

Southeast Deer Study Group Meeting
Auburn, AL
Deer Committee Meeting Minutes
February 23, 2020
3:00-5:00 PM

Host State Update

- Final attendance for the 43rd Annual SEDSG Meeting was reported to be 262.

Committee Membership

- Four new members were added to the committee. During an on-line vote prior to the meeting, Larry Williams with the USFWS was added as an at large member without voting powers. Jason Isabelle replaced Jason Summers with MO MDC, Ryan Myers replaced David Sawyer with NC WRC and Kevin McKinstry with Westervelt Wildlife Services was added as AL's second member.
- There are currently 38 members on the committee.
- Chairman will send the revised committee list to members.

Student Awards

- Student Awards Coordinator, Bob Zaiglin selected 5 volunteers to judge student presentations and 3 to judge student posters.

Career Achievement Award

- The Chairman displayed the new Career Achievement Award prototype which had been evaluated by 5 past recipients of the award and other committee members with favorable comments. Enough limited addition whitetail deer sculptures by Mark Pierce with Big Sky Carvers were purchased to make 5 more award plaques after 2020.

Mailing List

- There was discussion on the declining meeting attendance numbers in recent years. Past meetings have had as many as 400-500 attendees whereas numbers have fallen to the 270-325 range in recent years. It was suggested that host states add their DMAP and deer management program cooperators to the mailing list to boost private landowner/manager attendance. There was a motion, second and vote to approve this measure and add it to the Operational Guidelines.

Operational Guidelines Development

- The Chairman gave an update on the Operational Guidelines draft.
- There was discussion on whether there should be a limit to the number of 3-year terms the Chairman could serve. The consensus was that no limit was necessary.
- There was a motion, second and unanimous approval that the Chairman 3-year term have no limit, but that the Committee would be required to have an election to reinstate the incumbent Chairman at the end of each 3-year term.

- There was a motion, second and unanimous approval that the Operational Guidelines be adopted with the inclusion of the revisions and additions approved at this meeting.

Web Site Update

- Steve Demarais was absent from the meeting; therefore, not update was given.

Cervid Working Group

- Gabe Jenkins gave update of 2019 Summer Meeting.

CWD Updates

- Committee members of states with a history of CWD gave status updates. Information from status updates are included in Table 1.
- There was discussion on whether to include the CWD table in the appendices of the meeting proceedings. There was a motion, second and unanimous approval to include the table in future proceedings.
- The Chairman will work with committee members of CWD states to update and modify the table to maximize its value and utility. Table 1 is a product of that exercise.

Future Meetings

- There was discussion on maintaining a prevalent number of state presentations during technical sessions. The concept of having a member state agency presentation rotation schedule synchronized with the host state schedule was discussed. There was a motion, second and unanimous approval to develop and include an agency presentation rotation schedule in the Operational Guidelines.
- The 2021 meeting will be February 21-24 in Shepherdstown, WV at the USFWS/NCTC.
- The 2022 meeting will be hosted by Louisiana.
- There was discussion that in some states with extremely late deer hunting seasons that the late February meeting timing was problematic in regards to attendance and host state planning. The consensus was that because only a few states had this problem, meeting timing flexibility would be afforded to those host states if necessary. No motion was made to change the existing meeting calendar timing.
- There was discussion that Maryland and Delaware co-host their meeting. Delaware has not hosted a meeting in the past. There was a motion, second and unanimous approval of Maryland and Delaware co-hosting their meeting in the rotation.
- There was discussion on investigating the possibility of making the 2023 SEDSG Meeting, hosted by MD/DE, a joint meeting with the NE Deer Committee. There was a motion, second and unanimous approval for the Chairman to work with MD and DE to explore this possibility and report back to the Committee in 2021.

