



COUNTY OF BECKER

Recreational Advisory Committee

- telephone: 218-847-0099
Website: www.co.becker.mn.us

RAC Meeting

October 15, 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, David Meyer, Del Bergseth, Phil Hansen

Absent: John Okeson

Staff Present: Mitch Lundeen, Cody Piper, Steve Skoog

Guest: None

Meeting Notes

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Open Forum – **None**
3. September 10th, 2024 – Meeting Notes Review and Approval – **Approved Ludke, Granger.**
4. Toad Mountain Status, Next Steps.

The county board voted down moving forward with the Toad Mountain Project on September 17th and efforts on the project discontinue. On October 1st an anonymous donor pledged a donation up to \$250,000 to help cover the cost of the master plan cost and if successful in acquisition grants the holding cost (interest/acquisition cost).

Staff are being directed to continue conversations with SRF consulting and TPL to gather data for a master plan and move forward with the project. Staff have already conducted some background work and public input meetings; therefore, the cost of the master plan proposal will be minimally deducted, there will still be at least one more public input meeting and likely a core planning/steering team or committee that is configured if necessary.

5. Update on Current and Ongoing Projects –
 - a. Dunton Locks Updates-

Variance approved for the shelter approved, construction has begun. As of October 15th, the grade has been set, concrete has been poured, and the foundational beams have been placed. Becker County board has approved upgrading the electrical system to the new shelter. Septic system has been inspected and is failing, new holding tanks will be needed relatively soon, staff will monitor the usage

in 2025 and update the remaining or the septic system when water meter data is collected and analyzed.

Bike Path –

Two trees will need to be removed to route the trail connection from the existing path to fishing pier trail, this short trail connection will be construction thru the alternate bid received from Bristlin Construction, it is not part of the grant.

The bike path extension discussion from Dunton locks down to Shoreham is still being researched, Phil Hansen will reach out to nearby adjacent landowners regarding an expansion or possible option to split and acquire a small piece of land near Hwy 59 existing parking area to see if they have any interest, it should be noted that this is to gauge interest only, the county has not obligated itself to any such project or funds for this project at this time. Grant solicitation for MN Active Transportation Program deadline is November 4th, 2024 if grant funding is going to be considered for project, mitch will talk with Jim Olson (Hwy Engineer) regarding this.

Soo Pass Agreement-

Soo Pass Ranch Manager has verbally committed to opening up the trails into Soo Pass Ranch for winter activities and grooming. Staff will revisit the original year round agreement with Soo Pass in the near future.

Wannigan Park Update-

Busy going after grants, fundraising. Hoping that in 2026 there will be water, sewer, electric brought into the park. Fixing up bridge in the future.

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. Bids to be let soon construction from Frazee to current location to begin in the spring of 2025. Heartland Trail meeting on Wednesday October 23rd from 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm at the Glyndon Community Center located at 212 Partridge Ave S, Glyndon, MN to discuss route thru Clay County.

Osage Swimming Beach Update-

DNR will attempt to remove concrete or rebar next spring. Mitch also discussed options to acquire land/road right of way with the township chairman to increase parking area. Township board open to vacating the road to the county to increase parking area and park amenities.

Woods N Wheels ATV GIA Application/Proposal-

County Board approved becoming 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. Mitch will work on GIA application and making edits on the trail map with ATV Club before submitting to DNR. Club to name the trail “Ice Cracking Trail”.

6. Other-

Forest Road Maintenance, Camp 5 and 6, Old Many Points Trail being worked on currently. 6-8 culvert replacements.

7. Adjournment – 2:32

DRAFT