LA CROSSE COUNTY WILDLIFE ABATEMENT/DAMAGE COMMITTEE

Monday, October 15, 2018, 8:30 a.m.
Room 2208, La Crosse County Administrative Center

MEMBERS PRESENT: Carl Mueller, Kevin Hoyer, Ted Eisenbacher
MEMBERS ABSENT: Francis Brown
OTHERS PRESENT: DeWayne Snobl, Kaitlyn Lance, Vicky Kast

CALL TO ORDER
Carl Mueller called the meeting to order at 8:42 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
MOTION by Eisenbacher and seconded by Hoyer to approve the meeting minutes from February 12, 2018. Approved unanimously.

2017 DEER DONATION PROGRAM UPDATE
DeWayne Snobl reported that the 2017 deer donation numbers were slightly higher than in 2016 by two deer, but nowhere near the numbers La Crosse had participating in the past. It is unclear if the numbers are lower due to less hunters, harvesting antlerless deer, or if CWD is playing a factor.

2017 DAMAGE PROGRAM ANNUAL REPORT
Snobl handed out the 2017 damage report and explained that the Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims program is funded through hunter dollars, which includes fees from various hunting licenses. The program assists with agricultural losses caused by white-tailed deer, black bear, Canada geese, wild turkey, elk and mountain lions. Sandhill cranes may become eligible for the WDACP services if the Wisconsin Legislature authorizes a hunting season. Losses in La Crosse County are mainly due to deer and bear.

Discussion occurred regarding who is eligible and should apply for compensation. Currently the landowner is eligible and people who lease the land are not eligible for compensation, unless landowner signs off. Snobl explained some of the criteria that needs to be met in order to be eligible.

2018 CROP PRICE CONSIDERATIONS
Snobl explained how the proposed prices were arrived at, using various Ag statistics, mills and auction numbers throughout the year and taking an average. This method gives him defensible numbers. There was more discussion, but Committee agreed the numbers looked reasonable and fair. MOTION by Eisenbacher seconded by Hoyer to set the 2018 crop prices as stated above. Approved unanimously.

HARVEST DATE-90% CUT-OFF FOR WDACP
Snobl reported that last year the cut-off date was December 1st. Usually most of the farmers have the crops off by that time. If needed, the date can be moved to December 15th, but the committee would have to get together before then and make a new motion. MOTION by Hoyer seconded by Eisenbacher to set the date of December 1, 2018 as the 90% cut-off date. Approved unanimously. The USDA office will publish this date in the newspaper.

2019 PROGRAM BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS AND APPROVAL
Snobl reported that the 2019 budget is down almost 11% from last year and went through the various line items and amounts. Questions were asked about the deer donation program and the County funded amount of $4,000. Snobl explained that is a separate program, and not in this budget. Kast explained the office submits a report at the end of the year to the State for reimbursement, and the County receives 100% of the costs back. Hoyer asked what page and line item the $4,000 for the deer donation program was in the budget book. Kast will verify what account and contact Hoyer after the meeting. MOTION by Eisenbacher and seconded by Hoyer to approve $250 for the dumpster fee for the participating deer processor out of the deer donation funds. MOTION by Hoyer and seconded by Eisenbacher to approve the proposed 2019 WDACP La Crosse County Budget. Approved unanimously.

UPDATE USDA-AHPIS- DEWAYNE SNOBL
No further updates except the 5 year Cooperative Service Agreement, which is Item #10 on the agenda.
UPDATE WDNR—RON LICHTIE
No updates at this time.

5-YEAR WILDLIFE SERVICES COOPERATIVE SERVICE AGREEMENT RENEWAL 2019-2023
The current Cooperative Service Agreement (CSA) ends on December 31, 2018. This CSA will start on January 1, 2019 and end December 31, 2023. No major changes have occurred. Kast will send this to Corporation Counsel to review, get required signature and return to Snobl. Kast handed out a copy to the committee.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS
The next meeting will be on Monday, February 11, 2019, starting at 8:30 a.m. in Room 2208 of the La Crosse County Administrative Center. Agenda items include: Call to Order, Approval of October 15, 2018 minutes, Shooting Permit – Harvest exemption Considerations (if needed), 2018 WDACP Claims Approval, Deer Donation Program update, Update USDA-APHIS, Update WDNR.

ADJOURN
MOTION by Eisenbacher seconded by Hoyer to adjourn. Approved unanimously. Adjourned 9:55 a.m.

Disclaimer: The above minutes were approved at the November 5, 2018 meeting, Vicky Kast, Recorder