

Menard County Game and Livestock Protection Association Bylaws

Adopted as of September 21, 2017 by the Board of Directors

ARTICLE I: Name and Objective

1. The name of the organization shall be the **Menard County Game and Livestock Protection Association**.
2. This shall be a nonprofit organization for the purpose of promoting and providing a cooperative effort for game and livestock protection in Menard County.
3. The objectives of this organization shall be to utilize a predator "bounty system". Bounties are paid for predators obtained ONLY from Menard County ranches and/or farms of Association members whose memberships have been received and approved by the board prior to the start of or during the Association's "membership year".

ARTICLE II: Membership

1. Membership consists of the total acreage enrolled by the landowner, livestock or wildlife manager, hunter, and/or interested person interested in game and livestock protection in Menard County. Ranch and/or farms whose acreage extend "undivided" into surrounding counties are eligible for membership.
2. Membership is an annual event, starting September 1 and ending on August 31.
 - A. ONLY Menard County ranches and/or farms of Association members whose memberships have been received and approved by the board prior to the start of or during the Association's "membership year"... are eligible for the "bounty system".
 - B. Members that join BETWEEN Sept 1 and Aug. 31 can become eligible for the Menard County bounty system for predators taken thirty (30) days after their membership have been received and approval by the board. Under special circumstances, the board can waiver the thirty (30) day grace period by 2/3 vote.
3. *FEES*
Annual membership is \$0.15 (fifteen cents) per enrolled acre with a minimum fee of \$100.00 (one hundred) dollars. The membership fee is approved by the Board of Directors prior to the start of each membership year.
4. *ONE MEMBERSHIP - ONE VOTE*
When a vote is called in a general membership meeting, each approved membership (currently paid and in good standing with the association) is allowed one vote.
5. A membership that violates the bylaws, falsify records, and/or causes financial harm/loss to the association.... the membership can be revoked with loss of all membership privileges and membership fees by a 2/3 vote by the Board of Directors at any time... plus, the membership can be terminated for the current year, or the membership can be baned for a definite time as determined by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE III: General Meetings

1. A general membership meeting may be called as deemed necessary by the Board of Directors as long as the general membership is given at least one (1) week of advance notice and that notice is posted with County Agrilife Extension office. An Annual general membership meeting is recommended prior to November 1.
2. *RULES:*
Grays (Roberts) Rules of Parliamentary Procedure will be employed at all general/board meetings.
3. *AGENDA:*
An agenda will be followed in the general membership meeting. The agenda is determined by the Board of Directors prior to the general membership meeting. Members can recommend items of business to be placed on the agenda in the following manner:
 - A) At the board meeting prior to the general membership meeting, the member must present their recommendation to the Board of Directors for board approval/disapproval to be included on the agenda (or) the member must contact an officer prior to this board meeting whereby the officer can present the recommendation (written proposals are recommended) to the Board of Directors for board approval/disapproval to be included on the agenda.
 - B) At a called general membership meeting, a member must obtain a two-third (2/3) vote from members present to place an item of business/proposal on the floor (not on the agenda) for approval/disapproval by the membership present.

ARTICLE IV: General Meeting Quorum:

1. A quorum shall consist of a simple majority of the qualified general members present at a pre-announced meeting of the general membership.

ARTICLE V: Board of Directors

- 1) The Board of Directors shall determine the number of board members of at least 6, not to exceed 12 active members elected from the general membership, plus the Menard County Sheriff and Menard County Agrilife Extension Ag Agent.

A. Board Terms

Directors will serve three (3) year terms (excluding the Sheriff and/or Extension Agent). There are no consecutive term limitations.

- these terms will be staggered or rotating with one -third (1/3) ending each year.
- If a director resigns or quits, the Board may elect a replacement until the next called meeting of the general membership.
- If the need arises, directors shall "draw" for their staggered terms in a graduated manner in relation to the number of years they have served.
- A director (excluding the Sheriff and/or Extension Agent) not attending three (3) consecutive regularly scheduled Board meetings WILL be terminated from the Board. He/She may be reinstated on the board by a 2/3 majority vote of the quorum of the Board.

B. Board Authority

The Board of Directors shall be responsible for planning, organizing, arranging financing, and conducting the Association business with the help of all of the general membership.

- The Board shall be given the authority to interpret and enforce all By-Laws and general rules, and make final decisions on any question that might arise concerning the association.
- The Board is responsible to the general membership for: making recommendations on all rule changes affecting eligibility, bounties, membership changes, and making board nominations in a timely manner before the general meeting.
- Corrections/changes to the Bylaws not affecting eligibility of membership can be made by a 2/3 vote of the board of directors without membership approval and prior notice.

C. Board Quorum

A quorum of the Board shall be a simple majority of the Board of Directors membership. If less than a simple majority of directors are present at a called board meeting, then decisive actions can not be taken.

D. Board Meetings

Board meetings will be called and held as deemed necessary by the Board

1) RULES:

Grays (Roberts) Rules of Parliamentary Procedure will be recognized and followed by the Board.

2) AGENDA:

Each Board meeting will have an agenda as determined by the officers and County Extension Ag Agent. Each board meeting will have the previous minutes read and approved, as well as a full financial report given and approved. It is recommended that a financial report be printed out and given to each board member at the meeting. Old business, new business and miscellaneous business will be discussed at each board meeting before adjournment.

