

County Deer Advisory Councils (CDACs)

Frequently Asked Questions

08/07/14

CDAC membership

Q. What is the purpose of CDACs?

A. CDACs will:

- gather public opinion on deer population objectives, antlerless quotas and season structure options;
- review and consider deer herd metrics regarding local deer herd trends, impacts and human interactions; and
- use information gathered from meetings and public comment in order to provide DNR with recommendations on local deer population objectives, antlerless quotas and season structure options.

Q. How will CDACs operate?

A. Scope:

- CDACs will be active in at least 71 of Wisconsin's 72 counties (we're not certain yet if Menomonee County will have one).
- Six to eight members will be chosen for each county's CDAC (between 432 and 575 members statewide).
- Each CDAC will hold three or more meetings per year in their county.

Q. What are the membership requirements for CDACs?

A. The requirements are as follows:

- at least three members on each council must have held a deer hunting license in seven of the previous 10 years;
- it is hoped that members will commit to at least three years of involvement, although there are no set terms;
- members must be residents of the county in which they wish to participate (exceptions for tribal members), own land within the county or work professionally for the county agency/organization which appointed them to the CDAC;
- a Conservation Congress delegate will serve as chair and a second will serve as a non-voting member of the committee and alternate chair; and
- those currently enrolled in the Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) must own or be the authorized representative of property enrolled in DMAP in order to be considered for that county's CDAC.

Q. How are CDAC members selected?

A. Letters requesting assistance in identifying individuals to serve on councils were sent out from DNR Secretary Stepp to stakeholder groups that hold leadership positions in various interests within each county; Secretaries of the Dept. of Tourism, DATCP and DOT, plus

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County Board Representatives in urban/metro counties, the Wisconsin Council on Forestry, County Forest Administrators, and the six bands of Chippewa Tribes. We have also made contact with Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association County Conservationists. Letters were also sent to over 400 sporting/conservation groups across the state requesting their assistance in nominating individuals to represent the local deer hunting interests on the CDAC in their county. Local government-appointed delegates identified through the DNR Secretary letters will automatically be considered appointments and placed on the councils. Nominees for sporting/conservation groups will be reviewed by the CDAC chair, and DNR wildlife and law enforcement liaisons to select a representative.

- Q. Are there specifications for the number of people that must be on each council?
- A. The Deer Trustee rule identified representatives from agriculture, forestry, transportation, Tribes, hunters, Conservation Congress, DMAP, and urban stakeholders and implied that each would be provided one seat. However, there may be situations where a county feels additional members would be warranted. In these circumstances, they will submit nominations to the DNR Administration for selection.
- Q. Is there going to be a term limit for CDAC members?
- A. There is no limit for how long a member may serve on a CDAC. However, we are asking for at least a three year commitment. This would bring each member through one “cycle” of deer population objective setting and prescribe management practices to reach that objective.
- Q. Is there an application form that the public can use to apply for the deer seat in the CDAC in their county?
- A. Yes, an application/nomination form is available and may be obtained by requesting a copy from a local DNR wildlife biologist or CDAC chairperson.
- Q. What would be grounds for removal of council members from CDACs?
- A. Council membership duties will be outlined and if a council member is found to be underperforming or remiss in their duties, their removal may be considered. Primarily, they need to be good communicators, willing to compromise and come to consensus when needed, and represent their stakeholder group well. Most of the members are appointments, and if there are problems the appointing group may be contacted to help resolve the situation or find a replacement.
- Q. Can people who represent multiple stakeholder groups be members of CDACs?

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- A. People are often involved in many different groups. However, each member is expected to represent the interests of one stakeholder group on their CDAC while at the same time applying the knowledge they have toward other interests.
- Q. Can a person who owns land in a county but does not keep residence in that county be a member of that county's CDAC?
- A. Anyone is eligible for membership on the CDAC for which they apply as long as they are either a resident or own property within the county.
- Q. If there is not representation in certain areas on a council, can those open spots be filled by other potential stakeholder interest groups?
- A. No. These councils have been set up as advisory to the DNR. As outlined in Administrative Rule, each CDAC must consider membership representing the following interests and may not contain multiple members representing the same interest.
- Hunting and/or sporting group.
 - Agriculture.
 - Forestry.
 - Local government.
 - Transportation.
 - Tourism.
 - Tribal interests.
 - The Deer Management Assistance Program.
- Q. If a seat on a council becomes empty at some point, what would the process be to try and fill that seat?
- A. If a council seat becomes vacant for any reason, it will be filled with someone who represents the same stakeholder interest. A representative would likely be appointed in a manner similar to the initial process used to populate the councils.
- Q. How do you define a CDAC member having "hunting credentials"?
- A. A member must have purchased a deer hunting license in seven of the past 10 years to represent the deer hunting interest on the council.
- Q. If a county does not have any local sporting clubs but has residents that are members of a state or national organization (i.e. Whitetails Unlimited or QDMA), would those affiliations count towards meeting CDAC membership requirements?

