



DNR Deer Advisory Committee Meeting

November 9, 2020

10 AM

Skype Meeting

Committee members present: Bob Nack (DNR deer specialist vacancy), Al Horvath, Eric Canania, Derek Johnson, Rich Kirchmeyer, Mike Riggle, Linda Olver, Jess Carstens, Dan Storm, Travis Bartnick, Bryan Woodbury, Dave Zebro, Brian Dhuey

Committee members absent: Dan Eklund, Jake Walcisak, Brad Koele, Brad Hutnik

Others on the call: Jen Stenglein, Jerome Donohoe, Matt Gross, Curt Rollman, Matt Esser

Bob Nack provided an update on the statewide deer specialist position that is currently vacant. The DNR received approval to submit paperwork to begin the hiring process. Bob will be filling-in until the position is filled.

DNR wildlife biologists were asked to conduct a review of current deer management unit (DMU), deer management zone (DMZ), and metro sub-unit boundaries in their area of responsibility. This review is required every 3 years by administrative rule.

DNR biologists recommended five total potential boundary changes, two DMU changes and three metro subunit changes. The two DMU boundary change recommendations were in Douglas and Marathon counties. The three metro subunit boundary change recommendations affected Sheboygan, Manitowoc, Waukesha, and Washington counties.

The committee discussed the pros and cons for each recommendation which took the following into consideration: land cover, land type ownership, deer age data collection, population estimation variation, current herd management options and programs, historical antlerless tag allocation, harvest history, implications for hunters, and public opinion.

Committee comments will be shared with the DNR Wildlife Management Program - Wildlife Leadership Team and DNR Leadership. The DNR's preliminary boundary change recommendations will be shared at County Deer Advisory Committee (CDAC) meetings occurring between December 7-18, 2020 in each county. In early January 2021, the DNR's preliminary boundary change recommendations and preliminary recommendations on 3-year population objectives received from CDACs will be provide for public input. The Natural Resources Board will discuss boundary changes and 3-year population objectives at their meeting in February 2021.