

Northern Counties Land Use Coordinating Board

Minutes

January 15, 2014

Minnesota Discovery Center, Chisholm, MN (meeting held in conjunction with BWSR public meeting)

**Call to Order:** The NCLUCB meeting was called to order by Chairman Brian McBride at 9:40 a.m.

**NCLUCB Members present:** Garry Gamble, Cook Co.; Brian Napstad, Aitkin Co.; Ann Marcotte, Aitkin Co.; Steve Raukar, St. Louis Co.; Josh Stromlund, Lake of the Woods Co.; Buck Nordlof, Lake of the Woods Co.; Edward Arnesen, Lake of the Woods Co.; Mike Forsman, St. Louis Co.; Rich Sve, Lake Co.; Brian McBride, Koochiching Co., Wayne Skoe, Koochiching Co.; Wade Pavleck, Koochiching Co., Todd Miller, Roseau Co.

**Election of Officers for 2014:**

Chairman McBride opened the floor for nominations and the following officers were unanimously elected for 2014: **Chairman**- Rich Sve, Lake Co.; **Vice Chair**- Todd Miller, Roseau Co.; **Treasurer**- Steve Raukar, St. Louis Co.

Motion to Approve the Agenda: M-Napstad, S- Gamble.

Motion to Approve the Minutes of Dec. 9, 2013: M-McBride, S-Marcotte.

Finance Report and Bills Payable: Treasurer Raukar reported a total account balance of \$129, 639.66. Bills payable were: AMC - \$437.87, Minnesota Discovery Center - \$ 91.41.

Finance Report approved: M-Raukar, S-Miller

Bills Payable approved: M-Raukar, S-Napstad

Commissioner Napstad recalled that NCLUCB had earlier moved to drawn down the Land Use Conflict fund particularly by ensuring that the Todd Beckel bill for professional services be paid from that account. Chairman Sve directed Secretary Chell to make the corrections in conjunction with the St. Louis County Auditor's Office.

Discussion Issues:

1. Presentations and Issue topics for 2014 NCLUCB meetings:
  - a. **One Watershed, One Plan.** Commissioner Napstad introduced this issue stating: "there are 260 water management plans for 82 watersheds." The goal for this initiative is to consolidate the watershed planning function and the plans themselves into 82 plans. This approach will require a great deal of county to county collaboration. BWSR has a

proposed map and \$12 million over four years to begin one or more pilot projects. Commissioner Gamble stated that the Cook Co. board has reviewed the concept and has some concerns regarding control at the local level...particularly as a representative of a small county. Lake and Cook Counties may be a good pilot project. Commissioner Sve indicated that discussions at the Water Roundtable focused on the inevitable territorial conflicts, consolidation of water management entities and potential employment reductions among the agencies. Commissioner Pavlack cited the role of joint powers boards in promoting cooperation among local governments and suggested that there could be a model for consolidated water planning and management within the joint powers authority.

- b. **Invasive Species.** Commissioner Gamble suggested further examination of the various species and resource threats represented by these incursions.
- c. **PILT.** Need a legislative update on amendments to the compensation mandated to townships and Con-Con lands. Federal PILT is also a critical issue for NCLUCB.
- d. **Conservation Easements.** NCLUCB should track this issue with a focus on impacts to local governments and land owners, consistency of approaches among counties, and the redistribution of tax burdens created by various easements.
- e. **SFIA**
- f. **Shore Land Regulation.** Commissioner Arneson stated that it is difficult for citizens and local elected officials to keep up with agency agendas without some watchdog group such as NCLUCB. Commissioner Skoe indicated that lake shore associations are exerting pressure on the DNR to become more restrictive and we can't let the state take on more authority.
- g. **DNR strategic land acquisition program** and implications for northern counties PILT distributions. Could acquisition in southern counties reduce funding for PILT in the north?
- h. **Mining** trends should get an annual review. Several commissioners cited economic impacts of mining outside of traditional mining areas.
- i. **Wetland Mitigation:** in addition to in lieu fees, there are projects within affected watersheds that, while not traditional wetland mitigation, are significant water quality improvements. Examples could include sewer districts for shore land and lake management, watershed buffers, runoff controls and techniques, etc. Commissioner Stromlund stressed the value of this approach within the 80% counties and the focus on non-traditional and innovative water quality improvement initiatives.

Prior to moving for adjournment, Chairman Sve cited his conversations during the DNR Roundtable and, in particular, Rep. Erickson's bill on in-lieu fee mitigation alternatives. This important bill needs NCLUCB support and input as the legislative session gets underway and our attention during the session.

Adjournment at 11:50.