



COUNTY OF BECKER

Recreational Advisory Committee

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

RAC Meeting NOTES

February 11, 2025

1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Becker County Courthouse, Boardroom
915 Lake Ave, Detroit Lakes, MN

Committee Members Present: Keith Zachariason, Jim Granger, Commissioner Jepson, Commissioner Hansen, John Okeson, Glenn Gifford.

Absent: Del Bergseth (out of state), Howard Kluender (injury), Karen Mulari

Staff Present: Mitch Lundeen, Jim Olson, Steve Skoog

Guest: None

Meeting Notes

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Open Forum – **None**
3. January 14th, 2025 – Meeting Notes Review and Approval – **Approved Zachariason, Gifford.**
4. Update Committee Information, Appointments, and Terms-
 - a. Appointments – **Recent appointments are John Okeson for district 3 and Glenn Gifford for Member at Large. All appointments are filled. Staff provided the committee with an updated member list and terms.**
5. Update on Current and Ongoing Projects –
 - a. Dunton Locks:
 - b. New 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.**
 - d. Old Shelter Update- **Staff have begun removing paneling, plumbing and other fixtures out of the old shelter. Once these items are removed and the north end of the shelter is gutted staff will consult with the general contractor to discuss options for renovating and preserving the shelter if feasible. It's also likely some of the County Commissioners will take a look at the building once it's gutted to help make a decision to preserve it or demolish it.**
 - e. Parking expansion Dunton Locks Park and Dunton Locks Rd/HWY 59- **Staff will work with Pelican River Watershed to provide an alternative or additional access point to their storage**

building in the park; by doing this we should be able to increase the parking spaces along the building and possibly in other locations.

County Engineer, Jim Olson stated there is opportunities to expand the parking inside the ROW of the existing Township road off of HWY 59, if township allowed it. This would possibly eliminate the need for the county to purchase the land from the underlying landowner unless the county intends to add more than parking expansion at this specific location.

Jim offered to draw up a concept layout for the underlying landowner of parking expansion.

6. Heartland Trail Update –

Construction from the old county Hwy 10 bridge to the city of Frazee will occur in the spring/summer of 2025. Low bid was awarded to Hough, Inc. for \$668,673.03, 22% under the engineers estimate. Staff will ask DNR about possible remaining bonding funds from 2020 and 2023 and how they could be allocated or if possible re-appropriated from the legislature.

Staff will also begin working on an RFP to have a routing/feasibility study done for possible connections to the future Heartland state trail or spurs. Staff will update the committee regarding this at the next committee meeting.

7. Wannigan Park Update- **No update.**

8. Woods N Wheels ATV GIA Application/Proposal-

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

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. A couple of examples were Osage Beach, Chilton Park, and Little Sugarbush Lake parcels. Mitch will gather PILT loss to Townships for each parcel desired. Mitch will also provide the committee with an update of Pros vs. Cons of having parcels owned in fee tittle vs tax forfeited.

Other- Eagle Lake public access and park were discussed by the committee. The committee is curious is the parcel will remain open to the public or are the sellers/buyers intending to close off the current public access. If the parcel were to ever be purchased by the county, could the parcel be split in half, would there be enough space for housing development. Mitch and Commissioner Hansen will report back to the committee the status of this parcel at the next meeting.

9. Adjournment –2:14 PM

NEXT RAC MEETING is 3-11-2025