

**Recreational Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 7, 2012**

Committee Members Present: Del Bergseth, Hank Ludtke, Ray Vlasak, Karen Mulari, Larry Knutson, Gerry Schram

Staff Present: Martin Wiley, Guy Fischer

Audience/Guest Participation Per Agenda: Ruth Bergquist, Willis Mattison, Neil Powers, Cathie Ferguson, Kay Grignon, Lanny Waalen; Cindy Anderson, Patrick

1. Introductions:

- **Introduction of New NRM/Parks and Recreation Director, Martin Wiley.**
- **Approval of Agenda/Approval of December 6, 2011 meeting minutes:** No quorum for RAC.
- **Elections:** No quorum for RAC.

NEW BUSINESS

2. Open Forum:

- **Speakers:** Ruth Bergquist – needs assessment – in favor of one indicating what we should have – what the land will support – need to get a handle on ATV need, resorts surveyed by RSA: Jolly Fisherman, Whaley's , Rainbow, Tamarac, Scout Camp, Refuge, Ice Cracking (most cater to non motorized in the Round Lake Township area; Ice Cracking encourages ATV riding). Willis Mattison (BCCRR) – show an effort to understand recreational need – what is a needs assessment – who is the audience, trail miles available – how many more are needed? ; Neal Powers – commend RAC for working thru these issues - views role as a technical advisor and offered to be a resource. Kathy Ferguson – needs assessment process/survey – use random selection for input, analyze for misinformation – favors long term 5 year master plan; Kay Grignon – needs assessment should have recreation focus, but don't forget needs assessment for the forest; Lanny Waalen – courthouse jammed with folks regarding 70 mile trail – why do we have to go back over it again?

3. Complete Streets:

- **Cindy Anderson (presenter) -** when opportunities arise create access to walkable communities; No. Washington Ave. provided as an example a complete streets model; develop policies that guide decisions - can create wiggle room for local discretion.
- **Patrick Hollister (presenter) –** spoke about the DL Active Living Survey (SHP4Health) – value of physical activity as part of design; mentioned Otter Tail County resolution; hoping for something similar for Becker County.

4. Recommendations and Process Considerations for Designated ATV Trail Development on County Managed Lands

- Ray Vlasak – Need to designate specific trails vs. additional trails. Larry Knutson – designated does not necessarily mean grant in aid. White Earth liked limited classification. We need to decide what to do.
- Willis Mattison - needs Assessment referenced in the REC Plan under 3. Recreational Inventory and Webpage (p.11):

Goal 3: Develop a needs assessment process for evaluating various recreational activities.

Rationale: A needs assessment is used to evaluate the need for a particular recreational activity and allows the County to pro-actively plan for future recreational activity on county tax forfeited land. (A needs assessment is a scientific study to gain an understanding of the recreation needs, attitudes, opinions and behaviors of the constituency served.)

Need a statistically valid sample of County-wide population. Ray Vlasak – we need a survey. Larry Knutson - Bring recommendation for needs assessment funding to Board. Other questions/comments raised by RAC: who are consultants that could do a needs assessment? What will needs assessment tell us? Staff will explore possible options and report back to board.

Need to designate existing trails. Marty – start to see this spatially on a map. Request a map of existing trails be developed for next meeting for discussion.

5. Meeting Adjourned