

Joint Counties

Natural Resources Board

Aitkin ~ Beltrami ~ Clearwater ~ Koochiching ~ Lake of the Woods ~ Mahnomen ~
Marshall ~ Roseau

Beltrami County Conference Room
701 Minnesota Avenue, NW
Bemidji, MN 56601

www.jointcountiesnaturalresourcesboard.com

Executive Summary 2013

Purpose: *The purpose of the Joint Counties Natural Resources Board shall be to gather information on and formulate policies for the development, utilization and protection of natural resources in northern Minnesota, and to ensure that there is an interrelated plan for the use and protection of both public and private resources.*

Board Members:

Gary Kiesow – Marshall	Brian Napstad – Aitkin
Jerry Dahl – Mahnomen	Joe Vene – Beltrami
Daniel Stenseng – Clearwater	Wayne Skoe – Koochiching
Ken Moorman – Lake of the Woods	Todd Miller – Roseau

Alternate Board Members

Roger Falk – Roseau	Tim Sumner – Beltrami
Buck Nordlof – Lake of the Woods	Brian McBride – Koochiching

Board Meetings

Meets the Fourth Monday of Most Months
Meets at the Beltrami County Conference Room
Meetings begin at 10:00 a.m.
All Commissioners Are Invited to Attend
Most Meetings Include a Special Guest and DNR Update

Dues Structure

Dues are discussed each year by the Counties involved and are based upon
Board and County Budgets

Website

www.jointcountiesnaturalresourcesboard.com was created in 2013.

There you will find meeting dates, proposed agenda for upcoming meeting, past minutes, board members with contact information, other topics and discussions presented during the meetings.

January

The first order of business was to elect Commissioner Kiesow to the position of Chair and Commissioner Stenseng to the position of Vice-Chair.

Board members made the decision to invite counties outside the Consolidated Conservation area to join the Joint Counties Natural Resources Board membership. Letters were sent to Kittson, Polk, Cass, Hubbard, Itasca, Red Lake, Pennington and Becker counties. They also decided to move forward with creating a website. It will be designed to inform and educate the public on items and issues addressed during their meetings.

Guest John Williams, DNR representative presented a power point presentation while giving the Board an update on the 2012 Wolf and Elk hunts. Also discussed during the meeting were the possibility of opening the Shoreland Rules/Regulations to create new standards. Shoreland rules were drafted in 2003, culminated in 2005 and in 2009 Governor Pawlenty vetoed the plan.

Further information on these topics and more may be found on the Joint Counties website at www.jointcountiesnaturalresourcesboard.com.

February

The Board approved the 2013 budget. The budget included an estimate for website design and maintenance. Senator Saxhaug/Representative Dill has introduced a Bill proposing a change to PILT. Commissioner Miller said Roseau County wrote a letter of support and suggested the Joint Powers Board do the same. **Motion by Commissioner Miller, second by Commissioner Skoe to approve sending a letter of support regarding PILT.**

Joe Eisterhold; DNR Invasive Species Specialist for the Northwest region and Lori Dowling-Hanson; DNR Regional Representative were at the meeting to give an update on Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). Joe, who is originally from Lake of the Woods, has recently moved back to the area from New Ulm. He presented a power point presentation (hard copy on file) on Managing Aquatic Invasive Species in NW Minnesota. Aside from MN statutes and state agencies, there is a website with the 2009 State Management Plan. The site is: www.anstaskforce.gov/meetings/2009_November/MN_ANSTF_draft_10-20.pdf. The plan, Joe said, is fairly broad but is a good template and should be reviewed and added to.

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April

The Board conducted routine business which included approving minutes from a special April 11, 2013 meeting regarding Con-Con ditch tax issues and appointment to the EPA Science Board, DNR ditch assessments and time lines, website update, BSWR update and an AMC update. The Board made a motion to draft a resolution to the US Environmental Protection Agency supporting Larry Kramka to a panel of experts who will review how man made ditches connect wetlands to navigable waters. **Motion by Stenseng seconded by Miller to send a resolution of support for Larry Kramka to the EPA.**

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June

The Board conducted routine business including an update on the ConCon work study session co- chaired by Commissioner Todd Miller and Lori Dowling-Hanson.

