

Joint Counties Natural Resources Board
June 26, 2017
Beltrami County Conference Room
10:00 AM

MINUTES

Attendance: Commissioners:

Gary Kiesow – Marshall	Russell Walker - Roseau
Daniel Stenseng - Clearwater	Wayne Skoe – Koochiching
Tim Sumner – Beltrami	Ken Moorman – Lake of the Woods
Scott McCollum - Mahnomen	

Absent: Bill Pratt – Aitkin

DNR: Rita Albrecht – DNR Area Supervisor

Guest: Dave Thomas; DNR Regional Forestry Manager
Shane Delaney, DNR Warroad Assistant Forestry Supervisor

Other: Kallie Briggs; Administrator

Call to Order: Chairman Commissioner Kiesow called the Joint Counties Natural Resources Board to order at 10:03 AM on Monday, June 26, 2017 in the Beltrami County Conference Room.

Agenda: Motion by Stenseng, second by Skoe to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes: Motion by Walker, second by Moorman to approve the minutes from the May 22, 2017 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Discussions:

- Administration/Office Expenses: Motion by Skoe, second by Walker to approve the June 26, 2017 administration/office expenses. Motion carried unanimously.
- Miscellaneous Expenses: Motion by Stenseng, second by Skoe to approve the miscellaneous expenses for rolls. Motion carried unanimously.
- Account Activity Report: The June 2017 Account Activity Report submitted by Marshall County and distributed by Coordinator Briggs was approved. Motion was made by Walker, second by Stenseng to approve the June 2017 Account Activity Report. Motion carried unanimously.

Guests: Shane began by telling the Board he oversees 3 offices, one in Warroad, Grygla, and Wannaska which covers the entire NW area of Minnesota. There are 14 foresters, 1 office manager, 1 fire tech, 8 seasonal fire staff from March through June and September through November. They are the lead agency for fire supervision and prevention, oversee timber on state lands, and do cooperative forest management.

- Fires are detrimental to timber so the less fires they have the more time they have to concentrate on timber, timber sales and cleaning up the forests. In 2016 Warroad had a total of 83 fires or 1091 acres. In 2012 was the largest fire which burned 44,883 acres. Their prevention program is taught in the schools and at county fairs.

- Timber Program: Littlefork, Baudette, Lake of the Woods and Kooch have the largest wood crop. In the winter Aspen is cut and summer cuts are Jack and Norway Pines. The winter is busy with timber sales and summer is busy with tree planting. 400,000 trees are planted each year and then do a follow up plan and release spray. Timber income goes to ConCon lands, school trust, wildlife acquired WMA's, parks and Land Utilization Project (LUP).
- Dave Thomas said there is a super permit for the North West Angle. They can put up 28,000 cords of wood but it is a long way to haul it to PCA (Boise). The Governor has mandated that 900,000 cords of wood be harvested over the next two years.
- There was also some time for questions and answers. Some topics talked about were nuisance beaver, emerald ash, watershed boards.

DNR Update: Rita gave a legislative update on fee increases. A copy is on file. Some mentioned were:

- Fish and Wildlife received a fee increase on licenses which will make the solvent through 2021.
- Enforcement received an increase which will allow the program academy at Fort Ripley will now be able to train up to 28 conservation officers.
- Also Parks and Trails received an increase as well as State parks. The DNR is reviewing land portfolios and will get back to counties on best ownership options.
- Rita also informed the Board of the new law and the Bio-Mass challenge. Tucked into the omnibus jobs and energy bill signed by the Governor is a provision that allows a special fund for clean energy development to be used to shut down a couple of renewable power plants in greater Minnesota. It will cost loggers hundreds of jobs and has them outraged. The new law also allows Xcel to end purchase power agreements early. A complete copy of the article which appeared in the June 6, 2017 Star Tribune is on file.

Old Business: NCLUCB drafted a resolution regarding the Wetland Mitigation Alternatives which was adopted in 2014. They shared the resolution with the Joint Counties Board for review and consideration of adoption. Some discussion was the fact that wetland banks need better protection and water quality while helping counties like Lake of the Woods and Koochiching. They don't need to be taking farmland and making wetlands. Lands targeted for wetland mitigation are some of the best lands and is beginning to be a detriment to the economy and does nothing for water quality. The Board decided to have the representatives from the Joint Counties Board work with the Representatives of NCLUCB to come up with a resolution both boards can adopt.

New Business: There was no new business.

Next Meeting Date: The next scheduled meeting will be on Monday, July 24, 2017. Speakers will be Representative Ecklund and Representative Fabian.

Adjourn: Motion by Falk, second by Sumner to adjourn the meeting at 12:01 PM.

Minutes submitted by Kallie Briggs-Administrative Coordinator