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- A. Membership in local branches of national organizations will be considered for CDAC membership. It will be up to the chair and department liaisons to select the member who will represent the deer hunting interest for the county
- Q. Can a non-Wisconsin resident who is a DMAP participant be on a council?
- A. Non-Wisconsin residents who are DMAP participants may be considered for council membership as long as they own property in the county for which they apply.
- Q. What is considered a “hunting/sporting group” for CDAC membership purposes?
- A. Ideally, the person representing the hunting/sporting group membership will be a member of a county alliance of many clubs. If no such alliance exists, this member will be chosen from a list of nominees provided by local hunting/sporting groups or organizations.
- Q. Will background checks occur for all council members to ensure they don’t have any serious fish and game violations?
- A. Only the Conservation Congress delegates that will serve as chair and alternate chair on the council were checked for fish and game violation because of their leadership role.
- Q. What is the DNR’s role within CDACs?
- A. Local DNR Wildlife Management staff will serve as the primary liaisons to their CDAC. DNR Forestry and LE will also serve as contacts as needed, and their role will be on an as-needed basis. The department’s big game program is serving as the main coordinators of this effort and will provide and maintain multiple tools to help department staff and CDAC Chairs organize and run meetings. This includes developing meeting note templates, checklists, applications, contact lists, a web site, binders of deer information and more. The department has also created a Deer Metrics Team who will provide a significant amount of data that council members will use to help in their decision-making.
- Q. Can a DNR employee sit on a council while representing another stakeholder group such as a conservation/sporting group or DMAP?
- A. No, this would be viewed as a conflict of interest.

Member and liaison roles and responsibilities

- Q. What are the responsibilities of the CDAC chair?
- A. The CDAC chair is responsible for facilitating the activities of the council. This would include but is not limited to: working with their DNR liaison to help schedule meetings, setting meeting agendas, leading discussions within the council and members of the public on agenda items, initiating council votes on recommendations and relaying council recommendations to the DNR.

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- Q. Do CDAC chairs hold voting memberships on councils?
- A. The CDAC will follow Robert's Rules of Order which allow chairs a voting decision only in order to make or break a tie.

- Q. What is the role of the CDAC alternate chair?
- A. The alternate is a "back-up" to the chair. As outlined in the Deer Trustee Rule, the CDAC chair must be a Conservation Congress member, so it stands to reason that the alternate also needs to be a Conservation Congress member and should be ready to step in, when needed, to keep the CDAC on track. The best way for the alternate chair to be ready to assume the duties of the chair is by attending all the CDAC meetings and participating in discussions with other CDAC members. The alternate chair will be able to build the same relationships and rapport with the other members as the chair.

By attending and participating in meetings, the alternate chair will be well-positioned to take notes and create a complete set of minutes for each meeting. The chair and alternate chair should work closely to ensure that the final minutes accurately reflect the discussion. Because each represented group is only allowed one voting seat, the alternate chair will not be a voting member of the council.

- Q. Aside from providing recommendations on local deer population objectives and quotas, what other opportunities will CDACs have to provide input on deer management in their county?
- A. Other opportunities include:
- the recommendation to implement Bonus Buck rules in areas other than the Southern Farmland Zone;
 - the recommendation to implement a 4-day October antlerless gun hunt in disease-affected areas only by the emergency rule process; and
 - the ability to allow the addition of the Holiday Hunt to any DMU or subunit that doesn't already have it in the Southern Farmland Zone.

CDAC meetings

- Q. What is the general timeline for CDACs?
- A. Every third year (beginning fall 2014), CDACs will recommend county deer population objectives (increase, decrease, stabilize) to the department for the next three-year cycle (during October – December).

2014-15 Timeline:

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- September 15-18 or 22-25, 2014: Kick-off meetings and presentation on county deer herds, very similar to a spring Deer Hunter Forum/Herd Status Meeting.
- October 20-23 or 27-30, 2014: Development of preliminary recommendation to increase, maintain or decrease the current herd. All recommendations due to the department by October 31 for public distribution.
- November 3 – December 5, 2014: Public comment period on CDAC recommendations. Final CDAC deer population goal are due to the department by December 19.
- February 25, 2015: Natural Resource Board (NRB) approval of the 3-year (2015-17) deer herd population objectives for each county.

2015 Quota/Permit Setting Process

- February 10-12 or 17-19, 2015: Review 2014 deer season and herd performance data.
- March 10-12 or 17-19, 2015: Develop preliminary quota recommendation for public distribution. Due to the department by March 20.
- March 23 – April 17, 2015: Public comment period on preliminary quota recommendations.
- May 27: final recommendations on 2015 antlerless quotas/permit levels go to NRB for approval.

