

Joint Counties Natural Resources Board
October 24, 2016
Beltrami County Conference Room
10:00 AM

MINUTES

Attendance: Commissioners:
Gary Kiesow – Marshall Daniel Stenseng - Clearwater
Brian Napstad – Aitkin Ken Moorman – Lake of the Woods
Joe Vene – Beltrami Scott McCollum - Mahnomen

Absent: Todd Miller – Roseau Wayne Skoe – Koochiching

DNR: None

Guest: Nathan Heibel, Koochiching County Land Commissioner

Other: Kallie Briggs, Administrator

Call to Order: Chairman Commissioner Kiesow called the Joint Counties Natural Resources Board to order at 10:03 AM on Monday, October 24, 2016 in the Beltrami County Conference Room.

Introductions were made.

Agenda: Motion by Napstad, second by Vene to approve the agenda with additions. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes: Motion by Napstad, second by Moorman to approve the minutes from the August 22, 2016 meeting with minor changes. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Discussions:

- Administration/Office Expenses: Motion by Stenseng, second by McCollum to approve the September/October administrative/office expenses. Motion carried unanimously.
- Miscellaneous Expenses: Motion by Moorman, second by McCollum to approve the miscellaneous expenses. Motion carried. Vene Abstained.
- Account Activity Report: The October Account Activity Report submitted by Marshall County and distributed by Coordinator Briggs was approved. Motion was made by Stenseng, second by Vene to approve the October Account Activity Report. Motion carried unanimously.

Guest: Nathan Heibel, Land Commissioner for Koochiching County was at the meeting to talk about ConCon Lands in Kooch. In 2015 Heibel began his position as Land Commissioner in a county that has a large amount of ConCon lands. Kooch has a ConCon Citizens Advisory Committee who makes recommendations to the County Board regarding ConCon budgets, projects within the ConCon area and a Strategic Plan with goals. Nathan shared an overview of the history, land designation of the five MN DNR categories, a County's use of funds, revenue allocation to counties within ConCon areas, and Kooch's ConCon Citizens Advisory Committee. A copy of his overview is on file. Kooch and Beltrami are the only counties that have a citizens' advisory committee making recommendations for dispersing dollars in ConCon areas for such issues as beaver control, ditch maintenance, maintenance on roads, etc.

DNR Update: There was no update.

Old Business: 2015 Executive Summary: Motion by Vene, second by Moorman to approve the Executive Summary for 2015. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business: The following was discussed:

- 404 Assumption Study: \$400,000 of federal funding has been allocated to do the 404 study which is similar to the wetland study. There is a new Core engineer who would like to see some changes.
- Wetland Replacement Program: If a county wants to build a road, they now go to the State and the State presents the county with the wetland credits. However, there is not enough funding to keep the program going which is creating an unhealthy situation that needs to be fixed before it goes away. The law exempts counties to replace wetlands and that is why the state has to do it.
- JCNRB and NCLUCB Joining: Some counties would like to see the two groups join as one. Some of the same commissioners are represented on both boards and questioned if joining would give more clout at the Legislature.

Next Meeting Date: The next scheduled meeting will be on Monday, November 28, 2016. Rita Albrecht, DNR Regional Representative will join the board and give an overview of her position.

Adjourn: Chair Kiesow declared the meeting adjourned at 11:50 AM.

Minutes submitted by Kallie Briggs-Administrative Coordinator