

December 9, 2011

**AG Damage Ad Hoc Study Committee**

**Minutes**

**MacKenzie Environmental Center  
W7303 Cty. Hwy CS  
Poynette, Wi. 53955  
Badger Den Meeting Room**

**Meeting Called: to Order at 10:10 AM By, Chairman Marlin Laidlaw**

**Roll Call: Marlin Laidlaw, Edward Guptill, Kevin Marquette, Al Phelan, Mike Rogers, DNR Liaison, Brad Koele, Kari Zimmermann, and Tyler Strelow**

**Citizens Attending: Jerry Isaac, Tim Lynch, Dan Zimmerman, Bryan Johannes, Pete Bartelme, Michael E Krause**

**Review of Committee Mission Statement: No changes**

**Public Comments:**

**Pete Bartelme: I'm conservationist, Historian, lifetime member of Wisconsin Muzzleloaders Association, I also hunt, fish, and trap, and as a historian I portray the life of a trapper in the 1700's. I also go around to schools and teach the ethics of hunting and trapping. As a hunter I hunt on Bryan Johannes's land and over a twenty year period the deer herd has declined. I'm primarily a trophy hunter but do harvest doe. It is my observation that the farm to the north that gets Ag Tags has severely reduced the deer herd on the land that I hunt. I strongly feel that we need to look at the program so it benefits everyone.**

**Michael E Krause: I hunt in the area as the rest of these fellows. I have hunted this land for seven years and have not shot a deer. There is defiantly something wrong with the Ag Tag program in this area. Hopefully we can discuss the program and come up with something that works.**

**Dan Zimmerman: I am a large cash crop farmer in this area and I farm over three thousand acres our lands all join. I don't get Ag Tags. I believe that it is part of my obligation as a Stewart of the land, to give back to nature and we also hunt the deer. Hunting has been a long time tradition of our families and if we let this continue we are going to have more and more people drop out of hunting. We already have fewer people**

hunting with us. I no longer buy a bow license because I can't justify setting out hunting when I don't see any deer.

**Marlin:** Just something for you fellows to think about while you're here. What is the value of a deer? Monetary value, everything has a value crops have a value and so do whitetail deer.

**Dan Zimmerman:** I don't think that we can put a price on a whitetail deer. My wife was look over the close line and saw a fawn nursing on a doe and that was price less. That was thirty years ago and she talks about it; we don't and won't see that anymore. Would I spend a couple of thousand of dollars for my wife to see that again? Yes, I would.

**Mike Rogers:** I have a question for you guys. If you guys have all of this land why is this one guy getting all of the Ag Tags and he doing all of the shooting?

**Comment:** Right and has no hunt able land it is all crop land. He hunts 359 days a year, and fills 90% of the tags.

**Tim Lynch:** I have hunted all my life, my family hunts I hunt with my Dad and he is eighty years old. I have lived in the area a long time have owned the property scene 1992. I bought this land so that my sons and I could have a place to hunt that is safe and would afford a quality deer hunt. At the present time I would say that our deer herd is at a twenty year low. Ten years ago we have plenty of deer and I did have crop damage. Then came the Zone T, and Account 82 Ag Tags. My neighbor, get these Account 82 Tags and has said he wants no deer on his land. He has shot twenty plus deer every year for the past fifteen years. This is why the rest of us are not shooting doe because we are trying to compensate for his over shooting, we would like to see deer on our properties. We have over fifty gun hunters and over thirty of them bow hunt, so we have plenty of hunters and hunting pressure. I have called the Department and talked to them as well as the Crop Annalist and have been told the same thing over and over "you have plenty of deer out there". The deer damage on my property doesn't exist and the deer herd numbers are not expectable. We don't shoot doe, so that we have deer to hunt in the future. I have talked with another land owner unable to attend and we have agreed to put up an eight foot to keep the deer from leaving our property.

**Jerry Isaac:** My comments are the same as theirs. My neighbor had a Wheatfield next to my woods and last spring there were fifty deer in the wheat field and I hunt that twenty five acre woods. Eight out of ten times when I hunt that woods I won't see any deer and when I do see deer it'll be just one.

