

# 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)

---

### Executive Summary 2016

**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

#### DNR Representatives

Greg Nelson – Northwest Regional Director (January – September 2016)  
Rita Albrecht – Northwest Regional Director (October-December 2016)

#### 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 from membership counties 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 and power point presentations.

#### December 2015 Board Meeting

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

## **January**

The Board conducted their routine business which included financials, before hearing from guests Representative Fabian and Ecklund. A round table discussion was held on topics that included a Bill introduced regarding water quality, Trust Funds creating economic development, the Sand Pipers Pipeline and the Governor's Buffer Mapping Bill. An update was given by DNR Representative Greg Nelson on the Elk Herd and ditch abandonment.

## **February**

Aaron Vane Linde, Director of MN School Trust Lands attended the meeting. He talked about a Trustee's duty and the Trust Manager's responsibility, the Trust's Statutory Mission, the Director's role and the BWCAW Evaluation Project. DNR Representative Greg Nelson provided another update on the collaring of twenty Elk. Regular business including financials and old business was conducted.

## **March**

Phil Hunsicker, DNR AIS Coordinator, Coordinator and Bruce Anspach Beltrami AIS Program were in attendance. Phil talked about funding, education including available workshops, what works for each county and how he will meet with counties to discuss what works best for them. Bruce told the board Beltrami County has an aggressive and extensive program. There was no DNR update and routine business including financials was conducted. New business included EQB update from Brian Napstad, beaver control and the Bigfork Watershed.

## **May**

Bill Best, Beltrami County Environmental Resource Specialist and Dick Moore, Beltrami County Land Commissioner attended the meeting to talk to the Board about Noxious Weed problems, their budget pertaining to weed control and the bugs that help in treating the problems. When in question regarding noxious weeds they look to MN Department of Agriculture. A catalog of bugs pertaining to noxious weeds can be found on the Department's website along with a list of the different weeds counties can refer to for control and eradication. Routine business was conducted and the DNR update included the passing of a tax bill, a decision of the White Earth Tribe to keep roads and trails open for fishing and hunting on tribal lands.

## **June**

The Board conducted their routine business which included financials. With no special guest in attendance, the Board had a roundtable discussion. Updates from each district at the table (District 1, 2, and 3), were held. Such topics as mental health, beaver control, Long Eared Bat and AMC dues. There was not old or new business to discuss.

## **July**

The Board conducted their routine business including financials. Craig Engwall, MN Deer Hunter Association, has been the Director for the past year and a half. He oversees 60 Chapters in which 80% of them are in greater Minnesota. He talked about a kid's camp for deer hunting, Hides for Habitat, food plots and deer management health and plan. The DNR update from Greg Nelson included Elk, a storm that damaged Bower State Park and his retirement effective August 2. No old business, however new business included obtaining speakers to talk about the use of drones by counties, the \$300,000 annual appropriation to counties for ditch assessments and the 2015 Executive Summary.

### **August**

The Board conducted their routine business including financials. The guest was Kay Mack, Beltrami County Administrator who discussed under new business the \$300,000 appropriation for ditch assessment legislation. Gravel leases on ConCon Lands, Story Stonewort, ConCon payments to counties and drone use by counties.

### **October**

The Board conducted their routine business including financials. Guest speaker was Nathan Heibel, Koochiching County Land Commissioner who came to talk about Kooch County's ConCon Lands, the Citizens Advisory Committee that makes recommendation to the County Board regarding budgets, projects within the ConCon lands and Strategic Plan Goals. New business included 404 Assumption Bill, Wetland Replacement Program and if it made sense to join JCNRB and NCLUCB into one organization.

### **November**

The Board conducted their routine business including financials. Kay Mack, Bruce Hasbargen, John Williams and Kestner attended the meeting to give an update of Beltrami's Ditch Abandonment Pilot project, its purpose (to keep other counties informed so they understand the process) and some of the key points in the project's plan. Greg Nelson's replacement, Rita Albrecht was in attendance. She talked about forestry, wildlife, lands/minerals and One Call which will, beginning November 2 have evening and weekend hours. There was no new business and old business included beaver control and an update on the Drainage Work Group.

### **The Joint Counties Natural Resources Board did not meet in April, September and December.**

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