

meeting in Moorhead with watershed districts to reduce the flow of the Red River. Issues the Senator is watching:

Defense issues:

- Letters are being written to eliminate usage of waivers for large companies and the amount of ethanol to gas. The waivers were intended to benefit small companies not the large ones.
- One of the appropriation bills passed was an Agriculture Bill. Senator Peterson is Chair of the Agricultural House Committee and they are working to assist dairy farmers because prices are high and the competition is steep. The Farm Bill does not take effect until August. He also said that one out of 11 appropriation Bills relates to prevention. An example is the Rapid Response Fund of 1990. It is still current and is meant to assist with disasters and vaccines.

Offense issues.

- As Chair of the House Agricultural Committee Senator Peterson is looking to find ways to get more funding.
- As chair of the Veterans Administration Committee assisting Bemidji and Montevideo while they work for matching funds to complete their veteran's care centers.
- Introduced legislation to encourage and cap the coal burning plants so they are more assessable to energy regulations.
- Introduced two pieces of legislation with Rep. Gianforte to prevent unreasonable regulation hurting small trucking companies, owner-operators and agricultural products move Minnesota products all over the country. The Small Carrier electronic Logging Device (ELD) Exemption Bill exempts businesses which operate ten or fewer commercial trucks from the requirements of the ELD mandate, and the Agricultural Business Electronic Logging Exemption Act will exempt agricultural businesses.
- Other issues being worked on are health insurance, job applicant shortages and training, veterans and drug issues.
- Trying to get wolf protection under the states and allow trapping instead of a hunting season. Trapping may not be challenged as it is a means of controlling the numbers.

DNR Update: Rita is not able to attend meetings on the 3rd Monday as she has a prior commitment. However, she did send a written update and it is on file.

Old Business: None

New Business: The following was discussed:

- There was an email sent out by MRCC stating buffers would be on taxes as a credit. Russell spoke against this idea and is not sure about the final decision.
- MMRC is watching to see if the levy on county aid will be lowered. It has never been lowered but it also has never been raised. There is a worry that this could get reduced in legislation.
- Moving the meetings to the 3rd Monday of the month has created some conflicts for some of the board members and Rita. The 4th Monday works for most but does not work for Bill. After some discussion it was decided that Bill would send out a Doodle Poll to see what day works best for everyone.

BSWR Update: None

Next Meeting Date: The next scheduled meeting will be put on hold until after the Doodle Poll is done.

Adjourn: Motion by Larson, second by Falk to adjourn the meeting at 12:10 PM.