**Mike Rogers:** How can he keep shooting that many deer?

**Comment:** The deer are coming from a six thousand acre marsh two mile away, and he is shooting them in March when the doe are caring fawns, and we won't hunt then.

**Bryan Johannes: I have some hand outs for you to look over and read. Please I'm asking for your help we have lived with this problem for almost two decades. Two month ago I came before you asked for you too eliminate Account 82 Crop Damage Program and today I'm asking you to again eliminate Account 82 Crop Damage Program. Land owners that use their land for other than farming are aware that they must help in controlling the deer herd and are more than willing to help. Land owners that have ATV trails, skiing trails and walking trails can't safely use their land when these tags are being filled three hundred and sixty five days a year. Bryan then gave information on the difference in the amount tax money paid on recreational land and crop land is between seven and eight hundred dollars per forty acres of recreational land over crop land. The sportsmen and woman pay for the program yet are not able to hunt deer on these problem properties. May be these land owners that take funds from the programs and have their lands closed to other sportsmen and woman should pay the recreational tax rate. The state should have one program that take into consideration difference between recreational land and crop land. Pay the farmer ten to fifteen dollars per acre for opening his or her land to the public for hunting, raising damage limits to coincide with commodity prices on yearly bases. Bryan then passed around pictures of this individual that had shot an antlered deer on Bryan's property. Bryan state he would have like to sponsor a hunt on his property for the Make a Wish Foundation and for The Disabled Veteran Foundation but I can't because of the low number of deer due to these Account 82 Ag Tag. I'm going to spend twenty five thousand dollar to put up a fence to stop any deer from leaving my property. This is the last thing I can do. When Bryan first bought his property he turned in a neighboring family for hunting violations, citations were issued and everything was working until the Account 82 Program started and tags were issued. I have mention my problem to our local wildlife manager Mark Randle and USDA Field Service Tec. Rich Christian their comment was prove it so I did, and I caught them and then they put the permit in the brothers name and things got worse. They would shot buck in the hind quarters on my property let them to rot. When the DNR came to investigate and talked to them they filed a complaint against the Department for harassment. Now the USDA Agent Mr. Christian and the big game Biologist won't talk to me and the Warden says it is a legislative problem. Bryan then explained that he leased sixty acre of land to a young man that wanted to hunt on private land to shoot a nice buck. After leasing the land for one month Bryan presented the picture that his lessee had got of an individual shooting an antlered buck with these Account 82 Ag Tags without blaze orange, no back tag, cutting the antlers off, and when he looks up he points his gun at the man that has taken the pictures. There are also pictures that he has left corn standing to bait the deer out to shoot them. There isn't much I can do it is so bad that I can't rent my land out for someone to hunt. I have read all the books on what we need to do, we need to hunt we need harvest and we need to get kids evolved. My daughters won't hunt because of all that is going on. If things don't change when I sell I'm done with Wisconsin and its hunting. I'll hunt in some other state.**

**Question: When you talk about fencing, for the Department he would have to give permission to the Department to do the fencing would your neighbors do that?**

Probably not they just want the tags.

**Bryan:** Eight years ago I called up Mr. Christian and asked him to come out and put up a fence and I would pay for it Mr. Christian said that they normally split the cost of the fencing seventy five, twenty five. I told him I would pay the seventy five you pay the twenty five but put it up on my property. Mr. Christian said can't do that it has to be on the enrollees property. I know even if I put up a fence he is going to shoot the deer over the fence line. We'll deal with that when that happens.

**Marlin:** This is the worst case scenario and if we can define these areas that need changes we will be helping the program as well as you. There are people getting Ag Tags from car kills so if these things are happening we need to make changes because the program isn't working so well.

**Discussion:** By other citizens all we're looking for is just a little bit of help for a quality hunt to share with our friends and family. The Department says we can't do anything are hands are tied because the land owner meets the requirements and the rest is law. As for these people they haven't received any money in the last three years. No but they continue to get Account 82 Ag Tags. Has anybody tried to get access to the property? No he doesn't have any hunt able land it's all crop land.

**Comment:** I went over and talked to him two years ago when my son that is in college called up and asked if I could get him some venison so I asked if he would shoot a doe for my son and he said I have other friend and relatives to take care of first maybe next year. This was after I had taken his deer stand off of my property for the third time. His wife told me that they always hunted there and they were going to keep hunting there and I told them not as long as I owned that land.

