

# Joint Counties

## Natural Resources Board

Aitkin ~ Beltrami ~ Clearwater ~ Koochiching ~ Lake of the Woods ~ Mahnomen ~  
Marshall ~ Roseau

Beltrami County Conference Room  
701 Minnesota Avenue, NW  
Bemidji, MN 56601

[www.jointcountiesnaturalresourcesboard.com](http://www.jointcountiesnaturalresourcesboard.com)

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### Executive Summary 2015

**Purpose:** *The purpose of the Joint Counties Natural Resources Board shall be to gather information on and formulate policies for the development, utilization and protection of natural resources in northern Minnesota, and to ensure that there is an interrelated plan for the use and protection of both public and private resources.*

#### Board Members:

Gary Kiesow – Marshall	Brian Napstad – Aitkin
Scott McCollum – Mahnomen	Joe Vene – Beltrami
Daniel Stenseng – Clearwater	Wayne Skoe – Koochiching
Ken Moorman – Lake of the Woods	Todd Miller – Roseau

#### Board Meetings

Meets the Fourth Monday of Most Months  
Meets at the Beltrami County Conference Room  
Meetings begin at 10:00 a.m.  
All Commissioners Are Invited to Attend  
Most Meetings Include a Special Guest and DNR Updates

#### Dues Structure

Dues are discussed each year by the membership counties and are based on Board input and county budgets

#### Website

[www.jointcountiesnaturalresourcesboard.com](http://www.jointcountiesnaturalresourcesboard.com) was created in 2013. There you will find meeting dates, proposed agenda for the upcoming meeting, past minutes, board members with contact information, other topics, power point presentations and discussions presented during the meetings.

#### December 2014 Board Meeting

Commissioner Kiesow was elected Chair for 2016  
Commissioner Stenseng was elected Vice-Chair for 2016

## January

There was no speaker for the meeting. The Board conducted their routine business. Discussions included: the “Waters of the US” language and the attempt by the House to defund the Bill, supporting the Class A Clean Air Act when needed, the 50’ Buffer Zone the Governor has implemented and the DNR update on the AIS sticker program.

## February

The Board conducted its routine business including financials and a DNR update which included land exchanges. They also discussed modifications to the proposed wetland conservation act, the Governor’s proposed Buffer Zone, an extension to the beaver season which prompted a motion. **Motion by Vene, second by McCollum to approve sending a letter to the DNR Commissioner encouraging him to extend the beaver season to May 15 permanently, especially for beaver nuisance areas. Motion carried unanimously.**

## March

The Board conducted their routine business which included financials, a motion to accept the proposed 2015 budget, and a DNR and Wetland Conservation Act update. Speakers for the meeting were Polymet Representatives LaTisha Gietzen and Dave Hughes, Jr. The Minnesota based company is asking the State for a 20 year permit to process: copper, nickel, platinum, palladium, cobalt and gold in an established mining pit. Scott Peters, Marshall County Auditor/Treasurer, also attended the meeting telling the Board the county program aid for counties losing population will lose their aid if the formula does not change. He shared the resolution Marshall County passed which supported a Bill that would make a change to the formula. He asked other commissioners to take it back to their counties for consideration.

## May

The Board conducted their routine business which included financials, a discussion on the language in the “Waters of the US”, and a Legislative update. The following motions were approved:

- **Motion by Miller, second by Skoe to send a thank you letter to Klobuchar expressing our appreciation for her vote on the Waters of the U.S., to send a separate letter to Representative Colin Peterson and to cc Frankin, Nolan and the congressional congregation.**
- **Motion by Miller, second by McCullum to send a resolution supporting the Polymet Project as job creators.**

Tim O’Hara, MN Forestry Industry; Vice President of Forest Policy was the speaker who talked about the forest industry, some of the challenges they are facing and the Northern Long-eared Bat.

## June

The Board conducted their routine business which included financials, DNR update and general business. Guest John Ongaro, lobbyist for St. Louis County attended the meeting to inform the board about the Fond du Lac application for Class I Air Quality Re-designation under the Clean Air Act which has the potential to stop all further development in tribal territory.

## July

The Board conducted their routine business which included financials, a DNR update including listening sessions with various counties and scheduled Elk meetings. Other discussions regarding ditch abandonment, the joint meeting with NCLUCB, and an update on the Governor’s Buffer Zone legislation were held.

### **August**

The Board conducted their routine business. Financial items included a motion to move the JCNRB's checking, money account and accounting responsibilities over to Scott Peters at Marshall County. A DNR update, discussion on the Clean Power Plan and an overview of the Tax Court Findings (Blandin vs Counties) were held. Guest speaker David Schotzko – DNR Parks and Trails Area Supervisor informed the board about trails within his 7 county district. He talked about bike, ATV and snowmobile trails to name a few.

### **September**

The Board conducted their routine business which included financials and a DNR update. Guest speakers were Representatives Dan Fabian (1A) and Dave Hancock (2A). They updated the Board on several topics within their districts.

### **October**

The Board conducted their routine business which included financial discussions, and the DNR update which included the Emerald Ash Borer found in Duluth. There was no speaker in attendance, under new business Greg told the Board the Flood Damage work group consisting of 8 watersheds will have a meeting with John Jaske. Under old business it was reported that the Buffer, Drainage and Soil Committee would be meeting to clarify preliminary guidance on buffers.

### **December**

The Board conducted their routine business which included financial discussions on the 2016 administrative contract and membership dues. The DNR update on the Elk comment period extension and a release date for the preliminary maps on the buffer initiative. Guest speaker was John Williams, DNR Representative for Agriculture Leases. He gave examples of the 3 kinds of agriculture leases and talked about their differences. Board nominations elected Commissioner Gary Kiesow President and Commissioner Stenseng Vice-Chair for 2016.

**The Joint Counties Natural Resources Board did not meet in April or November.**

Further information on these topics and more may be found on the Joint Counties website at [www.jointcountiesnaturalresourcesboard.com](http://www.jointcountiesnaturalresourcesboard.com).