



# COUNTY OF BECKER

## *Recreational Advisory Committee*

• telephone: 218-847-0099

Website: [www.co.becker.mn.us](http://www.co.becker.mn.us)

### RAC Meeting NOTES

October 13, 2025

1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Becker County Courthouse, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor  
915 Lake Ave, Detroit Lakes, MN

**Committee Members Present:** Keith Zachariason, Commissioner Hansen, John Okeson, Howard Kluender, Karen Mulari, Commissioner Meyer, Glenn Gifford

**Absent:** Jim Granger, Del Bergseth

**Staff Present:** Mitch Lundeen, Steve Skoog

**Guest:** Greg Johnson (Project 412), Wayne McArthur (Midnite Riders), Craig Hall (NW Trail Riders), Dale Peterson, Dale Anderson (Wolf Pack), Becky Mitchell (BC Historical Soc), Liz Foster, Joel Matter (ULTRA).

#### Meeting Notes

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Open Forum – **None**
3. September 8, 2025 – Meeting Notes Review and Approval – **Approved Zachariason, Kluender.**
4. Recreational Prioritization Projects – Around the table discussion

#### **MOVED TO END OF AGENDA**

5. Becker County Snowmobile Clubs -Update/Discussion

**Becker County has nearly 400 miles of groomed snowmobile trails that stretch throughout the county over public and private lands.**

**Wolf Pack Club-** Grooms 60 miles of trails in the SSE portion of the county.

**Northwoods Trail Riders Club-** Grooms 94 miles of trails in the NNE portion of the county

**Midnite Riders Club-** Grooms 71 miles of trails in the W portion of the county

**Ultra Club-** Grooms 100-125 miles of trails in the central portion of the county. 60% on private lands.

**The clubs discussed funding issues, membership loss and age gaps, cost of grooming equipment and maintenance. MNDNR has not yet officially released the 2026 GIA allocation to Becker County Clubs, but it is believed that this will be reduced from prior years.**

6. Dunton Locks:

Becky Mitchell from the Becker County Historical Society provided a handout showcasing some pictures and historical facts about the pelican river canal system and Dunton Locks area. A student from M-State is working on a concept plan for the VFW Shelter renovations.

The goal is to renovate the old shelter and add some significant historical features displayed on kiosk in the shelter and possibly look for funding to expand the parking lot in the future.

The committee also had discussion on creating QR codes and working together with Becker County cities, branding county parks and recreation infrastructure and destinations.

7. Heartland Trail Update –

Next Heartland trail committee meeting is October 15<sup>th</sup>. The committee will begin discussion on how to spend the \$550k 2023 bonding money.

8. Trail Routing Study- Houston Engineering has completed the trail routing study. Hwy 59 and County Road 17 appear more favorable at this point rather than County Road 22. There is an interest from community members in creating a local trail connector through WE-FEST vs. routing heartland State trail through it. The Study is posted on the Becker County Website to view. [https://www.co.becker.mn.us/dept/parks\\_recreation/planning\\_projects.aspx](https://www.co.becker.mn.us/dept/parks_recreation/planning_projects.aspx)

9. City of DL – Park Board- No update

10. Little Sugarbush TF Parcel-

Howard Kluender and Mitch visited the cabin onsite, took some measurements and pictures recently. The committee discussed starting small projects on this parcel and keeping it maintained in the future. Some of the future projects could include disc golf course, trail creation, picnic tables, trail access to the lake, beach area, ballfield, portable restroom. The committee also discussed whether the cabin should stay and how it could be utilized. The County will need to decide whether to keep or remove building onsite.

11. Recreational Prioritization Projects – Around the table discussion

-Creating Safe Bike Trail Routes

-Lake Park, pickleball courts, trails around the lake.

-Walking path around Cormorant village, need for grant writers

-Eagle Lake Parcel acquisition, +\$200K

-Maintaining what we already have

**-Toad Mountain DNR Acquisition- 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 plans for parcel if it's acquired by DNR.**

12. Other-

13. Adjournment –2:46 PM

**NEXT RAC MEETING IS TBD**

DRAFT