These policies and procedures are intended to guide the operation and organization of the County Deer Advisory Councils (CDACs). CDACs were established to gather public opinion, review and consider scientific metrics on deer herd trends, impacts to habitat and agriculture and human-deer interactions, and provide the department with recommendations on population objectives, antlerless quotas and herd management strategies. The initial version of the Governance of Operations was finalized in January 2016 for the guidance of individual council members, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (department) staff, and the public to allow orderly and transparent transaction of business and to ensure that all citizens of Wisconsin have an opportunity to be heard on deer hunting and management issues.

This document is being updated in 2017 to incorporate experience gained during the first three years of CDAC implementation, with an aim of improving the efficiency and efficacy of the CDACs. In addition to simple document clean-up, items in particular that are being addressed include:

- Further definition of voting members, and providing the ability for alternate chairs to vote
- Modification of the 5-year violation policy
- Definition of sideboards intended to guide the review of Deer Management Unit and Zone boundaries

We will solicit comments on the draft for 21 days. The department will consider all comments, revise the CDAC Governance of Operations document as needed, and make final guidance available to internal and external stakeholders.

To comment on the County Deer Advisory Council Governance of Operations, please review the draft and send comments to DNRCDACWebmail@wisconsin.gov.
COUNTY DEER ADVISORY COUNCILS
GOVERNANCE OF OPERATIONS

DRAFT October 2017
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This document is intended solely as guidance and does not contain any mandatory requirements except where requirements found in statute or administrative rule are referenced. This guidance does not establish or affect legal rights or obligations and is not finally determinative of any of the issues addressed. This guidance does not create any rights enforceable by any party in litigation with the State of Wisconsin or the Department of Natural Resources. Any regulatory decisions made by the Department of Natural Resources in any matter addressed by this guidance will be made by applying the governing statutes and administrative rules to the relevant facts.
These policies and procedures are intended to guide the operation and organization of the County Deer Advisory Councils (CDAC). They are published for the guidance of individual council members, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (department) staff, and the public to allow orderly and transparent transaction of business and to ensure that all citizens of Wisconsin have an opportunity to be heard on deer hunting and deer management issues.

I. PURPOSE OF CDACs

CDACs were created as a means of involving the public in deer management decisions. They were established in 2014 by Administrative Rule 10.104 (5)(b)(c)(d)(e) to serve as advisory councils to the department on deer management issues including antlerless harvest quotas, permit levels, and hunting season framework options. The rule authority that established CDACs is located in Appendix A.

To best serve in this role, each council has an obligation to gathering public opinion on deer population objectives, antlerless harvest quotas, and available deer season options as established in rule. Every three years they will also consider modifications to deer management zone (DMZ) and deer management unit (DMU) boundaries, but only if changes are expected to improve deer management practices and provide optimal herd health and hunter outcomes. The gathering of public opinion may be accomplished through meeting testimony, direct contact with individuals, department-sanctioned surveys and other methods.

Each council is also responsible for reviewing and considering metrics (data) on deer herd trends, impacts and human interactions. Much of this data is provided by the department through the online Deer Metric System, but may come from a variety of sources including individual council members, stakeholder groups, and the general public.

Once each council has gathered public opinion and considered any available data, they will provide the department with recommendations on deer population objectives, antlerless quotas and permit levels, and modifications to DMZ/DMU boundaries. They will also provide recommendations on any season options that are available to them as established in administrative code.

II. DEVELOPING RECOMMENDATIONS and PROCESS TIMELINE

A. 3-year Review of Deer Population Objectives and Deer Management Zone/Unit Boundaries

1. Every third year (beginning in 2014), each CDAC will review and recommend deer herd population objectives and DMZ/DMU boundary changes for their county to the department for the next three-year cycle. Population objective recommendations will not focus on numeric goals stated as deer per square mile of habitat, but rather be based on overall objectives of increase, decrease, or maintain the current population. Unit boundary
modification recommendations must adhere to guidelines provided by the department at the time the review takes place.

2. Recommended DMZ/DMU boundary modifications are strongly encouraged to follow pre-2014 DMU boundaries in an effort to utilize various historic metrics. Changes that do not follow former boundaries will be considered, but require strong justification for doing so by the council. Modifications to, or creation of new, metropolitan sub-zones will be considered during these reviews, as well as creation/modification of state park or island DMUs.

