Joint Counties Natural Resources Board March 18, 2019 Beltrami County Conference Room 10:00 AM

MINUTES

Attendance: Commissioners:

Bill Pratt – Aitkin Mark Larson - Clearwater Wayne Skoe – Koochiching Gary Kiesow – Marshall

Scott McCollum - Mahnomen

Roger Falk – Roseau

Absent: Tim Summer – Beltrami, Buck Nordlof – Lake of the Woods

DNR: None

BSWR: None

Guest: LeRoy Stump, Colin Peterson's Aid

Other: Kallie Briggs; Coordinator

Call to Order: Chairman Commissioner Pratt called the Joint Counties Natural Resources Board to order at 10:02 AM on Monday, March 18, 2019 in the Beltrami County Conference Room.

Agenda: Motion by Kiesow, second by Falk to approve the agenda with additions. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes: Motion by Larson, second by McCollum to approve the minutes from the January 28, 2019 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Discussions:

- <u>Administration/Office Expenses</u>: Motion by Skoe, second by Kiesow to approve the administration/office and meeting expenses. Motion carried unanimously.
- <u>Account Activity Report</u>: All counties have paid their membership investments. Motion was
 made by Kiesow, second by McCollum to approve the March Account Activity Report that was
 compiled by Marshall County and distributed by Coordinator Briggs. Motion carried
 unanimously.

Guest: LeRoy Stump was in attendance to deliver an update on some of the issues Senator Colin Peterson has been involved with. LeRoy has been involved with the legislature the last thirty-six years. Thirty four in the Senate and two in the House. He said he was glad to see the JCNRB meeting. Having rural counties meeting and working together is so important because the metro area population makes up 2/3 of the population in the state.

He said Senator Peterson is watching counties and the basins as winter was hard on counties and now there are risks of flooding. The basins may flood and it is a concern to those downstream. They are following the national weather forecast outlook. There will be a Red River Water Management

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.