



MUNICIPALITY OF **West Elgin**

Staff Report

Report To: Council Meeting
From: Jana Nethercott, Clerk
Date: 2022-02-24
Subject: Coyote Population Control

Recommendation:

That West Elgin Council hereby receives the report from Jana Nethercott, Clerk re: Coyote Population Control for information purposes.

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to provide follow up to Deputy Mayor Leatham's request to research what other municipalities are doing about the increased Coyote populations.

Background:

Municipalities are responsible for deciding on and taking appropriate actions when human-wildlife encounters create ongoing conflict and can take action on private property with the landowners' permission.

Staff reached out to other Elgin County municipalities and at this time it appears that no action has been taken with regards specifically to Coyotes. Dutton Dunwich does have an agreement with hunters/trappers for nuisance animals but have not yet had any complaints regarding coyotes. Southwold has some information on their website on coyote and human encounters and how to prevent them, which comes from the MNRF and are attached to this report.

In doing this research staff did find that some larger urban centres, specifically Oakville and Collingwood, do have Coyote Response Strategies which show a progression of activities, with removal of the animals as the last resort. In the Collingwood staff report, it was noted that US studies have shown when population is controlled through lethal force Coyotes exhibit a "rebound effect" or surge in reproduction rates. Collingwood also stated that previous trapping control programs have proven costly and not effective in reducing the population or addressing the root cause of Coyote and human contact.

According to the Ontario Farm Association the increase in the deer population along the Thames River has also brought the coyote increased population as deer are a food source for coyotes. The OFA also stated that some districts have regular hunts to try to control an aggressive population.

At this time the Municipality hasn't seen an increase in calls about Coyotes, nor have we seen an increase in the Ontario Wildlife Compensation Claims for predation kills, in the last three years we have seen a total of 4 claims, three of which were Coyote related and none this year.

Depending on Council's direction staff can do an education campaign with the MNRF information and/or search for hunter/trappers to contract services, but at this time there is no money in the budget for such a contract.