

Joint Counties Natural Resources Board
February 22, 2016
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	Ken Moorman – Lake of the Woods
Joe Vene – Beltrami	Scott McCollum - Mahnomen

Absent: None

DNR: Greg Nelson – DNR Area Supervisor

Guest: Aaron Vane Linde, Director of MN School Trust Lands

Other: Kallie Briggs; Administrator-Coordinator

Call to Order: Chairman Commissioner Kiesow called the Joint Counties Natural Resources Board to order at 10:00 AM on Monday, February 22, 2016 in the Beltrami County Conference Room.

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

Minutes: Motion by Vene, second by Stenseng to approve the minutes from the January 25, 2016 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Guest: Aaron Vane Linde was here to inform the Board about MN's school trust lands. The 4 components to trust lands are:

1. Trustee's Duty: The Trust Manager's responsibility is to manage within the mission and act with undivided loyalty.

2. Trust's Statutory Mission: The mission is to secure long term maximum revenue while maintaining sound natural resource conservation and management principles. There are currently 2.5 million acres of school trust lands. Kooch County has over 830,000 acres of those trust lands.

3. Director's Role: The Director is appointed to the 4 year term by the Governor. His/her duty is to report/recommend to the Executive Council, Legislative Permanent School Fund Commission and the MN Department of Natural Resource. The Minnesota Legislature established the 12 member Legislative Permanent School Fund Commission (Minnesota Statutes, Section 127A.30) to advise the Department of Natural Resources and the school trust lands director on the management of permanent school fund land, which is held in trust for the school districts of the state and to review legislation affecting permanent school fund land. The Director is also responsible for a 10 and 25 year plan, evaluate land assets, determine market value of trust land assets.

4. BWCAW Project: There are a little over 93,000 of trust land acres in the BWCAW evaluation project and there are about 30,000 acres being considered for trade outside the BWCAW boundary; if this happens, the acquired land will get trust status.

Financial Discussions:

- Administration/Office Expenses: Motion by Napstad, second by Moorman to approve the February administration/office expenses. Motion carried unanimously. A copy is on file.
- Miscellaneous Expenses: Motion by Stenseng, second by Miller to approve the miscellaneous expenses. Motion carried. Vene Abstained. A copy is on file.
- Account Activity Report: The February Account Activity Report submitted by Marshall County and distributed by Coordinator Briggs was approved. Motion was made by Stenseng, second by Napstad to approve the February Account Activity Report noting that LOW, Marshall, Clearwater and Mahnomen counties have paid their 2016 membership dues. Motion carried unanimously.

DNR Update: Greg told the Board the DNR completed the collaring of 20 Elk. Unfortunately, there was 1 casualty during the process, which has been sent to the University of MN for evaluation/autopsy. There are no additional collaring projects to follow, however there will be a webpage set up showing where the elk are living. He also said the Polymet decision should be public sometime in February and that the buffer mapping has changed to not include private ditching.

Old Business:

- **Buffers:** Miller read off several proposed changes to the language in the buffer bill. Both Watersheds and Counties are in agreement to the proposed changes.
- **Clean Power Plan:** Brian told the Board at the EQA meeting they discussed Minnesota charging ahead with the Clean Power Plan even though the Supreme Court says differently. He went on to inform the Board of rate impacts when companies are forced to add more wind and solar power. The costs to companies will be passed on to the consumers.
- **Listening Session:** Wayne said he attended a listening session led by the Pollution Control Board in regard to the Clean Power Plan. Most of the printed information was input from businesses who understand there may be a need to do something more but the bottom line is, the cost will land on the people.

New Business:

- The April 25, 2016 meeting will be cancelled.

Next Meeting Date: The next scheduled meeting will be on Monday, March 28. Gary and Kallie will talk about a speaker.

Adjourn: Motion by Stenseng, second by Miller to adjourn the meeting at 12:35 PM.

Minutes submitted by Kallie Briggs-Administrative Coordinator