

Joint Counties Natural Resources Board
March 27, 2017
Beltrami County Conference Room
10:00 AM

MINUTES

Attendance: Commissioners:
Gary Kiesow – Marshall Russell Walker - Roseau
Daniel Stenseng - Clearwater Wayne Skoe – Koochiching
Bill Pratt – Aitkin Ken Moorman – Lake of the Woods
Roger Falk – Roseau Alternate Scott McCollum - Mahnomen

Absent: Tim Summer – Beltrami

DNR: Rita Albrecht – NW Regional Director, DNR

Guest: Bruce Anspach, AIS Technician for Beltrami Environmental Services

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, March 27, 2017 in the Beltrami County Conference Room.

Agenda: Motion by Stenseng, second by Walker to approve the agenda with additions. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes: Motion by McCollum, second by Pratt to approve the minutes from the February 27, 2017 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Guest: Bruce was invited to the meeting to talk about Beltrami County's AIS Program. He reviewed the past year with the following facts:

- There were 6 strategies: Education, Inspection, Enforcement, Early Detection/Rapid Response/ Management, Decontamination and New Technical Methods/Support.
- In 2016 they distributed tool kits for schools, enhanced watercraft inspection training, vegetation check at public accesses and introduced the Beltrami County AIS grant program.
- Resort owners are promoting AIS more than they ever have and the grant program is designed to work with resorts so they can obtain decontamination equipment for watercraft.
- The Watercraft Inspection Program has 28 trained people who assist in staffing and scheduling. Last year they did 17,928 inspections and 9,861 courtesy inspections.
- Ninety-nine percent of boaters arrive with their plug out which is very good. Honorable mention went to Red Lake who had over 1,000 boaters and only 3 came with their plug in.
- Ninety-nine percent of boaters show up at accesses with no plants, mud, water or animals on their boats.
- There is a 5-day dry time (when taking a boat from one body of water to another).
- Officially, to decontaminate one's boat it takes water at a temperature of 140 degrees. To kill an adult Zebra Mussel with a water temperature of 120 degrees it takes about 2 minutes of spraying.
- Out-of-state boaters come from (in order of highest) North Dakota, Wisconsin, Iowa and Illinois.

- In summary, from 2014 through 2016 when AIS funding was put into place, statistics show the programs are working. Most counties run their AIS programs through their Soil and Water departments.

Financial Discussions:

- Administration/Office Expenses: Motion by Stenseng, second by Falk to approve the March administration/office expenses. Motion carried unanimously.
- Miscellaneous Expenses: Motion by Skoe, second by Walker to approve the miscellaneous expenses. Motion carried.
- Account Activity Report: The March Account Activity Report submitted by Marshall County and distributed by Coordinator Briggs was approved. Motion was made by Walker, second by McCollum to approve the March Account Activity Report. Motion carried unanimously.

DNR Update: Rita said she has been traveling around visiting different counties within the region and gave the following report:

- Annual Elk survey revealed that there are 17 Elk in Grygla herd, 62 in Kittson Central, and 109 in Vita in Canada and 1 in Caribou on the US side. There will not be a hunt this year in Grygla however, there will likely be permits for the Kittson Central and Caribou-Vita herds as this population is above goal range.
- Beltrami State Forest OHV Trail Plan Phase II: The DNR has looked at past plans, met with local officials, public and organizations to better understand local needs, what is working and what is not. Through the process the DNR is looking to designate more off-highway vehicle trails, more hunter walking trails and a minimum maintenance road through the plan. New designations will bring the total miles of designated OHV trails in the forest to approximately 262 miles and total walking trail miles to approximately 51 miles.
- The North West Angle could see a super timber harvest permit issued to assist with timber management. The sale would offer approximately 28,000 cords of wood over five years. There are still a lot of steps to accomplish bringing this to fruition, including securing loggers and buyers for the wood.
- The DNR is reaching out to county land commissioners to get input on state managed land that they would recommend should be sold on the 2018 spring and fall state land sales.

Old Business:

- Beaver legislation: There has been no additional information on the Beaver legislation drafted by Representative Sundin and supported by Representative Ecklund.

New Business: The following was discussed:

- Russell said Roseau County has used a Clemson leveler to keep beaver out. They would like to meet with the DNR as it is a simple fix and seems to be very effective.
- Wayne told the Board he has a constituent who had land which was agricultural homesteaded and they took it out and put it in SFI. Now for tax purposes it cannot be homesteaded. The Koochiching county assessor says it has to be classified as rural vacant which means the landowner will lose money. He asked the Board if they had had any similar situations and will look for more information.
- The Enbridge Pipeline project crosses 13 counties carrying oil from Canada to a terminal in Wisconsin. Enbridge is now in a dispute with the State which could force counties to pay back tens of millions of dollars in tax revenue which would also hurt local schools. This is something board members will continue to follow.

Next Meeting Date: The next scheduled meeting will be on Monday, May 22, 2017.

Adjourn: Chair Kiesow adjourned the meeting at 12:10 PM.

Minutes submitted by Kallie Briggs-Administrative Coordinator