They welcomed Jerry Bourbonnaise DNR Forestry (Prescriptive Easements) Lori Dowling-Hanson, Craig Engwall, DNR representatives to the meeting. Jerry gave a presentation on Perspective Easements. Back in the 1920's and 30's roads were managed and built by those who used them, however there were no recorded easements. Lands are now being sold to new landowners who are not as cooperative as they were back then. These managed roads not only benefit the DNR, they are a benefit to counties and local folks who use them for a variety of reasons. Maps, supporting documents, and roads can be found on the DNR website <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/easement/statusmap.html>.

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July

The Board conducted their routine business including an update on the ConCon Work Session by Commissioner Miller. Progress is being made and as the legislature passed an amount of \$300,000 per year in ditch assessments. Up for discussion is the language on line 27.8 of the PILT bill to add "not with-standing" and should "repair" be a new project, along with redetermination.

Barb Naramore, DNR Assistant Commissioner of Forestry, Lands, Minerals and Eco Water Resources attended the meeting. Prior to her DNR position, she was a part of the Upper Mississippi Association for twenty-three years before starting this relatively new position. A round table discussion with comments to bring back to the Commissioner was held.

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August

The Board conducted their routine business including an update on the ConCon Work Group Session. There will be two main topics for counties to address; how to go about getting the legislative language conducive to keeping old assessments on the \$300,000 and how to go about addressing the back taxes issue. A letter written by Commissioner Landwehr regarding paying ditch taxes on non-ConCon drainage systems was reviewed and discussed. A BSWR update by Commissioner Napstad was given regarding a letter from the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy addressed to Representative Erickson. Napstad also informed the Board about Enbridge Energy who wants to build a sandpiper pipeline, however the route has not been defined and once it is they would have to go to the public utility commission to get approval. They are proposing to pass through Aitkin County which could mean a 20% reduction in their tax levy due to land taxes.

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September

The Board conducted their routine business however the focus of the meeting was on the ConCon Work Group Sessions that have been taking place.

Craig Nelson, John Williams, Lori Dowling-Hanson – DNR Representatives, Helen Cozzetto – DNR Representative/Work Group Committee, Kristi Coughlon – DNR Informational Management, Kay Mack – Beltrami County/Work Group Committee attended the meeting for an update and further discussion. Also attending the meeting were Senator Dan Fabian, Brian Ketring- Roseau County Engineer, Lon Aune – Marshall County Engineer, Scott Peters – Marshall County Auditor/Treasurer, Bruce Hasbargen – Beltrami County Engineer. During the last Work Group Session a resolution was drafted and presented to the Joint Counties Natural Resources Board. Clarification and a few minor changes were made to the resolution. **Motion was made by Miller and seconded by Moorman to approve the proposed resolution with the discussed changes.** Copies were sent each respective county within the membership for adoption. It was suggested that a County Auditor be appointed to set up payments of allocation. **Motion by Miller and seconded by Vene to appoint Scott Peters (Marshall County Auditor/Treasurer) as the assessment collection point person and to have Scott obtain and review information submitted by counties, set up payment of allocations, bring information to the Joint Counties Board for approval and then submit it to the DNR for payment.**

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November

The Board conducted their routine business which included an update on the Work Group Session, a BSWR and Wetland Mitigation update presented by Commissioner Napstad and election of officers for 2014. Commissioner Kiesow was elected to another term as President and Commissioner Stenseng was elected to another term of Vice-President.

Lori Dowling-Hanson, Greg Nelson; DNR Representatives and Bob Lessard; Lessard-Sam's Outdoor Council were in attendance. Greg Nelson has taken over Lori's position, however Lori will attend meetings when able and until the Work Group Session is done meeting. They went on to give updates on Shoreland Rules, the 2013 deer and wolf hunts, Aquatic Species and an Elk Plan.

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The Joint Counties Natural Resources Board did not meet in March, May, October or December.

March and December were meetings with AMC