

Deer Committee
January 27, 2010
MINUTES

Members Present: Darrell Gaskill, Chris Theissen, Jerry Hopkins, Keith Brown, John Hermanson, Terry Gray, Jack Harkness, Dick Hierstein, and Bill Bunger from IDNR.

Jerry Hopkins noted that it was a struggle to get the required hunter training program set up locally. He is already working on scheduling a May class and a late summer class as well as proficiency testing.

Terry Gray distributed a report stating that 13 hunters were issued city permits and 21 were deer harvested (15 does, 4 button bucks and one shed). Bill Bunger reported that 41 city licenses were sold. Also, 38 county perimeter licenses were issued with seven does and one button buck taken. Bunger indicated that the 21 harvested out of 41 city permits is a good average. He was surprised at the lack of perimeter licenses issued. The group agreed there could be more or better communication with hunters concerning that hunting option. As point of information, the 650 licenses available for Marshall County were sold out in four days.

Discussion centered on what can be done to increase the doe harvest.

- There needs to be sufficient access. Property owners need to be informed and willing to allow hunters.
- Offering an incentive program to hunt bucks can also be effective. There have been different systems used for incentive programs. While there can be some problems with an incentive program, the increased doe harvest may out weigh any negatives.
- Fall flooding and extreme cold weather were two factors that probably had some affect on the total doe harvest.
- Ground blinds versus elevated stands was brought up. Some hunters feel that some areas only ground blinds will work, but the city ordinance requires elevated stands.
- Increased opportunities to get the training required to apply for a city permit.
- Garry Brandenburg volunteered to help coordinate some shared hunting areas, hunters and property owners

Aerial surveying annually is not a requirement of the program. Bunger said every two years is adequate. Brandenburg suggested that some of the wildlife organizations may be willing to help fund the cost of the survey.

One property owner spoke up to say he feels the program is not aggressive enough in addressing the problem and would like to see more done. One concern mentioned was feeding of deer and how we can get better compliance with the ordinance prohibits it.

Meeting Adjourned.

Next meeting is February 17, 4:00 p.m., City Council Chambers.