

Joint Counties Natural Resources Board
March 26, 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 Ken Moorman – Lake of the Woods
Roger Falk – Roseau Tim Summer – Beltrami
Scott McCollum - Mahnomen

Absent: None

DNR: Rita Albrecht – DNR NW Regional Director

BSWR: Matt Fisher – BSWR Board Conservationist

Guest: John Hart, USDA Wildlife Services – Minnesota Programs

Other: Kallie Briggs; Coordinator

Call to Order: Chairman Commissioner Pratt called the Joint Counties Natural Resources Board to order at 10:00 AM on Monday, March 26, 2018 in the Beltrami County Conference Room.

Agenda: Motion by Kiesow, second by Falk to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes: Motion by Walker, second by Falk to approve the minutes from the February 26, 2018 meeting with a minor change. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Discussions:

- Administration/Office Expenses: Motion by Skoe, second by Falk to approve the March 26, 2018 administration/office expenses. Expenses included the printing of a presentation for today's meeting at a professional printer. Motion carried unanimously.
- Miscellaneous Expenses: Motion by Falk, second by McCollum to approve the miscellaneous expenses which included rolls. Motion carried.
- Account Activity Report: The March Account Activity Report submitted by Marshall County and distributed by Coordinator Briggs was approved. Motion was made by Falk, second by McCollum to approve the March Account Activity Report. Motion carried unanimously.

Guest: John Hart was invited to the meeting to talk about the wolf population. His presentation was a report on Wolf Damage Management in Minnesota for 2017. He has not only worked on wolf damage control but on beaver control which seems to have passed the wolf damage program. Cass, Itasca and St. Louis work 100% cooperatively under a beaver agreement for beaver control. The counties are billed back quarterly. Cormorants are also impacting some lakes such as Leech Lake, so they are allowed to manage them to keep them at a certain growth to protect fisheries.

A hard copy of the wolf presentation is on file. He touched on the 2017 MN verified wolf complaints or damage by livestock/poultry, pets and human safety. The challenge of dealing with the high number of wolves is costly. Fish and Wildlife management need to legislatively put back on the State management to effectively do wolf damage control however, this could take up to two years and it has to be the right decision for all groups and organizations. He also touched on the legal changes regarding the cease of killing a wolf except for in the defense of human life. This was due to a federal judge's decision to reinstate the Endangered Species Act that protects gray wolves in Minnesota.

A lot of wolves were taken between 2012 and 2015 when the wolf was on the delisted list. During that time the complaint list was down however, since 2015 complaints are back up. Wolves seem to go where deer go and deer seem to be moving into towns and wolves are following causing more complaints. In closing it was noted that coyotes and wolves are interacting and wolves are getting bigger and more aggressive.

Old Business: The following was discussed as old business:

i). NCLUCB Resolution re: Wetland Mitigation Alternatives: There was nothing new to report on this and while it will still be watched for, the board decided to take it off the agenda for the next meeting.

ii). Beaver Bill Update: Nothing new to report other than there will most likely not be any dollars allocated toward beaver control.

iii). Beaver Control Dollars Spent in Townships: Bill compiled dollars spent on beaver control for the counties/townships represented on the Board. He then had Kallie send it out to Board members so they could share it with their legislators. The largest expense to Koochiching County is the loss of timber.

iv). Update on AMC Wetland Bill: Although this is still on AMC's priority list, there were no updates. Commissioners will continue to keep themselves informed on any progress.

New Business: The following was discussed:

- MN Timber Harvest Goals: Wayne said commissioners were hoping the DNR would go to a one million cord harvest and instead have set a goal of 870 cords. MFI is meeting with legislators, Governor and DNR managers to find a favorable solution to sustainable harvests. Wayne handed out some statistics that were sent to him from Ray Higgins, FMI. Wayne will try to get someone from MFI to speak at the next meeting and Rita will also ask someone from the DNR to attend as well.
- Demolition Landfill: Ken shared a letter written by Tim Erickson, Lake of the Woods Public Utility Works Director to Jon Buck, MN Pollution Control Agency regarding the alleged violations regarding LOW demolition Landfill. A copy of the letter is on file.

DNR Update: Rita gave the DNR update. She touched on topics under Ecological water Resources (Ditch Abandonment Opportunities Project), she gave a Red River Flood risk update, talked about Parks and Trails, Wildlife, Forestry and Fisheries. A complete copy of her report is on file.

BSWR Update: Matt was here and gave a BSWR update. He shared with the Board "The Election of Jurisdiction over Buffer Enforcement" map with the Board. He said the map indicates that 98% of counties are in compliant and hope all will be compliant within the next year. Under the Wetland Conservation Act 404 assumption legislature mandates that BSWR look into which waters are assumable.

Matt also handed out a Bank Service map where BSWR is trying to purchase wetland replacement credits. The map shows county boundaries and targeted bank service areas. There are some dollars available and BSWR is doing RFP's to landowners who have credits in wetlands. Both maps are on file.

Next Meeting Date: The next scheduled meeting will be on Monday, May 21, 2018.
Wayne will ask someone from MFI and Rita will ask a Forester from the DNR to attend our meeting.

Adjourn: Motion by Walker, second by Kiesow to adjourn the meeting at 12:15 PM.

Minutes submitted by Kallie Briggs-Administrative Coordinator