



COUNTY OF BECKER

Recreational Advisory Committee

• telephone: 218-847-0099

Website: www.co.becker.mn.us

RAC Meeting NOTES

September 8, 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: Patrick Hollister (Partnership for Health), Amy Stearns & Sarah Hoffman (Project 412), Sam Trebilcock & Kyle Nepal (Houston Engineering), Rose Bruce-White (MN DOT) .

Meeting Notes

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Open Forum – **None**
3. August 11, 2025 –Meeting Notes Review and Approval – **Approved Zachariason, Kluender.**
4. Update on Current and Ongoing Projects –
 - a. Dunton Locks:
Hwy 59 Parking Expansion–
Parking lot expansion has been completed of Hwy 59 and Dunton Locks Rd.
 - b. Picnic Tables-
\$1,500 Disabled American Veterans Chapter 31 donation arrived and was accepted by County Board recently, Mulari will move forward with designing and completing the donation acknowledgement plaque. It was agreed that the breakfast rotary has been changed to the morning rotary.
 - c. Shelter renovation-parking lot expansion grant-
The committee discussed how we should showcase the historical significance of Dunton Locks Park and waterways, this could be part of the scope of the renovations grant to the old shelter. It was discussed that a subcommittee could be established to work on putting together the grant proposal, nothing has been decided yet. Mitch will Invite Becky Mitchell from Historical Society to the next meeting to see what services could be offered to help with grant.

5. **Heartland Trail Update –**
Next Heartland trail committee meeting is September 10th. Houston Engineering will present update on trail routing study, and committee will begin discussion on how to spend the \$550k 2023 bonding money.
6. **Trail Routing Study- Houston Engineering presented the condensed trail routing study, gave an overview of the open house, and received comment on trail routing study. Hwy 59 and County Road 17 appear more favorable at this point rather than County Road 22. The study will be presented to the County Board next Tuesday. Final Routing Study is due September 30th. What is the costs to install a boardwalk south of melissa, and can it be done on utility easements? Consider a local trail connector through WE-FEST vs. routing heartland State trail through it.**
7. **City of DL – Park Board- Jim Granger and Commissioner Hansen attended the last park board meeting. The committee agreed that there is a need to get a long-term trail planning document form the City of DL and look for synergies to implement trail routing and future construction.**
8. **Dunton Locks Bike Trail Pedestrian/Cyclist Count Report- Rose Bruce-White – DOT**

Rose provided a trail count study at Dunton Locks from June 18-July 21. Total Pedestrians counted NE bound were 12,670 and total cyclist counted were 1,688. RAC to consider other locations to install counters in the future on county-maintained property.
9. **Osage Swimming Beach- MN DNR and Becker County Collaboratively completed the Osage Swimming Beach Project. More work will continue in 2026. See attached photos.**
10. **Little Sugarbush TF Parcel- (post meeting notes- update)**
Commissioner Jepson, RAC Chair Karen Mulari, and Mitch attended the Sugarbush Twp Board meeting on 9/8/25 to discuss the 30-acre tax forfeited parcel on the south end of Little Sugarbush Lake. The Twp board and guests were receptive to having this parcel turned into a day use area/park. Amenities requested ranged from fishing dock, small shelter, swimming beach, bathrooms, ballpark. There was some but little opposition to this potential project. This parcel was historically used as a swimming beach and gathering location for the community according to guests. A request was made to send out a survey to the surrounding neighbors and/or community to gauge the needs and possibilities of this parcel. RAC will discuss it more at future meeting. It was also recommended to keep existing well in place and do more research on existing features on parcel. The County will need to make a determination whether to keep or remove building onsite.

11. Toad Mountain DNR Acquisition-

MN DNR and TPL presented to the County board potential acquisition of the Toad Mountain Property (250 acres) for a Wildlife Management Area, not including the lakeshore parcel with existing buildings. Becker County will work with MN DNR when developing future plans for parcel if it's acquired by DNR.

12. RAC Priorities-

There was not enough time to discuss priority project and locations, this will be discussed at the beginning of the next RAC meeting.

13. Other-

Branding Becker County, all county parks, beaches, public water accesses, etc. should have distinct signage or branding so people know it is a Becker County managed and maintained facility or grounds. Install QR codes. Staff will have further discussions with Project 412 on this.

Eagle Lake Parcel- Still in limbo, new attorneys are now working with sellers.

Lake Park- Applied for pickleball courts via grant but were unsuccessful.

14. Adjournment –3:20 PM

NEXT RAC MEETING IS MONDAY, October 13th. Courthouse

3rd FLOOR