**Jerry Isaac:** The conditions that these people put on the farmer that is leasing the crop land must get the Account 82 Ag Tags if they want to lease his crop land. This opens up the lessee whole farm that borders another farm where there is no crop damage. That means all of our land is now encompassed by Account 82 Ag Tags and the farmer will get the tag because crop land is in demand, and he want to work that land.

**Al Phelan:** Well you've answered one of my questions. That is, what is his motive? He just wants to shoot deer. Do you guys all own parcels of land? Yes, how many acres is the damage on? Two hundred and seventy one, but originally it was one hundred and twelve and there is only one acre of hunt able land. The rest is all crop land.

**Marlin:** Did anyone one talk to the farmer that has leased the land?

**Dan Zimmerman:** Yes, I did. We also operate country elevator and he would do business with us and the last time he came over I mentioned that I wasn't happy about him getting Account 82 Ag Tags because those Ag Tags are even closer to me. He looked at me didn't say a word got back in his truck and I haven't seen him since.

**Ed Guptill:** I have one question? If the Account 82 enrollees received money as well as the Ag Tags would this not be the same program as the Crop Abatement Program Managed Hunt and Crop Abatement Open Hunt?

**Brad Koloe:** No, to be the same Account 82 would have to allow public access as well as money and the tags.

**Ed Guptill:** What I'm trying to show is that we need one program not three programs doing the same thing.

**Marlin:** One program that can be adjusted.

**Al Phelan:** Brad you say under Account 82 there is on compensation. Correct well in this case the compensation is all the deer they get to shoot.

**Brad:** Yes, if that is the way you want to look at it. Then it's compensation.

**Kevin:** Ed mentioned that there were three programs out there. Keep in mind that there is one more the nuisance permits. We have to make sure we don't close one loop hole and force them to another. These nuisance tags are handed out pretty liberally.

**Marlin:** Good point. Now this is to both of you, Brad and Tyler if you were going to change the program what would you do?

**Tyler:** I'm not going to give an opinion. I'm here to answer question and look up statutes. As far as I'm seeing from the field the program works fine. Are there bad apple absolutely there are bad apple. It's a social issue. If you have a land owner that is into QDM and a farmer that is raising crop for his farming operation they might never agree. As for you people I'm sorry you have had to deal with this. I can tell you that this guy is looking at some serious charges like losing his hunting, fishing and trapping privileges for three years.

**Mike Rogers:** So what about the land owner shouldn't he have some responsibility?

**Bryan:** That's why I'm saying these permits should be given someone that isn't a relative or someone they know.

**Brad:** I disagree. If they know the person they would have a better chance of knowing what is going on.

**Marlin:** One of the things that might help in a case of a violation is that land owner would also penalized.

**Jerry Isaac:** As a farmer if I were in a program that I would be penalized because I let someone hunt on a permit issued to me you bet I would make sure they were doing was legal. That has to be the responsibility of the farmer.

**Dan Zimmerman:** A while back we were asked about the value of the deer? I don't know how anyone can set a value on that but when you sell six hundred thousand license and hundreds of people from Illinois and other states drive up here to see dairy cows and deer grazing in a field it worth a lot more money than anyone knows.

**Marlin:** Well it's, a one point six billion dollar business, that's the number we have been batting around for years and I think that is still a valid number. I did some research and there is a demand for venison sausage and they pay three dollars and eighty nine cents a pound for boned out meat. The number one hide guy in the world pays about fifteen to twenty when he figures expenses for a deer hide. So I asked if the average deer meat was thirty five pounds and hide, we could put a dollar price of a deer at one hundred fifty dollars and would go up from there depending on size. I think we can say that for every tag that goes out there is an automatic offset for those tags. In other words, yes your crops are worth this much and the deer is worth this much.

**Tyler:** There is a dollar value set on deer in the statutes. I don't know if you know that or not. Its forty three dollars seventy five cents. When we get confiscated animals big one eighty inch bucks and bigger we sell these and can get anywhere from two hundred to two thousand dollars for these carcass.