3. In an effort to provide sufficient area to collect statistically significant and viable data set which provides meaningful trends on deer numbers, negative impacts, and more DMUs will be a minimum of 200 square miles in size. Smaller units will be considered if past unit performance and data collection efforts suggest that enough metrics can be collected to justify a smaller unit size.

4. The population objective and DMU boundary change recommendations (if deemed necessary) will typically require a process that includes meetings to be held in the fall every third year. CDACs may also request additional meetings, if necessary. Such requests must be submitted to the department’s deer ecologist in the Bureau of Wildlife Management.

5. Final CDAC recommendations will be presented to the NRB by the chair of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress (WCC).

6. The department will share areas of concern or disagreement on final recommendations with the CDAC prior to submission of final recommendations to the Natural Resources Board (NRB). The NRB has final decision-making authority on population objective recommendations and all zone/DMU boundary changes.

B. Annual Review of Antlerless Quotas, Antlerless Permits and Season Framework Options

1. Annually, CDACs will make recommendations to the department on antlerless harvest quotas/permit levels, and season options to meet the population objectives for the county in accordance with current administrative code or state statute.

2. The annual quota and permit level recommendations will generally require the CDAC to meet each spring to receive and consider public input on CDAC recommendations. However, the number and timing and format of the meetings are subject to change based on the needs of the department.

3. Final CDAC recommendations regarding antlerless quotas/permit levels and season options will be presented to the NRB by the chair of the WCC when final season approvals are made.

4. The department will share areas of concern or disagreement on final recommendations with the CDAC prior to submission of final recommendations to the NRB. The NRB has final decision-making authority on antlerless quotas/permit levels and season options.

C. Other Recommendations

Through the course of CDAC deliberations and the gathering of public feedback, councils may want to make recommendations to the department on deer management-related items which fall outside of the councils’ specific advisory role as established in administrative rule. The department will forward those recommendations through the appropriate channels for consideration and possible action. In most cases, the recommendation will be referred to the appropriate department species advisory committee, WCC committee, or government entity for consideration and possible action. The department will request a report from the responsible
entity which outlines the appropriate course of action for the recommendation and provide it to the CDAC of origin. If policy or rule changes are warranted, the recommendation is likely to be referred back to the proper WCC committee for further action and the gathering of public feedback through the WCC spring fish and wildlife hearing process.

III. ROLE OF THE WISCONSIN CONSERVATION CONGRESS (WCC)

WCC delegates will serve as the chair and alternate chair of the council. Both the chair and alternate chair are voting members of the CDAC. The WCC's county delegation is responsible for selecting the CDAC chair and alternate chair for their county (with the approval of the WCC Chair). Chairs and alternate chairs may not have been convicted of a fish or wildlife violation within the five years prior to their appointment to the CDAC. Chairs and/or alternate chairs who vacate their seat on the WCC may not continue to participate in the CDAC as the chair or alternate chair. If a chair or alternate chair is not reelected at the April Spring Hearings he/she can remain in the CDAC chair or alternate chair capacity until his/her term expires at the beginning of the annual WCC convention in May.

A. CDAC Chair

The CDAC chair is responsible for facilitating the activities of the council in their county. This includes but is not limited to:

1. Maintaining impartiality toward the views of all CDAC members and the public, and remaining neutral except in order to make or break a tie in a decision-making situation.
2. Working with the department’s Wildlife Management liaison to help schedule meetings and determine meeting locations in the timeframe requested by the department.
3. Communicating meeting details to all council members within their county.
4. Keeping the council on-task and managing public comments to focus on the meeting objective and CDAC responsibilities.
5. Enforcing the rules of debate and restricting debate to the merits of the pending question.
6. Initiating council votes on recommendations and relaying the council recommendations to the department.
7. Ensuring meetings are run in accordance with Robert’s Rules of Order and the guidelines provided here.
8. Ensuring the meetings provide a safe and respectful environment for discussion.
9. Providing all CDAC members and citizens with an opportunity to voice their opinion.
10. Recognizing who may have the floor.

The chair is a voting member of the CDAC, but is not required to vote. In this leadership role, the chair only votes in a decision-making situation and may cast the final vote that would make or break a tie. If the chair’s vote makes a tie, then the motion is removed and a new motion must be proposed and voted on. If the total votes of council members result in a tie, then the vote of the chair can be used to break that tie.

