

Joint Counties Natural Resources Board
August 22, 2016
Beltrami County Conference Room
10:00 AM

MINUTES

Attendance: Commissioners:

Gary Kiesow – Marshall	Todd Miller - Roseau
Wayne Skoe – Koochiching	Brian Napstad – Aitkin
Joe Vene – Beltrami	Ken Moorman – Lake of the Wood

Absent: Daniel Stenseng – Clearwater Scott McCollum - Mahnommen

DNR: None

Guest: Kay Mach – Beltrami County Administrator

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, August 22, 2016 in the Beltrami County Conference Room.

Agenda: Motion by Moormen, second by Miller to approve the agenda with additions. Motion carried unanimous.

Minutes: Motion by Vene, second by Napstad to approve the minutes from the July 26, 2016 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Discussions:

- Administration/Office Expenses: Motion by Napstad, second by Skoe to approve the August administration/office expenses. Motion carried unanimously.
- Miscellaneous Expenses: Motion by Napstad, second by Moormen to approve the miscellaneous expenses. Motion carried. Vene Abstained.
- Account Activity Report: The July-August Account Activity Report submitted by Marshall County and distributed by Coordinator Briggs was approved. Motion was made by Napstad, second by Moorman to approve the Account Activity Report. Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business: The following topics were discussed under old business:

- Update on \$300,000 legislation: Todd and Kay said there have not been any changes. The language drafted in 2012 took place in 2013. Scott Peterson is still doing the formulating and has sent distributions to each county based on their formula. The only concern is that Roseau County's distribution has gone up by about 50% which means other county distributions go down. Todd said inventory being done has increased the number of ditches with Con Con parcels on them and maintenance on the parcels has driven costs up. The cost for the group of Counties requesting reimbursement is about \$350,000 but is expected to taper off as counties catch up and maintenance is completed.
- Gravel Leases on ConCon Lands: Several gravel leases the DNR uses on ConCon Lands is used for maintenance on roads. A payment is then made to a mineral account. It was questioned what the DNR is charging to administration fees for administering the leases.

- Overall ConCon Payments for Counties: A copy of the DNR's payments to counties was distributed for informational purposes. Copies are on file.
- Starry Stonewort: Starry Stonewort has been found in Big Turtle Lake, Beltrami County. It looks like an aquatic plant but it kills off all weeds below the surface which are a source of food for fish. It dies off in the fall and returns in the spring. Manual removal is difficult but may be done in small areas. It can be spread by a prop going through it.
- Meeting at Lori Dowlings: Lori has coordinated a meeting at her house in September to talk with seven other state agencies about terrestrial weeds and how counties can be helped. This has become a real cost to counties.
- Roseau Drones: Roseau County is using one drone for surveying ditches and one for road assessments. The drones allow them to look at beaver dams from all angles with video quality. The drones can cost up to \$1800 but staff does not have to drudge through swamp lands and they have already paid for themselves in the highway department.
- Executive Summary: No action was taken on the Executive Summary.

New Business: The following was discussed:

- MN Deer Hunters Resolution: The MDHA asked the Board to support a resolution they drafted regarding their application to Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council seeking \$8.3 million to acquire lands in St. Louis County. A copy of the resolution is on file. **Motion by Napstad, seconded by Skoe to approve support for the resolution.** Motion carried unanimously.

Next Meeting Date: The next scheduled meeting will be on Monday, October 24, 2016. There will not be a meeting in September.

Adjourn: **Motion by Stenseng, second by Miller** to adjourn the meeting at 12:10 PM.

Minutes submitted by Kallie Briggs-Administrative Coordinator