

**REGULAR MEETING
MENOMINEE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
OCTOBER 02, 2017 – 5:00 P.M.
TRIBAL OFFICE BOARDROOM**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call:

Chairman Gary Frechette called the meeting to order at 4:59 p.m. with a quorum present.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Debra McPherson, Darrell Webster, Monty Beauprey Sr. and Melissa Cook.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Douglas Cox Jr (Excused) and Robert J. Webster (Excused)

ALSO PRESENT: Don Reiter (Environmental Services), Carrie Waukau (Conservation), Walter Cox (Conservation), and Briana Ninham (Recorder)

2. Moment of Silence.

Chairman Gary Frechette requested a moment of silence.

3. Bear Presentation by Don Reiter.

The department also monitors the black bear harvest each year to maintain a healthy balance of the number of bears in Menominee. Without hunters, who are the bear's primary predator, the black bear population would increase to the point of becoming a nuisance to people.

Black bear harvest goal yearly for the Menominee Indian Tribe is 20-29, this past harvest a total of 524 tags were given out. Within the last five years the number of bears that have been killed/tagged are between 5-10; not reaching the harvest goal of 20-29.

Commissioner Webster stated they can begin asking people if they want bear tags and not automatically include them in the tags handed out each year. Conservation states that they began including the bear tags in the packages after the increase in nuisance calls, but they do take the tags back if someone states they don't hunt bear.

Chairman Frechette states if there is a lot of people hunting bear they can begin a lottery system similar to the State. Donnie Reiter states that they will have to watch the population if they are allowed to harvest an additional black bear once the first tag is filled, or do a lottery system for an additional 10-20 tags toward the end of season.

Item will be kept on the agenda for the next meeting so they get data and reword the motion. Question was asked about descendant lottery and if Environmental Services was in support of this. Don Reiter suggests getting the information out to the public and seeing what their feedback is.

The conservation committee would like to be able to give out another tag for the black bear harvest to reach the harvest goal of 20-29 for the year.

1995 Research has been conducted on black bear information has been attached.

WISCONSIN POPULATION MODEL (WDNR Insert):

Information on abundance of bears is needed for making sound harvest management decisions. Because black bears primarily use forested habitats, it is not possible to count them directly. Other methods of determining abundance, such as mark-recapture techniques, are costly to apply over large areas on a repeated basis so they are not used often for annual monitoring of bear populations. Population indices such as bait station surveys provide information on trends in bear populations (increasing or decreasing), but provide no information on actual numbers of bears. Therefore, DNR biologists use a population model to develop estimates of bear population size, but also incorporates additional field research and mark/recapture studies into the model as data is acquired.

The bear population model used in Wisconsin was originally developed in Minnesota by Garshelis and Snow (1988). The model incorporates information about population parameters that affect population size in known ways. These include sex and age composition of harvested bears, age-specific reproductive rates, and rates of natural mortality. The size and composition of harvests is known from mandatory harvest registration. Estimates of rates of reproduction and natural mortality are based on bear research conducted in Wisconsin and neighboring states. The model, which combines estimates of these parameters, is used to estimate population size by fitting the simulated population trends to the observed trends in the bait station index. The model is then used to assess the effects of various harvest strategies.

MENOMINEE/WISCONSIN BLACK BEAR BAIT STATION SURVEY:

Bear bait station surveys are conducted annually in the counties comprising Wisconsin's northern and central bear range. These surveys provide an index of population trends for comparison with and validation of population estimates calculated by the population model. Each survey transect consists of 50 bait stations (2-pound bags of fat securely wired to trees) that are placed at half-mile intervals along roads. Bait stations are checked seven days later to determine the percentage visited by bears. The survey is conducted June 15 - July 15 to correspond with the breeding season when most bears are within their established home ranges. Survey results are located in the appendices. Bait station surveys provide information on trends in bear populations (increasing or decreasing), but provide no information on actual numbers of bears. Therefore, DNR biologists use a population model to develop estimates of bear population size, but also incorporates additional field research and mark/recapture studies into the model as data is acquired.

