

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD**  
**July 29, 2020**

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in St. Mary's Community Center in Beardsley at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, July 29, 2020, to have a discussion on DNR and US Fish & Wildlife permitting processes and other related policies. Chairman Athey called the meeting to order with Commissioners Backer and Sandberg present. Commissioners Klepel and Olson were absent. Also present were Representative Jeff Backer, Senator Torrey Westrom, Staff Ag Assistant Grant Herfindahl, Traverse County Commissioner Todd Johnson, Stevens County Commissioner Ron Staples, IT Director Matt Anderson, Interim Coordinator Pam Rud, County Engineer Todd Larson, Highway Maintenance Supervisor Darby Karsky, Chief Deputy David Hills, County Auditor Michelle Knutson and 33 others from the public. Congressman Collin Peterson, Assistant DNR Commissioner Bob Meier, other DNR and US Fish & Wildlife representatives, and Lac qui Parle Commissioners Ben Bothun and John Maatz were participating via TEAMS. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Due to the pandemic, federal and state representatives were not able to attend in person. They were participating via TEAMS, but with the poor internet connection and the acoustics in the community center, it was very hard to hear all of the comments being made. Some of the topics discussed included perpetual easements and 99-year leases, the process for setting ordinary high water (OHW) elevations, the length of time to get a permit approved, and granting more local control to address these issues.

All those present and participating agreed that another meeting should be held when everyone can be in-person.

Chairman Athey declared the meeting adjourned at 8:43 PM.

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Wade Athey, Chairman

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Michelle R. Knutson, Auditor