

Joint Counties Natural Resources Board
January 25, 2016
Beltrami County Conference Room
10:00 AM

MINUTES

Attendance: Commissioners:

Gary Kiesow – Marshall	Todd Miller - Roseau
Daniel Stenseng - Clearwater	Wayne Skoe – Koochiching
Joe Vene – Beltrami	

Absent: Brian Napstad – Aitkin Ken Moorman – Lake of the Woods
Scott McCollum - Mahnomen

DNR: Greg Nelson – DNR Area Supervisor

Guest: Representative Ecklund; District 3A
Representative Fabian; District 1A

Other: Kallie Briggs; Coordinator

Call to Order: Chairman Commissioner Kiesow called the Joint Counties Natural Resources Board to order at 10:03 AM on Monday, January 25, 2016 in the Beltrami County Conference Room.

Introductions were done and the Representatives were welcomed.

Agenda: Motion by Skoe, second by Miller to approve the agenda with Buffers added to the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes: Motion by Vene, second by Stenseng to approve the minutes from the December 28, 2015 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Guest: Attending a JCNRB meeting for the first time, Representative Rob Ecklund began by telling the Board he was voted into office replacing Representative Dill who passed away. Ecklund is from International Falls and began his political career as a Commissioner for the past 5 years. He is pro natural resources and believes in the 3 T's (timber, tourism and taconite). He will be assigned to the committees that Representative Dill had been assigned to. He went on to say because it is a bonding year, he has projects in his district such as an airport remodeling project in Koochiching, road work in Ely, Vermillion college improvements and the ability to help with mining projects, that he will be paying close attention to.

At this point a round table discussion began between the JCNRB, Representative Ecklund (3A) and Representative Fabian (1A). Some discussion points made were:

- Last year a Bill was introduced regarding water quality in all regions of Minnesota, both rural and urban. The Governor will be hosting a water quality symposium in February which has been said to be full with a waiting list for attendance.
- While Trust Funds create economic development by paying all schools \$30 per student (most trust fund schools are in the northern part of the state), there are many questions regarding them. The JCNRB decided to invite the director of trust funds, Aaron Vane Linde to our next meeting.

- Although Representatives Ecklund and Fabian are in favor of the Sandpiper pipeline, it is still met with some opposition. Most think moving oil through the ground is the safest way noting that oil on train cars could be disastrous. Enbridge has conducted the necessary environmental review but has been challenged by various groups. The 616 mile pipeline is a 2.6 billion dollar project which is projected to inject approximately 2.3 billion dollars into Minnesota's economy.
- The Governor's Buffer Mapping Project is still a concern for some legislators and commissioners. The DNR is conducting the mapping project and Greg said there is a presentation on their website that explains the process. He will send Kallie information to pass along to the Board.

DNR Update:

- Greg said there will be an Elk meeting on February 3 in Lancaster. The DNR will begin conducting an Elk research project using GPS collars within the next month. The objective of the research is to develop a basic understanding of elk movements and habitat use by combining the collar data with field surveys. They will be using helicopters and will have a non-DNR veterinarian on site when capturing the Elk.
- The Beltrami Highway Engineer will be meeting with the DNR regarding ditch abandonment and what the process involves. Rep Ecklund said Kooch County is also interested in ditch abandonment and is keeping an eye on Aitkin County as they proceed with their pilot project.

Discussion:

- **Old Business:** None
- **New Business:**
 1. Buffer Strip: Todd said Roseau County will be looking at a resolution to support the Legislative intent to exclude private drainage systems from the requirements contained in the riparian protection legislation adopted in 2015. The Board agreed that they too should send a resolution and asked Kallie and Todd to work together on verbiage and who the resolution should be sent to. **Motion was made by Miller, second by Vene to approve sending a resolution.** Motion carried unanimously
 2. Meeting Dates for 2016: **Motion was made by Stenseng, second by Skoe to approve the meeting schedule for 2016 as presented.** Motion carried unanimously

Financial Discussions:

- Administration/Office Expenses: Motion by Miller, second by Stenseng to approve the December/January administration/office expenses in the amount of \$655.50. Motion carried unanimously.
- Miscellaneous Expenses: Motion by Skoe, second by Stenseng to approve the miscellaneous expenses in the amount of \$10.44. Motion carried. Vene Abstained.
- Account Activity Report: The December Account Activity report was submitted by Marshall County and distributed by Coordinator Briggs was approved. Motion was made by Stenseng, second by Vene to approve the December Account Activity report. Motion carried unanimously.
- Membership Billing: The billing for membership dues have been sent.
- 2016 Budget Guidelines: Kallie prepared a budget guideline report based only on membership dues income and 2015 expenses. This is only meant to be a guide when looking at expenditures.

Next Meeting Date: The next scheduled meeting will be on Monday, February 22, 2016. Aaron Vane Linde, Trust Fund Director will be invited to our next meeting as a speaker.

Adjourn: **Motion by Stenseng, second by Skoe** to adjourn the meeting at 12:00 PM

Minutes submitted by Kallie Briggs-Administrative Coordinator