

Joint Counties Natural Resources Board
September 28, 2015
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	Scott McCollum - Mahnomen

Absent: Ken Moorman – Lake of the Woods Daniel Stenseng - Clearwater

DNR: Greg Nelson – DNR Area Supervisor

Guest: Representatives Dan Fabian (1A) and Dave Hancock (2A)

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 28, 2015 in the Beltrami County Conference Room.

Agenda: Motion by Vene, second by Skoe to approve the proposed agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes: Motion by Napstad, second by Miller to approve the minutes from the August 26, 2015 meeting with a couple minor changes. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Discussions:

- Administration/Office Expenses: Motion by Napstad, second by Miller to approve the September administration/office expenses for \$514.65. Motion carried unanimously.
- Miscellaneous Expenses: Motion by McCollum, second by Skoe to approve the miscellaneous expenses in the amount of \$10.44. Motion carried. Vene Abstained.
- The Treasurer's report: The September Treasurer' report submitted by Josh Stromlund and distributed by Coordinator Briggs was approved. Motion was made by Miller, second by McCollum to approve the September Treasurer's Report. Motion carried unanimously.
- Update: Treasure of Funds for JCNRB: Changing the Treasurer and financials over to Scott Peters, Auditor of Marshall County in still in transition. There is not a lot of accounting which needs to be done so an audit is probably not needed but will be assessed when the transition is complete. The certificate of deposit will be left where it is for 1 year if it is not a roll over.
- Joint meeting with MRCC regarding Tribal Air Quality: Dan Larson, Administrator for MRCC contacted Kallie to see if the JCNRB would engage in a joint meeting regarding the Tribal Air Quality issue at a cost of \$175. Karen Diver, the attorney who is putting the coalition together will be the speaker. The Board opted not to pay the \$175 because there are already board members who are on both boards. They also wanted to see where St. Louis County is in the process of taking the lead and determining what our share to join the Coalition would be. It was brought to the Board's attention that Rich Spay will be meeting with the Tribal Chair to see where they are at in their process and would then be willing to meeting with other counties for an update free of charge.

Guest: Representatives Dan Fabian (1A) and Dave Hancock (2A) attended the meeting to give the Board an update. Some of the topics covered in the open discussion were as follows:

- A very bi-partisan session had 3 bills vetoed including a Tax Bill because it did not include a gas tax. The schools, nursing homes and rural health care liked what came out of the session and the Governor is staying consistent on a universal pre-kindergarten.
- The starting point for the Clean Power Plan was in 2012, however prior to that many companies had already cleaned up their emissions. One-third of these companies were from North Dakota and if the EPA puts more pressure on those companies a rate increase will be passed on to us.
- A more hands on approach and more oversight should be put on the 103E systems which are not public but private. The Legislature's intent is to exempt private ditches but may have to re-address the buffer laws on behalf of the counties and private citizens regarding drainage.
- Permitting 404 exemption would be a huge bonus if a project under 2 acres would allow counties to exercise their rules. Ideally 5 acres would be the best scenario. This is being negotiated between BSWR and the Army Corps of Engineers.
- The ditch abandonment process should be quick and easy. If both parties agree to abandon a ditch the Ditch Authority should not have to hold public hearings and conduct other procedures. This is costly and takes time. The Board agreed the language for the abandonment process should be addressed in a Bill.

DNR Update: 1) The Elk season is over and was deemed a success. There were 7 tags filled with 5 of those tags being bulls. The number in the herd, according to the Plan, has not reached its capacity and that is why more tags were not given out. There will be a public meeting regarding the Elk season and the Plan in December. 2) Leech Lake could see an increase in their fish limits which is good news. 3) Greg will look in to where the trail review process is at and report back to the Board.

Old Business: The following was discussed:

- Executive Summary: The Board will review this before the next meeting so it can be acted upon. If there are noted changes contact Kallie so she can make them.

Next Meeting Date: The next scheduled meeting will be on Monday October 26, 2015.

Adjourn: Chairman Kiesow adjourned the meeting at 12:25 PM.

Minutes submitted by Kallie Briggs-Administrative Coordinator