

**Joint Counties Natural Resources Board  
December 28, 2015  
Beltrami County Conference Room  
10:00 AM**

**MINUTES**

**Attendance:** Commissioners:

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

**Absent:** Ken Moorman – Lake of the Woods

**DNR:** Greg Nelson – DNR Area Supervisor

**Guest:** John Williams – DNR Representative for Agriculture Leases

**Other:** Kittson County Commissioner Leon Olson, Administrative Coordinator Kallie Briggs

**Call to Order:** Chairman Commissioner Kiesow called the Joint Counties Natural Resources Board to order at 10:00 AM on Monday, December 28, 2015 in the Beltrami County Conference Room.

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

**Minutes: Motion by Stenseng, second by McCollum to approve the minutes from the October 26, 2015 meeting as presented.** Motion carried unanimously.

**Guest:** DNR Representative John Williams was in attendance to speak about Agriculture Leases. He gave examples of the 3 different types of leases. There are copies of the leases on file and on the website. Leases are as follows:

1. Wildlife Cooperative Farming Agreements are based upon wildlife and plant management on public wildlife/hunting and ConCon lands, management areas and game refuge areas. Bartering for these lands is no longer an option but may be leased for a cash payment or service such as disking or plowing. There are approximately 12,000 acres or 100 or so parcels in the region. Lease lands are beneficial for both the State and the user.
2. Grazing Agreements are leases on open lands for haying and livestock grazing. Leases can be 3 months to 3 years and is then calculated in a dollar amount which is converted to cash or service.
3. Non-forestry leases are used for parcels on trust lands. Some of these leases are subject to taxes or a fee because of their location on lakeshore properties. The reason the lease holder pays a fee or tax is because the State is already paying PILT. The lease holders may rent out these lands but a 2 or 4 string electric fence must be installed in remote areas. The DNR looks at these lands and evaluates the objective to lease and also considers the maintenance of a fence.

**Financial Discussions:**

- Administration/Office Expenses: Motion by Napstad, second by Stenseng to approve the December administration/office expenses. Motion carried unanimously.

- Miscellaneous Expenses: Motion by Skoe, second by Miller to approve the December miscellaneous expenses. Motion carried. Vene Abstained.
- Account Activity Report: The December Account Activity report submitted by Marshall County and distributed by Administrative Coordinator Briggs was approved. Motion was made by Miller, second by Skoe to approve the December Account Activity Report. Motion carried unanimously.
- Administrative Contract 2016: Motion by Napstad, second by McCollum to approve the 2016 Administrative Contract with no changes. Motion carried unanimously.
- Membership Billing: Kallie told the Board letters were sent to the membership counties when they were preparing their budgets informing them there were no changes in the membership amounts for 2016. In January she will be sending out the invoices.

**DNR Update:** Greg gave the following update:

- The preliminary maps for the buffer initiative should be out in approximately a month. Ditching on private and public lands will try to be rolled out in July. This is going to take some time as some county's ditch systems are non-existence since they do not know what is public or private.
- The Elk comment period has been extended to January 22. At that time the DNR will review and summarize the comments. They are also planning to host another meeting in Lancaster.

**Open Discussion:** The following discussions were held:

Old Business:

- There was a joint meeting with NCLUCB during the AMC annual meeting. A ditch abandonment project was discussed however, Aitken County has decided to do their own pilot project. They will be setting a meeting to discuss an easy way to do ditch abandonment, access a cost and how to go about it.
- Executive Summary for 2015: Motion by Vene, second by Miller to approve the 2015 Executive Summary for the year 2014. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business:

- Election of Officers Beginning in January 2016:
  1. Chairman: **Motion by Napstad, second by Miller to nominate Gary Kiesow as Chairman. Motion by Skoe, second by Napstad to close nominations, cast a unanimous ballot and elect Kiesow as Chairman.**
  2. Vice Chair: **Motion carried unanimously. Vice-Chairman: Motion by Napstad, second by Skoe to nominate Dan Stenseng as Vice-Chairman. Motion by Skoe second by Vene to close nominations, cast a unanimous ballot and elect Stenseng as Vice-Chairman. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Next Meeting Date:** The next scheduled meeting will be on Monday, January 25, 2016. The Board asked Kallie to invite Representative Rob Ecklund, District 3A to the meeting.

**Adjourn:** Chair Kiesow adjourned the meeting at 11:58 AM.

Minutes submitted by Kallie Briggs-Administrative Coordinator