

**Joint Counties Natural Resources Board
July 22, 2019
Beltrami County Conference Room
10:00 AM**

MINUTES

Attendance: Commissioners:

Mark Larson - Clearwater	Reed Olson - Beltrami
Gary Kiesow – Marshall	Russell Walker Roseau
Scott McCollum - Mahnomen	Roger Falk – Roseau
Wayne Skoe - Koochiching	

Absent: Tim Summer – Beltrami Bill Pratt – Aitkin
Buck Nordlof – Lake of the Woods

DNR: Patty Thielen– DNR NE Regional Director

BSWR: None

Guest: Craig Engwall – MN Deer Hunters Association

Other: Kallie Briggs - Coordinator

Call to Order: Vice Chairman Commissioner Skoe called the Joint Counties Natural Resources Board to order at 10:03 AM on Monday, July 22, 2019 in the Beltrami County Conference Room.

Introductions were made.

Agenda: The website was added to the agenda. **Motion by Kiesow, second by Falk to approve the agenda with additions.** Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes: Under New Business item (b.) it should have indicated that Roseau County wanted to host the meeting not that they will host the meeting. **Motion by Olson, second by Kiesow to approve the minutes from the May 20, 2019 meeting with said changes.** Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Discussions:

- Administration/Office Expenses: Motion by Kiesow, second by Falk to approve the administration/office and meeting expenses. Motion carried unanimously.
- Account Activity Report: Motion was made by McCollum, second by Larson to approve the July Account Activity Report that was compiled by Marshall County and distributed by Coordinator Briggs. Motion carried unanimously.
- Membership Billing: The Board decided to leave the dues at the same amount they have been in past years. \$1,000 for all counties except Clearwater and Mahnomen will pay \$500. Motion by Falk, second by Larson to approve leaving the dues as the same cost as 2018. Motion carried unanimously.

Guest: Craig Engwall, MN deer Hunter’s Association was asked to attend the meeting to give the board an update. The following items are some of his updates:

- The deer population fared rather well. It was a good winter until January when the cold came but the deer had already built up reserves.
- Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a protein in the central nervous system. It can be transmitted through saliva or stools and it cannot be treated or killed. If a deer has the disease it will die. There is no proof that it transfers to humans who eat an infected deer. The first sign of the disease has shown up in Aitkin and Crow Wing counties. In SE Minnesota there have been approximately 50 deer found with the disease. There is also a concern coming from deer/elk farms. There will be legislature brought forth to enforce double fencing and stricter rules for farms. Testing for CWD is very extensive and they are looking for an easier way to test which can be used in the field.
- Back in 1973-74 Minnesota's wolf population was at about 1251-1400. A plan and goal to double that number has proven to have been affective as there is now approximately 2500 wolves. Wolves were protected in 73-74 and has been in the courts for 20 years. In 2010 the wolf was delisted in Wisconsin. MN has had three successful wolf hunts and had an opportunity to sign legislation delisting the wolf. It passed the house but not the senate which stopped the process.

DNR Update: The Board welcomed Patty Thielen, she is the NE Regional Director who happens to cover Aitkin and Koochiching counties. She has been in her position for 2 years and started in Baudette as a forester. She said Rita Albrecht retired and she has not heard yet who will be taking her place. Dave Olfelt is the new Fish and Wildlife Director and the new Lands and Minerals director is Joe Henderson. She also said she is very familiar with Con Con lands.

Old Business:

- Website: Kallie Briggs told the Board there has been some mis communication from when Big Fish transferred over our site. They did not have a contact person and the domain name was lost. Tim Riggs who hosts our website is working on getting the name and sight back up. Kallie is not sure if it will cost additional money for this but will email the Board when she knows more.
- Executive Summary: Kallie will be working on the 2018 edition and hopes to have a draft before the next meeting.

New Business: The following was discussed:

- A letter from Bill Pratt resigning as Chairman because he is involved with another board that meets at the same time and would be missing a lot of upcoming meetings. He also sent his alternate's contact information.
- Kallie Briggs conducted the elections for a new Chair and Vice-Chair. After 3 calls for nominations she closed the nominations and called for a motion for the Chair. **Motion by Falk, second by Larson to elect Wayne Skoe as Chair.** Motion passed unanimously. A call for Vice Chair was called 3 times and then she closed those nominations. **Motion by Kiesow, seconded by Skoe to elect Roger Falk as Vice Chair.** Motion passed unanimously.

BSWR Update: None

Next Meeting Date: The next scheduled meeting will be on Monday, September 23, 2019

Adjourn: **Motion by Olson, second by Falk** to adjourn the meeting at 12:22 AM.

Minutes submitted by Kallie Briggs-Administrative Coordinator