

**Joint Counties Natural Resources Board
December 17, 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: Scott McCollum – Mahnomen Tim Summer – Beltrami

DNR: None

BSWR: Matt Fisher – BSWR Board Conservationist

Guest: Richard Bakers – DNR Endangers Species Coordinator

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, December 17, 2018 in the Beltrami County Conference Room.

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

Minutes: Motion by Kiesow, second by Falk to approve the minutes from the October 29, 2018 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Discussions:

- Administration/Office Expenses: Motion by Kiesow, second by Stenseng to approve the October administration/office expenses. Motion carried unanimously.
- Webhosting Expense: Motion by Walker, second by Falk to approve the Webhosting expense of \$175 (10/1/18-10/1/19) to Computer Fix. Motion carried unanimously.
- Account Activity Report: The December 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 December Account Activity Report. Motion carried unanimously.

Guest: Richard Baker, DNR Coordinator for Endangered Species works out of St. Paul. He was in attendance to talk about the Northern Long Eared Bat. A complete copy of his PowerPoint presentation is on the JCNr's website. He said the bat has been moving west since 2006 and arrived in MN in 2015. They began dying in 2016 and were designated as a Threatened Species under the Federal Endangered Species Act in March 2015.

His presentation covered the Background Biology; 2015-2018 Northern Long Eared Bat Research, 2018 Township List and Map and the Lakes States Bat Habitat Conservation Plan. Some of the facts from his presentation were:

- Four out of eight species in Minnesota winter in caves.
- They eat their weight in insects every night. One million bats can consume 700-tons of insects per year.
- All species spend summers in the forest and often roost in trees, crevices, cracks and under tree bark. They also give birth in the summer months.
- MN Bats are in trouble because of the White Nose Syndrome (WNS). WNS has been found in 8 hibernacula in 6 counties.
- Being designated as a Threatened Species under the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) prohibits “take” without a permit.
- Threatened status exemptions is special legislation under the 4(d) Rule. The 4 (d) rule allows for some activities including most forest management and permanent tree removal under 1 acre. Activities must be ¼ mile from hibernacula, cutting is not allowed in known roosting trees during June and July and avoid clear cutting.
- The Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) have been working to clarify distribution in MN, capture and place radios on female bats with young, follow to roost trees and document use.
- Mist netting is being done all over the State and on all kinds of bats to determine distance between roost trees, when they leave the young or move to a tree close by. From 2015-2018 there were 155 nights of netting, 1192 bats caught and 84 females were followed to 237 roost trees.
- If a decline continues or the bat is legally listed as Endangered could mean to take, harm or harass would require a permit which would have to include a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). This is something Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan are working together on.
- The HCP will be used to apply for a permit that allows for forest management to continue. This should be completed in 2020.
- One of the things the Lake States Forest Bat Management HCP provides is an opportunity for land owners to obtain permits for timber harvest, road and trail construction/use/operation, and for prescribed fires.

Old Business: There was no old business to discuss.

New Business: The following was discussed under new business:

- a. Contract with Your Office or Mine/Kallie Briggs: **With no changes to the contract a motion by Kiesow and second by Skoe to approve the 2019 Contract.** Motion carried unanimously.
- b. AMC Annual Meeting Updates: A \$50 Buffer rebate could go into effect as this is something the legislature is working on. The Board may support this effort and will have it on the agenda next month. There is also a concern regarding blight on tax forfeited land. Some counties would like to see this addressed. It was also made known that the AMC legislative conference will be held February 13 and 14 and there is a Presidential Primary Bill being introduced.
- c. Other: The Board had a discussion about changing the day of the meeting, not holding as many meetings per year and if they should join with NCLUB. **Motion by Falk, seconded by Walker to meet every other month beginning in January 2019.** Motion carried unanimously. Note: There are counties represented on the Board who do not wish to join with NCLUB. Kallie will also look at the By-laws to see if they need to be amended to a new meeting day and how often to meet.

DNR Update: There was not an update.

BSWR Update: Matt handed out and reviewed a map of One Watershed, One Plan and the participating water sheds. There have been 2027 completed to date. The Buffer compliance dates have been passed and landowners are working to bring land into compliance.

Other Business: The Board thanked Dan and Ken for their support on the board as wished them well in their retirements.

Next Meeting Date: The next scheduled meeting will be on Monday, January 28, 2019. Wayne will contact LeRoy Stump who is Colin Peterson's aid to be our guest. The Board will also elect a President and Vice President at the January meeting.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 11:57am.

Minutes submitted by Kallie Briggs-Administrative Coordinator