

Public Services Committee

Meeting Agenda

June 28, 2021 4:30 p.m.

EMT Training Room – Thurber Community Building

1. June 28, 2021 /4:30 p.m. EMT Training Room -Thurber Community Building.
2. Consider request for a crosswalk to assist pedestrians in crossing Fillmore County Road 2, from Groen Park to Mill Creek Park.
3. Consider DNR Dumpster Program recommendation.

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: Public Services Committee
FROM: Brian Burkholder, SCS
SUBJECT: DNR Dumpster Program
DATE: 6/23/2021

Action Requested: Looking for a discussion and consideration on placing a deer carcass dumpster on city property during the 2021 firearm season from November 6th until December 6th.

Background: I was approached by Joanne Crawford from the DNR to have the City of Chatfield consider the placement of a deer carcass dumpster on city property for hunters to use during the firearm season.

I have attached a letter explaining the program in detail and a photo of the dumpster.

Initially I thought it would be a nice benefit for area hunters in hoping to reduce carcass dumping in area ditches by placing one at the Cement Plant property near County Rd 2.

The more I spoke with others on this and hearing some history on these types of location, I believe it could turn into unattractive area leaving a bloody mess and also leaving the area open for hunters to cut up deer at that location making the area unpresentable for nearby residence.

I believe an area like the Fillmore County Shop location on County 5 would be a better fit being more out in the country.

If you are comfortable with moving this item forward to council for their consideration Monday night it would be helpful and then I can get back to them, otherwise it can wait for the next scheduled meeting.

Thank you for your time,
Brian Burkholder

Brian Burkholder

From: Crawford, Joanne (DNR) <Joanne.Crawford@state.mn.us>
Sent: Friday, June 18, 2021 12:49 PM
To: Brian Burkholder
Subject: DNR Deer Dumpster Program
Attachments: 6 yard dumpster example.JPG

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello Brian,

Thank you for speaking with me this morning about our dumpster program for deer hunters. I'll go into the same detail as we discussed, so that your colleagues have this information as well:

As I said on the phone, we like to offer hunters a clean and convenient way to dispose of their deer carcasses during the fall hunting season. This is especially important in areas where Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) has been found in white-tailed deer. Chronic Wasting Disease is a fatal, neurologic disease found in 26 states and Canada. There is no cure for the disease and it can remain infectious in soil for a very long time after a deer carcass has biodegraded. Therefore, safe disposal of deer carcasses can help us prevent the spread of this disease.

Unfortunately, Chatfield falls very close to where we first detected the disease in wild deer in 2016 (near Preston, MN). Since that time, the DNR has established a CWD Management Zone in much of the southeast that includes Chatfield. These management zones have carcass movement restrictions to prevent CWD-positive deer from being transported to other parts of the state (potentially infecting other herds). Though very few deer test positive for CWD each year, it is important that we provide hunters options to safely discard deer carcasses to reduce the risk of disease transmission in and beyond management zones.

To that end, the DNR is currently seeking a site in Chatfield to host a deer dumpster for our 2021 deer hunting season. We started our dumpster program in 2018 throughout the CWD management zone; the program is very popular with hunters. We are seeking a public park or other public works facility location where we may place a 6 yard dumpster with lid, similar to that shown in the photo. We are requesting to have this dumpster in place from November 6th – December 1st (firearms season). DNR staff members check the dumpster 3 times/week during this time and dumpsters are emptied weekly, or on as-needed basis. During each visit, we make sure the area around the dumpster is clean and free of trash. We also place an orange "Deer Disposal" sign near the dumpster to identify it as a special dumpster, hoping to reduce non-target waste from residents. A DNR staff person (me) is stationed in Rochester and would be available to respond to inquiries or any issues right away. The City of Chatfield also carries no liability for the dumpster or hunters' interactions with the dumpster program.

Please let me know if you have additional questions or other concerns.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Joanne Crawford
507-380-1858

Joanne Crawford, PhD

Wildlife Health Specialist | Wildlife Health Program

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