B. CDAC Alternate Chair

The CDAC alternate chair is responsible for presiding over the meeting in the absence of the chair and taking notes to create a complete set of minutes for each meeting.
1. The alternate chair has all of the rights of a member of the council. The alternate chair counts as a hunting member of the council, if applicable.
2. In the event that the alternate chair is fulfilling the role of chair, a temporary alternate chair would be selected from other CDAC members to fill this position. Meeting minutes must be completed utilizing the standardized form provided by the department.
3. Chairs and alternate chairs should work closely to ensure minutes from each meeting are complete, accurate, and provided to the department. They must be submitted by the deadline provided by the department on the meeting template form.
4. Department staff may contact CDAC chairs, alternate chairs, liaisons or other CDAC members for clarifications on any forms submitted before or after posting to the department CDAC website. Department staff will not make changes to, or complete forms in place of receiving a form from a CDAC.

C. CDAC Oversight Committee

The mission of the CDAC Oversight Committee, in conjunction with WCC leadership, is to oversee and manage the role of the WCC delegates involved in the CDAC process. The committee will consist of at least one WCC delegate from each of the four deer management zones, and operate in the following capacity:

1. Assist with filling CDAC chair and alternate chair seats with WCC delegates.
2. Work with WCC leadership to address any problems with a WCC delegate’s conduct, meeting leadership, or procedural concerns that may arise.
3. Provide input to the department on the design and construction of forms, surveys, and other information gathering tools.
4. Assist department staff with the development and administration of the CDAC program and make recommendations on current and proposed CDAC policies.

IV. ROLE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

A. Central Office Staff

The department’s big game section will provide statewide coordination of the CDAC effort by providing tools to help department staff and CDAC chairs/alternate chairs organize and run meetings. This includes developing meeting note templates, checklists, applications, public feedback methods, contact lists, a website, deer herd metrics and more. The Deer Metric System is located on the department website at [http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/WildlifeHabitat/deermetrics.html](http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/WildlifeHabitat/deermetrics.html) and is the main source for all deer metric information. The CDAC website is the main source for meeting forms, templates and other meeting resources. Completed preliminary and final recommendations, as well as meeting minutes, are posted on this website and visible to the public. The website is also a portal to online public input forms during the public comment period on council recommendations. Central office staff are responsible for publicly noticing all CDAC meetings on the CDAC website and public hearing calendar, and for approving all meetings, agendas, public surveys, etc. developed by CDACs outside of those scheduled or provided by the department.
B. Field Staff

Local Wildlife Management staff will serve as the primary liaisons to each CDAC and will work with CDAC members to help schedule meetings, determine meeting locations and provide professional input on deer management issues. Wildlife liaisons will present a variety of metrics including car-killed deer information, forest browse data, deer hunter survey results, deer harvest data, season summaries, population estimates, and additional metric information. Wildlife liaisons will share their professional opinion at CDAC meetings and are responsible for completing CDAC recommendation assessment forms. Wildlife liaisons collect and keep any comment cards from public meetings for 30 days in accordance with the Wildlife Management Records Disposition Authorization (RDA). Forestry and Law Enforcement staff also fill important advisory roles and are encouraged to attend meetings whenever possible.

V. MEETINGS

A. As advisory councils to the department, all CDAC meetings are subject to sections 19.81-19.98, Wis. Stats., Wisconsin’s Open Meetings Law. The department is responsible for publicly noticing all CDAC meetings on the CDAC website and DNR public hearing calendar as far in advance as possible, but no less than 24 hours prior to any single meeting.

B. The department will provide CDAC members with a range of available dates in which to hold their meetings. CDAC chairs and alternate chairs will work with their fellow council members and department liaisons to determine a meeting date within the provided range of dates at a handicap-accessible location and notify the department at DNRCDACWEBMAIL@wisconsin.gov.

1. Council members are not authorized to incur costs on behalf of the CDACs. Meeting facilities that are available for the public to use free-of-charge will be utilized whenever possible. If no free facility can be identified, CDAC chairs should work with the Wildlife liaison to identify a low-cost facility. If a cost is involved, the determination to utilize and secure a facility will be made by the department.

