

**Joint Counties Natural Resources Board**  
**August 24, 2015**  
**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	Scott McCollum - Mahnomen

**Absent:** None

**DNR:** Greg Nelson – DNR Area Supervisor

**Guest:** David Schotzko – DNR Parks and Trails Area Supervisor

**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 24, 2015 in the Beltrami County Conference Room.

**Agenda: Motion by Miller, second by Napstad to approve the agenda with additions.** Blandin Tax Ruling, and the 111D Clean Power Plan Rule. Motion carried unanimously.

**Minutes: Motion by Vene, second by Napstad to approve the minutes from the July 27, 2015 meeting with corrections.** Motion carried unanimously.

**Guest:** DNR Parks and Trails Area Supervisor; David Schotzko attended the meeting to update the Board on trails within the 7 county area he covers. While clubs continue to evolve throughout the state, David said there have been federal grants for trails awarded to Roseau, Beltrami and Mahnomen counties. In the DNR's budget, allocations to public boat landings receive the most dollars and then snowmobiles and ATV's. Regarding bike trails he said the cost is approximately \$1000 per mile to maintain and all the dollars come out of the general budget. Bikes do not pay taxes/permits like a snowmobile or ATV does through a license. It was suggested that a tax be included in the price of a purchased bike like there is when you buy fishing tackle or hunting accessories. There are multipurpose trails for motorized vehicles and counties continue to work with clubs and DNR to purpose more and better maintained trails. Discussions thought funding of trails should be related to contribution of the sport. Boats by license, ATV's and Snowmobiles buy trail stickers but non-motorized (biking, hiking, climbing) do not pay anything.

**DNR Update:** Greg said there was not a lot to report but did say the draft EIS should be out September 29 and there will be a meeting in Moorhead with public comment until October. The Mille Lacs fishery is an emergency basis and is working with a work group on how to fix the problem and what is causing the fishery to drop. On the flip side, Leech Lake and Red Lake's numbers are very high and folks could see some more liberal limits.

**Financial Discussions:**

1. Administration/Office Expenses: **Motion by Stenseng, second by Moorman to approve the July/August administration/office expenses.** Motion carried unanimously.
2. Miscellaneous Expenses:
  - **Motion by Skoe, second by Napstad to approve the miscellaneous expenses. Motion carried.** Vene Abstained.

- The Computer Fix: **Motion by Moorman, second by Miller to pay \$275 to The Computer Fix for the annual webhosting and changing the site over from Big Fish.** Motion carried unanimously. Note: \$175 is annual webhosting fee and \$100 was to change site over from Big Fish.
- 3. The Treasurer's report: The August Treasurer' report submitted by Josh Stromlund and distributed by Coordinator Briggs was approved. **Motion was made by Stenseng, second by McCollum to approve the August Treasurer's Report.** Motion carried unanimously.
- 4. Update on Treasurer Funds for JCNRB: After some discussion, the Board decided that Scott Peters; Marshall County Auditor would take over all finances for the Joint Counties Natural Resource Board. Commissioner Kiesow will have Scott call Joy Lindquist and Josh Stromlund to get all the specifics of a change over and duties. Joy is retiring in September so he will do it before she leaves. The Board would also like to have an audit done when the money/account is moved over to Marshall County. **Motion by Stenseng, second by Vene to move the money/account to Marshall County, to have Scott Peters take over the financials and to have an audit done when the money is moved from Lake of the Woods.** Motion carried unanimously.
- 5. Allocation toward the Coalition for the Class I Air Quality Issue: Kallie reported that she has emailed John Ongaro asking what our percentage of \$15,000 would be if the coalition will allow us to partner with NCLUCB and St. Louis County. At the time of the meeting she had not heard anything back yet.

#### **Discussion:**

- Clean Power Plan: Napstad reported that in 2009 President Obama put together a Clean Power Plan meant to reduce carbon dioxide emissions in order to combat climate change. Obama said The Plan to clean up air emissions caused by natural gas and coal would increase costs and force coal and natural gas plants to retrofit in order to comply with the plan. This will be a large expense to companies which will be passed on to the consumer. The final draft of the Plan was published August 15 by the EPA and is 1100 pages with 900 of those pages consisting of formulas. The Rule tells each State how they will measure emissions and what emission to measure. The intent of the Rule is to reduce emissions 45% by 2030. Also the Supreme Court has ruled the EPA is within their right to move on the 111d Rule Clean Power Plan. Moving clean air technology to windmills and renewable energy is what the Clean Water Plan wants to accomplish.
- Overview of Tax Court Finding (Blandin v. Counties): Commissioner Skoe brought this up to the Board saying Blandin sold a conservation easement on 4600 parcels that were also enrolled in SFIA. Blandin challenged their 2010 and 2011 easements claiming the counties should have appraised the parcels as a single unit. The courts reduced Blandin's cost of parcels and this could hit hard on Itasca and also have an impact on Koochiching and Aitkin. Note: Commissioner Napstad sent Kallie a copy of the memo explaining the background and a letter to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council from Christopher Kleman, House Tax Research and lastly an overview of the Tax Court finding. A copy is on file.

**Next Meeting Date:** The next scheduled meeting will be on Monday September 28, 2015 in the Beltrami County conference Room. Representative Fabian and Hancock will be invited.

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

Minutes submitted by Kallie Briggs-Administrative Coordinator