

**Southeast Deer Study Group Meeting**  
**Nashville, TN**  
**Deer Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**February 19, 2018**  
**3:00-5:00 PM**

**Committee Membership**

- Three new members were added to the committee from state agencies; Becky Shuman (FL), Kyle Sams (KY) and Dallas Barber (OK).
- Including the new additions, there are 35 members now on the committee.
- Chairman will send our revised list to members.

**Student Awards**

- Bob Zaiglin and Steve Demarais made modifications to the poster score sheets.
- Bob Zaiglin will submit suggestions for further revision of both presentation and poster scoring criteria and question/answer guidelines for poster session to committee members for comments and questions.
- There was a motion, second and unanimous approval to cap the presentation and poster award amounts at the levels posted below:

Place	Presentation	Poster
1	\$500	\$300
2	\$300	\$200
3	\$200	\$100

- The host state is obligated to fund the \$1600 total for awards. It was agreed that all donations made to awards would be given to host state. Donations made will offset award costs reducing the state's obligation proportionately. All donors will be recognized for their contributions at the awards ceremony.
- Committee members volunteered to serve as judges; 5 presentation judges and 3 poster judges.

**Mailing List Options**

- James Kelly will work with Gabe Jenkins on generating an updated mailing list and creating a Google groups link that could be added to the SEDSG website.
- Chairman and Steve Demarais will explore updating the website.
- Chairman will contact SE Section of TWS on possible meeting outreach opportunities via the SE Section.

**On-line Virtual Workspace**

- After brief discussion on the use and value of a virtual workspace for the group, the item was tabled due to the lack of utility perceived by members.
- The committee discussed the value of having the Deer Committee minutes posted on the website.
- There was a motion, second and unanimous vote to include annual meeting minutes on the website subject to the following conditions:

- a. draft minutes be reviewed and approved by committee members first.
- b. SE Section approves the recommendation.
- Chairman will work with Steve Demarais to make appropriate changes to include it on the site.
- Chairman will check with SE Section for approval.

### **Charter Development**

- Committee had positive discussion on the benefits of developing a charter with appendices that include host state meeting guidelines and award guidelines.
- There was a motion, second and unanimous approval to move forward with charter development.
- Chairman will coordinate with SE Section on charter development and alignment with TWS policy.
- Team including deer committee members Shea, Kelly, Killmaster, Keller, Demarais and Miller will work together on developing a draft charter.
- Chairman will develop an outline template and send to team members to begin process.
- Other committee members will be kept apprised of progress and review at appropriate bench marks.

### **Cervid Working Group**

- Jon Shaw gave update of 2017 Summer Meeting.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> year the group has met in West Tyler, AL.
- Group adopted operational guidelines.
- Group elected new officers: Chair-Jon Shaw, Co-chair-Gabe Jenkins, Past Chair-Charlie Killmaster.
- CWD updates were given.
- Dr. Fisher was in attendance.
- Dr. DeAngelo gave update on Appalachian Deer Study.
- State harvest trends were discussed.
- Discussed carcass parts regulations and issues.

### **CWD Updates**

#### **Mississippi**

- 1<sup>st</sup> ever positive in Issaquena County close to tri-state area of MS, AR and LA.
- Genetic analyses being conducted.
- Activated CWD response plan.
- Immediate change in regulations in regards to supplemental feeding in containment zone.
- Currently assessing sampling strategy.
- LA sampling intensity increased in containment zone that overlaps their state.

#### **Virginia**

- 16 new positives in 2017.

- 38 total positives to date.
- Beginning pilot study with taxidermists to achieve statewide sampling needs.

### **Maryland**

- 750 samples analyzed.
- 10 new positives; 1<sup>st</sup> sick animal that tested positive.
- 27 total positives to date.

### **Missouri**

- 23,716 total samples collected to date in 2017, over 100,000 samples collected since 2001.
- 18 new positives in 2017.
- 60 total positives to date.
- New areas popping up, but low prevalence.
- Uncertain on how it is spreading.
- Mandatory testing proposed again for 2018 in selected Management Zone counties.
- Deer testing required from positive counties if being donated to “Share the Harvest” program.

### **Arkansas**

- Sample collection from taxidermists.
- 5400 samples collected in 2017.
- 138 new positives; 131 in white-tailed deer.
- Core area in Newton County in NW region of State.

### **Oklahoma**

- 40 deer were sampled in 2017; no new positives.
- Agency is experiencing some inhibitors to response plan development/activation.

### **Texas**

- 10,034 samples in 2017.
- 48 new positives in 2017-18 (mule and white-tailed deer, and elk) 7 in the Trans Pecos Zones, 5 in the Panhandle Zones, and 36 in Medina County
- Research by CKWRI indicated the free-range positive white-tailed deer was most genetically similar to captive deer.

### **West Virginia**

- Statewide surveillance ongoing from 2002 to present. Monitoring of area where CWD detected continued same as previous year with mandatory hunter harvest carcass inspection first 2-days of firearm season.
- 71 of 552 samples positive in fall 2017 monitoring.
- 338 total positives to date.
- Geographic distribution and prevalence continue to increase.

### **Future Meetings**

- 2019 meeting will be in Louisville, KY
- KY was considering earlier date, but will try to schedule for late February.
- Host site has not yet been determined.
- 2020 meeting will be in Gulf Shores/Orange Beach, AL area.
- 2021 meeting is scheduled to be hosted by West Virginia.

### **2018 Attendance Update**

- 294 registered attendees.
- TN anticipates having 15-20K seed money for KY.

### **Items that Emerged in Business Meeting**

1. There was discussion on how to include/stimulate more state agency talks in the technical sessions. A portion of the summer meeting will be dedicated to discussing this objective further.
2. There were questions on how attendance at the SEDSG meeting could be used to satisfy TWS continuing education credits. It was advised that a TWS member should submit a copy of the agenda along with their receipt and TWS would determine credit hours.