

Joint Counties Natural Resources Board
June 27, 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	

Absent: Scott McCollum - Mahnomen

DNR: Greg Nelson – DNR Area Supervisor

Other: Kallie Briggs, Administrator

Call to Order: Chairman Commissioner Kiesow called the Joint Counties Natural Resources Board to order at 10:04 AM on Monday, June 27, 2016 in the Beltrami County Conference Room.

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

Minutes: Motion by Vene, second by Stenseng to approve the minutes from the May 23, 2016 meeting with some clarification changes. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Discussions:

- Administration/Office Expenses: Motion by Napstad, seconded by Stenseng to approve the May 23, 2016 administration/office expenses. Motion carried unanimously.
- Miscellaneous Expenses: Motion by Moorman, second by Miller to approve the miscellaneous expenses. Motion carried. Vene Abstained.
- Account Activity Report: The June 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 June Account Activity Report. Motion carried unanimously.

Roundtable Discussion between Board Members and some of the topics discussed during District meetings:

District 3:

- Mental Health was a topic discussed throughout all 3 districts. There are issues with the jails including travel, court and medical costs. Approximately three-fourths of the people in jail have mental issues and the state does not want to assist with any associated costs. Therefore it is costing the counties a lot of money.
- Health and Human services are trying to expand but are facing a lot of the same mental health issues.
- BSWR wants counties to be responsible for enforcing administrative buffer zone policies which would be an added expense to counties. It is not that counties are not willing to do the enforcement, but a tax bill with some funding appropriated would have helped.

- Aitkin County is using ConCon funding for beaver control and has met with 3 townships to put a beaver control plan together and bring back to the townships for approval. Once the plan is approved by the townships the county board will work with legislators to draft state support for a beaver control plan. Roseau County has built beaver control into their management plan and run their beaver control through their water plan and then send the bills to the SWCD for payment.

District 1:

- Drones are becoming a concern when it comes to privacy issues. The counties have asked AMC what ordinances counties can draft, implement and enforce. AMC will have a breakout session during their conference. Most counties would like to see a federal ordinance to enforce.
- The DNR now has funding to study the Northern Long-eared bat and white nose syndrome.
- The DNR should have some say in moose management and not the Fish and Wildlife who think moose should be listed on the endangered species list.
- AMC has increased their dues by 3%. With that increase counties are asking for more representation and a stronger program in Environmental Resources. Some Commissioners feel the program is weak at the AMC level.
- The White Earth Tribe, through the Lessard-Sam's Council, is trying to purchase 2,000 acres of land from Potlach. The land would not be able to be put into trust lands and must remain open to public use, existing transportation, and public hunting. If Potlach sold the leases it would create a tax base.

District 2:

- LOW County has a process in place to study what could happen if an airport was placed at the NW Angle. They are also investigating a new law enforcement center and has 3 county board openings for the upcoming elections.
- Another topic making emotions run high in LOW is the farmers want the county to maintain ditches for them. They want the ditch systems to be changed and drain tiled. Moorman agreed there should be some ditch systems set up and some should even be abandoned. Folks are prepared to have the 3 open county seats filled with supporters for the ditch issues.

DNR Update:

- Greg said in October there will be a land sale of lands throughout the state with some being trust lands.
- The DNR has deemed the Fargo-Moorhead project's EIS met state approval which means permits are in place to proceed with construction.

Old Business: None to report.

New Business: None to report.

Next Meeting Date: The next scheduled meeting will be on Monday July 25, 2016. The invited legislators are unable to attend so Kallie will try to find a speaker. If no one can be found, Chair Kiesow may cancel the meeting.

Adjourn: Motion by Stenseng, second by Napstad to adjourn the meeting at 12:15 PM.

Minutes submitted by Kallie Briggs-Administrative Coordinator

