

**CITY OF STEVENS POINT  
DEER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES  
OCTOBER 17, 2018 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:  
Member Dr. Scott Hygnstrom, Email:  
Member Carole Cassidy  
Member Mike Bialas, 1825 Gilkay St., Stevens Point, WI 54481, 715-340-8054,  
Member Alder Mary McComb, 2100 Elk Street, Stevens Point, WI 54481, 715-570-8836,  
Email:

**Voting Members Excused**

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

**Advisory Members Present**

**Advisory Members Absent**

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

William J. Horvath, 350 McDill Ave., Stevens Point, WI 54481, 715-341-4021,  
DNR Rep. Lesa H. Kardash, 473 Griffith Ave., Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494. 715-421-7813,

Bryan Lockman, 715-344-3694  
Jon Scharbarth, 715-344-3694

**Others Present**

Culler: Greg Klug, Parks Director: Tom Schrader. Liz Holbrook, WSAU. Andrew Pelletier,  
Andrew Krafft.

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

1. **Approval of the Deer Management Committee minutes of January 10, 2018.**  
*Hygnstrom **moved** and Bialas seconded to approve. Passed unanimously.*
2. **Update on plan to control geese along Wisconsin River.**  
*Okonek reviewed that this committee decided at its August meeting to consider culling. The Parks Commission agreed. Tom Schrader reviewed procedures with USDA to cull geese. It is too late now to get things going for 2019. First, the USDA would hold a public hearing and review the city's previous attempts to deter geese. Bas on this, they would decide whether we could have the geese culled, and how many. Cost would be about \$5000. It's less expensive without processing costs, but the public tends to consider that a waste. McComb reported resident pushback on social media.*

Hygnstrom reviewed 2018's attempts to deter geese, involving human dispersal and bioacoustics. The April snowstorm delayed goose activity and thus implementation due to changed goose habits. The three criteria for effectiveness were not all met at one time: 1) A large number of geese are present. 2) The device is in the area. 3) There are no people in the area. City parks staff could help in more systemic patterning of where the geese are. Sources of volunteers such as high school groups were discussed.

Bialas **moved** and McComb seconded to try bio-acoustics again in 2019.

**3. The 2018-2019 culling project**

**A. Number of deer to be culled.**

19 out of the permitted 45 deer have been culled so far, about normal, reported Greg Klug. Three bucks so far, which is allowed if there are damage complaints in the area. Okonek reported that Chief Zenner said there have been 8 car-deer accidents this fall, four on the West Side, three on the far East Side, and two more closer in.

**B. Culling locations.**

Klug reported he's set up seven zones to more closely identify where deer are culled. There is no culling on convent grounds this year, at the nuns' request. Klug will write a letter to owners of large properties near the convent asking permission to cull in their properties. We are still seeking approval to cull at Sentry, although it might be possible to cull in some of their outlying properties.

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

McComb said that Public Works Director Scott Beduhn said we can work with the GIS staff member on mapping. McComb will meet with her to find out what she needs. Klug provided McComb with a map of the zones. A public map can be done, along with a map for the committee with more detailed information. Hygnstrom said this data would be useful for UW-Extension too, as well as the public education effort he's involved in with Plover and Whiting.

**4. Update on 2018-2019 grant.**

Hygnstrom will again write the grant, due December 3. He plans to send a draft to committee members a week before our next meeting, at which time it will be finalized. Goose dispersal measures will be included.

**5. Date, time, and location of next meeting.**

Wednesday 28 November, 3 p.m. City Conference Room.

**6. Adjournment.**

Bialas **moved** to adjourn with unanimous consent.

Mary McComb 10/17/2018