2. Council members should announce CDAC meetings and ask local media to provide the public with the meeting information as a Public Service Announcement. Any marketing must be authorized in advance by the department. Press release templates and meeting information will be provided by the department and made available on the CDAC webpage.

C. Meeting agendas will be provided by the department and utilized by CDACs statewide to ensure each county follows the same procedure and to guide decision making. Agendas will include the opportunity for open discussion on county-specific items. Agendas can be found on the CDAC website.

D. Minutes will consist of a concise summary with sufficient explanation that is reflective of what transpired. Minutes will include an accurate record of CDAC member attendance including excused absence (unavoidable conflict, notified chair of absence) or unexcused absence (did not notify chair of absence).
E. Meeting minutes and recommendation forms must be completed and submitted to department staff at DNRCDACWEBMAIL@wisconsin.gov by the date indicated on the form.

F. A quorum must be present, either in person or by telephone/Skype, at a CDAC meeting for any voting action to be taken. If a quorum is not present, then the meeting may continue as informational only.

1. A quorum is a majority of the voting council members. CDAC members are expected to attend meetings in person. Meetings should be scheduled well in advance to increase the likelihood of participation. Only on rare occasions, if a quorum is unable to be present in person, should alternate methods such as a conference call or video meeting be utilized, if available. Alternate means for meeting would be utilized in addition to, not in place of, the physical meeting. These means of meeting participation are available only to council members and not the general public. Because of the additional responsibility for department staff to confirm and test the necessary equipment and technology requirements at the meeting location, utilizing such means would require prior approval by the department. The CDAC chair will coordinate the use of alternative methods with the Wildlife liaison.

2. If a quorum is not present and a vote on a decision item is required, then the CDAC may choose to reschedule the meeting with a quorum present within the timeline determined by the department, or advance the CDAC recommendation when a quorum was previously present.

G. All CDAC meetings will provide an opportunity for citizen participation.

1. Citizens wishing to testify to the council are encouraged, but not required, to sign up using a public appearance card provided by the department at each meeting. Those filling out an appearance slip will be heard first, after which the chair may take additional comments.

2. Citizen comments and testimony may be limited by the chair to three minutes per individual.

3. CDAC members may ask clarifying questions of citizens presenting testimony, but members should not get into debates with the public.

4. Chairs should review the public appearance cards during the public comment period of the meeting and utilize the cards as a means to call citizens to the floor to testify. If they don’t wish to speak, the chair can summarize the comments from the citizen for the council.

5. The Wildlife liaison to the CDAC should collect and keep the comment cards for 30 days in accordance with the Wildlife Management Records Disposition Authorization (RDA).

H. Citizens should not interject at-will during the meeting with their thoughts or questions, but should limit their comments to the designated public comment period as provided at each meeting. These are working meetings of the County Deer Advisory Councils and after listening to public input, council members need time to discuss the issues amongst themselves and determine their course of action/recommendations.
I. Following a CDAC meeting, members of the public may provide additional input and feedback on the meeting to department staff by emailing DNRCDACWEBMAIL@wisconsin.gov.

J. CDAC meetings and efforts to gather public opinion outside of those scheduled by the department must receive prior review and approval from the department. This may include, but is not limited to meetings, meeting agendas, and social surveys. All meetings must follow procedures outlined in this document including the minimum 24-hour public notice, collection and submission of meeting minutes, quorum requirements, and citizen participation.

VI. MEMBERSHIP

A. Membership Selection

Each CDAC is comprised of two WCC members and up to seven members filling representative stakeholder seats that include: Agriculture, Deer Management Assistant Program (DMAP), Forestry, Hunting Clubs, Transportation, Tourism and Local Government. These stakeholder positions are intended to provide a means for the various public interests in deer and deer management to be involved in local deer management discussions and the formation of recommendations. Each CDAC member should strive to reach a reasonable compromise and consensus, and the health and status of the deer herd should be taken into consideration when formulating recommendations.

1. Partner agencies (DOT, Tourism, DATCP, etc.) may nominate someone to fill a vacant seat representing their interests on a CDAC.

2. A WCC delegate will serve as chair and a second delegate will serve as alternate chair for the council. Both are voting members.

3. All nominees (with the exception of the chair and alternate chair who will be assigned through the WCC) must complete and submit an application.

