



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

September 12th, 2023

1:00 – 2:30 pm

Dunton Locks County Park

Committee Members Present: Hank Ludke (VC), Karen Mulari (C), Del Bergseth, Phil Hansen, John Okeson, Keith Zachariason, Howard Kluender, David Meyer.

Absent: Paige Perry

Staff Present: Mitch Lundeen, Steve Skoog

Audience/Guest Participation Per Agenda: None

1. **Welcome & Introductions**
2. **Open Forum:** None. Discussed a five-minute maximum per individual.
3. **Appointments:** New appointees were introduced. Howard Kluender (Member at Large) and Keith Zachariason (District 5). Commissioner Meyer is searching for a member from District 2.
4. **8/8/23 RAC Notes Review and Approval:** Ludke made a motion to approve meeting notes, Bergseth seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

Current/Ongoing Projects:

5. Dunton Locks Park
 - *Dunton Locks Tram* - shutdown for the remainder of the year due to low water levels and seasonality. Staff will investigate repairs and updates that need to be done in the offseason, primarily on the Lake Sallie side.
 - *Dunton Locks Shelter Grant*- Staff having discussion with DNR staff regarding Phase One. Archeological Survey Results, Scope of Grant, allowed footprint space for the building, and possible extension. Staff will update RAC.
 - *Dunton Locks Troll*- A large troll is scheduled to be placed next spring at Dunton Locks County Park. Staff by Project 412 and the Pelican River Watershed have visited the desirable location for the troll and are having discussions whether a Shoreland Impact Permit is needed.
 - *Dunton Locks Bike Path* – A segment of the bike path from W Lake Drive to Dunton Locks is scheduled to be overlaid with pavement in the next week.
 - *Dunton Locks Small Shelters*- Two smaller shelters will be torn down and replaced before next spring.

6. **Bucks Mill**– Becker County now owns 1.6 acres along the southside of the original pelican riverbed. Fencing is scheduled to start in Mid-October.
7. **Wannigan Park** – Wannigan Park is now owned by Frazee Community Development Corp (FCDC). Applying for an Outdoor Recreation Grant for recreation and trail planning.
8. **North County Trail land acquisition** – looking for a permanent easement possible land purchase for a camping site near the Tamarac Wildlife Refuge, discussions/negotiations continue between NCT and landowners.
9. **Chilton Park**- Located on Bass Lake north of Snellman with almost 1 mile of shoreline and proximity to the North Smoky Mtn Trails. The Committee discussed primitive camping opportunities here. Becker County staff have already compiled some information for this and will research further. Staff will follow up at the next meeting. Ideally it would be nice to initially create 2-5 primitive camping sites.
10. **Heartland Trail**– Becker County submitted a \$1.8 Million bonding request for 2024 trail extension. The Committee reviewed maps and discussed recent open house regarding Detroit Mtn Spur from Hwy 54 to Detroit Mtn.
11. **Per Diems**: Mitch informed members of the per diem rates and passed around sign in sheet to gather physical addresses and contact info. Per diems’ reimbursement will be retroactive.
12. **OTHER**:
 - a. **ATV Trails**- Becker County needs GIA trails for ATV’s. ATV Clubs are reimbursed by the DNR per job, not per mile like the GIA snowmobile program. Becker county already has miles and miles of trails located throughout its tax forfeited land base, if the ATV trails were designated GIA that could cost share and significantly aid in maintenance repairs, outreach, and safety.
 - b. **Dunton Locks Rd Park and Ride**- Staff will talk with Hwy department to see if this could be expanded and striped.
 - c. **Public Accesses Map** – Staff will send out a link to Becker County public accesses and create a map to show all accesses and who administers/maintains them.
 - d. **Dunton Locks** – Shoreham Bike Path- Keep discussions going with Soo Pass General Manager, Mark Bjerke and invite him to next meeting for an update.
13. 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, Ludke 2nd the motion. Motion carried.
14. Vice Chair Ludke made a motion to table the rest of the agenda for now, Bergseth 2nd, Motion Passed.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:42pm

NEXT RAC MEETING DATE TBD