



COUNTY OF BECKER

Recreational Advisory Committee

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

RAC Meeting (ORAGANIZATIONAL)

January 14, 2024

1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Becker County Courthouse, Boardroom

915 Lake Ave, Detroit Lakes, MN

Committee Members Present: Howard Kluender, Keith Zachariason, Jim Granger, Commissioner Jepson, Commissioner Hansen, Karen Mulari.

Absent: Hank Ludke, Del Bergseth

Staff Present: Mitch Lundeen, Steve Skoog, Cody Piper (virtual)

Guest: Glenn Gifford

Meeting Notes

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Open Forum – **None**
3. December 17th, 2024 –Meeting Notes Review and Approval – **Approved Zachariason, Granger.**
4. Update Committee Information, Appointments, and Terms-
 - a. Appointments – **Hank Ludke, District 3 representative has requested his resignation from the RAC. RAC will need to appoint someone from District 3, John Okeson has shown interest. Staff will reach out to Ludke to receive formal resignation letter. Phil Hansen is now serving on the RAC committee as a commissioner, therefore the Member at Large (MAL) position needs to be filled. The County Board will accept letters of interest for a MAL and bring those forward to a future board meeting. The posting will be on the Becker County Website and Posted in the local paper. It's anticipated the County Board will make an appointment on February 4, 2025.**
 - b. Terms- **RAC terms are set and staggered, will update and review in February when MAL is filled. Staff will send out RAC Bylaws (attached)**
5. Update on Current and Ongoing Projects –
 - a. Dunton Locks:
 - b. Shelter Update–
 - c. **Project is ahead of schedule, siding and roofing are installed drywall and interior paneling is being installed now. New shelter is set to be finished June 1, 2025. Staff are taking reservations for the new shelter now. Staff should install a QR code on kiosk so people can reserve shelter or see when its available for rent. 2025 rental rates have already been set by County Board.**

Staff also considering renovating the old shelter vs. tearing it down, this will be discussed at the County Board.

- d. Buckthorn Control Grant – Staff are considering applying for a habitat/invasive species grant to control buckthorn on county lands located in Dunton Locks County Park for up to \$25,000. There is a 10% Match which can be cash or in-kind. Grant is reimbursed upon payment. Mechanical treatment 2025, Chemical treatment 2026. Approximately 20 acres.**
- e. MPCA Stormwater Grant- Staff are also considering if there is a need to apply for financial assistance to install stormwater retention areas at Dunton Locks such as rain gardens or infiltration systems. Staff will do more research if this is needed.**

Wannigan Park Update-

Received recent donation of \$300,000. Bike Path routing. In other news FCDC recently received a \$917,000 grant from the GMRPTC to build shelters, design and implement a trail network, camping areas, restrooms, etc. There is a possibility of more roads being paved in 2026 into the park.

Heartland Trail Update –

Construction from the old county Hwy 10 bridge to the city of Frazee will occur in the summer of 2025. Bids to be opened January 16th, 2025. Staff to ask DNR if bids are under engineer estimate and there are remaining bonding funds can they be used for trail feasibility studies in the area and if they can recoup funds spend from recreation budget for acquisition of land from old HWY 10 bridge to Frazee. Next Heartland Trail Committee meeting will be in February, likely the second week.

Hwy 59 Rest Stop/Parking Area- Mitch will consult with Becker County Hwy Engineer to see what could be done to expand the parking area and provide a larger rest stop. The committee recommended having the engineer draft a rough concept if possible and showcase it to the RAC at the next meeting. The private landowners seem favorable to possible sale of land.

Woods N Wheels ATV GIA Application/Proposal-

Application is still being worked on by staff and ATV club. Twp and Snowmobile Club are in support of ATV GIA Trail system.

ATV Economic Study- Kluender presented, report summary (attached).

Potential to designate Tax Forfeit lands as Parks – The committee discussed tax forfeited land locations that would be more suitable for park or public recreation purposes vs. underutilized lands besides forest management activities. Couple examples were Osage Beach, Chilton Park, and Little Sugarbush Lake parcels. This would also help brand awareness to the public. Mitch to check on MN Dept of Health or DNR standards or requirements for bathrooms and water supply at parks or day use areas that could contain camping.

Recreation Budget- **Informational, the budget will be spent down with the development of a new shelter at Dunton Locks.**

Other- Need to elect vice chair. The committee will do this at the next RAC meeting, a motion was made by Keith Zachariason to make Interim Vice Chair Jim Granger, Howard Kluender seconded, motion passed.

NEXT RAC MEETING is 2-11-2025

6. Adjournment –3:03 PM

DRAFT