



CWD Response Plan Review Committee Meeting

- *Notes from October 27, 2016*

This document provides notes from the first meeting of the CWD Response Plan Review Committee, held on October 27, 2016, and is organized as:

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Introduction

The first meeting of the Wisconsin CWD Response Plan Review Committee was held on October 27, 2016 at the Lussier Family Heritage Center in Madison, Wisconsin. A list of attendees is provided in Appendix I of these notes.

Bob Nack, Big Game Section Chief, with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) opened the meeting and provided an overview of the day's agenda, provided in Appendix II. This overview was followed by introductory remarks from leaders of the three sponsors of the Committee, namely, Deputy Secretary Kurt Thiede from DNR, Dr. Paul McGraw from the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP), and Larry Bonde, Chairman of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress (WCC). Bob Nack then provided the following overview of the Committee's planned work.

Committee Objectives and Charge

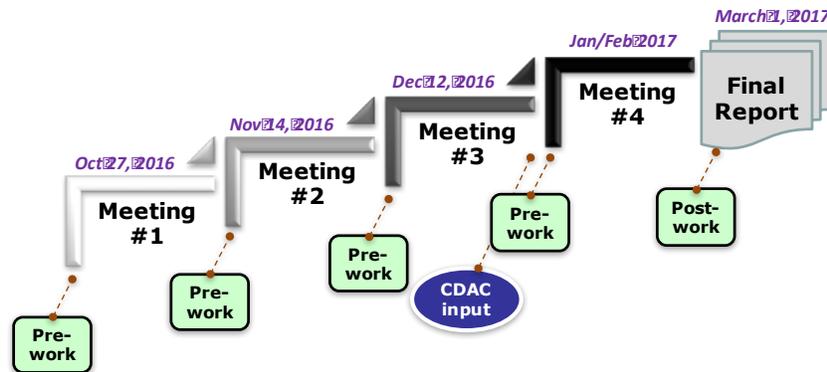
- Engage key stakeholder organizations and resource agencies interested in wild and captive ungulate herd health monitoring and management to review the 2010-2025 Wisconsin CWD Response Plan and to develop CWD recommendations for the next 5 years.
 - Review and recommend CWD response plan goal and objectives
 - Review and recommend CWD action items for each objective
 - Suggest new CWD action items for the next 5 years.
 - Review feedback from the public through County Deer Advisory Councils on proposed revisions and make a final recommendation to committee sponsors.

In its work, the Committee will take into account the current interest shown and input provided by multiple stakeholders and organizations across the state, including:

- Governor Walker's CWD initiatives
- Legislators
- Wisconsin Wildlife Federation
- Wisconsin Conservation Congress's biosecurity plan
- Spring hearing county resolutions, and
- Tribes

Process and Timeline

The diagram below shows the timing of the four planned Committee meetings:



After the 3rd meeting on December 12, 2016, public comments will be sought during a 2-week period on committee recommendations, and will be summarized for the County Deer Advisory Council (CDACs). This feedback will be included in the Committee’s discussions during the 4th and the final meeting.

Deliverables

- Preliminary recommendations after 3 meetings, to make available for public comment
- Final report provided by the Committee to the Sponsor Team (DNR, DATCP, WCC)
- Final report presented to the Natural Resources Board (NRB) on March 1, 2017.

Roles and responsibilities

- The Committee members are expected to represent their organization / agency, complete all pre-meeting assignments, attend and actively participate in meetings, and review and provide timely comments on meeting notes. The Committee will focus on identifying “What” is important.
- CDACs will conduct the public meetings in January, and provide timely feedback on Committee recommendations.
- The Sponsor Team will decide “How” to best accomplish the recommendations of the Committee.
- The independent facilitator will conduct meeting facilitation, gather and summarize notes, prepare material for public comment, and prepare the final report.

History of CWD in Wisconsin

Julie Widholm from the DNR provided a brief history of CWD in Wisconsin, and the 2010-2025 Response Plan’s six objectives, twenty-four action items, other influences on CWD during 2010-2015, and key successes and challenges during 2010-2015.

