

Provincial Urban Deer Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: September 17, 2018

10:00 a.m.-11:30 p.m.

Location: Teleconference

Phone in: 1-877-353-9184 Participant ID: 8253339#

Participants:

Jared Wright, UBCM - regrets

Doug Patemen, Town of Princeton - in attendance

Nils Jensen, District of Oak Bay- in attendance

Laurey-Anne Roodenburg, City of Quesnel - in attendance

Jeff Morgan, Wildlife & Habitat Branch (FLNRORD) - in attendance

Helen Schwantje, Wildlife & Habitat Branch (FLNRORD) - regrets

Sean Pendergast, Fish and Wildlife – Regional Operations (FLNRORD) - in attendance

Irene Teske, Fish and Wildlife – Regional Operations (FLNRORD) - in attendance

Sean Pendergast, Fish and Wildlife – Regional Operations (FLNRORD) - in attendance

Holger Bohm, Fish and Wildlife – Regional Operations (FLNRORD) - in attendance

Mike Badry, Conservation Officer Services (MoE) – regrets

Penny Lloyd, Wildlife & Habitat Branch - in attendance

Mark McKamey, Wildlife & Habitat Branch - in attendance

Leonard Sielecki, MOTI - in attendance

Tyler Morhart, MAG - in attendance

Paul de Leur, ICBC - in attendance

Sara Dubois, BC SPCA - regrets

Chair: Jeff Morgan

1. Introductions:

- Tyler Morhart, Manager of Agriculture Wildlife Program, will replace Orlando Schmidt as the Ministry of Agriculture Representative on the PUDAC.
- Penny Lloyd, Manager of the Legislative and Regulatory Reform Unit within the Wildlife & Habitat Branch has joined the PUDAC and will be assuming the responsibility of administering the PUDACS Program (with support from Mike Burwash - Associate Director, Wildlife & Habitat Branch, or his staff).

2. Agenda Confirmation

- The agenda was agreed to as presented.

3. 2017/18 PUDOCs Program Activities

- In 2017/18 funding totaling \$55,000 was made available to support a cull in Cranbrook, and immunocontraception and translocation research projects in Oak Bay and Kimberley respectively.
- The District of Oak Bay was awarded \$20,000 to support radio collaring and trail camera work to gather demographic information in advance of Immunocontraception work. 20 black-tailed deer were captured, and radio-collared and released.
- The City Cranbrook was awarded \$10,000 to support a cull of 50 white-tailed or mule deer. 20 white-tailed deer and 30 mule deer were captured, culled and then donated to the local food bank.
- The District of Kimberly was awarded \$25,000 to support a translocation of 50 female mule deer. 50 mule deer were captured, collared and released at release sites located on winter ranges within or immediately adjacent to the Rocky Mountain Trench north and east of Kimberly.
- Note: Apologies, the Kimberley translocation proposal was received late and was not put out to the PUDAC for review. The project was a part of the translocation project that has been ongoing in the East Kootenay for over three years and it used the same methodologies.
- **Action:** the final reports for the above projects will be forwarded electronically to the PUDAC members.

4. 2018/19 PUDOCs Program Discussion

- Program will be largely unchanged from the 2017/18 program.
- Provincial government is reviewing amounts paid out per culled deer and considering adjustments.
- Call for proposals will go out in late September or early October.
- PUDAC review of applications will occur in will occur in late October.
- Acknowledged-Ideally call for proposals should go out in early September.
- Nils Jensen indicated permitting challenges for the ongoing Oak Bay Immunocontraception Project, which is delivered by the Urban Wildlife Stewardship Society, but arranged to take it off-line with the Regional Staff.

5. Translocation Outcomes Reporting

- PUDOCs Program will look (funding dependant) to support an overarching analysis of translocation outcomes based on the 3 years of research so far. This Project would look at mortality/survivorship and movements of translocated deer.

- Helen Schwantje indicated concerns with the potential for increased disease transmission due to translocation. She also indicated that federal permitting processes, though not imposed as of yet, may become a necessary.

6. Cost Effectiveness Modelling

- PUDOCS Program will look (funding dependant) to support a cost effectiveness model that will consider the relative costs and effectiveness of removal methodologies and removal rates. This model would “cost out” different costs scenarios over multi-year time-spans.
- Group discussion that followed identified that project success was also related to a holistic approach to urban deer management that included education (e.g. WildsafeBC), managing attractants through fencing (e.g. airport, dump) and no feeding bi-laws.
- Laurey-Anne Roodenburg updated the group that at the 2018 UBCM Convention: the East Kootenay Regional District advanced a resolution that was adopted by the UBCM. This resolution lobbies the provincial government to amend the *Wildlife Act* to make it illegal to intentionally feed problem wildlife (**B117 Intentional Feeding of Wildlife – Amendment to the *Wildlife Act* East Kootenay RD**).

6. Communications Material

- The PUDAC was reminded that the PUDOCS Program could cover some of the costs associated with of developing provincial or regional level communications material.
- There was suggestion that the PUDOCS Program look to partner with the WildSafe BC which has developed materials.
- There was also a suggestion that the province could cover some of the costs associated with the development and printing of generic signage that would be applicable to the province. This *may* be possible depending on funding/program uptake. Alternatively signage costs could also be built into projects (of they were required for the project).
- **Action:** Irene Teske to send signage template in for review.
- **Action:** Leonard Sielecki will send links to MOTI's Wildlife Awareness Campaign for review.

7. Next Meeting – mid-November to confirm project eligibility for PUDOCs (and possibly ranking)