

WILDLIFE COMMITTEE

May 17, 2024

12:00 – 12:40 p.m.

NOTES

Attendees:

Liza Lehrer

Joy O'Keefe

Chris Jacques

Melissa Cusic

Lydia Scott (notes)

Joy pointed out that several people have indicated they cannot attend the meeting today.

Joy walked through the various assignments.

Liza stated that she has not been able to find a lot of information regarding economic impacts. For crops, it does not appear to be a big economic issue although they do eat corn. There are also some disease issues. Nationally the estimated nutria cost is \$5.8 million across a range of markets and issues. She stated that the Maryland nutria webpage seems to have disappeared. She has started a literature folder in the [Google drive folder](#).

Scott has added information in the recommendations section of the paper. Committee members read through his recommendations. Joy provided comments.

Melissa has agreed to work on the distribution section. This would include information on worldwide distribution with a focus on the Midwest. (Chris has offered to provide additional guidance on this section.)

Joy provided a link to a page her student developed on nutria.
(<https://sites.google.com/view/nutriaconflictresolution/nutria?authuser=0>).

Joy mentioned that there is no information about nutria in the Illinois Regs. She asked Chris if there was a survey or other effort that asks people if they have observed nutria, e.g. duck hunters or others? Chris stated that he believes IDNR is currently doing this but he will follow up with Stan about this. He also mentioned that IDNR is interested in continuing the monitoring. Chris will also check to see about a rapid response plan for Illinois. It may be helpful to have someone from Maryland attend an upcoming Committee meeting.

Liza reached out to Matt Allendar but he is too busy right now. However, he is happy to consult on specific issues. He suggested bringing in Nohra Mateus-Pinilla. Chris will ask her if she is willing to help.

There is nothing on the IDNR website on nutria. Chris will ask them to add some information. The Hunter Digest may also be a place for information.

Assignments:

Existing assignments

Mike – history

Joy – environmental impact

Liza – economic impact (Chris to help her)

Scott – recommendations

Gary – to review the first draft

New assignments:

Melissa will work on distribution

Chris will:

- Check to see if there is a monitoring or eradication plan and rapid response plan.

- Talk with State to get nutria listed in the hunting Regs - something to keep an eye on.

- Speak to Nohra Mateus-Pinilla to see if she would be willing to be a member of the committee.

Scott – review comments to recommendations section.

Joy will send out a recurring meeting date and time (3rd Friday of the month at 1:00 p.m.)

Next meeting June 21st, 1:00 p.m.