

**CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE  
DEER MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

NAME JOSEPH J. PODVIN COUNCIL DISTRICT 1

DATE MARCH 19, 2009

ROCHESTER HILLS RESIDENT FOR 18 YEARS

OCCUPATION Executive Consultant

**INTERESTS/REASONS/QUALIFICATIONS**

My interest would be to implement a number of solutions that would decrease the amount of deer /car accidents. I have been actively involved in the current process discussing with many experts a number of alternatives and proven solutions. I am a member of the MDCC Michigan Deer Crash Coalition in Lansing.

**WHAT IS YOUR OPINION REGARDING THE 2009 DEER MANAGEMENT POLICY?**

I believe that this committee should have been the first step before any unnecessary measures were taken. The implementation of culling first was not prioritized properly, many other alternatives should have been implemented prior to that. The intention of the council was admirable, to reduce the accidents, but the plan was always lacking community involvement and measureables, not to mention no center ground for people who did not want killing but wanted solutions. After the 2009 plan I think we have some healing to do as we move forward with the 2010 plan. The new plan can certainly be effective but safe, humane & socially acceptable.

**WHAT SOLUTIONS/SUGGESTIONS DO YOU HAVE TO OFFER FOR THE 2010 DEER MANAGEMENT POLICY?**

(see attached) The first step toward implementing solutions should be discussion from all sides regarding and considering all available technology with safety and community involvement. Specifically, I would like to start with the simplest of solutions which would start with cutting back foliage on many of the roads to give drivers more visibility of deer, plantings that are deer deterrent to minimize deer crossing in high traffic areas, reflectors set up and monitored for effectiveness, fencing in some areas, a link on the city website for deer plant damage and alliances of groups for residential involvement to resolve homeowner complaints, some of the new deer signage (solar powered/timed), grant proposal written, trial and error with new methods, PSA awareness.

**PERTINENT EDUCATION**

I have had continuous education with wildlife and the environment and environmental management classes throughout my formal education. I am an avid sportsman which includes camping, fishing, hiking, hunting and an understanding and appreciation of how the Ecosystem works and effects us all.

**OTHER ORGANIZATIONS**

MDCC Michigan Deer Crash Coalition has been a great platform for understanding the issues on a state wide basis and being involved in the direction of solutions. I have made a number of contacts in this group which is comprised of people from M-Dot, SEMCOG, DNR, State Police, Insurance companies, state planning & roads, etc

**BOARDS/COMMISSIONS/COMMITTEES ON WHICH YOU HAVE SERVED (LIST MUNICIPALITIES AND DATES)**

N/A

**ELECTIVE OFFICES THAT YOU HAVE HELD**

N/A

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

I would greatly appreciate the opportunity to work on this committee with the city and citizens to provide and implement solutions to current and future deer/car accidents for the safety of all. This is a terrific opportunity to be part of something that can prove to enrich&build our community in a positive direction,I welcome the chance

Please send completed form to: City of Rochester Hills, Clerk's Office, 1000 Rochester Hills Drive, Rochester Hills, MI 48309 or fax to 248.656.4744

THIS INFORMATION WILL BE KEPT ON FILE IN THE MAYOR'S/CLERK'S OFFICES AND IS NOT CONFIDENTIAL. QUESTIONNAIRES ARE REVIEWED BY THE MAYOR, CITY COUNCIL AND OTHER APPROPRIATE PERSONNEL AS VACANCIES OR OPENINGS OCCUR ON THE VARIOUS BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES.

# PROPOSAL

Here are a number of proposed measures that will target specific solutions to address and lower the deer/car accident rates utilizing awareness, community involvement and twenty-first century technology.

Begin a volunteer coalition with a city/citizen group that will meet quarterly to plan and monitor the progress of current measures and to pursue the discovery of additional solutions to reduce the deer/car incidents and accidents in Rochester Hills.

The coalition will build awareness through the community with presentations at schools, civic group meetings, churches, neighborhood groups, community events, fire department open houses, etc.

Partnership with SEMCOG, State of Michigan, AAA, State farm and other insurance companies to build awareness through targeted PSA (“don’t forget to **WATCH** for deer”) tag campaign utilizing brochures, GSTV target buy in Rochester Hills, Rochester Hills cable, local papers, brochures, etc.

Provide a **DEER link** to the City of Rochester Hills website. This deer link will include a page of suggestions and solutions. A 24 hour phone number and email address specific to deer will be displayed across the top of this page to leave a message pertaining to your complaint. This page will include a link to the on-line SEMCOG safety brochure, a suggested list of deer deterrent plants, shrubs and trees that will detour deer from browsing in the yards of residents. Also, addition tips on preparing your garden and landscaping for deer and other wildlife that may find your garden appetizing. Lastly, a FAQ section that will assist residents with answers to all of the frequently asked questions.

Lance DeVos could work as the first line responder to callers and emails pertaining to the deer inquires. Determining the problem could be dealt with a number of ways. First he could call back to access and second, schedule visits two Saturdays per month to assist citizens in the planned solution he has recommended. If alternative planting, fencing or applying Deer Gard or other repellents was suggested, cooperation with various volunteer groups (cub scouts, boy scouts, girl scouts, environmental groups, etc) could be used to assist in the planting and applications to heighten awareness.

First, target the highest areas of deer/car accident to ensure that each area has a minimum of fifteen feet of brush, trees and weeds cut back from the road. Once the brush is cut back, plant deer deterrent native plants and shrubs on the sides of the roads to minimize grazing of the deer closest to the roads. These plantings can be done utilizing the Michigan State University 4-H youth development program and additional Rochester Hills groups to beautify the roads.

Installation of streiterlite reflector system as proposed and paid for by citizen for first two miles and campaign in community for business support for additional reflector system mileage as needed. The reflectors will provide us with statistical data on percentage reduction for accidents and calibration for more installations.

Additional and appropriate signage should be reevaluated. The new signage is available to further illuminate deer signs, these signs can be solar powered and timed to have a flashing light through peak times, generally at night to flash furthering awareness.

Deer whistles can be given out or purchased at the Environmental center as a one more measure of preventing crashes. State Farm and Shelter insurance are currently the two largest business purchasers of the deer whistle and are giving them out in numerous states in the USA. There is not an overwhelming amount of data on these but, the company and many groups believe even if it prevents a few crashes each year it is worth it.

We can also further our city awareness with the area Nurseries creating a section with deer deterrent plantings and our brochures. Some of the roadside funds, plants, etc. for safety could be a trade exchange for the advertising of the nurseries on the website deer page, in the brochures.

It is my belief and the belief of friends, family and neighbors, along with community leaders and businesses located in Rochester Hills that this important problem can be solved without a provision for a deer cull and the use of sharp shooters or snipers in the city. Trust between the Mayor, City Council and citizens is paramount and must be maintained insuring trust and promise for a Safe, Compassionate and Prosperous

**ROCHESTER HILLS.**

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Podvin", written in a cursive style.

JOSEPH J. PODVIN