

Joint Counties

Natural Resources Board

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

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

www.jointcountiesnaturalresourcesboard.com

Executive Summary 2017

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 | Bill Pratt – Aitkin |
| Scott McCollum – Mahnommen | Tim Sumner – Beltrami |
| Daniel Stenseng – Clearwater | Wayne Skoe – Koochiching |
| Ken Moorman – Lake of the Woods | Russell Walker – Roseau |

Board Alternate:

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Roger Falk – Roseau | Kevin Adee – Koochiching |
| Ed Arnesen – Lake of the Woods | |

DNR Representative

Rita Albrecht – Northwest Regional Director

BSWR Representative:

Matt Fisher – Board Conservationist (Beginning in September Matt was in attendance for most meetings)

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 from membership counties are invited to attend
Most meetings include a special guest, DNR and BSWR updates

Dues Structure

Dues are discussed each year by the membership counties and are based on Board input and county budgets

Website

www.jointcountiesnaturalresourcesboard.com was created in 2013.

There you will find meeting dates, proposed agenda for the upcoming meeting, past minutes, board members with contact information, other topics and power point presentations.

January

Election of officers resulted in Commissioner Kiesow as Chair and Commissioner Stenseng as Vice-Chair. They conducted routine business which included administration contract, financials, and meeting dates for 2017. Heard an update from John Williams, DNR Regional Wildlife Manager on deer, bear elk, rough grouse and waterfowl as well as a DNR update from Rita Albright. The Board is following a Bill introduced by Representative Sundin and supported by Representative Ecklund on nuisance beaver issues. A letter supporting an appropriation for counties, reduce complication of special permits and a higher beaver price to entice trappers was sent.

February

After regular business was conducted Lon Aune, Marshall County Highway Engineer talked to the Board regarding two subjects. The first was the 404 Assumption and how to streamline the process for counties wishing to widen a road. He said there is a group of stakeholders who are assisting BSWR and other Federal agencies in a feasibility study. The second topic was the Wetland Reserve Program and how it could benefit counties.

March

Regular business was conducted including financials, old and new business. Guest Bruce Anspach, Beltrami Environmental Services AIS Technician came to the meeting to talk about Beltrami County's successful AIS Program. He shared some facts which proved that from 2014-2016 the program is working.

May

Regular business was conducted and a DNR update was given by Rita Albright. Old and new business topics were discussed. There was no guest speaker.

June

The guest speakers for the meeting were Dave Thomas, DNR Regional Forestry Manager and Shane Delaney, Warroad Assistant Forestry Supervisor. They informed the Board on fire and their prevention program, and the timber program and stats. There was also time for Q&A. Rita also gave her DNR update, old and new business topics were discussed and financials were acted upon.

July

Regular financial business was conducted and then the Board heard from guest Representative Rob Ecklund. He updated the Board on how the session went, said the beaver legislation did not get a hearing and he would like to see this group and NCLUCB draft a proposal. He talked about demolition landfill constraints, bonding bill, tax bill and the fact that next year is a policy and bonding year and hopes it will be a good one. Rita gave a DNR update and the board covered old and new business.

August

Regular business was conducted and then the board heard from Representative Fabian. He told the Board most people were happy with the session outcome especially forestry and timber folks. He said he is also a big supporter of Enbridge's third line and that the Energy Bill was amended to help make it happen. Buffers complimented alternative practices for exempted ditches and federal and state representatives are working on a 30,000 acre exchange from federal land within the BWCA for state lands outside the BWCA. A DNR update was given by Rita and old and new business topics were discussed.

September

Regular business including finances, old and new business and a DNR update from Rita was conducted. Matt Fisher, BSWR was in attendance and gave an update on BSWR, Buffers, their website and the tools on there to assist land owners on buffers.

November

The Board conducted their regular business including financials. The guest speakers were MnDOT representatives Mike Ginnaty, District 2 Engineer; J.T. Anderson, Assistant Engineer District 2; Bill Pirkl, Maintenance Engineer in Bemidji. While they talked about noxious weeds and pheasants being a statewide issue, their main discussion was on roadside mowing, clear zones and permits for the public because of activities like plowing and mowing area prohibited. A complete power point in on our website. Old business discussed beaver legislation and wetland issues, a DNR update was given by Rita and a December meeting was discussed.

December

Regular business was conducted including financials, Old Business which included AMC Wetland and Beaver Bill updates, New Business including administrative contract and meeting dates for 2018. Chad Severts, BSWR Board Conservationist was in attendance to give an update on the Jurisdiction over Buffer Enforcement, One Watershed One Plan program, and Wetland Bank Service Areas. There was no DNR update.

The Joint Counties Natural Resources Board did not meet in April and October.

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