

Joint Counties Natural Resources Board
June 25, 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	

Absent: Tim Summer – Beltrami Scott McCollum - Mahnomen

DNR: Rita Albrecht, DNR NW Regional Director

BSWR: None

Guest: Ray Higgins, VP of Operations for Minnesota Timber Producers Association/Minnesota Forest Industries

Other: Kallie Briggs; Coordinator

Call to Order: Chairman Commissioner Pratt called the Joint Counties Natural Resources Board to order at 10:01 AM on Monday, June 25, 2018 in the Beltrami County Conference Room.

Agenda: Motion by Stenseng, second by Walker to approve the agenda with the addition of membership dues. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes: Motion by Falk, second by Kiesow to approve the minutes from the May 21, 2018 meeting with the correction of Walker adjourning the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Discussions:

- Administration/Office Expenses: Motion by Kiesow, second by Walker to approve the May/June administration/office expenses. Motion carried unanimously.
- Miscellaneous Expenses: Motion by Walker, second by Falk to approve the miscellaneous expenses for rolls and coffee supplies in the amount of \$\$14.49. Motion carried.
- Account Activity Report: The June Account Activity Report submitted by Marshall County and distributed by Coordinator Briggs was approved. Motion was made by Stenseng, second by Walker to approve the June Account Activity Report. Motion carried unanimously.

Guest: Ray Higgins began by telling the Board a little about himself and the two organizations he works for. One being the Minnesota Forest Industries the other being Minnesota Timber Producers Association. He made a point of saying both organizations and the DNR get along and work well together. They meet quarterly and may not always agree but they are almost always able to work through the issues. His perspective of the Sustainable Timber Harvest Analysis is a bit different than the DNR's. The process used to conduct the analysis was a good process and included a well-rounded group called a SAG Committee and considered sustainability, wildlife and environmental impacts. Out of 6 model runs, 4 of them came back saying that 1 million plus cords of a sustainable

cut could be supported. MFI thinks the DNR is going backward as they had been cutting 900,000 cords and now going to 870,000 cords.

Ray went on to say it is a proven fact that stumpage prices decrease when there is more wood on the market and drive the success of mills. Some mills in the state have closed because the high prices of stumpage have driven them to other states. They have not stopped making their products, just moved them. After some Q and A and general discussion with the Board, Ray closed by saying the inventory of wood is not up to date and there are no funds available to do an inventory study. The process to get this done is moving slowly but hopeful the legislators will allocated funds towards the study.

Old Business: None

New Business: The following was discussed:

- **Potlach and Meeting:** Wayne said Potlach has a new manager, however he is aware we would like a tour. Wayne will contact him and try to set up the tour for the July 23 meeting and see if there is a meeting room we can meet in afterward to conduct our general business. If this option does not pan out Wayne will contact NorBoard to see if we can tour that facility.
- **Membership Dues:** Motion made by Kiesow, second by Stenseng to leave membership dues at the current and past rate with no increases.

DNR Update: Rita was in attendance and gave the Board a written update. A copy is on file. The subjects she covered were Wildlife (deer plan, Elk permits, and Be Bear Aware which is on their website), EWR (a temporary permit process allowing farmers to use irrigation wells, working with White Earth Tribe to identify the LGU Shoreland regulation), and Forestry (working on the STHA implementation, sending 18-20 bosses trained in Type 6 Engine operation to train staff in Washington, the Aspen Parklands plan and map).

BSWR Update: Matt was unable to make the meeting but sent a legislative BSWR report. Kallie made copies and distributed to the Board.

Next Meeting Date: The next scheduled meeting will be on Monday, July 23, 2018. Wayne will work with Potlatch representative to see if we can have a tour and short meeting at the mill.

Adjourn: Motion by Stenseng, second by Skoe to adjourn the meeting at 12:02 PM.

Minutes submitted by Kallie Briggs-Administrative Coordinator