
**LEVANDER,
GILLEN &
MILLER, P.A.**

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

TIMOTHY J. KUNTZ
DANIEL J. BEESON
KENNETH J. ROHLF
STEPHEN H. FOCHLER
JAY P. KARLOVICH
ANGELA M. LUTZ AMANN
KORINE L. LAND
DONALD L. HOEFT
BRIDGET McCAULEY NASON
TONA T. DOVE
AARON S. PRICE
DAVID L. SIENKO
CASSANDRA C. WOLFGAM

MEMO

TO: Sunfish Lake Mayor and Councilmembers
FROM: Timothy J. Kuntz, City Attorney
DATE: August 29, 2018
RE: Discussion of Deer Population Management Plan for 2018 Hunting Season;
Agenda Item 8(c)

Section 1. Background. There are two components of the Deer Population Management Plan:

1. The Agreement between the City and Metro Bowhunters Resource Base, Inc.; and
2. Hunting by volunteer residents on private and/or public land.

Since 2009, the City Council has considered and approved the Deer Population Management Plan on an annual basis. Last year (in 2017) it was recommended by the deer management committee (consisting of City Forester Jim Nayes, West St. Paul Officer Matt Muellner and Councilmember Mike Hovey) that the City Council approve a Deer Population Management Plan for a three year term, namely, 2017, 2018 and 2019, which included projected permitted and prohibited hunt dates for the years 2018 and 2019. The projected permitted and prohibited hunt dates for the years 2018 and 2019 are subject to change. Any changes to the permitted and prohibited hunt dates for the years 2018 and 2019 must be made by Council resolution.

Last September, the Council approved a *Resolution Approving A Deer Population Management Plan For The City Of Sunfish Lake For The Deer Hunting Seasons In The Years 2017, 2018 And 2019.*

The Deer Population Management Plan for the Deer Hunting Seasons in The Years 2017, 2018 and 2019 consists of two components:

1. An Agreement Between City Of Sunfish Lake And Metro Bowhunters Resource Base, Inc. For Deer Hunting Seasons In 2017, 2018 & 2019.
2. A Resident Volunteer Hunter Program For Deer Hunting Seasons In 2017, 2018 & 2019.

With respect to the 2018 hunting season, the following conditions are reflected in the Agreement between the City and Metro Bowhunters Resource Base, Inc. (Metro Bowhunters):

- Deer hunting may only occur on the following dates with respect to the Metro Bowhunters deer hunts in the year 2018:

2018

October 12, 13 and 14, 2018 (MBRB Hunt)

November 1, 2 and 3, 2018 (MBRB Hunt)

November 15, 16 and 17, 2018 (MBRB Hunt)

November 30, 2018 and December 1 and 2, 2018 (MBRB Hunt)

The permitted hunting dates for 2018 are subject to change.

- Metro Bowhunters Resource Base, Inc. (Metro Bowhunters) will be allowed to hunt deer only in the following areas:

- a. Within the boundaries of Musser Park;
- b. Within the boundaries of the Russ Wahl Wetland; and
- c. Within the boundaries of private properties where the City has received permission from the landowner to hunt on the landowner's private property.

- Signs will be posted at Musser Park and at the Russ Wahl Wetland at access points to alert others to the fact that hunting is occurring.

- With respect to hunting by Metro Bowhunters, signs will be posted at private landowner property where hunting is occurring to alert others to the fact that hunting is occurring. The signs will be located generally at access points.

- Metro Bowhunters will only be allowed to hunt on the dates approved by the City Council.

- Hunting by Metro Bowhunters must occur from elevated tree stands; no hunting may occur from ground blinds.

- If a deer has been shot on an eligible area but leaves the eligible area to go on to adjoining properties, Metro Bowhunters will make a reasonable effort to seek permission from the adjoining landowner(s) to track and complete the kill of the deer. If permission is denied, Metro Bowhunters will not proceed on the adjoining property; in such an instance Metro Bowhunters will contact a Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Conservation Officer or other law enforcement personnel to inform them that a wounded deer is in the area.

- With respect to Metro Bowhunters, there is no restriction on the number or gender of the deer that may be killed.
- With respect to the resident volunteer hunter program, the volunteer hunters must meet the following qualifications:
 - a. Must have achieved “sharp shooter” status as determined by the qualifications standards of Metro Bowhunters.
 - b. Must possess a Bowhunter Education Certificate from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.
 - c. Must have a valid deer hunting license from the State of MN.
 - d. Must be a resident of the City of Sunfish Lake.

With respect to the Resident Volunteer Hunter Program For Deer Hunting in the 2018 hunting season, the following conditions apply:

- The resident volunteer hunters may hunt deer during the entirety of the annual Minnesota deer archery season in the year 2018, but **no hunting** is allowed by the resident volunteer hunters on the following dates in the year 2018:

2018

October 12, 13 and 14, 2018 (MBRB Hunt)
 October 18, 19, 20, 21, 2018 (MEA break)
 October 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 2018 (Potential Halloween events)
 November 1, 2 and 3, 2018 (MBRB Hunt)
 November 15, 16 and 17, 2018 (MBRB Hunt)
 November 22 and 23, 2018 (Thanksgiving Holiday)
 November 30, 2018 and December 1 and 2, 2018 (MBRB Hunt)
 December 24 and 25, 2018 (Christmas Holiday)

The permitted hunting dates and prohibited hunting dates for the resident volunteer hunters for 2018 are subject to change.

- Resident volunteer hunters may only hunt deer on private properties where the City has received permission from the landowner to hunt on the landowners’ private property.
- With respect to hunting by resident volunteer hunters, signs will be posted at private landowner property where hunting is occurring to alert others to the fact that hunting is occurring. The signs will be located generally at access points.
- Hunting by resident volunteer hunters must occur from elevated tree stands; no hunting may occur from ground blinds.

- If a deer has been shot on an eligible area but leaves the eligible area to go on to adjoining properties, the resident volunteer hunters will make a reasonable effort to seek permission from the adjoining landowner(s) to track and complete the kill of the deer. If permission is denied, the resident volunteer hunters will not proceed on the adjoining property; in such an instance the resident volunteer hunters will contact a Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Conservation Officer or other law enforcement personnel to inform them that a wounded deer is in the area.
- With respect to the resident volunteer hunters, there is no restriction on the number or gender of the deer that may be killed.
- The resident volunteer hunters will generally follow the same hunt rules contained in the contract between the City and Metro Bowhunters.

Section 2. Council Action. There is no formal action for the Council to take this year with respect to the Deer Management Plan. This memo is being provided as background information only.

Attachments