

Northern Counties Land Use Coordinating Board

Minutes

February 26, 2014

Crowne Plaza Hotel, St. Paul, MN (held in conjunction with AMC legislative conference)

NCLUCB Members present: Rich Sve, Lake Co.; Duane Hayes, Clearwater Co.; Ken Moorman, Lake of the Woods Co.; Edward Arneson, LOW Co.; Don Jensen, Pennington Co.; Jerry Dahl, Mahnomen Co.; Gary Kusou, Marshall Co.; Wayne Skoe, Koochiching Co.; Rob Ecklund, Koochiching Co.; Joe Vene, Beltrami Co.; Jack Swanson, Roseau Co.; Ann Marcotte, Aitkin Co.; Brian Napstad, Aitkin Co.; Wade Pavleck, Koochiching Co.; Todd Miller, Roseau Co.; Garry Gamble, Cook Co.

Other participants: John Ongaro, St. Louis Co., Lori Dowling-Hanson, MNDNR; Bob Lessard, MNDNR; Rep. Roger Erickson.

Wetland Mitigation Legislation: Rep. Erickson commented on his bills: HF 2021 and HF 1637. Sen. Skoe will author Senate version of HF 2021 provided that mining interests support the language. There is some concern that the current language could provide environmental interests with an opportunity to tie up proposed mining projects in a series of court challenges. With regard to HF 1637, he stressed the importance of providing a variety of reasonable mitigation options for the 80% counties which do not involve compromising useable lands as mitigation sites. As of March 27, neither bill has a senate sponsor nor a committee hearing scheduled.

CRP lands conversions are increasing. Members concerned regarding the ability of the state to invest in putting a significant portion of these expiring contracts back into CRP.

Rep. Fabian is supporting legislation to require a no-net-gain approach to state acquisition of lands state-wide. Also, state land acquisition for Wildlife Management Areas do not allow for trail development within the affected WMA's. Funds for acquisition are derived from the LSOH account. Some interest in legislation to set aside funds from the LSOH account to pay PILT reimbursements.

General discussion regarding models for the taxing authority and elected vs. non-elected status of local water planning and management authorities throughout Minnesota: watershed districts, swcd's. etc. Within the context of One Watershed, One Plan, will a consistent and uniform approach to both taxation and governance be established?

Next Meeting: April 3 in Chisholm.