**Tim Lynch:** If I shoot a deer illegally what is my fine?

**Tyler:** It depends on the charges but you are charged forty three dollars and seventy five cents for the deer.

**Kari:** Most of the costs are court costs.

**Marlin:** Another amount that should be figured into the cost of the deer is the difference in the taxes you pay on the hunting land you bought for the deer and the taxes paid on crop land. I have forty acres for deer hunting separate from my farm and the difference between the hunting land taxes are seventeen hundred for hunting land and nine hundred for the farm land. So that is eight hundred dollars and that is in Wood County.

**Al Phelan:** I brought this up before, I don't think that there is person in this room that thinks that there isn't a need for some kind of program to help a farmer that has crop damage. What we are attempting to look at is what these program abuses are and how can we prevent them. I'm glad that Tyler commented on your case that there are other charges pending. Like when the gun was pointed at the individual.

**Marlin:** I think with all of this discussion about the value of the deer the committee can justify taking position on where the deductible should start. How difficult would it be to put into the rules of the program saying any violation would eliminate them from the program?

**Brad:** That is already in the rules for the enrollee.

**Marlin:** It would have to be tied to the land, and have a time period, because over time the land could be sold. Another suggestion that was made at our last meeting was the time line for filling these permits be changed, so that we would be harvesting deer to fill these tags after fawns could survive, antlers are grown, and so on. Like August and September. It fly's in the face of any humane person to shoot a doe with a belly full of fawns.

**Brad:** The Department made it mandatory that you start shooting after January first so you would be killing three instead of one. That was to prevent the damage for the following growing season.

**Marlin:** But they never credited the program for those fawns that were killed along with the does.

**Al Phelan:** We want to make changes to the rules that would cover baiting, and standing crops.

**Brad:** There are rule that cover this, and it says they aren't eligible for compensation.

**Mike Rogers:** Up to a time.

**Brad:** Administrative Code says October first the department won't issue shooting permits.

**Comments:** So if weather conditions change so crops can't be harvested and there is going to significant crop loss you could issue shooting permits.

**Brad:** We could.

**Kevin:** It's in the code their not to issue permits after October first. Yet the Department issues most tags in January thru March and encourages people fill those permits during the time frame when the does are pregnant and the buck don't have antlers as well as when the fawns are still nursing.

**Brad:** Administrative code requires us to get those permits out there.

**Bryan:** Brad is there away that codes can be changed so that the Department can pull shooting permits when there are violations.

**Ed Guptill:** The problem is the USDA administers the program and the Department only issues shooting permits and won't question the USDA's recommendations. We need to get the Department to take ownership in the program.

**Brad:** Legislation prohibits the Department from doing that.

**Ed Guptill: There is a way around this and that is for you Bryan to have Fond du Lac County removed from the Crop Abatement Program. You will have go to your county board and present them with a petition with enough signatures showing a majority of the county supports your stand and have them pass a county resolution removing your county from the Crop Abatement Program.**

**Bryan: That would work.**

**Brad: That's right but the department could issue nuisance permits.**

**Determine Possible Improvement to Address Concerns**

**Compensation, Issuance of shooting permits, and Nuisance permits.**

**Marlin: We have made some comments about possible improvements. Violations should also involve the property.**

**Al: Where can we have the greatest effect Legislative or Administrative Rules?**

**Brad: Administrative Rules.**

**Ed Guptill: If we decide to eliminate Account 82 is that legislative or administrative rules change?**

**Kevin Marquette: Is nuisance program administrative?**

**Brad: That administrative.**

**Marlin: The suggestions are: Elimination of Account 82, Violations causes' loss of rights to the program for the property. Violations, what constitutes a violation?**

**Al Phelan: Leaving crops is not necessary a violation nor is baiting if it is legal to bait in that county.**

**Bryan: A man asked a Warden. If I shoot a deer on Bryan's property and never retrieve that animal is that illegal? The Warden replied, no it's not illegal.**

**Tyler: There are statutes that cover retrieving game and the waste of a natural resource. So these laws could apply.**

**Brad: Account 82 is in Statutes.**

**Tyler:** I think you are trying to do two things here. Require more responsibility and allow more public access.

**Mike Rogers:** These farmers don't have the time to make sure that you're wearing your back tag or in blaze orange. So just because of that we can't kick them out of the program.

