



# COUNTY OF BECKER

## *Recreational Advisory Committee*

- 915 Lake Ave., Detroit Lakes, MN 56501
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### **RAC Meeting Notes**

**December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**1:00 – 2:30 pm**

**Becker County HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT  
1771 North Tower Road, Detroit Lakes, MN**

**Committee Members Present:** Hank Ludke, Del Bergseth, Phil Hansen, John Okeson, Keith Zachariason, Howard Kluender, David Meyer, Jim Granger, Karen Mulari

**Absent:**

**Staff Present:** Mitch Lundeen, Steve Skoog, Jim Olson

**Audience/Guest Participation Per Agenda:** Mark Bjerke, Dave Suppa, Michelle Maier

#### **1. Welcome & Introductions**

**2. 2024 Meeting Dates – 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month from 1:00-2:30. The 1/9/2024 meeting will be moved to 1/10/2024 due to conflicting meeting times. **RAC will now meet at the County Highway Department vs. County Board Room.****

#### **3. Open Forum:**

- A. Bike Trail Update - We Fest General Manager, Mark Bjerke & Soo Pass Ranch Manager, Dave Suppa described a housing project that will be considered by the next planning commission then brought to the County Board in 2024 if approved. Current ski trails south of the ticket booth will need to be remarked/removed due to construction. Mitch will notify the ski club and groomer.
- B. Troll Update- Project 412, Michelle Maier provided an update on the Troll locations and an estimated implementation timeline. Wannigan Park (1), Dunton Locks (1), Detroit Mtn (2), Fingalson Farm (1), City Of DL near the pavilion (1). They hope to start building trolls in May 2024.

**4. 10/10/23 RAC Notes Review and Approval:** Ludke made a motion to approve meeting notes, Meyer seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

#### **Current/Ongoing Projects:**

##### **5. Dunton Locks Park**

- *Dunton Locks Shelter Grant-* Staff recommended not to place fill over positive archaeological sites. Staff will work with building and civil engineers to avoid these areas. Plan is to have a new shelter up by Fall 2024. Weed conveyor will need to be removed from the park, it was discussed that it

could be placed at the Highway 59 pit. Hansen will have a discussion at next Watershed meeting.  
Discussed expanding parking off Hwy 59 to Dunton Locks Trail.

6. **Toad Mountain Property** – Trust for Public Land (TPL) has made an offer to the landowner of Toad Mountain. If the offer is accepted, TPL will need to draft a purchase agreement. Some general discussions took place with the committee if Becker County were to acquire and manage Toad Mountain. (Existing Buildings, Unstable Soils, Lakeshore Property, Planning Efforts). Mitch is building a large interactive map which will show all current and potential parks and recreational areas throughout the county.
7. **Wannigan Park**- Ludke discussed the number of different camp sites and various trails planned within the park. Frazee Community Development Corporation is the owner of Wannigan Park and Manages it.
8. **Becker County Comprehensive Plan**- Staff shared a word cloud and draft mission statement with the committee as well as a link to a survey.
9. **Heartland Trail**– Heartland State Trail Committee meeting being held 12-14-23. Becker County Engineer and Detroit Lakes City Administrator working with the landowner to purchase land for trail construction.
10. **Snowmobile Grant** – ULTRA Snowmobile Club received a grant for \$9,000 to repair a stretch of bridge along NE Rock Lake Rd.
11. **Woods n Wheels/ATV Ordinance** – Staff working on a ATV ordinance to allow Class 1 ATVs to travel on a stretch of the road from Balmi Cemetery to the City of Wolf Lake. Staff will need to have more in depth conversations regarding some topics on the draft ordinance.
12. **Forest Road Signs**- Staff will be installing/replacing forest road signs on main forest road intersections in the spring of 2024. Committee agreed to leave the BC logo on the signs.
13. **North County Trail and USFWS Potential Acquisition**- NCT working to try and acquire the Rogstad Property near Island Lake for potential camping site locations. USFWS is interested in owning/managing a portion of the Rogstad Property. Looking for Becker County support in purchasing a smaller parcel connected to lake or east of the parcel USFWS is interested in.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:33pm

**NEXT RAC MEETING DATE – WEDS, January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023.**

**Proposed 2024 Meeting Dates (1-2:30)**

**1-10-2024**

**2-13-2024**

**3-12-2024**

**4-9-2024**

**5-14-2024**

**6-11-2024**

**7-9-2024**

**8-13-2024**

**9-10-2024    10-8-2024    11-12-2024    12-10-2024.**