

Non-Lethal Deer Management Meeting

Date: October 12, 2016

Location: City Hall

In Attendance:

Derek Delacourt	City of Ann Arbor
Tom Crawford	City of Ann Arbor
Bob McGee	A2 Residents for Non-Lethal Deer Management
Lorraine Fig	FAAWN
Phil Carroll	FAAWN
Dr. Anthony DeNicola (Phone)	Founder/President White Buffalo

Meeting Purpose

The intent of the meeting was to review the proposal from White Buffalo (WB), for both lethal culling and surgical sterilization in 2017.

Meeting Summary

The meeting ran about and one and a half hours with members of the stake holders group asking most of the questions. There were several preprinted questions provided to White Buffalo from FAAWN prior to the call.

1. Can you explain how the number of deer to be culled and the number to be sterilized are decided? Given that the total number of deer in the City of Ann Arbor and in any particular neighborhood are unknown, what method/s are used to make advance decisions on the numbers?

City: the city is looking to WB for the answer.

Can you keep the number culled fewer than 63?

WB: 63 will have no impact.

Will you be ok with a limit placed on each?

WB: The city sets this. To better give a recommendation, we need to complete a pilot year to really know what is going on with the total number of deer, where they are and what impact they are making.

A: The number of deer to cull and the number to be sterilized is based on the best currently available information. WB analyzed available data and proposed what they believe to be a modest combination of activities for the first year. It is their opinion that the after implementing the proposed plan, including additional estimation of heard size, they will be able to revise their recommended program going forward.

2. How are locations/neighborhoods chosen? In order to have an impact on social carrying capacity (human tolerance), is it best to decide based upon the neighborhoods with the greatest number of complaints or how will your decisions be made?

A: The program and locations are proposed based on available property, safety restrictions, available deer counts, identified areas of public concern and known deer car crash locations

3. Your proposal explained a rationale where sterilization is performed in the densely populated neighborhoods supplemented with culling in surrounding areas to reduce immigration. Will this be the model for all neighborhood locations?

A: It is for this proposal with possible changes based on new data and lessons learned in the field.

4. Safety of darting - If a dart misses its mark and doesn't strike the deer, how is it located for retrieval (e.g. in the dark?) The drugs in the darts are potentially dangerous to humans.

A: All darts include a radio transmitter within the dart itself. Any missed shot is immediately located and retrieved by the team. The second part of the questions was answered with significant discussion of the protocol for darting and the measure in place to ensure no humans are harmed in the operation.

5. Are the sterilized deer administered any drugs for pain before or at the time the anesthetic is reversed? How long are they typically observed after the reversal process? Isn't the human monitoring stressful for the animals?

A: Yes the deer are administered pain medication before the surgery and after they receive banamine for pain and antibiotics before release.

6. What is the surgical procedure if deer are found to be pregnant? If they abort after sterilization surgery does this affect the maternal mortality (wound dehiscence, etc.)?

A: The optimum time is to sterilize deer early in the reproductive season, before late February. At that stage, if a deer is pregnant, sterilization will result in miscarriage. The fetus is very small and there have been no complications with the wound or increased mortality.

In addition to the preprinted questions there were several questions related to how the number of deer to be culled was identified in the proposal. Staff responded that they requested a recommendation for a reasonable proposal based on a modest recommendation from WB's experiences and evaluation of the existing data. It was asked if staff would recommend capping the number at something less than the 100 in their proposal. Staff indicated that they are not comfortable making recommendations to WB. Staff is requesting WB make their best recommendation to allow them to get on the ground and continue to refine the program based on new data, experience in the field and any other information. A2 Res 4 Non Lethal asked the city if they would recommend to City Council an eventual end to culling. Staff indicated they would reserve any recommendation until the community agreed the measure of success had been met. Staff was not willing to make a recommendation on method at this point in the process.

A2 Res 4 Non Lethal asked if tags could be colored with respect to the areas in which the does were sterilized and WB said yes.

FAAWN requested another ecologist be considered for the evaluation of deer browse.