Q. Who is the lead DNR contact for CDACs?

A. Kevin Wallenfang, big game ecologist, is currently the designated contact and will provide assistance when needed. Conservation Congress members may also contact Kari Lee-Zimmermann, DNR Conservation Congress liaison, for assistance. In addition, CDAC questions and comments can be sent to DNRCDACwebmail@wisconsin.gov and a member of the department's deer program will follow-up.

Q. Will agendas be standardized for CDAC meetings across the state?

A. Although agendas for each county meeting may vary based on specific local issues, chairs will be provided with a base agenda of items that must be covered. This will ensure that the necessary sharing of information takes place and time is set aside for public comments, etc.

Q. What is the process to publicly post notice of CDAC meetings?

A. The department's big game program is coordinating the collection and public notice of all meetings. However, members are also encouraged to distribute press releases to the local press announcing their meeting. A template to do so is being developed.

Q. Why do CDAC meetings take place in the fall during the deer hunting season?

A. It's simply a matter of timing. Population objectives must be approved by the Natural Resource Board prior to developing quota and permit recommendations for the 2015 deer

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season. Therefore, population objectives must be established this fall, after which the quota/permit setting process will follow in the spring during its normal timeframe.

- Q. If the chair is unable to attend a meeting or has to unexpectedly leave a meeting early, who runs the meeting?
- A. The alternate chair.
- Q. What happens if the majority of council members cannot attend a scheduled meeting?
- A. Each CDAC must have a quorum present to successfully conduct a meeting, so if the majority of council members cannot attend a meeting it must be rescheduled.
- Q. Are there certain criteria for choosing an optimal CDAC meeting location?
- A. Scheduled CDAC meetings must be in easily accessible places for members as well as handicapped accessible for the public. Most spring hearings locations are probably fine. However, remember that these are council meetings and may work best if organized in a way that reflects an official board-type meeting. A county boardroom is a perfect example, if space allows.
- Q. Will all CDAC meetings be open to the public?
- A. Yes. Each meeting will be publicly noticed according to state policy and open for public attendance. Members of the public wishing to speak may be asked to sign up ahead of time, very similar to what is done for Natural Resource Board meetings. Public comments will likely to be limited to no more than three minutes per person.
- Q. How will public input be collected at CDAC meetings?
- A. Members of the public may request ahead of time to speak at CDAC meetings on specific agenda items by following guidelines outlined on the CDAC web page. Their comments will be collected and made part of the record.
- Q. Can non-Wisconsin residents provide public comment at that CDAC meeting?
- A. Everyone, regardless of land ownership or residency, may provide public comment.
- Q. What is the protocol for considering public comment in the final CDAC recommendation?
- A. Public comment will take place in a number of ways including written, telephone, in-person testimony, on-line surveys, Spring Fish and Game Hearing presentations and other methods as developed. The reason to have a public comment period is to gauge support for recommendations or gather new ideas that may influence decisions. The CDACs will reconvene in December to consider public input before making their final recommendations to the department and Natural Resources Board.

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- Q. How will potential security issues be addressed at CDAC meetings?
- A. The DNR Bureau of Law Enforcement has selected conservation wardens to serve as CDAC liaisons in each county. These liaisons will likely attend meetings and can provide guidance on handling potential security issues that may arise.

CDAC recommendations

- Q. Who is responsible for submitting council recommendations to the department?
- A. Council chairs, working with their DNR Wildlife liaison, will compile recommendations and submit them to the DNR big game program. The department will compile and submit a statewide list of recommendations to the Natural Resources Board for action.
- Q. Will CDAC recommendations be sent unaltered to the Natural Resource Board or will the department edit them before hand?
- A. The use of CDACs is a revolutionary way for deer population objectives and harvest quotas to be set in Wisconsin. As a result, the Department will share the unaltered recommendations of each CDAC with the Natural Resources Board. However, because CDACs are advisory only, their recommendations will still be reviewed by the Conservation Congress, DNR Big Game Study Committees and the DNR Secretary, who may wish to provide additional information or make alternative recommendations. The process will conclude when the NRB approves a final package that includes 3-year population objectives as well as the harvest quota necessary to reach those objectives.
- Q. Will CDAC recommendations be changed once they are presented to the Natural Resources Board?
- A. Just as with any recommendations submitted to the Natural Resources Board, the Board holds the authority to reject or alter CDAC recommendations.
- Q. Could the three-year objective be revisited if the council decides that they made a mistake with their recommendation?
- A. The three-year objective cannot be revised until the end of the three-year recommendation period. However, quota recommendations can be altered from year-to-year if the council finds they were too conservative or liberal with their recommendation the previous year.
- Q. What type of special considerations will be given by councils in CWD affected areas?
- A. As with the other metrics that will be presented to CDACs by the department, the impacts of CWD on the county deer population will be presented to the council and advice on resulting action will be provided.