

Agenda Item Report



Winnebago County
The Wave of the Future

DATE: September 25, 2023

FROM: Chad Casper, Director of Land & Water Conservation

RE: Review and Approve the 5-Year Cooperative Service Agreement between Winnebago County and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Wildlife Services (WS)

General Description:

The purpose of this Cooperative Service Agreement is to cooperate in a County/State/Federal black bear, white-tailed deer, Canada goose, wild turkey and Sandhill crane damage management program. The primary objective is to provide commercial agricultural producers the necessary technical and/or operational assistance in identifying, abating, managing, and assessing damage with the species listed.

Action Requested:

Review and Approve the 5-Year Cooperative Service Agreement between Winnebago County and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Wildlife Services (WS)

Procedural Steps:

Committee of Jurisdiction: Land Conservation	Meeting date: 10/5/23
Action taken: APPROVED	Vote: 5-0

County Board

Meeting date: 10/17/23

Background:

The black bear, Canada goose, white-tailed deer, wild turkey and Sandhill crane populations in portions of Winnebago County are at levels that may cause damage to agricultural and forest crops. Wis. Stats. 29.889 and Wis. Adm. Code NR12 provides a State funded WDACP to reimburse participating producers for crop losses caused by certain wildlife. The administrative participation is required of Winnebago County to make its land eligible for the Wildlife Damage Abatement & Claims Program (WDACP).

Policy Discussion:

The County agrees to administer the WDACP with respect to the following wild animals: black bear, white-tailed deer, Canada goose, wild turkey, and Sandhill cranes

The County agrees to provide WDACP services with respect to the following: damage to commercial seedlings or crops growing on agricultural lands, damage to crops that have been harvested for sale or further use but have not been removed from the agricultural land, damage to orchard trees or nursery stock, damage to livestock, or damage to apiaries.

The County, through the Land Conservation Committee shall provide Administration of the County WDACP pursuant to s. 29.889, Stats., s. NR 12, Wis. Adm. Code including approval of: annual budget requests, permanent fence contracts, crop prices, properly filed wildlife damage claims, shooting permit compliance waivers, and enrollee appeals, (if any).

The benefits to be derived from a cooperative black bear, white-tailed deer, Canada goose, wild turkey, and Sandhill cranes management program include timely availability of the necessary wildlife damage management expertise, technical assistance, loans of necessary abatement equipment, and crop/livestock damage appraisal services for producers experiencing conflicts with one of more of these species. The intended result will be wildlife damage relief.

As part of the WDACP, the County also administers participation in the Deer Donation Program.

This agreement shall become effective on January 1, 2024 and shall continue through December 31, 2028.

Attachments:

- Resolution: AUTHORIZE FIVE-YEAR COOPERATIVE SERVICE AGREEMENT BETWEEN WINNEBAGO COUNTY AND WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (WDNR) AND UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ANIMAL PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE (APHIS), WILDLIFE SERVICES (WS)
- Cooperative Service Agreement between Winnebago County and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Wildlife Services (WS)