

Joint Counties Natural Resources Board
January 22, 2018
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	Roger Falk – Roseau

Absent: Tim Sumner – Beltrami Ken Moorman – Lake of the Woods
Scott McCollum – Mahnomen

DNR: Rita Albrecht – DNR Area Supervisor

Guest: Nathan Heibel, Koochiching County Land Commissioner
Dick Moore, Beltrami County Land Commissioner

BSWR: Matt Fisher, BSWR Regional Board Conservationist

Other: Kallie Briggs, Coordinator

Call to Order: Chairman Commissioner Kiesow called the Joint Counties Natural Resources Board to order at 10:01 AM on Monday, January 22, 2018 in the Beltrami County Conference Room.

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

Minutes: Motion by Stenseng, second by Pratt to approve the minutes from the December 18, 2017 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Discussions:

- Administration/Office Expenses: Motion by Falk second by McCollum to approve the January 2018 administration/office expenses. Motion carried unanimously.
- Miscellaneous Expenses: Motion by Skoe, second by Walker to approve the miscellaneous expenses for rolls. Motion carried unanimously.
- Account Activity Report: The January 2018 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 January 2018 Account Activity Report. Motion carried unanimously.

Guest: Nathan Heibel was invited to the meeting to give a presentation on the overview of forestry in Minnesota and the northern counties. His counterpart Dick Moore from Beltrami County was also in attendance. A copy of his report is on file. Some facts he shared with board are as followed:

- There are 15 million acres of forest lands in Minnesota and sixteen percent of those are county/local lands. Thirty six percent of those are made up of private lands. The rest are divided between National forests, corporate, state, forestry and other federal lands.

- MN Association of County Land Commissioners (MACLC) is made up of fifteen counties. Thirteen of those counties have active forestry programs.
- The net proceeds from the sale of products from forfeited land must be apportioned by county auditors to the taxing districts interested in the lands. County Boards may set aside no more than thirty percent (net) for forestry development and no more than twenty percent (net) for recreation development. Remaining balance is distributed with forty percent to a county's general fund, forty percent to school districts and twenty percent to a township or city.
- An average of eighty percent of tax forfeited revenue is generated through timber sales in MACLC member counties.
- Minnesota's county forest lands offer land and resource development, diverse recreational opportunities, wildlife habitat and research projects and public outreach and education.
- Some of the land management challenges are Budworm, User conflicts, deer browse, exotic/invasive pests and industry and changing markets.
- Another challenge is the Northern Long Eared Bat that is being monitored as it could propose a risk to forestry as a protected animal. Aitkin County is already taking a proactive approach to the threat of forestry because of the bat.
- From 2011-2016 the MACLC Counties sold 4.3 million cords of timber, 17 million trees were planted and 21 million dollars apportioned to local schools.
- Counties will see a \$0.50/acre increase in PILT for County Administered and MN DNR Administrated "Other" lands. Counties now receive \$1.50/acre annually for acres of tax-forfeited lands that they manage. Of this \$0.642/acre is set aside for resource development, forest management and game and fish improvement.

Old Business:

- NCLUCB Resolution re: Wetland Mitigation Alternatives: Wayne reported he missed the last meeting so he had nothing new to report.
- Beaver Bill update: Bill has received some numbers of dollars spent on beaver control in townships. He is still waiting to hear from other townships. Aitkin County spends approximately \$120,000 on beaver control. He would like to see each county send in the money they spend on beaver control so it can be put into a spreadsheet and made available to each county for comparison and for legislators working on beaver bills.
- AMC Wetland Bill Update: Bill reported there was no update at the current time.
- 2018 Meeting Schedule: In the meeting schedule presented last month there was an error so Kallie changed the error and presented a new schedule. The Board will meeting on the 3rd Monday of the month in May and December.

DNR Update: Rita gave an oral DNR report and also had a full written report to put on file. Some oral topics she covered were:

- Fargo-Moorhead Task Force has made recommendations for re-starting a \$2.2 billion Red River diversion project to protect the Fargo-Moorhead and Minnesota areas from frequent flood threats. The recommendation does not specify a location for a dam to hold back the water but engineers from the two cities and state of Minnesota will identify a location.
- Elk Damage Abatement Materials are available for producers who have Elk eating their hay and beet pulp. Each producer is eligible to receive up to \$5k for materials.
- The Sustainable Timber Harvest Analysis draft report is on the DNR's website. The final report will be released in December of 2018.
- The LUP CIP will meet February 1 at Warroad Forestry office from 6-8pm for the winter meeting complete with pizza. The agenda includes such topics as deer season/CWD, wolf survey update, habitat work plans, the land exchange/trail project and more.

- Ditch abandonment: The DNR is working with Beltrami County at this point. A joint powers Ditch Authority to be compiled would consist of the counties of Beltrami, Koochiching and Lake of the Woods.

BSWR Update: Matt provided the Board with a report that is also on file. Some topics covered in his report were:

- Buffer cost allocation as of December 31, 2017 was shared.
- A map of Election of Jurisdiction over Buffer Enforcement was shared. Green areas indicate elected jurisdiction and enacted enforcement procedures that have been approved by BSWR. The yellow areas indicate that BSWR is still working on the details and the orange areas indicate they did not elect jurisdiction.
- Two people have been hired to cover the buffer and soil loss specialists work areas. There is still one area vacant.
- At the December board meeting BSWR adopted the Guiding Principles of the Watershed-based funding pilot program. There were two public meetings held with approximately 30 people at each meeting, who assisted in identifying issues and then voting on them by placement of stickers. Once plans are in place funding can be applied for. One Watershed, One Plan Pilots have been completed in Root, Yellow Medicine, Lake Superior, Red Lake and North Fork Crow. Their percent of area and allocations can be reviewed in the full report.
- Targeted Areas for Local Government Road and Wetland Replacement Program (LGRWRP) are shown on the last page of the report with those areas being highlighted in blue.

New Business: The following was discussed:

- Speaker ideas: Potlatch and Norbord said they would be willing to come to Bemidji to give a PowerPoint presentation or tours at the mills if the Board is interested. Myron Cole, Retired Federal Trapper is still interested in coming before the Board, and Scott Peters from Marshall County and Kay Mack from Beltrami County to talk about Con Con Ditch Assessments.
- Election of Officers:
 1. Chair: Walker nominated Bill Pratt for President. After Chair Kiesow called for other nominations 3 times, Stenseng made a motion to close the nominations and elect Bill Pratt at Chair for 2018. Walker second the motion. Passed unanimously.
 2. Vice Chair: Walker nominated Stenseng as Vice Chair. After Past Chair Kiesow called 3 times for other nominations Skoe made a motion to close nominations and elect Stenseng as Vice Chair. Pratt second the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting Date: The next scheduled meeting will be on Monday, February 26, 2018 at 10am in the Beltrami County Conference room. Scott Peters and Kay Mack will be contacted by Kallie to be our guest speakers on Con Con Ditch Assessment back taxes.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am.

Minutes submitted by Kallie Briggs-Administrative Coordinator