



COUNTY OF BECKER

Recreational Advisory Committee

- 915 Lake Ave., Detroit Lakes, MN 56501
- telephone: 218-846-7316
Website: www.co.becker.mn.us

RAC Meeting Notes

August 8th 2023

1:00 – 2:30 pm

Commissioners Board Room

Committee Members Present: Hank Ludke (VC), Karen Mulari (C - REMOTELY), Del Bergseth, Phil Hansen, John Okeson, David Meyer.

Absent: Paige Perry, Abby Anderson

Staff Present: Mitch Lundeen, Steve Skoog, Cody Piper

Audience/Guest Participation Per Agenda: Mark Bjerke, Michelle Maier, Howard Mooney

1. Welcome & Introductions

2. RAC Bylaws Review and Updates: The County Board removed the by-law requirements:

- Follow Roberts rules.
- Removed the scheduled monthly meeting day. The Committee can schedule future meetings as needed. Staff will update the bylaws for review and/or further discussion at the next meeting.
- Recommendation by the Committee for staff to reach out to neighboring counties to see what they are working on and summarize it along with County recreation projects in summary report to the Committee.

Request by the Committee to have the electronic version of the Becker County Rec Plan sent to Committee members.

- #### 3. Appointments:
- District 5 Commissioner recommended to the County Board to appoint Abby Anderson to the RAC, the recommendation was approved. Applications for a Member at Large is currently being advertised online and, in the paper, notice closes on 8/31/2023. Interested applicants can apply to the County Administrator. Applicants will be reviewed, and MAL will be appointed on 9/4/2023. Howard Mooney was introduced and is interested in serving on the committee, Howard worked MNDNR Forestry for 38 years based out of the Detroit Lakes Area and now is a private forestry consultant and a recreation advocate. **The Committee deemed this introduction as sufficient for MAL application for appointment.**
- #### 4. 7/11/23 RAC Notes Review and Approval:
- Hansen made a motion to approve meeting notes, Bergseth seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

5. **Proposed Troll location at Dunton Locks**, Project 412 Rep, Michelle Meyer: Project 412 is interested in placing a large troll made from recyclable or reusable waste materials such as rough-cut wood, branches, pallets, plastic, etc. out at Dunton Locks. They're planning to place six (6) trolls around the Detroit Lakes area. Hansen made a motion to allow a troll to be built at Dunton Locks, Bergeth seconded. All in favor, motion passed.
 - Committee requested staff to research who would be responsible for maintenance of the Troll and trail construction costs from the Dunton Locks shelter area to the Troll location.
 - Staff will meet with the Planning and Zoning Department to determine if any setbacks or variances are needed and report back.

6. **WEFEST** General Manager, Mark Bjerke- Initial discussions about creating and/or expanding a bike/walking path from Dunton Locks through Soo Pass Ranch to Shoreham area. Bjerke mentioned the Soo Pass property has been surveyed, more surveying may be required. The Committee asked if these surveys could be shared with staff or the RAC Committee to see if they line up with a potential future trail. The committee reviewed a map with possible locations for a bike trail. Soo Pass is not in favor of any permanent easement at this time. Future bike trails would be closed during WEFEST preparation and during the event. Ongoing discussions are needed, committee should look for a possible agreement or MOU between all parties for trail expansion. Funding may be available for a trail routing/feasibility study through the Partnership for Health. **Lundeen will reach out to Partnership4Health (Patrick Hollister) and send a map of potential routes from Dunton Locks to the Shoreham area and to Bucks Mills to him.**

7. **Current/Ongoing Projects Update:**
 - a. Eagle Lake Park (Frazee) –Purchase agreement already in place. County is interested in acquiring if the Eagle Lake Park Association or City of Frazee decided to sell.
 - b. Dunton Locks –
 - a. The Tram is currently shutdown due to low water levels.
 - b. Shelter replacement project - Staff are waiting for a response from SHPO and OSA regarding the archeological study and the findings determination at the proposed new shelter location.
 - c. Two smaller shelters need to be replaced, Hansen made a motion to gather price estimates for replacing smaller shelters, Bergseth seconded. Motion carried.
 - d. Discussion regarding installing a Kayak launch site. The Committee supported the concept of a kayak launching area, did not recommend purchasing kayaks for the public to use.
 - c. Bucks Mill- Becker County now owns 1.6 acres along the southside of the original pelican riverbed. Staff will need to flag out area where fence will be installed this fall. Red River Commission is meeting at Bucks Mill August 17th at 10 am for a short informative presentation by MNDNR Fisheries Staff regarding future fish passage project. Lundeen will send a meeting invite to the Committee.
 - d. Wannigan Park – the conceptual layout is being worked on by the consultant (WSN)
 - e. North County Trail land acquisition – looking for a permanent easement possible land purchase for a camping site near the Tamarac Wildlife Refuge, this is not moving forward at this time.
 - f. Heartland Trail Bonding Requests – Becker County submitted a \$1.8 Million bonding request for 2024 trail extension. State Senate Capital Investment Committee selected the bonding request for

a presentation and later bus tour. The senate committee will convene in Moorhead on August 15th to hear the presentation.

8. **RAC Field Tour:** The Committee would like to have a tour of current projects sometime this Fall after all RAC Members have been appointed or filled.
9. **Per Diems:** Staff will bring Per Diem spreadsheets for RAC members to the next meeting.
10. **Open Forum Discussion:** recommendation by the Committee to place Open Forum first on future agendas.
11. Hansen motioned to set the next meeting date for September 12th at 1:00 in the 1st floor meeting room of the Becker County Courthouse, Bergseth 2nd the motion. Motion carried.
12. Vice Chair Ludke made a motion to table the rest of the agenda for now, Bergseth 2nd, Motion Passed.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:36pm

NEXT RAC MEETING SCHEDULED FOR September 12th at 1PM