

**GOOSE MANAGEMENT PUBLIC MEETING  
MARCH 18, 2002**

**Minutes of Public Meeting Concerning Goose Management: March 18, 2002**

The meeting was held at the City Council Chambers of the Municipal Building at 6:30 PM.

Council members present: Paul Williams

City staff present: Mike Williams, Tom Presny, Cliff Englert, Brian Brieske and Dennis Voelz

Guest speakers: Ricky Lein - Wisconsin DNR, Nuisance Wildlife; Scott Beckerman, USDA-APHIS

Tom Presny began the meeting at 6:30 PM with an overview of the agenda. Mike Williams stated that the purpose of the meeting was to listen to the opinions and intentions of the citizens of Janesville as regards the growing concerns about waterfowl and the management options we might consider implementing.

Ricky Lein gave a short overview of the problems and life cycle of the Canada goose. He emphasized that the DNR does not provide a management plan and that the ultimate parameters of any management plan must be decided by the citizens of a community within the existing framework of the Federal rules and regulations regarding management of migratory birds.

Scott Beckerman discussed the existing problems and offered a slide presentation showing geese and ducks, their habitats, food requirements, differences in ecological niche, etc.

At this point the public forum portion of the meeting started. The following comments are a compilation of citizen and expert discussion.

- Various diseases that may control birds are under study.
- Birds that are moved in a trap-relocate program or used as food must be tested one year in advance. \$350 per bird, seven birds required.
- Two Wisconsin communities currently have food pantry programs.
- Gulls have spread some fecal disease as well.
- Geese contribute to high coliform bacteria test results and general coliform levels, however, the feces must be DNA tested to determine if it is dangerous to people.
- State hunting season exists. A city hunting season would require various City approvals.
- Management of the geese requires federal permits because they are 'migratory' birds.

- Is egg addling effective? Addling is very effective at reducing the new generation of geese. The process can be time consuming and require substantial labor and volunteer hours. Egg oiling requires an initial coating of oil and then a collection of the oiled eggs to fool the birds into thinking they have produced a new generation.
- The State DNR does not allow birth control methods for any wildlife. It is currently under study.
- How do geese compete with ducks? They don't compete for the same food sources or nesting sites.
- Do geese have endemic disease problems? Not that would reduce the population.
- We must prevent population growth.
- A health population is important for the sport of hunting.
- There is support for a hunting harvest in or around the City.
- Can the City clean up the feces?
- Hunting can supply 'food pantries'.
- Some areas of the City are isolated enough for hunting. Could the City provide a hunting season and charge a City fee?
- What actions are known to be effective?
  - An integrated plan with numerous control activities.
- Grants are available:
  - Matching grants up to \$5,000 for:
    - Wildlife management planning
    - Performing management tasks
- Herding dogs were somewhat effective in 2001.
  - Need to expand the program to maximize effectiveness.
- There is consensus for some form of management program. Possibly a food pantry program.
- Volunteers may be available for a hunting/food pantry program.

In closing, Tom Presny told the attendees that their comments would be considered in an upcoming report with recommendations offered by City of Janesville staff towards dealing with the problem. Tom then thanked everyone for his or her comments. There was a hand vote taken to determine the feeling of the group and the citizens voted unanimously in the affirmative when asked: "Should the City take some steps to reduce the goose population?"

The meeting ended at approximately 8:00 PM.