

Meeting Minutes: Cervid Advisory Task Force

Date: December 04, 2018
Minutes prepared by: Mackenzie Reberg and Samantha Miltz
Location: Buffalo Community Center, Buffalo, Minnesota

Member Attendance

- Mary Donahue, USDA Veterinary Services
- Linda Glaser, Board of Animal Health
- Brenda Hartkopf, Minnesota Elk Breeders Association
- Brooks Johnson, Farmed Cervid Producer At Large
- Scott Josephson, Cervid Veterinarian
- Mark Luedtke, Minnesota Elk Breeders Association
- Don Myren, Board of Animal Health
- Mackenzie Reberg, Board of Animal Health
- Daryl Simon, Non-Native Species Cervid Producer
- Steve Uchytel, Alternate, Minnesota Deer Farmers Association
- Leo Windschitl, Minnesota Deer Farmers Association

Non-member Attendance

- Jim Byrne, Alternate, Minnesota Elk Breeders Association
- Greg Lubinski, Minnesota Elk Breeders Association
- Samantha Miltz, Recorder, Board of Animal Health

Members not in Attendance

- Denny Niess, Farmed Cervid hunting premises
- Gary Olson, Minnesota Deer Farmers Association
- Glenn Zebarth, Cervid Veterinarian

Review of Minutes from 08-15-2018

Linda Glaser welcomed the group to the meeting with introductions. Task Force requests Michelle (DNR) be listed as not in attendance for documentation of the Task Force Advisory Meetings. There was a request to clarify the DNR's participation with the Task Force, specifically if the agency will be included in emails regarding the Task Force and if DNR will provide input on documents put forth by the Task Force.

There were no other comments about the meeting minutes from the August meeting and no objections. The August meeting minutes were passed.

Approved Exclusionary Fencing Options

Linda Glaser reviewed the current approved exclusionary fencing options intended to prevent commingling of farmed and wild cervids and requested input for modifications from the group. She also requested input from the task force for additional alternative exclusionary fencing options that could be reviewed by the Board for approval.

A member raised a concern regarding the one year, conditional approval of electrified fencing on a Fillmore County premises. At that premises, testing of fence voltage and observing the deer around the perimeter is on-going. The member was concerned if approval would be revoked in the future there would be significant cost associated with having the fence modified.

The task force showed concern for import regulations from other states and for potential legislation that could be introduced requiring farmed cervid herds to be double fenced.

#1. Double fencing 10' apart

- Linda asked if the distance between the fencing should remain at 10 feet apart or could a range of distance between fences be reasonable?
- The task force concluded that a minimum of 4 feet apart with no maximum distance would be acceptable. They proposed double fencing, 8 feet high and a minimum of 4 feet apart with no limit on the maximum distance between the two fences.

#2. Secondary fence attached to the outside of the existing fence. (4 feet high, 2" x 4" squares)

- After discussion, this fencing option was left as previously defined.

#3. Solid Fencing (shade cloth or wood)

- Members concluded that placing the fence a minimum of 4 feet from the ground is a sufficient height but a producer may elect to construct fencing that is higher.

#4. Conditional Electrified wire

- Electric wire attached to the outside of an existing 8 foot fence requiring battery backup. Task Force members approve of this type of exclusionary fencing. Linda plans to draft exclusionary fencing guidelines to include the conditional electrified wire.

Linda Glaser brought the discussion to a close stating the first three options were approved previously by the Farmed Cervid Advisory Committee. The Task Force requested the DNR's input on approved fencing and holds concerns that the legislature may not recognize the exclusionary fencing requirements as approved.

Review of Board Farmed Cervid Rules and Statues

Dr. Glaser provided the meeting attendees a copy of the Farmed Cervidae rules and statues to review and opened up for questions regarding the rules and statutes. Linda also reviewed the involvement of the commissioner of the DNR within the Farmed Cervidae rules and statutes. An attendee requested that BAH notify farmed cervid producers if DNR has requested registration information regarding their herd.

Mackenzie Reberg gave an overview of the Physical Inventory requirements starting in 2019.

Mary Donahue gave a USDA update.

We expect the new CWD Herd Certification Program Standards to be released soon. The Agency received many comments which are being answered. The Agency has a vacancy for the Director position which oversees the Cervid program. At the moment there is no funding for indemnity because we are in a continuing resolution. There is no news on whether there will be a government shutdown.

Next Meeting

Date: Tuesday, March 19, 2019

Time: 1- 4pm

Location: Buffalo Community Center, 206 Central Avenue, Buffalo, MN

Agenda items:

- Legislative update by the Board of Animal Health
- Legislative updates from the MDFA and MN EBA
- USDA update
- DNR update to the Board