

SE Deer Committee Meeting Minutes

Feb. 9, 2022

Attendees

Steve Shea	James Kelly
Kip Adams	Jason Isabelle
Matt Ross	Jeremy Brown
Larry Williams	Jim Crum
Alan Cain	Jimmy Ernst
Becky Peters	Johnathan Bordelon
Bob Zaiglin	Kamen Campbell
Brett Skelly	Katie Martin
Brian Eyer	Kevin McKinstry
Charles Ruth	Kevyn Wiskirchen
Charlie Killmaster	Kyle Sams
Chris Cook	Lindsey O'Brien
Dallas Barber	Matt Knox
Gabe Jenkins	Moriah Boggess
Garrett Clevinger	Ralph Meeker
Gino D'Angelo	Ryan Myers
George Timko	Sam Millman
Jay Cantrell	Steve Demaris
Cory Morea	

SEDSG Update – Kip Adams

- February 21-23, 2022
- Similar agenda as last year and using Whova as platform
- 296 registrants to date

Response to Covid

- All state agencies back to business as usual

SE Deer Partnership Update – Kip Adams and Larry Williams

- Project broken down into 3 phases: research, PR campaign development, and implementation
- Almost finished with Phase 1
 - o Draft report received from Responsive Management in Dec. 2021
 - o Final report to be completed in March 2022
- Research has shown a massive economic impact from hunting
 - o For example, across the 15 SEAFWA states, \$991 million are spent each year on the buying and leasing of land for hunting
- Research is also trying make connections to non-game species and benefits to them
 - o Working with the SEAFWA Wildlife Diversity Committee

- Inquiring as to what other species that could benefit from deer management and seeking input on messaging and audiences

Committee Member Changes

- Sam Millman
 - Steve Shea made a motion to add Sam Millman as a committee member to represent Delaware
 - Charlie Killmaster seconded
 - 100% approval
- Garrett Clevinger
 - James Kelly made a motion to add Garrett Clevinger as a committee member to represent Tennessee
 - Steve Shea seconded
 - 100% approval
- Gino D'Angelo
 - Charlie Killmaster made a motion to add Gino D'Angelo as a committee member to represent the University of Georgia
 - Steve Shea seconded
 - 100% approval
- Moriah Boggess
 - Ryan Myers made a motion to add Moriah Boggess as a committee member to represent North Carolina
 - Kip Adams seconded
 - 100% approval

SEDSG Student Presentations

- This year 29 oral and 7 posters
- Bob Zaiglin: How do we select the winner of the posters when there is a virtual conference?
 - Suggested that since the video is comparable to stage presence it should be used as the tiebreaker
 - Steve Shea made a motion that for virtual meetings average score of the video will serve as a tiebreaker for deciding the winners of the student poster awards
 - Bob Zaiglin seconded
 - 100% approval

Career Achievement Award

- Based on a vote last meeting to suspend giving the award until an in-person meeting was conducted, there were no nominations this year
- Nominations will be accepted next year as long as we have an in-person meeting

Retirement Recognitions

- There are two recognitions this year
 - Ben Layton from Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency
 - Bill Baker from the Westervelt Company

Operational Guidelines

- An update to the virtual meeting portion of the operational guidelines will occur between now and next year's meeting
- NDA will work on suggested updates based on insight gathered from conducting the 2021 and 2022 virtual meetings

Website Update – Steve Demaris

- There is now a new link for the website: <https://www.sedsg.msstate.edu/>
- All winners from the 2021 meeting have been added
- All abstracts are now searchable

CWD Table

- Table is completed. This will be the 1st year that it is added to the abstracts.
- May adjust as necessary in future years.

CWD Updates

- Alabama
 - o 1st positive detected on January 6th in a 3.5-year-old hunter-harvested buck in Lauderdale County
 - o Established CWD zone in portion of the county and buffer zone in rest of the county and Colbert County
 - o Enacted emergency regulations
 - Removal of bag limits/weapons requirements
 - Require all deer harvested containment zone to be tested
 - Prohibit transport of carcasses from higher risk to lower risk zones
 - Created permit to transport carcasses to processor just outside the containment zone because no processors within the containment zone
 - Did not elect to suspend baiting licenses for the rest of the hunting season but will likely ban next year
 - o Collected 420 samples from Lauderdale County with 341 from the containment zone and 432 samples from Colbert County, but no new positives to date.
 - o Another deer sampled the same day as the initial positive deer was suspect but determined to be a false positive
 - o Staff meeting now to discuss plans for next year
- Arkansas
 - o Added 6 additional positive counties (Four in the designated CWD zone and two outside)
 - o Based on this year's positives, proposing to add 4 additional counties to the zone (originally started with 10 and this will bring the number up to 25 counties)
 - o Doing targeted removals in 3 areas this year
 - o Total of 1318 positives (40 elk) to date
 - o Charlie Killmaster: What is the threshold for prevalence to go from a Tier 2 county to a Tier 1 county?

