
RESOLUTION PROPOSAL

DATE: January 22, 2010

SUBJECT: Deer Control Procedures

SPONSOR: Mike Harrison, Treasurer

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The LMOA Wildlife Management Committee (WMC) has concluded its efforts on dealing with deer with a report, a session on living with the deer, and a session on options for controlling the size of the LMOA herd. The action is now before the Board of Directors on what to do. While much has been said about controlling the deer, both pro and con, and the community is fairly divided on the issue, there is a need to identify an approach and procedures for deer control before a decision to do so is actually made. This allows the Board and the community to consider the methods and controls that would be used if the decision should be made to reduce the size of the herd.

The Board will be faced with opposition to any measures taken; however, an understanding of the procedures, safety precautions, areas where actions would be taken, and the number of deer to be reduced will go a long way in community understanding of the events that may be approved. Control measures would need to be agreed to by August or September to implement an organized, seasonal hunt. Sharpshooting is also best accomplished after the leaves fall to remove cover. There should be an opportunity for a working session to understand the measures and procedures to be followed so that members can comment before any decision to proceed with reducing the size of the LMOA herd is made.

Two LMOA common areas have sufficient space to manage a legal hunt. These include the golf course and the watershed drainage between Tufton Lake and the Main Lake. Both areas are near areas of heavy deer browsing on residential properties. Both areas have the ability to control access during a hunting or sharpshooting event. These two areas represent a safe starting point for deer herd size management.

To reach the broadest possible coordination and community involvement, an Ad Hoc Committee on Safe Deer Herd Reduction should be formed from LMOA's existing committee structure. Two members shall be identified by committee chairs of Golf, Safety, Wildlife Management, and Lake Health to serve on the Ad Hoc Committee. The Board shall identify two additional community members. A chair shall be recommended to the Board from the committee members selected. The linking staff member shall be the Director of Communications. The linking board member shall be _____.

The Ad Hoc Committee on Safe Deer Herd Reduction shall answer the following questions:

- Based on experiences of other communities, what safety measures should be put in place prior to and during deer herd management activities?
- What measures does the Virginia Department of Fish and Game recommend?
- What procedures should LMOA use for 1) sharpshooting, and 2) organized hunts?
- What are the pros and cons of one method compared to the other?

- What costs must LMOA consider?
- What personnel will be required to administer the deer herd management activities?
- When should control be accomplished?
- Where should control be accomplished?
- How often should control be conducted?
- What existing hunting rules and regulations would be applicable?
- What public relations activities should be taken to explain the safety measures and procedures?
- What recommendations are there regarding disposal of carcasses?

The Ad Hoc Committee on Deer Herd Management shall make two status reports to the Board:

May Board of Director's Meeting – update on committee progress and recommendations on timing for a Board working session

September Board of Directors Meeting – final report with recommendations and findings.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

PROPOSED FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Use of LMOA staff to support the procedures recommended. Possible equipment requirements if the decision is to use LMOA Police for sharpshooting.

PROPOSED SOURCE OF FUNDING:

To be determined.

STRATEGIC PLAN REFERENCE:

None

POSSIBLE MOTION:

Move that the Board of Directors establish the Ad Hoc Committee on Deer Herd Management to be composed of two volunteer members from the Wildlife Management Committee, Golf Committee, Safety Committee, Lake Health, and two members at large appointed by the Board for the purpose of defining the measures and procedures that would be used if the board decides to proceed with a deer herd management action.

PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR FOLLOW-UP: Treasurer and General Manager