



# COUNTY OF BECKER

## *Recreational Advisory Committee*

- telephone: 218-847-0099  
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### **RAC Meeting- Toad Mountain Project Focus**

**April 22, 2024**

**1:00 – 2:30 p.m.**

**Becker County HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

**1771 North Tower Road, Detroit Lakes, MN**

### **AGENDA & NOTES**

1. Welcome & Introductions –

**Present-** Commissioner Meyer and Okeson, Ludke, Zachariason, Kluender, Mulari, Bergseth, Skoog, Piper, Lundeen, Doug LeSage. (Bambi Resort on Toad Lake), Nick Bancks (MN Trust for Public Land, TPL).

**Absent-** Granger, Hansen.

2. **Open Forum** – Doug LeSage brought some concerns to the committee if Toad Mountain were to compete with other private camping areas and resorts. Bambi Resort only offers seasonal camping on Toad Lake, which is often booked full every season. The Toad Mountain project would be more geared to primitive or overnight camping, which there is a lack of in Becker County. The RAC committee agreed that they're looking to fill that void, but not compete with other private individuals or industry. Doug also mentioned that there are specific rules according to the MN DNR as to how many camping units we can have associated with bathroom facilities, Mitch will research this and update the RAC.

3. **Trust for Public Land Presentation & Discussion – Nick Bancks (TPL)**

Nick provided a background and role of Trust for Public Land. Their motto is to protect, restore, and acquire land. "Public Land for Public Good". (ATTACHED IS THE TOAD MOUNTAIN ACQUISITION SUMMARY)

#### **Key Notes and Timelines:**

1. We will need to see the appraisal before moving forward on the project to see if it comes in to where Becker County can apply for State and Federal grant funding to support the acquisition of the land.
2. To qualify or apply for one source of the grant funding we need to consult with a university and/or private consulting firm to create a "Master Plan" for Toad Mountain Project, then submit it and see if the Greater Parks and Trails Commission designates it as regional significance. These Master Plans cost anywhere from \$25,000-75,000 to compile with several RAC meetings, public/stakeholder input, plan development, etc. This would be one cost that Becker County would need to absorb.

\*The RAC agreed to move forward with getting a plan created\* This will be discussed at the future Natural Resources Management Committee meeting and Upcoming Board Meeting.

3. The other cost to Becker County would likely be holding costs from when TPL transitions the land to Becker County. This is estimated to be around \$200,000. Some discussion revolved around bonding and if it could be requested for additional funding if needed to cover county costs.
4. **Other:** Need to set a new date for the next RAC Field Tour/Regular Meeting Date sometime in May- June. Mitch will put together a doodle poll and send out to the group, whichever dates is selected by the majority will be the date. The field tour will likely be a morning event, followed with a short regular business meeting in the afternoon if the committee decides to.

#### 4. Adjournment