**Marlin:** I don't think that the people that are in the programs and need the help are going to put up with much. There are always those that are going to game the system. This will catch up to them when there nothing to hunt unless they just want to tic off the neighbors. So By raising the threshold more will leave the programs.

**Kari:** At the last meeting you were talking about a percentage of the crop price and / or production income of that farm. I don't know how you would do that but that's where you were headed.

**Marlin:** Row crops farmer and orchard and tree farmers. Presently hay is considered as a crop. The only time you would notice a drop in hay would be when there is a drought or extremely high numbers of deer. Hay might be a crop that shouldn't be considered. When they take a mouthful of hay the hay will still grow where as when they take a mouthful of corn or soy beans it's gone. There two different crops and the threshold for hay should be much higher. Any other changes

**Mike Rogers:** What about the date change for filling the tags?

**Ed Guptill:** Is there a need for us to put something in about if you are in a crop insurance program you don't need to be in the Crop Abatement Program. Some farmers buy crop insurance and collect from that and the collect from Crop Abatement Program.

**Marlin:** Double dipping.

**Dan Zimmerman:** That's an excellent point.

**Comments:** They can collect for that? Yes. It's called revenue insurance I think. How many people have that? It's a Federal program so I would think quite a few.

**Mike Rogers:** We keep talking about deer, but there is crop damage from bear, geese, cranes and others so how do we determine for the others?

**Kevin Marquette:** That is why I sent out this information and it's not intended to be deer specific.

**Mike Rodgers:** Squirrels and coons do a heck of a lot of damage.

**Break for Lunch:**

**Kari:** At your last meeting you talked about fencing silage bags, when used to store harvested crops.

**Marlin:** Protecting harvested crops, like the use of silage bags. That has to be part of doing business. Years ago farmer put crop in the silos and didn't have damage, now because they use silage bags they have damage. We can't cover everything. It's like leaving the door open on grainery and the turkeys eat the grain. It's not our fault.

**Al Phelan:** Just go out west you will see a twelve foot fence around all of the hay to keep the elk out.

**Marlin:** Any other areas. With the possibility of all the different violations would that exclude some one from the program?

**Mike Rogers:** There can be one heck of a list of violations so where do we draw the line.

**Al Phelan:** There are a lot of things that aren't a violation that I might consider a violation, like leaving crops stand, and baiting. These guys bring up a lot good points and they are extreme, but there out there.

**Mike Rogers:** Should we be listing these areas by importance, or by our best chance of getting the rules changed?

**Mike Rogers:** Statutes are going to hard to change. Administrative Codes or rules might be better way to affect these areas.

**Kari:** You might want contact the Farm Bureau and get their input.

**Mike Rogers:** Maybe, the Farm Bureau is the biggest Lobbyist in the State.

**Comments:** Right, that way the farmers won't feel like we jamming it down their throats.

**Mike Rogers:** as, for the value of the deer, that in the statutes also right?

**Comment:** Yes

**Mike Rogers:** I'm surprised someone hasn't gone after that with the prices in today's world. So are we going to put a dollar amount on this?

**Marlin:** For the threshold? Yes, so much per acre or percentage.

**Mike Rogers:** Right now prices for crops are high, but what happens when the government pulls the subsidy? Prices may go down.

**Ed Guptill:** Then we will have to tie it into the market prices. So if the market goes up the amount of damage goes up in proportion to the market price. We might also want to tie it into crop production because of the improvements in crop traits. Science has improved the genetic of the crops to increase yields.

**Brad:** That might make it difficult to figure out. I think you might do better with a dollar amount per acre.

**Mike Rogers:** I don't think we can put a big burden on the guy that goes out and looks at the field, if it is too difficult he just going look at the field yes there's damage and then issue tags.

**Brad:** I think you just have to keep it simple, a dollar amount per acre. You also have row crops versus other kinds of crops.

**Kari:** If you use a percentage you can apply it to any crop. So say five percent is an acceptable amount of loss per acre then it doesn't matter what crop you're talking about.

**Marlin:** They use 2.5 % as acceptable for other things like cattle and so on. That's on cattle that was free ranging this was used in the wolf study. They said that you're going to lose 2.5%.