MITW uses trends provided by Wisconsin DNR black bear population analysis and harvest, while also taking into account Menominee Harvest and using the black bear bait station survey to provide information on the black bear population. Yearly, the expected harvest is in the range of 20-29 black bear based on habitat availability. In 2016, **5 black bear were registered**

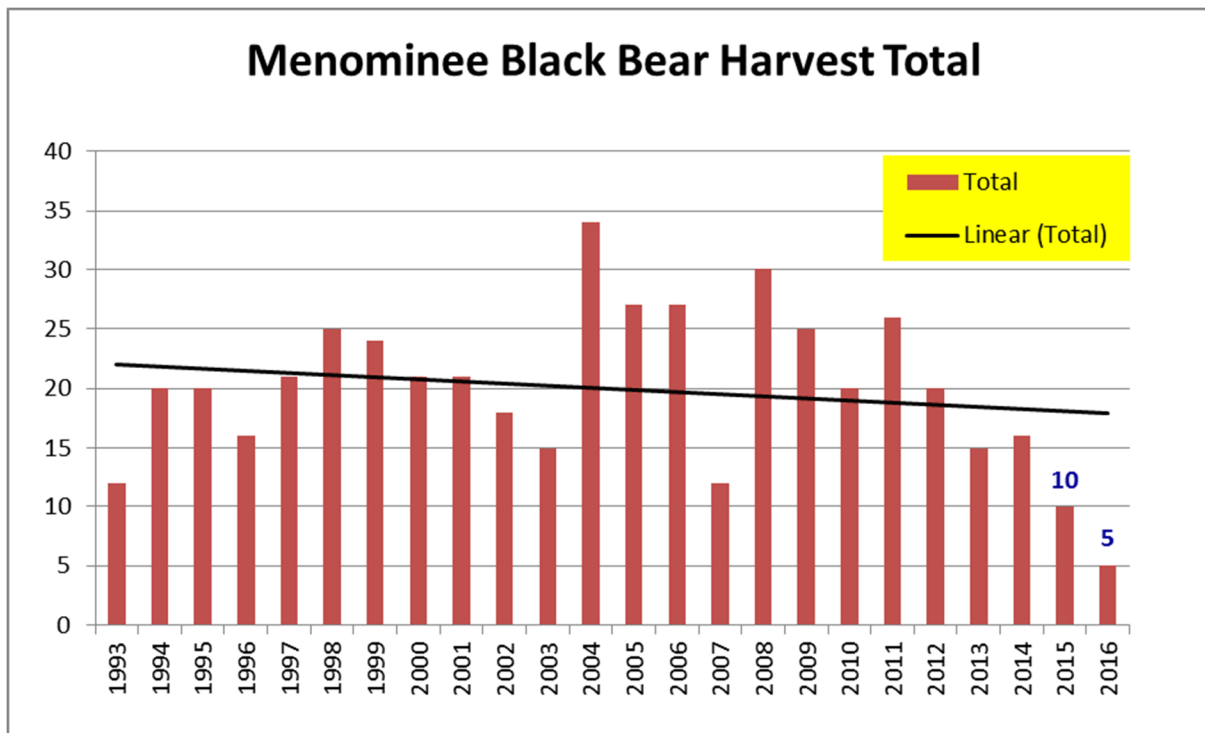


Figure 5: Menominee Black Bear Harvest 1993-2016

Year 2016:	TOTAL	TRAPPED
1.) Black Bear Garbage Complaint	6	2
2.) Black Bear Seen Complaint	3	
3.) Raccoon Complaint	3	28
4.) White-tailed Deer Fawn	1	
5.) Totals	13	30

Year 2017:	TOTAL	TRAPPED
1.) Black Bear Garbage Complaint	19	3
2.) Black Bear Seen Complaint	13	
3.) Raccoon Complaint	6	6
4.) Fox Complaint	1	
5.) Wood Chuck Complaint	2	4
6.) Totals	41	13

(Reiter D., 2017)

4. Lead Poisoning Discussion.

Commission decided to do a Neopit REGI Presentation like the one done in Keshena at the Cultural Center on October 30, 2017 at 5 PM. Intergovernmental Affairs office will take care of the food. Commission Cox Jr has the flyer and can have it placed on Facebook and Social Media once it's updated. Commission considered MIMS or MTS as the host.

Commission discussed the certificates and how they could give them out to those in attendance. Suggestion was to give them to 1 per household,

5. Menominee Conservation Commission Facebook Page.

IT department created the Menominee Conservation Commission Facebook page along with the Internal Policy. Once the policy is approved at the commission level IT will set up the page and hand it off to the Commission to update.

Item will be kept on the agenda for the next meeting.

6. Chapter 287: Conservation Update.

No representative from Legal Services agenda. No action taken. Item will be the kept on the agenda for the next meeting.

7. Other Business. None.

8. Adjournment.

Motion made by Melissa Cook to adjourn the meeting. Second was by Debra McPherson. All those in favor signify by saying aye. Motion carried: 4 for, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, 2 absent (Webster and Cox Jr)

Meeting adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By;

*Sharon Madosh/Ann Smith, Transcribers
Recording Clerks, Menominee Tribal Chairman's Office*