

AG Damage Ad-Hoc Committee Mtg 10-29-14

Attending: Marlin Laidlaw-Chair Tim Cook, Mike Rogers, Arlyn Splitt, Kevin Marquette, Al Phelan, Brad Koele DNR, Paul Nodalski DNR

- **Call to Order at 9:30**
- **Roll Call, all present**
- **Agenda Aproved**
- **Mission Statement Approved**
- **Public Comments, None**
- **Review of last committee Recommendations**

Current proposed rule changes, Brad Koele explained proposals to fee's in an attempt to stop landowners or others from charging for getting Ag Tags to hunt a specific property. IE; Guiding or Lease Fee's.

There were also proposed changes to the Bear Damage program

- **Setting values for animals causing damage, presently the value of a poached Deer or a Coyote are the same. \$43.75 ea. The committee believes that for deer this is way to low and according to Paul Nodalsk DNR Warden, this has not been revisited for a long time. The committee voted place a resolution on the Spring Hearing Agend to ask the public tomweigh in on the fee structure. This would help the committee determine what would be an appropriate value to give any animal removed for causing crop damage.**

- **Acceptable loss deductible's**, the committee feels that the \$500 across the board loss deductible is not adequate. For small acreage/dollar losses the number could be high while for larger acreage/losses it is low. The committee felt a sliding scale would be better, ie; \$250 for \$2500 loss, \$500 for \$5000 losses, \$750 for \$7500 losses, & \$1000 for \$10,000 losses. There would be no payment for losses above \$10,000 as is now. Also there was discussion about whether the value of an animal removed as a result in damage should be in addition to the deductible. Crops have value, as do wildlife.
- **Abatement for each species**, discussion was held regarding abatement, Turkey and Geese are vastly different than Deer & Bear. Turkey and Geese generally are localized in areas where they can be deterred using proven methods. Deer and Bear present problems that the only deterrent might be shoot permits or relocation in the case of Bear. Bear hunters might be Baiting in an area that damage is occurring and shooting or moving takes place. Hunters are left wondering where all the Bear went. Resolution? _____

-
-
- **Increased Access**, Kevin Marquette asked to revisit this question from the first Ag Damage Committee. We discussed how to make it possible for landowners to be certain that they are allowing access to a qualified hunter. A system of Background Checks, Hunter Safety verification, Experience, Ect could lead to some kind of a certification, Master Hunter Designation, that would be

available for landowners to get people they felt would be safe, ethical, hunters.

- **Members Matters, the things that the members talked about were mostly a reiteration of what was felt to be the most important items to them personally and are included in the minutes previously.**
- **Chairman Laidlaw asked for several spring hearing resolutions to be drafted to cover items needing action. Committee members willingly agreed to write drafts of these items and they will be made part of the final proposal.**
- **It was felt that the next meeting should be held after the spring hearing to get much needed feedback from the public. It is also a must to have a representative from the Ag Dept, and someone from the legislature in attendance.**

Respectfully Submitted

Marlin Laidlaw Chairman