**Brad:** The average amount per claim is around thirty five hundred per claim.

**Ed Guptill:** How many farmers are in the program?

**Brad:** About 1100.

**Marlin:** How many are just for deer?

**Brad:** I think 700.

**Kevin:** If we're issuing tags for specific property are we spending a lot of time prices and yields when there are only specific parcels that have damage.

**Mike:** Can they just enroll the acres that have the damage or do they have to enroll all the acres?

**Brad:** They have to enroll all of the acres.

**Kevin:** They have to enroll all of their land? That's part of the problem.

**Brad:** That way the public can access all of the property.

**Kevin:** Well then they can take those tags and shoot them where there isn't a problem.

**Brad: It has to be continuous.**

**Tyler: Are we putting a burden on smaller land owner like hobby farmers vegetable farmer with less than twenty acres.**

**Brad: These are high value crops.**

**Mike: Do they still do fencing?**

**Brad: We do a lot of fencing and they do a lot on there own.**

**Kari: So \$500 for 20 acres is that what we want? We could ask the Farm Bureau what they think.**

**Mike: That's where I would start.**

**Marlin: Lets move on to Crop Insurance (double dipping).**

**Brad: It would be easier to put a note in there that says that land owners and/or renter collecting crop insurance are not eligible to receive compensation from Ag Damage Program for the same fields.**

**Marlin: Shooting permits. We have something about standing crops, and baiting. Where do we want to go with that?**

**Brad: In most cases we don't allow baiting, but in some cases we do. So you would need a broad statement saying that no baiting, no leaving of standing crops, feeding, no food plots, to attract wildlife unless authorized by the department.**

**Marlin: Shooting date changes.**

**Ed Guphill: We talked about at our last meeting was start shooting the first Saturday closes to August 1 and stop shooting the first Saturday closes to January 1.**

**Mike: That doesn't work. We still have hunting going on.**

**Mike: Make it the end of the last hunting season.**

**Kevin: If the land owner has too many deer shoot the thing in the fall when everyone is hunting. With two dollar tags how hard is it to shoot them. I told you about one group that shot over forty deer in one year.**

**Brad: If you want to restrict the shooting of deer when the doe are pregnant and the fawns are vulnerable go back to issuing the permits with in ten days of the crop damage first occurs.**

**Ed:** So what damage occurs in February and March?

**Brad:** None. That's why they would have to notify us with 10 days of when damage first occurs.

**Kevin:** Wait a minute the rules states that you have shoot 80% of the deer by September 1. Won't you be shooting the deer when they are most vulnerable?

**Marlin:** Ok, so can we say permits issued in February, March filled can't be until after June 15<sup>th</sup> just throwing that out there. I don't know how anyone can show damage for February or March.

**Al:** Orchards can deer will browse on the buds.

**Mike:** You get an early spring and in March the deer will devastate a winter wheat field sure it will grow back but it will be a mess for sometime.

**Marlin;** I would like this to show that if they are going to fill these permits when the deer are vulnerable only in an extra ordinary circumstance.

**Kevin:** Is that going to apply to nuisance tags also?

**Marlin:** Nuisance tags are an extra ordinary situation anyway.

**Kevin:** I have just seen that the nuisance tags just get used the same as Account 82 tags. It's just another means of handing out tags with going out and looking at the problem.

**Brad:** This would almost get rid of the WM40 rule.

**Marlin:** Ok, Property Specific is what I had written down. What was this about?

**Brad:** This had to do with a guy getting kicked out of the program and then putting it in someone else name.

**Al:** It also was about these guys having someone leasing the property then causing other lands to be come open.

**Marlin:** Property specific to where the damage occurs.

**Kari:** Do you want them to be able to go on the neighbors and use those Ag Tags, or just the property in where the damage occurs?

**Mike:** Doesn't matter the neighbor can say yes or no.

**Brad:** We have land owners that get permit one year and the next year his neighbor gets the permits.

**Mike:** That way they never have to meet their quotas.

**Brad:** Right.

**Kevin:** Like I said before if a farmer is having a problem why isn't he addressing the problem?

**Ed:** Because it is another source of income to their operation.

**Mike:** Right.

**Kevin:** That's why we should be making changes so that it's not as attractive to be in this program.

**Marlin:** That why we are saying if you don't meet your goals it going to take extra ordinary circumstance to stay in the program.