External Expert Speakers

Three expert speakers presented their research and answered questions from the Committee and the audience:

- **Dr. Margaret Wild, DVM, PhD**, Chief Wildlife Veterinarian, National Park Service, Biological Resources Division, Wildlife Health Branch, Fort Collins, CO.
- **Dr. Michael Samuel**, Professor of Wildlife Ecology, Assistant Unit Leader, USGS BRD, Wisconsin Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI.
- **Dr. Nick Haley, DVM, PhD**, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, Midwestern University – Glendale, AZ.

Slides of their presentation will be made available to the Committee members.

Reflections

Following the presentations and Q&A with the three expert speakers, the facilitator asked the Committee members to reflect on what stood out to them from the day's discussion, including any observations, new information, questions, ideas, etc. Many reflections focused on the need for further research, and included:

1. There are opportunities to try new things, though some of them might not have social acceptance.
2. There is a need for additional research in genetics resistance for captive cervid population, though this is a longer term proposition. There is also a need to find a short term solution to decrease the spread of CWD.
3. We need more research on the effect of CWD on wild and captive populations; this is particularly important to the captive industry.
4. More funding for vaccine research is needed.
5. We need to educate public and the hunters about news, research, publications etc. re: CWD, and the diversity of views and opinions related to it.
6. We need to continue to be adaptive, and to continue the research.
7. Need to research how bodily fluids of infected deer affect forage crops, and whether forage crops can facilitate in the spread of CWD if crops are transported outside of a CWD affected area.
8. A lot of people are calling for more research when the funding has declined.
9. The initial CWD plan was good but was not accepted by public. Now, we are back to trying to develop a plan that will work and will be accepted. We need creative ways to find resources for research and to support initiatives.
10. We need to prioritize our risk levels for this complex disease which has no simple answers. We might need short term concessions for the longer term sustainability.
11. Scientists tell us that this is a complex issue with no simple solutions or a "silver bullet."
12. We seem to have come full circle in our management techniques – we began with a "buck only" approach, now we are back to "buck only". We need to work with nature and genetics. We had excellent scientific presentations, and need to combine millions of years of evolution with science to find a solution.

13. It is necessary to adapt management strategies over time, though that makes it difficult to compare prevalence since management strategies are changing.
14. There is a trend for lesser testing for hunter-harvested deer.
15. Liked the level of expertise, knowledge and concern shown by the speakers, and Committee members about the current and future handling of CWD.
16. CWD does not seem to be having a detrimental effect on the CWD Zone. We don't want to go back to the heavy handed management of the Zone.
17. Minimum standards should be set for sampling all parts of the state, which should be developed without budgetary constraints. Budget, economic and social impacts of CWD prevalence should be part of planning goals, alternatives and impacts. Informing and educating hunters and wildlife enthusiasts about the impacts of CWD should be a priority.

Citizen Input

Following the Reflections, citizens present at the meeting had an opportunity to provide input; they were asked to follow specific guidelines, presented in Appendix III. Three citizens provided input and asked questions:

1. A representative of the Humane Society provided written input.
2. A citizen and local hunter expressed concern about observing high degree of CWD in their area, and suggested that the DNR should incentivize testing.
3. Another citizen requested to see research that has been conducted on the hazards of consuming a CWD infected deer.

Follow-up Items

During the meeting, the Committee members identified various follow-up items, listed below:

1. Provide a list of Committee members, to the Committee members.
2. Shares slides presented by DNR and the experts at the meeting.
3. Provide summary information on the total expense of CWD management, the sources of funds used, and the impact of CWD management expenses related the overall budget for the Wildlife Management program.
4. Provide a copy of the external expert report that pre-empted the CWD response plan.
5. How much CWD funding has been cut since 2007?
6. Provide a map of captive herds and those with CWD positives in Wisconsin.

