

Joint Counties Natural Resources Board
July 27, 2015
Beltrami County Conference Room
10:00 AM

MINUTES

Attendance: Commissioners:

Gary Kiesow – Marshall	Scott McCollum - Mahnomen
Daniel Stenseng - Clearwater	Wayne Skoe – Koochiching
Brian Napstad – Aitkin	Ken Moorman – Lake of the Woods
Joe Vene – Beltrami	Todd Miller – Roseau
Ken Moorman – Lak of the Woods	

Absent: None

DNR: Greg Nelson

Other: Kallie Briggs; Administrator

Call to Order: Chairman Commissioner Kiesow called the Joint Counties Natural Resources Board to order at 10:00 AM on Monday, July 27, 2015 in the Beltrami County Conference Room.

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

Minutes: Motion by Napstad, second by Stenseng to approve the minutes from the June 22, 2015 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Discussions:

- Administration/Office Expenses: Motion by Moorman, second by Miller to approve the July administration/office expenses of \$523.27. Motion carried unanimously.
- Miscellaneous Expenses: There were no miscellaneous expenses submitted.
- The Treasurer's report: The July Treasurer's report submitted by Josh Stromlund and distributed by Coordinator Briggs was presented. Motion was made by Miller, second by Moorman to approve the July Treasurer's Report. Motion carried unanimously.
- Membership Dues to Counties: The dues structure will remain the same as recent years; \$1000 for all counties except for Clearwater and Mahnomen will pay \$500. Motion by Napstad, second by Miller to have Kallie send a letter to each county informing them of the 2016 dues they will be billed for in January.
- Treasurer of Funds for the JCNRB: There was some discussion of who would or should take over the Treasurer's responsibilities now done by Josh Stromlund and Joy Lindquist? Should the Board be having audits done? Should it be under one of the membership Counties? Is the Board considered a 501c3? Stenseng and Moorman will check into these questions and come up with a plan.
- Should dollars be allocated toward the Coalition for the Clean Air Act: After some discussion the Board said they would like to be involved in the Coalition and asked Kallie to contact John Ongaro to see if it would be possible for JCNRB to piggyback with NCLUCB and St. Louis County? And if so, how much would our portion be.

Update on Joint Meeting with NCLUCB: Miller reported that he, Skoe, Napstad and Greg Nelson (DNR) attended the meeting along with Commissioner Landwehr and Senator Saxhaug. Most of the discussion revolved around the mines, the buffers and ongoing relationships. A couple of items

brought up to the Commissioner was public access and trails which Commissioners think lead to enhanced economic vitality in Counties. It was also brought up that the DNR should step up and take control of such issues as the wolves. Todd closed by saying it was a very good meeting and even though relationships have come a long way it is always good to get together.

DNR Update:

- Greg updated the Board on the Commissioner's visit and said this time he met with Roseau, Kittson, Marshall and Clearwater to listen and learn what is going on in those counties and to ask what is expected of the DNR. The counties involved felt the Commissioner's visit and the discussions were all very positive and greatly appreciated.
- Skoe told the Board the Koochiching County Economic Development Authority is discussing funding for paved trails on the Blue Ox Trail. They think ATV's, snowmobiles and bicycling are great sources of economic development. Following more discussion with other counties and their interest in trails, it was suggested to Greg that he try to get the area supervisor for trails as a speaker for our next meeting.
- Greg closed by saying there will be Elk meetings in Grygla and Kittson County with possibly a third meeting in St. Cloud. Elks will be collared in February, however some will have calves then and the DNR does not want to put any undue pressure on them.

Update on Buffer Zone with BSWR: Napstad told the Board the Buffer legislation was brought forth by the Governor to try and counteract the declining pheasant population. It is more of a water quality issue as it will improve water quality but it will not completely fix the problem. The required perennial vegetation buffer has a minimum and maximum width on lakes and ditches, but the average is a 30' width. Then there is the "other" water category that has no parameters yet. There are 2 major directives the Governor is asking for. One is for the DNR to come up with a map for public waters requiring buffers and for BSWR to develop buffer policies for the "other" waters which did not go through the rulemaking process. The Governor is glad to hear about the process so far and Napstad closed by saying this is not a method to take over private land, as landowners will own their buffers and can decide what would be the best way to proceed.

Roundtable Discussion with Commissioners:

- Skoe: Kooch is facing issues with wild parsnips which can cause burns to the skin. They are dealing with miles and miles of it and it is very costly and time consuming to treat and control.
- Napstad: He questioned if other counties are doing ditch abandonment. He suggested to John Jaske that rather than counties using their \$300,000 allocation, money from the legislature should be allocated.

Old Business: The following was discussed:

- Website: Briggs said the site should be going live with the new provider. As we were changing the site over it was still up on the web for review and she was able to update as needed.

New Business: Vene said there is talk of a shorter legislation session coming up and questioned what will be done in a shorter session when longer sessions are unable to complete tasks. The County Policy meetings will begin in September for counties. Is bonding for the abandonment of ditches a topic to discuss?

Next Meeting Date: The next scheduled meeting will be on Monday August 24, 2015. Greg will try to get the Supervisor of Trails to address our Board

Adjourn: Motion by Vene, second by Napstad to adjourn the meeting at 12:10 PM.