

Joint Counties Natural Resources Board
July 24, 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
Tim Summer – Beltrami	

Absent: Scott McCollum - Mahnomen

DNR: Rita Albrecht – DNR Area Supervisor

Guest: Representative Rob Ecklund

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, July 24, 2017 in the Beltrami County Conference Room.

Agenda: Motion by Walker, second by Pratt to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes: Motion by Stenseng, second by Skoe to approve the minutes from the June 26, 2017 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Discussions:

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

Guest: Representative Rob Ecklund began by saying there were some time management issues during the session however, it was hard to be critical when there was not a set agenda. He went on to give the following update on the legislative session:

- The environmental bill will have a direct effect on northern counties if the demolition landfill constraints are not eased and clarification is not made. It will be easier to just close the landfills than to try and keep up with the demolition constraints.
- Nuisance beaver did not get a hearing during this session however, Ecklund would like to see a proposal from this group and NCLUCB with more weight to it. He suggested we try to get the DNR behind it as well. There is no money to increase the funding for this and we are losing a significant amount of land to the beaver.

- There has been a license revenue increase. The dollars will go fund additional programs. In North Dakota you have to purchase a Land Use Permit whether you're on public or private land.
- Bonding Bill was good and will help a lot of counties and workers. There should be another bonding bill next year.
- The Tax Bill will be good for such things as small business relief and PILT increases.
- Rural internet service is a big issue for rural Minnesota. It would take approximately 100 million per year for 10 years to do all of rural Minnesota. The State does not think they should have to pay for it. There is some hope for the future of rural internet service through small box connections which would be transmitters that are attached to telephone poles, towers, etc.
- Next year is a policy and bonding year so it should be a good year. Representative Ecklund said he enjoys working with Representative Fabian on the Environmental Committee. He also is facing a steep learning curve as a new Representative and Assistant Minority Leader.
- Back to the beaver issue, Stenseng said even though Roseau County try to trap first, they do have a person who will blow beaver dams when necessary. While counties would like more funding from the State to manage the nuisance beaver, the State has made the trapping process easier. A copy of the 2005 appropriation of \$100,000 to BSWR for beaver damage control was sent out to the board. Kallie will forward it to Ecklund as well. Ecklund will talk with John Jasky to see what could be done as there are times when the beaver problems are on DNR lands and they have no funding to allocate to them either. Representatives who sit on this Board and NCLUCB will talk about drafting a Bill for next year.

Old Business: The following was presented as old business:

- Wetland Mitigation Alternatives Resolution: The Board did not act on the resolution but decided to have Skoe talk to John Schell and have him contact Kiesow to see if they could come up with a combined resolution.

DNR Update: Rita gave the following update:

- Fisheries: The gill net assessments on large Walleye Lakes were announced. There is some concern with Leech Lake.
- Forestry: The State has mobilized 5 units across the western states to fight fires.
- Wildlife: The upcoming grouse season surveys look good. Deer season will be more liberal with more doe permits and there will be thirteen Elk permits awarded within a split season. And finally, the DNR is trying to do a land exchange with US Fish and Wildlife for a BISF Phase II Trail Plan that would allow a trail connection across Dam 4. If the exchange is successful the State would take ownership of the 100 acres.
- The DNR will participate in an effort on August 5 to search lakes for the Starry Stonewort. To date the Starry Stonewort has been found in 9 Minnesota lakes. Efforts to eradicate the Stonewort through copper sulfate and "vacuuming up" have been unsuccessful.

New Business: The following was discussed:

- State Auditor: It has been the practice of county boards to hire private companies to do their yearly audits. The State Auditor would like to change it so that their office does the audit for all counties. The counties do not want this.

Next Meeting Date: The next scheduled meeting will be on Monday August 28, 2017. Kallie will call Byron Cole who is a retired Federal Wolf Trapping expert. She will also contact Representative Fabian to see if he would like to attend.

Adjourn: Motion by Moorman, second by Walker to adjourn the meeting at 11:30 PM.

Minutes submitted by Kallie Briggs-Administrative Coordinator