Appendix I: List of meeting attendees and participants

The October 27, 2016 meeting was attended by the following Committee members (in alphabetical order by first name):

1. Amanda Falch, Wildlife Rehabilitation Advisory Council
2. Ben Johnson, Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory
3. Bill McCrary, Wisconsin Bowhunters Association
4. Bruce Krueger, Wisconsin Deer and Elk Farmers Association
5. Dan Barr, Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory
6. Dr. Paul McGraw, Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection
7. George Meyer, Wisconsin Wildlife Federation
8. James Lanier, Quality Deer Management Association
9. Kim Pokorny, Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association
10. Larry Bonde, Wisconsin Conservation Congress
11. Laurie Seale, Whitetails of Wisconsin
12. Mike Riggle, Wisconsin Conservation Congress
13. Mike Spors, Whitetails Unlimited
14. Mitch King, Archery Trade Association
15. Rebecca Osborne, Wisconsin Department of Health Services
16. Tony Grabski, Sporting Heritage Council

Stakeholder groups that weren't in attendance:

1. Safari Club International- Wisconsin Chapter
2. Wisconsin Department of Tourism
3. Wisconsin Association of Meat Processors
4. Chippewa tribes/GLIFWC

The DNR staff who attended the meeting included:

- Bob Nack, Big Game Section Chief
- Kevin Wallenfang, Deer & Elk Ecologist
- Maggie Stewart, Assistant Big Game Ecologist
- Ben Beardmore, Social Scientist
- Julie Widholm, Wildlife Biologist

Natural Resource Board members in attendance:

- Greg Kazmierski

Invited CWD expert speakers were (in order of speech):

- Dr. Margaret Wild, National Park Service, Fort Collins, Colorado
- Dr. Mike Samuel, Wisconsin Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, Madison, Wisconsin
- Dr. Nick Hailey, Midwestern University, Glendale, Arizona

The following citizens signed in for the meeting:

- Ken Koscik
- Melissa Tedrowe
- Simon Legal

Independent facilitation support for the meeting was provided by Credens LLC.

Appendix II: Committee Meeting Agenda

9:30 – 9:40	Introductions
9:40 – 10:20	Objectives & Committee charge
10:20 – 10:50	Process, roles & timeline
10:50 – 11:00	Break
11:00 – 12:00	Background / overview
12:00 – 12:30	Lunch
12:30 – 2:30	CWD expert speakers
2:30 – 2:45	Break
2:45 – 3:15	Reflections
3:15 – 3:45	Citizen input
3:45 – 4:00	Next steps; Feedback; Adjourn

Appendix III: Guidelines for Citizen Input

The following Guidelines were shared with the Citizens in writing and orally:

Thank you for your attendance and participation at today's Chronic Wasting Disease Response Plan Review Committee meeting sponsored by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Department of Trade, Agriculture, and Consumer Protection (DATCP), and the Wisconsin Conservation Congress (WCC). This Committee will review current plan goals, objectives and action items, and suggest new actions to guide CWD management efforts.

We request fellow citizens to review and adhere to the following guidelines:

1. This is a working meeting of the Committee, and similar to a county board meeting or other official meetings, the public is not permitted to interject at will.
2. The Committee values input from citizens, and its agenda today includes a specific time (3:15 – 3:45 PM) for citizens to provide their input to the Committee. Citizens who wish to speak during the designated time will be asked to:
 - a. Fill out a contact card;
 - b. Indicate to the facilitator (raise their hand or other signal) that they wish to speak;
 - c. Be first recognized by the facilitator before speaking;
 - d. Take turns when providing input, if multiple citizens wish to speak since only one person will have the floor at a time;
 - e. Provide written input on the contact card if the designated time runs out.
3. Each citizen will have up to 3 minutes to provide input. The time limit is placed so that other citizens have time to provide their input.
4. Committee members may ask clarifying questions to citizens, as necessary. Citizens are requested to provide their input without engaging in a debate or argument with Committee members, guest speakers or other citizens. Those engaging in inappropriate behavior may be asked to leave the meeting.

Your adherence to these guidelines will help the Committee work through complex discussions, encourage public participation, and lead to a respectful exchange of ideas and information.

Thank you.