

## Deer Management Meeting w/ City of Ann Arbor & WC4EB

Date: August 24, 2016

Location: City Hall, Larcom, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor North Conference Room

In Attendance:

Tom Crawford	City of Ann Arbor
Derek Delacourt	City of Ann Arbor
Steven Schantz	City of Ann Arbor
Bernie Banet	WC4EB
Maurita Holland	WC4EB
Kurt Sonen	WC4EB

### **Meeting Purpose**

To introduce the City of Ann Arbor (City) deer management team to members of the Washtenaw Citizens for Ecological Balance (WC4EB), to updated WC4EB on the City deer management plan development to date, and to continue open communication between the City and WC4EB.

### **Meeting Summary**

City provided WC4EB with an update on the deer management plan to date and how the City intends to facilitate open public engagement from cull proponents and advocates alike. City informed WC4EB that a detailed public engagement plan still needs to be developed and that the City would like WC4EB involved in that process if they prefer.

City provided a draft deer management data plan to WC4EB.

City provided WC4EB with a Draft 2017 Deer Management Plan that highlighted the following;

- City is formulating both a lethal and non-lethal plan according to Council Directive.
- Non-lethal – MDNR will not issue a permit without it being a part of a research project.
- Plan assumes a lethal & non-lethal program can be implemented during the same season.
- Bow hunting is not being considered for Winter of 2016-2017.
- City is investigating the viability of conducting some lethal culling on non-city property.
- Legal, City Code, and other considerations are being explored.
- City will be asking for support from the University of Michigan.

City communicated the desire for the deer management program to have complete transparency with the City wanting to ensure transparency throughout the entire process and with the notion that safety may dictate some transparency concerns.

City informed WC4EB that a deer management website will be created and implemented by the City.

WC4EB asked if the deer management program is intended to be a long-term, sustainable effort. City communicated the desire to follow council objectives now and in the future.

WC4EB stated they are focused on education of deer management and are available to assist the City with respect to educational materials or support.

WC4EB stated they are supportive of White Buffalo and the USDA as contractors for lethal cull activities.

WC4EB has concerns regarding the validity/accuracy of the aerial survey of deer density. The City informed WC4EB that changes to the aerial survey process are being explored and that alternative survey processes or improvements to previous survey processes are being explored.

WC4EB has concerns regarding the validity of a second public survey pertaining to deer management and if questions within the survey will be developed by the University of Michigan Survey Research Center. City stated the first public survey was reviewed by SRC and any initial public surveys will be either developed or reviewed by SRC.

WC4EB requested that vegetation impact data be collected on both public and private properties before consensus is provided on deer activity and the vegetation impact that may be a result of deer impact. WC4EB stated that vegetation impacts should be addressed on public and non-public areas.