4. Because these are department advisory councils, department staff will be responsible for vetting applications and filling all CDAC seats in consultation with the WCC CDAC Oversight Team Chair. Applications will be shared with the CDAC chair and alternate chair, and consultation will take place, when necessary, regarding individual applicant qualifications. The department will ensure that at least three members meet the deer hunting license requirements laid out in the Administrative Rule 10.104 (5).

5. The WCC representatives will work with their Wildlife and Law Enforcement liaisons to nominate the person to fill the seat representing the hunting interest.

6. The following describes ideal candidates for stakeholder seats on the council:

   a. Chippewa Tribes – Chippewa tribe representation will be addressed between the department and tribal leadership. Individual tribal members who do not occupy a CDAC seat are welcome to provide input to CDACs through the public participation process.
b. **Agriculture** – A member that will represent the agriculture interests is desired for all counties, especially if the county contains 30% agriculture or more. The representative should be actively engaged in the agriculture community within the county and should consider issues such as the biological and economic impact of deer densities on crop production and farm operations. Additionally, they should understand the Wisconsin Wildlife Damage and Abatement Claims Program and techniques used to estimate wildlife damage to crops. Examples include someone identified by the county Land Conservation Department, Department of Agriculture, UW Extension agriculture outreach specialists, full-time agriculture farmers, orchardists, farm cooperatives, representative from the Farm Bureau or similar organization.

c. **Forestry** – A member that will represent the forestry interests is desired for all counties, especially if the county contains 30% forested land or more. The representative should be actively engaged in the forest industry within the county and should consider issues such as the biological and economic impacts of deer densities on tree regeneration and habitat quality, invasive species, and deer wintering areas. Additionally, they should understand the basic principles of forest management and timber harvest methodologies. Examples include someone identified by the county forestry department (if applicable), loggers, private foresters, county or national forest managers, large industrial forest managers, etc.

d. **Tourism** – The member representing tourism should be actively engaged in the tourism or deer tourism industry within the county including things such as increasing awareness of unique hunting opportunities and experiences, promoting ecotourism, integrating recreational activities with wildlife uses, and enhancing recreational non-hunting opportunities for deer. Examples include local resort or motel owners, regional or county tourism council members, sporting goods retailers, venison processors, Chambers of Commerce employees, etc.

e. **Transportation** – The member representing transportation should be actively engaged with highway safety and/or deer-vehicle collisions in the county and should consider issues such as deer carcass disposal and deer vehicle collision reduction and mitigation efforts. Examples include a County Highway Commissioner, a County Highway Department representative, sheriff department or local police officer, local auto or motorcycle association, deer removal contractor, etc.

f. **Local Government (Urban)** – A member representing local government is especially desired in counties that contain any portion of a metro deer management sub-unit. An individual representing the local government seat should understand urban deer issues and conflict resolution on such matters as land access, zoning, deer overabundance, deer/human interactions, deer feeding, ecological issues, and local weapon ordinances. Examples of appropriate local government representatives include county and local parks manager, local police chief, home owner association representative, etc.

g. **Hunting Organization** – The member representing the hunting community should be actively engaged in local hunting interests and opportunities within their county while considering issues such as community involvement, recruitment and retention of hunters, and the perception of hunting by the non-hunting community. They should
also be able to represent the interests of both private land and public land hunters. If the county has a county-wide alliance, it is preferable that the alliance endorse the nominee. Similarly, if there is not a county-wide alliance, the nominees should have the endorsement of a local conservation club.

h. Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) – The member representing DMAP interests must own or be the authorized representative of the property enrolled in DMAP at Level 1 or higher and own a minimum of 20 acres in order to be considered for that county’s CDAC. DMAP council members will represent the interests of all private landowners in the county and be knowledgeable on deer biology and management, principles of wildlife management, and local deer densities.

7. If a seat becomes vacant for any reason, the department will appoint a replacement based on the receipt of qualified applications, as outlined above, for that seat.

B. Requirements & Expectations

1. Term length for all stakeholder seats (excluding chair, alternate chair, and tribal members) ends June 1 of the third year of each management cycle starting with 2017, regardless of when appointed during the cycle. Applications received by the identified deadline will be considered for the three-year cycle. If there are less than three seats filled on a county’s CDAC, additional members will be solicited and added over the following year. Remaining vacant seats will be filled annual following an application deadline. All members that wish to remain on the CDAC must re-apply at that time using the form provided by the department. This term length does not apply to the chair and alternate chair positions as they are appointed through the WCC. The Chippewa tribal seat term length, if utilized, will be determined by the nominating tribal leadership.

