete count this year

Neither Rausch nor Catlin have seen deer in their area of town

Phone message from Leonard Spomer was given to Commission Mehlauff: Leonard is not seeing a lot of deer and would not recommend doing a count

Rausch asked about EHD: Murphy was able to explain how deer contract and die

Scott advised there are collared deer that are part of a study that may be seen in the area

Murphy advised a count next year would be best as the numbers come back up with a side note that a harsh winter and other factors may hinder the population growth

---It was decided not to do a count this year as the numbers 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: September 10, 2018 @ 5:30 pm

Adjourn:

Motion to Adjourn by Senger—2nd by Rausch—All members voting Aye—Motion carried
Meeting adjourned at 5:55 PM

Submitted by:

Susan LaFave

Administrative Assistant