- 6% prevalence (highest prevalence is approx. 26%)
- Louisiana
 - 1st positive detected on February 4th in a hunter-harvested (clinical) buck in east Tensas Parish
 - Used parishes to delineate zones – 3 parishes in the CWD zone
 - Declaration of Emergency
 - Prohibited of baiting/feeding
 - Prohibited removal of carcasses from the CWD zone (with exceptions)
 - No post-season collection of samples
 - Will sample roadkill and crop depredation deer
 - Will sample harvested deer next fall
 - Arkansas detected a positive mid-season 7.5 miles from the northern Louisiana border
 - Enacted baiting ban and increased sampling in 2 parishes
 - Lifted ban once reached 300 samples
- Maryland
 - 710 samples collected this year but no results back yet
 - 80 positives to date
 - Added county to the CWD zone for a total of 5 counties
- Mississippi
 - 131 positives to date in 9 counties
 - Collected approx. 5,800 samples this year with 48 positives
 - Added 1 new county to the zone this year
 - This was the first year of the paid program for taxidermists, and taxidermists accounted for approx. 70% of samples collected (23% from CWD 3-mile tags)
- Missouri
 - 34 counties in the CWD zone (22 with positives)
 - 4 new counties added this year
 - Approx. 30,000 samples collected with 51 new positives
 - 257 positives to date
 - Will conduct post-season targeted culling
 - Currently working on a revision of the surveillance and management plan
 - Conducting research to assess the motivations of hunters and landowners in regards to targeted culling and to evaluate the effectiveness of targeted culling
- Oklahoma
 - Collected approx. 100 samples during the herd health evaluations
 - Collected in the northern part of the state near the positive in Kansas
- Tennessee
 - 16,135 samples collected this year with 619 new positives
 - 1,941 positives to date
 - 5 new counties added to the CWD zone for a total of 12 counties
 - Currently conducting targeted removals
 - Johnathan Bordelon: Why was there such a large jump in samples from previous years?
 - Was able to streamline the channels in which samples come in (freezers in/near CWD zone and taxidermist/processor incentive program)

- Have approx. 8 people solely dedicated to collecting samples
- Texas
 - Approx. 150 positives this year (mostly in breeder facilities)
 - 3 new positive facilities
 - Added 1 new zone in Lubbock County
 - Positive red deer hind and elk in Medina County
- Virginia
 - No results to share yet
 - 4-5,000 sample collected this year
 - Approx. 2,500 from the CWD zone
 - 2-2,500 from across the rest of the state from the taxidermist program
 - All new positives in the existing CWD areas
 - Will be doing extensive survey of hunters about CWD soon
- West Virginia
 - No new positive counties
 - 2 positive facilities
 - 514 positives to date in 5 counties
 - Goal this season was to test for southward spread of CWD in Hardy County
 - Does not appear to be progressing south
 - Low compliance in testing even though mandatory
 - Will conduct sharpshooting in March/April
 - Jim Crum: asked if anyone was having trouble with getting access to IHC reagents?
 - Moriah Boggess: Still waiting on results from some samples but getting results back because there has been use of an alternative reagent

Cervid Working Group – Jason Isabelle

- No items submitted to the WRC
- No action items from the WRC
- Updated the WRC on SE Deer Partnership
- Discussion that many states are updating their CWD plans and numerous CWD research projects are being conducted

Summer Meeting

- Kansas willing to host a joint meeting with Southeast and the Midwest
- If a joint meeting does not occur, South Carolina will host

State Presentation Rotation Schedule

- Steve Shea sent email with schedule prior to the meeting
- Will begin rotation for presentations at the 2023 Deer Study Group meeting
- Charles Ruth: What do we do if the state does not have anything to present that year?
- Alan Cain: The presentation does not necessarily have to be research
- Steve Shea: This is encouraged. We want to go back to the basics and have states present on things such as programmatic items and challenges faced.

Future Deer Study Group Meetings

- Next meeting will be Feb. 26-28th, 2023 in Baton Rouge
 - o Contract signed and deposit made for the Crown Plaza hotel
 - o Hotel is very flexible and offered government rates and room blocks
- 2024 meeting will be in West Virginia at NCTC
 - o NCTC is finally taking reservations again
 - o Trying to lock things down on date and details but nothing definitive yet
- 2025 meeting will be hosted by Delaware/Maryland
 - o Would like to make a joint meeting with the NE
 - o NE administrators approve of the joint meeting
 - o One consideration is that the NE technical committee normally meets in September
 - They would postpone until Deer Study Group meeting
 - May need extra day before meeting to have SE/NE deer committee meeting

Other Items Not on the Agenda

- Kamen Campbell: Mississippi is hosting SEAFWA in fall 2025 and slated to host the Deer Study Group meeting in 2026. Would anyone be willing to trade?
 - o Steve Shea: If anyone is willing, meet with William afterward to discuss
- Jim Crum: How many states are testing for covid?
 - o Brian Eyer: USDA sampling in Maryland
 - o Gabe Jenkins: Kentucky sent samples
- Jim Crum: Is anyone testing hunter-harvested deer?
 - o Louisiana, North Carolina, and Missouri indicated that they were
- Charlie Killmaster: Would the committee be interested in adding additional metrics (specifically archery-related) to the tables? This is based on a request from industry.
 - o Ralph Meeker: Already providing plenty of information in the tables. Doing this would open up the committee to accommodate other requests.