

**Joint Counties Natural Resources Board**  
**September 25, 2017**  
**Beltrami County Conference Room**  
**10:00 AM**

**MINUTES**

**Attendance:** Commissioners:

Gary Kiesow – Marshall	Russell Walker - Roseau
Daniel Stenseng - Clearwater	Roger Falk - Roseau
Bill Pratt – Aitkin	Ken Moorman – Lake of the Woods
Tim Summer – Beltrami	

**Absent:** Scott McCollum – Mahnomen      Wayne Skoe – Koochiching

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

**Guest:** Matt Fischer – BSWR Board Conservationist

**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, September 25, 2017 in the Beltrami County Conference Room.

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

**Minutes: Motion by Walker, second by Falk to approve the minutes from the August 25, 2017 meeting as presented.** Motion carried unanimously.

**Financial Discussions:**

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

**Guest:** Matt was asked to attend the meeting and to speak about 1 Watershed 1 Plan and Buffers. He began with 1 Watershed 1 Plan and showed the Board a map of participating watersheds. He are some of his comments:

- The Watershed Program is to be completed by 2025.
- The green on the map (on file) indicates completed and approved plans. There are 7 counties who have approved plans.
- There are counties who will be doing their watershed plans in 2016 and 2017. Counties for 2018 will soon be decided.
- The cost of a plan is approximately \$200,000 and counties are hoping funding from the legislature will come through. So far 9 million has been appropriated. The legislature is

working with BSWR to divide the funds and work within the planning partnerships to develop a plan.

- The advantage of doing a plan is it reduces small plans, it is consistent of clean water that does not stop at a county line and every comprehensive plan is sensitive to counties.

Next Matt talked about Buffers. He handed out a map (on file). One side of the map is the estimated percentage of parcel buffer law preliminary compliance; public waters only (green side) and the other side is the estimated percentage of parcel buffer law preliminary compliance (blue side). Some of his comments were:

- Even though there are still 30,000 parcels not in compliance, buffers will be in place by November 2017.
- The blue side of the map is all waters and has the same disclaimer as the green side. This is where the majority of work will be. It will be completed to be completed in 2018.
- There is a lot of work to be done and it may be difficult to meet this by law.
- BSWR has received about 45 comments regarding the ordinances and BSWR wants to continue conversations on who has what role regarding enforcement.
- There has been approximately 5 million allocated to cost share with the buffers.
- On the website there are tools to assist land owners who may not be able to do a buffer.
- Soil and Water capacity matching grants is 22 million for 2 years. Each district gets to use as matching funds to help counties. If counties allocated money towards buffers, you would be asked to allocate at least that amount again.

**DNR Update:** Rita commented on her written report which she handed out to the Board. A copy is on file. Some of her comments are as followed:

- Wildlife had a successful elk season. All tags were filled and 1 was a collared cow.
- Bear season is down about 25% as of now and is likely because of acorn drop and bears not going to hunter's bait.
- There was a ditch abandonment update on Beltrami, LOW and Roseau counties.
- There will be a hearing September 26 at Little Ralph and October 17 in Bemidji regarding the Line e Upgrade. The meeting will be hosted by the Public Utilities Commission.
- There is currently a meeting being arranged with irrigators and affected area residents of Well Interference. They need to have clarification on well regulation capacity to pump greater amounts. Thanks to Rep. Fabian, Keel and others.

#### **Old Business:**

- Beaver Bill: Russell said the Beaver Bill was talked about at the AMC meeting. He suggested a shared cost with the State and it was well received. AMC will continue to research the status of the beaver and a bill. Russell will continue to be in touch with AMC and report back. The Board decided they would lend support of a Bill if it addresses the beaver problem and makes sense for the counties represented.

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

- A LUP citizens committee meeting on October 8 at the Norris Camp.

**Next Meeting Date:** The next scheduled meeting will be on Monday, October 30. This will be the 5<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month.

**Adjourn:** Chair Kiesow adjourned the meeting at 12:00 PM.

Minutes submitted by Kallie Briggs-Administrative Coordinator