

Northern Counties Land Use Coordinating Board

June 5, 2014,

Chisholm, MN

Board Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: The NCLUCB meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Chairman Sve.

NCLUCB Members Present: Rich Sve, Brian Napstad, Brian McBride, Todd Miller, Steve Raukar, Garry Gamble, Wade Pavleck, Anne Marcotte,

Others present: John Ongaro, St. Louis County, Lori Dowling Hanson, DNR.

Administrative Actions:

Additions to the agenda and agenda approval: added Northern Long Eared Bat designation for discussion and county election filings. Agenda approved: m. Napstad, s. Miller.

Financial Report: approved. M. Raukar, s. Gamble

Action on Accounts Payable: Minnesota Discovery Center: \$ 144.28, J. Chell: \$946.06 Motion to Approve: Raukar, Second: Pavleck.

NCLUCB members reported on filings for various offices in their respective counties.

John Ongaro, St. Louis County legislative affairs representative, presented a summary of the 2014 legislative session. He stated that the projected surplus for the biennium was \$1.1 billion and that legislative actions accounted for the entire amount with half of the surplus directed toward direct tax relief and the other half allotted to bonding, supplemental appropriations and the rainy day fund. (Bonding Bill Handout). Commissioner Pavleck highlighted the need for wastewater local match funds from the bonding package.

Ongaro noted the Aquatic Invasive Species appropriation with the admonition to keep an open mind on the program. He indicated that the legislature rejected a DNR proposal for language giving DNR approval authority for county grants. John also stated that there will be an AIS conference in Duluth during the third week in October.

Conservation Easements were of significant interest during the session with many conservation groups attempting to repeal last session's provisions. Commissioner Napstad asked where does this leave the counties where folks are placing their lands in conservation easement status? Ongaro stated that there will probably be no Dept. of Revenue guidance

until after the district court rules on the Blandin Paper case. Looking at February, 2015 for that ruling and an appeal by either side to the state Supreme Court.

Wetland legislation was tabled during the session with an understanding that there will be interim hearings and Rep. Dill will have several meetings during the summer and fall. Commissioner Napstad reviewed his testimony and noted that five other groups also testified. All were opposed to any changes to WCA including outside of watershed mitigation.

Lori Dowling Hanson stated that a work group of local and state agency folks would meet in mid-July to begin drafting a wetlands bill.

Waters of the U.S.

Chairman Sve reported on the EPA hearing in St. Paul regarding the proposed Waters of the U.S. rules. In addition to reviewing testimony, Sve indicated that EPA Administrator McCarthy shortly after declaring that she "was a good listener", left the hearing. Commissioner Miller moved to approve and send the NCLUCB letter requesting additional time to review the proposed rules. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gamble. Unanimous approval by members present. (Letter attached).

Commissioner Napstad introduced the issue of endangered species for the Northern Long Eared Bat. Should a designation take place, forest harvest during June thru August could be significantly restricted.

Next meeting: depending on the potential participation of NCLUCB members in a July wetland work group, a July meeting could be held on July 10. Members will be notified. Otherwise, the August meeting will be on Aug. 7 at Northome.

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.