SE Deer Partnership

- Committee member Larry Williams and guest Brian Murphy with QDMA updated the committee on this partnership project which promotes the importance and value of deer hunting in the Southeast and beyond. Current partners include, SEAFWA states, SE TWS Deer Committee, NDA and QDMA. The USFWS has committed 100K for the next 3 years and SEAFWA states and other partners are being solicited to become financial partners. The Chairman will update the Committee on this partnership progress.

Items that Emerged in Business Meeting

- There was discussion on considering adoption of a Deer Management Award to be presented annually at the meeting. The concept was well received, but details need to be explored before the Committee can assess adoption. There was a motion, second and unanimous approval for the Chairman to work with committee members to develop a proposal for the Committee to consider.

Table 1: Summary of State agency CWD updates at Southeast Deer Study Group SE TWS Deer Committee Meeting, 2020.

State	First Detection	Current Year Cervid Testing Season				Total Cervid Testing (all years)				Number of Positive Counties	Sampling Methods	Prevention Measures
		Captive		Free Range		Captive		Free Range				
		# S	# P	# S	# P	# S	# P	# S	# P			
AL	NA	191	0	1,630	0	1,223	0	9,172	0	0	A, B	A, B, D, E, F, G, H, I
AR	2016	26	0	6,567	220	135	0	25,759	837	13	A, B, C, D	A, B, C, D, E, F, G, I
DE	NA	0	0	526	0	0	0	9,340	0	0	A, B	A (Draft), B, E, F
FL	NA	20	0	1,323	0	90	0	14,095	0	0	A, B	A, B, E, F, I
GA	NA	0	0	934	0	0	0	8,000	0	0	A, B, D	A, B, C, D, E, F, G, I
KY	NA	258	0	1,800	0	1,451	0	32,892	0	0	A, B, D	A, B, D, E, F, I
LA	N/A	>30	0	1,142	0	>300	0	11,343	0	0	A, B, D	A, B, E, F, H, I
MD	2010	0	0	561	25	0	0	10,176	52	2	A, B	A, C, D, E, F, I
MS	2018	445	0	7,618	35	882	0	27,829	54	6	A, B, C	A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I
MO	2010	570*	0*	31,702	44	0	0	168,061	160	16	A, B, C, D	A, B, C, D, E, F, G, I
NC	N/A	73	0	2,324	0	>1,889	0	13,747	0	0	A, B, D	A, B, D, E, F, H, I
OK	1998	302	3	110	0	UNK	3	>12,000	0	2	B, C	A, B, E, I
SC	N/A	0	0	25	0	0	0	4,775	0	0	A, B	B, E, F, H, I
TN	2018	65	0	14,360	491	286	0	33,773	677	7	A, B, D	A, B, C, F, G, I
TX	2012	11,519	15	12,903	5	84,908	129	91,345	41	8	A, B, D	A, B, C, D, E, F, I
VA	2009	17	0	5,562	21	597	0	21,188	88	5	A, B	A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I
WV	2005							19,970	403	5	A, B, C, D	A, B, C, F, G, I
TOTAL		13,516	18	89,087	841	91,761	132	513,465	2312	64		

Note: Captive refers to pen facilities or release sites (high-fenced pastures/enclosures). Those states that have not tested captive sites do not have authority.

LEGEND

S-Number Samples

P-Number Positive

UNK-Unknown

* For Herd Certification Program herds only.

Sampling Method Key

A. Hunter Harvested (taxidermist, meat processor, veterinarian, drop-off freezer/container, CWD sampling station)

- B. Select Sampling (roadkill, sick deer, found dead)
- C. Targeted Sharpshooting
- D. Risk Based

Prevention Measure Key

- A. Adopted Agency CWD Response/Prevention Plan
- B. State-wide and/or targeted CWD sampling
- C. Establish CWD Management Zones
- D. Required captive cervid testing by facility owners
- E. Live cervid importation restriction
- F. Dead cervid transportation restriction
- G. Baiting restriction
- H. Lures or other body fluid use restriction
- I. Outreach / Education campaigns regarding CWD