

**Joint Counties Natural Resources Board
January 23, 2017
Beltrami County Conference Room
10:00 AM**

MINUTES

Attendance: Commissioners:

Gary Kiesow – Marshall	Russell Walker - Roseau
Daniel Stenseng - Clearwater	Wayne Skoe – Koochiching
Bill Pratt – Aitkin	Roger Falk (Alternate for Roseau)
Tim Summer – Beltrami	Scott McCollum - Mahnomen

Absent: Ken Moorman – Lake of the Woods

DNR: Rita Albrecht, DNR NW Regional Director, John Williams, Regional Wildlife Manger

Others: Kallie Briggs; Administrator

Call to Order: Chairman Commissioner Kiesow called the Joint Counties Natural Resources Board to order at 10:02 AM on Monday, January 23, 2017 in the Beltrami County Conference Room.

Agenda: Motion by Walker, second by McCollum to approve the agenda with additions. Motion carried unanimously.

Election of Officers:

- Chair: Walker made a motion to nominate Kiesow as President, Skoe second the motion to close nominations and elect Kiesow as President. Motion carried unanimously.
- Vice-Chair: Walker nominated Stenseng as Vice-Chair. Pratt made a motion to close nominations and elect Stenseng as Vice-Chair, Falk second the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Administrative contract 2017: Motion by Stenseng, second by Falk to accept the 2017 Administrative Contract with no changes in cost and continue working with Kallie Briggs, Your Office or Mine. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes: Motion by McCollum, second by Stenseng to approve the minutes from the November 28, 2016 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Discussions:

- Administration/Office Expenses: Motion by Stenseng, second by Falk to approve the December/January administrative/office expenses. Motion carried unanimously.
- Miscellaneous Expenses: Motion by Skoe, second by McCollum to approve the miscellaneous expenses (rolls). Motion carried unanimously.
- Account Activity Report: The January Account Activity Report was submitted by Marshall County and distributed by Coordinator Briggs. Motion was made by McCollum, second by Falk to approve the January Account Activity Report. Motion carried unanimously. *Note: All membership dues were paid in 2016. Invoices for 2017 membership dues were sent out in January.*

Meeting Dates: The 2017 meeting dates were given to the Board. Motion by Sumner, second by Stenseng to approve the 2017 meeting dates. *Note: Meeting dates are subject to change if necessary.*

Old Business: None.

DNR Update: Rita gave the following update:

- **Lands:** The Bureau of Land Management returned 60,000 acres of land back to the Red Lake Band. There were 5 counties involved in the process.
- **Eco Water Service:** Public meetings will be held in Waskish to talk about ditch water. They will be looking at what it would mean to a county to have ditches surrounded by state lands and how it would affect the watershed.
- **1 Watershed, 1 Plan:** The process is ongoing in Lake of the Woods but the Red Lake River draft is done. It was not a project of the DNR, however they assisted MPCA with the process.
- **Forestry Affairs Committee:** There are some forestry issues at the Capitol and the DNR wants to inform the legislators of new and ongoing forestry issues. Governor Dayton has pledged to a sustainable analysis of 1 million cords of wood cut per year. The stakeholders group has been appointed and will work on this to enhance forestry and wildlife management. Eventually there will be public input.
- **Parks and Trails:** The DNR has been partnering with local groups to groom ski and snow trails which has worked well for everyone.

John gave a wildlife update:

- **Deer:** The deer harvest chart shows an increase. This could be contributed to warm weather allowing hunters to spend more time in the woods/stands, and more liberal antlerless permits statewide. So far this winter things are looking pretty good as far as the weather severity index. Chronic wasting disease (CWD) has been found in SE Minnesota and also on a deer farm in Meeker County, which was traced back to a farm in Crow Wing County. CWD cannot spread to other animals and cannot be transferred to humans.
- **Bear:** The bear season was up 39% from last year. Unfortunately, more bears meant more reports of nuisance bears.

- John also reported on Elk, ruffed grouse and waterfowl. The complete report is on file.

New Business: The following was discussed:

Beaver Legislation: A Bill authored by Representative Sundin and supported by Representative Ecklund was sent out to the Board prior to the meeting for review. The discussion from the Board was a concern of where the reimbursement dollars to pay for the beavers would come from and noted that the ditching authority already has the right to take nuisance beavers without a permit. The counties want to see a grant or funding appropriated. Kallie will put together a letter for Representative Ecklund to look at an appropriation or a cost share to counties to take care of their beaver issues. Also the letter should mention the average cost to counties, the complication trappers would have to go through to get a special permit when it is not beaver season, and higher beaver prices would give an incentive to new and younger folks to get involved.

Pipeline: Commissioner Stenseng asked DNR attendees Rita and John if there is any DNR preparation planned for potential pipeline protesters if Line 3 replacement is approved. Rita responded that the DNR is only assisting with the Environmental Impact Statement. He questioned whether individual counties in the JPNR area are prepared for the drain on workforce resources should a similar situation occur in northwest Minnesota as was reported from Morton County, North Dakota.

Next Meeting Date: The next scheduled meeting will be on Monday, February 27, 2017.

Adjourn: Kiesow adjourned the meeting at 12:02 PM.

Minutes submitted by Kallie Briggs-Administrative Coordinator