3) ATTENDANCE:

It is imperative that board members strive to attend each board meeting. General membership is welcome and invited to attend all board meetings even though they do not have voting power on the board. There should be nothing secretive about Board meetings and business.

E. Board Officers

The officers of the board shall consist of a President, Vice President, and Secretary/Treasurer. The Menard County Clerk is appointed as the Association executive financial secretary. The board has the option to appoint and/or fire an executive financial secretary who would be responsible for much of the bookkeeping and paper work.

1) TERM:

Officers can serve consecutive years in the same capacity.

2) DUTIES:

The duties of the officers shall be those pertaining to their office and other duties assigned them by the Board and /or general membership.

- a) President: Coordinate and moderate all activities of the board and it's members and organize meetings & events and delegate powers.
- b) Vice President: Assist the president in all capacities and fill-in in his/her absence.
- c) Secretary/Treasurer: Document all meetings, membership, and activities of the board & make a report at each board and each general meeting.
- d) Executive Financial Secretary. Maintain financial integrity and document all financial activities... and make a report at each board/general meeting.

F) Officers Elections

Officers shall be elected annually by the board of directors following the annual meeting of the general membership.

G) Board Nominations

Prior to the summer or fall general membership meeting, the Board of Directors can nominate potential general members to serve on the board. These names will be submitted as nominees for the Board. At the general membership meeting other nominations for directors may be made from the floor and added to the list of nominees to be considered by the general membership.

H) Board Transition

To facilitate a smooth efficient transfer of business, all officers at the end of their office term shall turn over to the new respective officers all business and financial records, and all materials and equipment pertaining to the board, and association.

I) Board Financial Business:

Bounties will only be paid at the first of the month by the association. Each and every transaction will be documented. All checks shall be signed by at least two (2) board members and/or executive financial secretary. Cash withdrawals will be reconciled at each board meeting. All reimbursed expenses must be documented with receipt. The Board and/or Association has the right to call for an audit at any given time, however the financial books must be audit annually by a qualified person approved by the board.

Members seeking specific information regarding who is receiving bounty payments and/or association transactions may do so by the request under the "Freedom of Information Act".

ARTICLE VI: Bounties

- 1) Bounty payment amounts will be determined by the board of director. Bounties will be posted on the official current year "BOUNTY REQUEST FORM". Bounties are subject to change depending on available of funds.

- 2) The landowner/operator/lesse and/or hunter is liable for all incorrect information on the "Bounty Request Form". If fraud is suspected and/or committed that results in payment, a LIE DETECTOR test may be administered by the Menard County Sheriff's office. ***Fraud in connection with this bounty program will be punishable under third Degree felony law.***

- 3) Bounty payment will be paid at the first of the month for the following reasons:

- a) When sufficient funds are available, bounties will be released to "approved" memberships that are in good standing for the current year.
- b) Upon board obtaining an accurately completed "Bounty Request Form" with carcass/tail that has been timely submitted and validated at either Compton's or Kothmann's Feed Store.
 - 1) Predators must be obtained on membership acreage that can be verified/certified by the landowner/operator/lesse.
 - 2) All information on the request form must be correctly completed, including landowner, ranch name, and the hunter information including place, date, addresses, phone numbers, etc.,
 - 3) The carcass/tail is presented with the "bounty request form" to either Compton's or Kothmann's Feed Stores in Menard County at validation.

note: Carcasses must have ears completely intact for coyote, red fox, bobcat, and mountain lion... the entire tail for feral hog must be submitted with the "bounty request form" for positive verification. Testimonials and/or photos of carcasses will not be accepted. After validation, carcasses will be returned to owners "ear notched" or "ears removed"... and feral hog tails will be collected as property of the Association and not returned to the owner (s)/hunter (s).

- 4) Main reasons why bounties are not paid at the first of the month:

- a) The bounty program will ceased without prior notice when funds are exhausted, resuming as funds become available.
- b) Incomplete "Bounty Request Form" application that can not be properly validated because of:
 - improper membership name of landowner/operator/lesse not on the membership list.
 - incomplete information relating to place, date, ranch name, address, hunter information, etc.
 - Intact ears for coyote, mountain lion, bobcat, red fox, or feral tails not presented at validation.
- c) No bounty will be paid on road kill, frozen, live or decomposed carcasses, fetus animals, and/or predators obtained outside of Menard County and/or from any acreage within Menard County not properly enrolled and approved.
- e) Testimonials and/or photos of carcasses submitted for validation are not accepted.
- f) Bounty Request Form not timely submitted for validation.

ARTICLE VII: Association Disbandment

Upon the disbandment of the Association, all real property, including money, equipment, etc. shall become the property of the Menard County Wildlife Management Association for care and disposition. The last official duty of the Association shall be to effect the transfer of Association property and to turn over Association records to the Menard County Extension agent.

ARTICLE VIII: Amendments

Bylaws that pertain to the ELIGIBILITY OF MEMBERSHIP may be amended at any regular meeting of the Association by a two-thirds vote of the members present, provided that the proposed amendments have been presented to the Association in writing and filed with the secretary at the previous membership meeting of the Association.

Corrections/changes to the Bylaws not affecting eligibility of membership can be made by a 2/3 vote of the board of directors without membership approval and prior notice.

Amendments must not conflict with the basic game and livestock protection philosophy.