

Joint Counties Natural Resources Board
November 28, 2016
Beltrami County Conference Room
10:00 AM

MINUTES

Attendance: Commissioners:

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

Absent: Brian Napstad – Aitkin Ken Moorman – Lake of the Woods
Wayne Skoe - Koochiching

DNR: Rita Albrecht – DNR Area Supervisor

Guest: Kay Mack; Beltrami Administrator, Bruce Hasbargen; Beltrami Land Commissioner, John Williams; DNR, Nathan Kestner; DNR, Roger Falk; Roseau County Commissioner, Russell Walker Commissioner-elect Roseau County

Other: Kallie Briggs; Administrator

Call to Order: Chairman Commissioner Kiesow called the Joint Counties Natural Resources Board to order at 10:02 AM on Monday, November 28, 2016 in the Beltrami County Conference Room.

Introductions were made.

Agenda: Motion by Vene, second by McCollum to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes: Motion by Stenseng, second by McCollum to approve the minutes from the October 24, 2016 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Discussions:

1. Administration/Office Expenses: Motion by McCollum, second by Stenseng to approve the October/November administration/office expenses. Motion carried unanimously.
2. Miscellaneous Expenses:
 - Motion by Miller, second by Falk to approve the miscellaneous expenses. Motion carried. Vene Abstained.
 - Motion by McCollum, second by Falk to pay The Computer Fix \$275 (\$100 to move the website and \$175 annual webhosting). Motion carried unanimously.
3. Account Activity Report: The October/November Account Activity Report submitted by Marshall County and distributed by Coordinator Briggs was approved. Motion was made by Stenseng, second by Miller to approve the October/November Account Activity Report. Motion carried unanimously.

Guest: Kay Mack, Bruce Hasbargen, John Williams and Kestner attended the meeting to give an update of Beltrami's Ditch Abandonment Pilot project. The purpose is to keep other counties informed so that they understand the process, as other counties may experience the same thing. There is a complete report put together by Kay on file, however some of the key points were:

- In 2013 \$300,000 was allocated to counties with Con Con lands for ditch maintenance or abandonment. In 2014 a group of county representatives drafted language that was put into law.
- There have been little or no changes to lands for at least 30 years.
- It puts policy into place that reflects how ditches are currently managed.
- Abandonment evolved from four years of discussions on Con-Con lands for a solution to provide state revenue to ditches that are financially broke.
- There will be a group of folks who will focus on communication through talking points, stakeholder meetings, public meetings and personal communications.

Again, a complete copy of the report is in file.

DNR Update: Rita is the Regional Director who grew up in Big Falls and went to school in Littlefork. She graduated from BSU and has worked for the DNR as a Planner in the past. A report on Rita's presentation is on file. Some of the topics she touched on were:

- **Forestry:** The DNR has been in conversations with the Governor regarding the supply, rising costs and the impacts on Minnesota mills. The Governor has said he will do everything he can to support the industry during this critical time. He has asked the DNR to complete an analysis of sustainable harvests of 1 million cords of timber from DNR lands, delay the pending completion of the two Section Forest Resource Management Plans, and make every effort to increase its annual target cords to 900,000. A new mill in Cook will require 200,000 cords of aspen annually and this has many mills concerned about a shortage.
- **Wildlife:** The deer hunting harvest was down by 3% the first weekend but up 9% overall for the season. Twenty citizens will serve on a statewide Deer Plan Advisory Committee with the first meeting taking place in December.
- **Lands/Minerals:** The DNR will work with Counties to determine the value of mineral lands and coordinate acquisitions and diversities.
- **One Call:** Starting November 2 outdoor enthusiasts will be able to call during evening and weekend hours for answers to their natural resource questions. The number is 888-MINNDNR (888-646-6397).

John and Nathan talked about the Statewide Deer Plan saying meetings will happen until 2017 when the Plan will be released. They also talked about the Elk Plan Revision saying the Plan's numbers will not change in the next 2 years. They are monitoring 20 Elk that are collared.

They also talked about Public Water Plans, programs within divisions to work on AIS and clean water.

Old Business:

- **Beaver Control:** Chairman Kiesow asked if the Board could work with the DNR regarding legislation to manage beaver control. He also recommended we look into asking a couple of Legislators to assist.
- **Commissioner Miller** gave an update on the Drainage Work Group (DWG). Three drainage bills were referred to the DWG from the legislature. After a review and discussion the three bills were not supported by the group. One additional bill is a work in progress.

New Business: None.

Next Meeting Date: The next scheduled meeting will be on Monday January 23, 2017.

Adjourn: Chairman Kiesow declared the meeting adjourned at 11:43 AM.

Minutes submitted by Kallie Briggs-Administrative Coordinator

