



COUNTY OF BECKER

Recreational Advisory Committee

• telephone: 218-847-0099

Website: www.co.becker.mn.us

RAC Meeting NOTES

August 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 Hansen, John Okeson, Howard Kluender, Karen Mulari, Del Bergseth, Commissioner Jepson

Absent: Glenn Gifford

Staff Present: Mitch Lundeen, Cody Piper, Steve Skoog

Guest: Polly Anderson (FCDC/Wannigan Park)

Meeting Notes

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Open Forum – **None**
3. July 14th, 2025 –Meeting Notes Review and Approval – **Approved Hansen, Zachariason.**
4. Update on Current and Ongoing Projects –
 - a. Dunton Locks:
New/Old Shelter & PRWD Bldg. Update–
New shelter is completed. Plan is to apply for grant funding to renovate the old VFW shelter and expand parking in spring of 2026. Pelican river watershed building has been purchased by Becker County; staff plan to put together an RFP for the building removal this fall.

Picnic Tables- Still Awaiting check from Disabled American Veterans to arrive. Once that arrives and is accepted by County Board, then Mulari will forward with designing and completing the plaque.
 - b. Parking expansion Dunton Locks Park and Dunton Locks Rd/HWY 59- **Work is planned to be completed in the coming weeks.**
5. Heartland Trail Update –
Construction of the trail from OLD HWY 10 bridge to Frazee is completed. The committee discussed how the 2023 Bonding funds can be used. \$550,000 bonding funds can be used for other portions of the Heartland Trail for planning, designs, and environmental reviews, which must be spent by December 2027. Bonding funds cannot be spent to construct trail or do a routing study.

6. Trail Routing Study- Currently seeking public input, staff will display poster of routing study map at the county fair. Public Open House is scheduled for August 25th from 4:30-6:30, at the Detroit Lakes Pavilion on Detroit Lake. RAC members should try to attend, let Mitch know if you plan to attend as we may need RAC members' support. Project website below.
<https://tinyurl.com/heartland-trail-study>
7. Wannigan Park Update- Polly Anderson provided a presentation of where things are at with the park plan, financials, and implementation schedule. Trail paving to occur this fall approximately 2 miles. Camping will be developed in 3 phases, starting with primitive, adding utilities in 2026. Becker County Highway dept is helping design roundabout near entrance to park. Becker County NRM can provide some trees to be planted at the park in the spring of 2026 and/or provide some technical assistance. Becker County Children's Initiative contributed \$15,000 to the park project recently
8. City of DL – Park Board- Jim Granger and Commissioner Hansen attended the last park board meeting. Jim Granger will continue to attend future park board meetings and report back to the RAC. Discussion regarding QR codes and uniform messaging about parks and recreation throughout the county. Granger or Hansen will invite Jamon Friendshuh from City of DL to future meeting to explain their messaging and branding. Does Becker County have a strategic plan for Parks and Recreation? DAV finished installing a handicap accessible dock on Big Detroit today. Discussed West Lake Drive road work and future sidewalk trails.
9. Osage Swimming Beach- MN DNR is going to make another attempt at pulling all the concrete and rebar from the beach and fix erosion issues on the shore September 8-11th. County staff will assist with bringing in beach sand to fill where needed. Commissioner Jepson will plan to attend a future Osage Twp Board meeting to discuss Osage Swimming Beach and surrounding public lands. Staff met with Osage Twp Chair regarding the beach property, twp. parcel south of 34, and nearby DNR properties.
10. Little Sugarbush TF Parcel- Lundeen and Mulari attended the Sugarbush Twp meeting on July 14th to inform the twp. board of tax forfeited parcel and gauge interest or concerns about turning this parcel into a public use area. The Twp board was receptive and supportive of this becoming a public use area. Staff will continue to keep the twp. board and residents informed of any future projects happening on this parcel. Some ideas were boat access, beach, hiking, frisbee golf course, ballpark, event center shelter, etc. Committee also discussed the existing building structure onsite and what to do with it and staffing capacity to maintain more county parks. Discussion regarding fees and vegetation management on property.
11. Per Diems- Per Diems we're handed out.

Other- **HOMEWORK for RAC members: Come up with a prioritized list of projects and locations for next meeting to discuss around the table.** Staff will send out a form or survey with a list of project ideas and locations to help condense prioritization.

Need to weigh out the options or pros and cons of classifying/designating tax forfeited properties as county fee owned properties.

12. Adjournment –2:53 PM

NEXT RAC MEETING IS MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8th. Courthouse