

**Joint Counties Natural Resources Board**  
**May 22, 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          | Scott McCollum - Mahnomen       |

**Absent:** Tim Summer – Beltrami

**DNR:** Rita Albrecht – DNR Area Supervisor

**Guest:** None

**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, May 22, 2017 in the Beltrami County Conference Room.

**Agenda: Motion by Falk, second by Pratt to approve the agenda.** Motion carried unanimously.

**Minutes: Motion by Stenseng, second by McCollum to approve the minutes, with changes from the March 27, 2017 meeting as presented.** Motion carried unanimously.

**Financial Discussions:**

- Administration/Office Expenses: Motion by Moorman, second by Walker to approve the April/May administration/office expenses. Motion carried unanimously.
- Miscellaneous Expenses: Motion by Walker, second by McCollum to approve the May miscellaneous expenses. Motion carried.
- Account Activity Report: The May Account Activity Report submitted by Marshall County and distributed by Coordinator Briggs was approved. It was noted that Marshall County has paid their dues. Motion was made by McCollum, second by Skoe to approve the May Account Activity Report. Motion carried unanimously.

**Old Business:** The only Old Business on the agenda was Beaver Legislation in which no additional information on the Bill was known at this time.

**New Business:** The following was discussed:

Wetland Banks: Wayne said NCLUCB, along with other northern counties have drafted a resolution dealing with wetland mitigation alternatives. He said Koochiching County is trying to move a road and the State wanted a 2 to 1 wetland ratio, which equates to approximately \$800,000 to move the road. They have been working with the State to get the ratio reduced and have now negotiated a 1 to 1 ration which equates to approximately \$400,000. Wayne will get Kallie a copy of the resolution to forward to Board members. (Note: After the meeting a copy of the resolution was sent to all Board members).

PILT: It was unclear at meeting time if PILT, which was in the Tax Bill along with ditch abandonment and back taxes, was granted an increase in the appraised value of the land.

Daniel said Clearwater County does not receive Con Con dollars because their county sits on top of 3 major watersheds and manages 1 ditch system that goes into lower Rice Lake. A few years ago a major storm took down large amounts of timber where the County harvested as much of it as they could but did not get it all. Now there is new Aspen re-growing and in the next 8-10 years may be able to be harvested and contributed to area mills. They also created 800 acres as a Habitat Area that houses sharp-tail and grouse in Windsor Township. On Long Lake they created a campground with 80 campsites that were subsidized by the Land Commissioner and now makes its own money with a waiting list for campsites.

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

- The DNR is in the middle of revaluating lands for sales and reinvestment. They have identified some counties that have 20% or more public lands to work with. They have also looked internally at parcels that would be ready for a fall sale.
- The DNR is meeting with 3 County Land Commissioners to talk about land acquisitions and the possibility of doing a mini pilot project. One issue is the high cost of land exchanges and how the land value changes after the timber is logged off. The DNR and Counties will try to work through some land exchange ideas. They are also working to get land records on-line which would help assess lands.
- The DNR will be partnering with the U of M to study the Long Eared Bat and White Nose Syndrome. When a bat has the syndrome timber harvest cannot happen. Most bats rest in caves but during the summer months they can be found in trees, especially in Minnesota. Rita will send Kallie the link on the DNR's website explaining the NLEB in detail. A copy is on file.
- The DNR is in the midst of a Sustainable Forestry Review. A consultant, which was prompted by the new siding wood plant that wants to locate in Cook, has been hired. The plant will need to harvest 900 cords of wood per year. Although the plant is put on hold for 2 years the review will continue and results should be available in March 2018.
- The DNR is having some hiring issues in Littlefork and Baudette. Dave Thomas another Regional Forester will be retiring so they will be advertising for that position as well.

**Next Meeting Date:** The next scheduled meeting will be on Monday, June 26, 2017. The Board would like to have Rita ask someone from Forestry as a guest and if Kallie would also check with Rob Ecklund to see if he could come and give an update in June or July.

**Adjourn: Motion by Stenseng, second by Pratt** to adjourn the meeting at 12:00 PM.

Minutes submitted by Kallie Briggs-Administrative Coordinator