

Memo

To: Village Board

Fr: Brad Lange

Re: Turkeys - Update

Date: July 31, 2013

I met with Dan Hirschert, Nuisance and Urban Wildlife Specialist, Bureau of Wildlife Management, on July 29th to discuss both turkey and deer hunting options for the Village. Mr Hirschert offered many suggestions, we as the Village, may want to look at before developing a hunting program. Here is a brief recap of the meeting:

*Increased deer and turkey population within municipal limits is nothing new and the development of a hunting program is nothing new, a lot of municipalities have entered this arena.

*What has sparked the interest in reducing the population of turkeys and deer? How many deer/turkey car accidents have been reported? Are residents calling regarding garden damage? Have there been any reports of conflicts with residents and deer/turkeys?

*Set up some public meetings so that you can gather additional data both pro and con. Find a balance between those who want the control and those that do not want the control.

*Do a survey

*Has the Village completed or thought about completing an aerial deer survey? Are any of the surrounding communities interested in joining efforts for an aerial deer survey? How big is the problem?

*Does the Village have an ordinance regarding "No Feeding Wildlife"? If not, consider this to be the first action step. Understand that individuals like to and will continue to feed birds and that is OK, but with feeding birds, many times that leads to other wildlife being attracted to the area.

*Keep the perception of wildlife in a positive manor.

*The four elements wildlife look for are; food, shelter, habitat and protection.

*Consider utilizing the current WDNR Metro Herd Control Season since the area is already listed as a metro unit. If this is not an option, consider setting up an extended season that would last into March.

*If the Village decides to offer a wildlife control program, consider allowing the turkey hunting to run the same time as the deer hunting.

*Investigate and determine which public lands can be used? How many hunters per zone? Are there any private land that can be utilized?

*Consider setting up a program like Duluth Minnesota as they have put together a very successful and well established program.

*Consider working with the adjoining communities.

*Apply for grants when possible.

*Look at the cost associated with operating a hunting program (if justified) vs the cost to bring in shape shooters.

I have a packet of information that Mr Hirschert left if anyone is interested in looking it over.