



# COUNTY OF BECKER

## *Recreational Advisory Committee*

• telephone: 218-847-0099

Website: [www.co.becker.mn.us](http://www.co.becker.mn.us)

### **RAC Meeting**

**September 10, 2024**

**1:00 – 2:30 p.m.**

**Becker County HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

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

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

Absent:

Staff Present: Mitch Lundeen, Cody Piper, Steve Skoog

Guest: Amy Stearns, Executive Director – Project 412

### **Meeting Notes**

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Open Forum – **None**
3. August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – Meeting Notes Review and Approval – **Approved Ludke, Granger.**
4. Project 412 Presentation – Amy Stearns, Executive Director of Project 412.

**Project 412 is a non-profit organization mission is to connect and elevate the cultural and economic vibrancy of the lakes area. The organization stives to make Detroit Lakes and the surrounding area a better place through public art, events, projects, etc.**

**Project 412 was very involved and instrumental in bringing the Trolls to Becker County. They're 5 large wooden trolls and one yellow rabbit made from recycled plastic material in Becker County. They've attracted thousands of people to view them, approximately 500-1000 people a day for a while. Average dwelling time experiencing trolls are approximately 11mintute. Amy Stearns thanked the County Commissioners, Staff, and RAC for supporting the Troll project.**

5. Toad Mountain Status, Survey Results, Next Steps.

**Toad Mtn project had 2 public input meetings (8/14, Wolf Lake & 8/15, DL) moderated by Commissioner Okeson and Jepson in Wolf Lake and Commissioner Okeson and Meyer in DL. Approximately 20-30 attendees per meeting. Staff explained the project background and master plan process.**

**There has been some local opposition towards this project mostly themed around taxes, increased traffic, government spending, etc. However, overall, the survey results show many would be in favor of acquiring Toad Mountain for various reasons such as recreational activities, natural/restored area, and scenic views. Commissioner Jepson and County Administrator Carrie Smith attended the Toad Lake Township Board September 9<sup>th</sup> and will update the full Becker County Board on September 17<sup>th</sup>.**

**Staff will bring the Toad Mountain project reconsideration of the Master Plan contract back to the County Board on September 17<sup>th</sup>.**

**6. Update on Current and Ongoing Projects –**

**a. Dunton Locks Updates-**

**Shelter Grant Bid- Received a total of 5 bids, low bid was awarded to Bristlin Construction for \$472,860 + (\$4,805 for alternate bid) at the September 3<sup>rd</sup> County Board meeting. The highest bid received was \$729,702. Construction will begin this fall and be wrapped up before June 1, 2025.**

**Soo Pass Agreement-**

**Staff will begin discussions with Soo Pass Ranch again to resolve trespass issues soon and restore the previous agreement between Soo Pass Ranch and Becker County before snowfall occurs.**

**b. Wannigan Park Update- Becker County donating equipment/labor towards main access road into the park, FCDC covering other costs. Other grants in the works.**

**c. Heartland Trail Update – Wetland parcel acquired by Becker County, County/DNR drafting bid for trail construction currently, Becker County has approximately \$740K of bonding money that needs to be spent before the end of the year. Staff shared preferred bike route map from Heartland Trail committee from Hawley to Detroit Lakes.**

**d. Osage Swimming Beach Update- Mitch met with DNR, SWCD, and Osage Twp on site to discuss removal of concrete and rebar in the water along the swimming beach. DNR will attempt to remove concrete or rebar this fall or next spring. Mitch also discussed options to acquire land/road right of way with the township chairman to increase parking area. Township chairman will discuss with board at their next meeting.**

**e. Woods N Wheels ATV GIA Application/Proposal- Update, staff will bring a resolution to the next County Board meeting to become the sponsor for Woods and Wheels ATV club for nearly 47 miles of existing atv trails in the NE portion of the County located on Becker County tax forfeited lands.**

**7. Other- Forest Road Maintenance discussion and update were provided to committee members.**

**8. Adjournment – 2:32**