**Al:** In a perfect world the guy getting the permits should have extra ordinary circumstance or he wouldn't need the permits.

**Kari:** We give them two years get things under control and then they would be out of the program unless they open their land up to public access.

**Kevin:** I don't know how you can force someone to open his or her land up to the public just because they didn't shoot enough deer, but if we give them some kind of assurance that we have an approved list of hunters that won't come in and shoot up their livestock and building they might be more will to let others hunt on their land.

**Al:** I like Brad Idea where they have two years to get the problem under control or they are out of the program unless they open their land to public access.

**Mike:** When they open their land they will keep getting the permits.

**Marlin:** We have violations written down.

**Tyler:** The hunter has the hunting regulations they have to follow, like displaying back tag, wearing Blaze orange and those kinds of things. I don't think we can hold the permittee responsible for some one else's action.

**Brad:** the program has it's own regulation for the permit holder, like antler less, deer registration and so on.

**Marlin:** We need to send a message that if you abuse the system you're going to be penalized.

**Brad:** We can't deny them from the program if they meet the requirements.

**Mike:** Tyler what would you do? You live in Fond du Lac County you know this is happening what would you do?

**Tyler:** Same thing that is happening catch them charge them over and over.

**Mike:** Wow, These guys aren't going to stop, they never do.

**Al:** Here's what we do eliminate the program and do like other states do. You have all of these seasons to shoot the deer, shoot the deer or consider it as part of doing business.

**Brad:** They still have shooting permits.

**Al:** Right but no body pays.

**Marlin:** Here is what we have.

1. Farmer is responsible for harvested crops. In the case of high value crop fencing should be the abatement before issuing shooting permits.
2. Five hundred dollars of crop damage per 20 acres. Example: 20 Acres \$500.00 of damage, 40 Acres \$1000.00, 80 Acres \$2000.00 of damage, 160 ACRES \$4000.00 of damage..... and so on. Hay and small grain crop damage may occur early in plant life and has the ability to regenerate will need to show a larger amount of damage before the abatement of shooting permits are issued.
3. Land owners and/or renters collecting crop insurance are not eligible to receive compensation from Ag Damage Program for the same fields.
4. Lands with shooting permits may not bait, have food plots, leave crops stand, feeding, to attract wildlife unless authorized by the department.
5. Shooting permit tags must be filed by the end of the last deer hunting season.
6. Landowners must notify the Department with 14 days of first occurring deer/crop damage.
7. Shooting permits are for property where damage occurs, and continuous land.
8. If Account 82 shooting permit quotas are not met the first year no permits will be issued for that specific property for two year unless public hunting access is allowed.
9. Eliminate Account 82.

**Note:** These are the recommendation of the Ag Damage Ad Hoc Study Committee and reserve the right to ask for input from The Department of Agriculture and the Farm Bureau.

**Marlin: I would ask for a motion to accept these as our recommendations to the Executive Counsel.**

**Al: I so move.**

**Seconded by Mike**

**Motion: Carried.**

**Brad: I have one question does this recommendation supersede our recommendation from the last meeting.**

**Mike: Yes**

**Marlin: This would then eliminate a lot of the filling of tags when the deer are most vulnerable.**

**Al Phelan: A lot of the resolution that the big game committee gets are about those early spring filling of tags.**

**Kari: This is just deer? Not bear, turkeys, or geese anything else?**

**Kari: Tyler, do think these are enforceable?**

**Tyler: Sure, as enforceable as they are now.**

**Al: Will these recommendations be going to the Executive Counsel?**

**Marlin: Yes**

**Kari: Marlin, are you going to present them on January 6<sup>th</sup>.**

**Marlin: Yes**

**Ed: Is that meeting open to the public?**

**Kari: Yes, It's at the Holiday Inn Highway 10 Stevens Point.**

**Members Matters: None**

**Motion to Adjourn: Al**

**Seconded by Mike**

**Motion: Carried**

**Meeting: Adjourned 3:15 PM.**

**Respectfully Submitted: By C Edward Guptill Secretary**