2. Members that wish to vacate their stakeholder seat at any time during their term must notify their council chair and the department. If the department selects a replacement from other applicants, the replacement will represent the stakeholder seat for the remainder of the term. Regardless of when a replacement is found, their term will end on the same date as all other members.

3. Members are preferred to be residents of the state of Wisconsin, but non-residents may be considered on a case by case basis.

4. Members must be residents of the county in which they hold a seat (exceptions for tribal members), or own land within the county or work professionally for the federal, state, or county agency/organization which nominated them to the CDAC. The individual representing the “Hunting Organization” seat may be from an adjacent county as long as the club covers the county represented by the CDAC and the president of the organization supports the individual representing the organization.

5. No department employee (full time or LTE) or current NRB member may be appointed to a CDAC. This would be viewed as a conflict of interest.

6. No more than one family member may sit on the same CDAC. Family members are considered to be husband, wife, brother, sister, son, daughter, or cousin.
7. Members are expected to reach out to their stakeholder communities to 1) create an awareness of upcoming CDAC processes and issues, 2) elicit input from their stakeholder community on current issues and decisions, and 3) provide a representation of the sentiment of those citizens to CDAC members at scheduled meetings.

8. Members are expected to reflect the interests of the seat they are representing when participating in any CDAC capacity. For example, an individual representing the agricultural interest of their county may also be a hunter; however, when participating in his/her capacity as a CDAC member he/she should be careful to reflect the issues and concerns of the larger agricultural community.

9. Members are expected to attend CDAC training sessions as requested by the department.

10. Ideally, members are involved in the local community and have excellent outreach and communication skills.

11. Members are expected to attend the majority of meetings. If unable to attend a meeting, members should contact the council chair. Attendance, both excused and unexcused, will be taken into consideration during the application review process. Members with significant absences will be replaced.

C. Removal from a CDAC

If a council member is found to be underperforming or remiss in their duties as outlined under Membership Requirements, the department may remove and/or replace them. Grounds for removal may include, but are not limited to:

1. Failure to reflect the perspective of the larger stakeholder community the seat is intended to represent.

2. Consistent/regular failure to attend scheduled CDAC meetings without advanced notice to the CDAC chair. Because no action items can be voted on if a quorum is not present, attendance by CDAC members is critical. If a council member is unable to attend a CDAC meeting it is his/her responsibility to notify the committee chair in advance of the meeting of the unavoidable conflict.

3. Disrespectful, disruptive, or threatening behavior will not be tolerated. Council members are expected to treat other council members, department staff and the public with respect regardless of their position on any issue.

4. Any conviction of a fish or game law or other criminal activity prior to or during a council member’s tenure on the CDAC.

5. Any physical, mental or other circumstance that renders the member no longer able to fulfill his or her responsibilities. For example, if a person moves out of the county, is no longer employed in the position that was the reason for their holding a seat on the CDAC, or is not participating as a functional member of the council he/she may be removed. The person may remain until a replacement is found, or if the appointing agency/organization feels that they are suitable to continue representing the seat.
CDAC members who are being removed from their seat will be notified in writing by the department and provided the reason(s) for removal.

The CDAC Oversight Committee, in conjunction with WCC leadership, will be responsible for overseeing the activities of the chairs and alternate chairs, and administering any disciplinary action that may be necessary (such as removal from the leadership positions).
APPENDIX

AUTHORITY

Administrative Rule 10.104 (5)(b)(c)(d)(e) establishes rules that pertain to the monitoring of deer populations in Wisconsin. CDACs were established in Chapter 10 with the following general rules that CDACs must operate within. Paragraphs (a) and (b) have been removed for the purposes of this document as they do not directly pertain to CDAC establishment.

