

**Joint Counties Natural Resources Board**  
**August 28, 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
Scott McCollum – Mahnomen	Roger Falk - Roseau

**Absent:** Tim Summer – Beltrami

**DNR:** Rita Albrecht – DNR Area Supervisor

**Guest:** Representative Fabian; District 1A

**Others:** Kallie Briggs; Administrator, Leon Olson

**Call to Order:** Chairman Commissioner Kiesow called the Joint Counties Natural Resources Board to order at 10:00 AM on Monday, August 28, 2017 in the Beltrami County Conference Room.

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

**Minutes: Motion by Stenseng, second by Falk to approve the minutes from the July 24, 2017 meeting as presented.** Motion carried unanimously.

**Financial Discussions:**

- Administration/Office Expenses: Motion by Stenseng, second by Pratt to approve the August 28, 2017 administration/office expenses. Motion carried unanimously.
- Miscellaneous Expenses: Motion by Walker, second by McCollum to approve the August miscellaneous expenses. Motion carried unanimously.
- Account Activity Report: The August Account Activity Report submitted by Marshall County and distributed by Coordinator Briggs was approved. Motion was made by McCollum, second by Falk to approve the August Account Activity Report. Motion carried unanimously.

**Guest Speaker:** Representative Fabian gave the following update:

- He has not heard any complaints regarding the legislative session and it seems that most are pleased with how it went, especially forestry and timber folks. He is also a big supporter of Enbridge's third line and the Energy Bill was amended to help make it happen.
- Permitting is still a big deal for Minnesota and really needs a constitutional amendment to make the correct changes.
- Buffers complimented alternative practices for exempted ditches. Some folks do not want to see others mowing their ditches because of birds nesting. It seems to be more of a rural against metro issue even though not mowing the ditches poses more of a public safety issue. Fabian thinks this will be a topic again in the spring.

- School trust lands continue to be a topic of discussion at the legislature. PILT payments went up on State managed lands but WMA's did not. Rita said the DNR will be selling some State lands but she does not know which ones or how many at this time. She thanked Rep. Fabian for his participation in the land bill.
- The Federal and State representatives are working on a 30,000 acre land exchange from federal land inside the BWCA for State lands outside of the BWCA.
- The Lessard Sam's council has 1.2 billion dollars to pay off past bonding commitments and each county has their own priorities on how the money should be spent. Leon said LSC money is to protect, enhance and secure.

**DNR Update:** Some of the topics Rita updated the Board on. A complete report is on file.

- The DNR is still having trouble getting foresters. They have posted eleven entry level forestry positions.
- The emerald ash bore continues to be a problem.
- Chronic Wasting Disease continues to be big concern and is taken very seriously. In CWD areas it will be mandatory for deer hunters to have their deer sampled for CWD. All wildlife staff will assist with the testing during the first two days of hunting in the North Central, Central and Southeast areas.
- The commissioner will be visiting some of the northern counties and will be in Walker and Bemidji on September 13.

**Old Business:** NCLUCB Resolution regarding wetland mitigation and the Beaver Bill will be left on the agenda and talked about at the next meeting.

**New Business:** The following was discussed:

- Counties that applied have been notified of an increase in their Con Con ditch assessments.
- Most counties are looking to raise their levy by a 3-4% increase.
- The October meeting will be moved to the 5<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month which will be the 30. In November the board will meet on the 27.

**Next Meeting Date:**

- The next scheduled meeting will be on Monday, September 25. Byron Cole will be asked to attend the meeting as our guest. Russell will contact him.
- October 30 (5<sup>th</sup> Monday)
- November 27

**Adjourn:** Chair Kiesow adjourned the meeting at 12:02 PM.

Minutes submitted by Kallie Briggs-Administrative Coordinator