Administrative Rule 10.104 (5)(b)(c)(d)(e) includes:

**County deer management advisory councils.** The department shall establish county deer management advisory councils for the purpose of seeking comment from members of the public on the status of the deer herd at the county level. The council shall be chaired by the chairperson for the county delegation of the Conservation Congress established under s. 15.348, Stats., or a designee who shall be approved by the department. At least 3 members shall be individuals who held an annual license authorizing deer hunting in this state or another state in at least 7 of the 10 years previous to the year in which the individual is nominated, except if the individual served on active duty in the U.S. armed forces or national guard during the 10 years previous to the year in which the individual is nominated. If the individual served on active duty in the U.S. armed forces or National Guard, the number of years in which he or she is required to have held a deer hunting license equals 7 minus the number of years of active duty served during those 10 years. The advisory council may also be comprised of a representative of any of the following entities:

1. **Tribal.** For deer management units in the ceded territory as defined by s. NR 13.02 (1), the department shall provide the Wisconsin Chippewa bands those opportunities for tribal input into the department’s deer management decisions described in and required by the parties’ stipulations in the case of Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Indians, et al., v. State of Wisconsin, et al., Case No. 74-C-313-C in the United States District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin

2. **Agriculture.**

3. **Forestry.**

4. **Tourism.**

5. **Transportation.**

6. **Local government.**

7. A local organization representing hunting interests.

8. **A person who is enrolled as a participant in the Deer Management Assistance Program as established under subch. II**

(c) Deer management functions. County deer management advisory councils will:
1. Gather public input on deer population objectives, antlerless deer harvest quotas, and hunting season framework options.

2. Review and consider metrics on deer herd trends, impacts, and human interactions.

3. Make recommendations to the department for deer population objectives every three years and will annually recommend antlerless deer permit quotas and hunting season framework options necessary to maintain the deer herd in balance with its range, population objective and sustainable harvest objectives. The recommendations of county deer management councils shall be presented to the board by the chair of the Conservation Congress.

(d) Operation of county deer management advisory councils.

1. The department shall establish guidance for the operation of county deer management advisory councils. Guidance may include, but is not limited to, any conditions which are necessary for the operation of meetings, selecting members, and establishing terms of service for members.

2. Whenever application is made to the department by a person interested in becoming a member of a council, the bureau of law enforcement may conduct a criminal history, character, and background check on the applicant. Upon becoming aware of information indicating prior illegal activity, the department shall make appropriate inquiry into criminal history and character of applicants for council membership and determine their suitability for the proposed activity.

(e) Effective term of season framework modifications recommended by deer management advisory councils. Modifications to the deer hunting season framework in a unit shall be effective for one year of annual deer hunting seasons.

Administrative Rule: 10.01(3) OPEN AND CLOSED SEASONS.

Deer season framework modifications. The department may modify the deer hunting seasons and bag limits established in s. NR 10.01 (3) upon approval of the board and the issuance of an order of the secretary and publication in the official state newspaper.

The department may modify the bag limits and deer hunting seasons in the following ways:

a. The bag limit shall be one antlerless deer per antlerless deer permit issued under s. NR 10.104 for all archery, crossbow, or firearm deer seasons. No person may harvest any buck deer except as authorized by ss. 29.173 (2) (b) and 29.193 (2) (cr) 1. and 4.

b. The department may modify the deer hunting season dates and bag limit in a farmland zone by establishing that the firearm season reopens on December 24 and continues through January 1. Only antlerless deer [may be harvested?]

c. Bonus antlerless deer hunting permits and tags shall be issued in sufficient numbers to achieve the population objective established for the unit after evaluating the results of population monitoring.

d. Licenses for firearm deer hunting may include one or more carcass tags that are valid for taking one antlerless deer during a firearm season in a management zone, unit, or
portion of a unit specified on the tag that is in a farmland zone or in a metropolitan
deer management subunit. Where the department has established an objective to
increase or maintain the deer population, the department may establish that the
antlerless tag under this subdivision is not valid.

e. Licenses for bow deer hunting may include one or more carcass tags that are valid for
the taking of one antlerless deer statewide except that, when the department has
established an objective to increase or maintain the deer population, the department
may establish that the antlerless tags under this subdivision are not valid. Note that
these tags are not valid in units where the department has not established a quota for
the harvest of antlerless deer.

f. For firearm and bow deer hunting licenses, one tag described in d. and e. is valid in any
unit statewide for a person who obtains it while under 18 years of age except that, in
units where the department has not established a quota allowing the harvest of
antlerless deer, the department may establish that these tags are not valid.