



COUNTY OF BECKER

Recreational Advisory Committee

• telephone: 218-847-0099

Website: www.co.becker.mn.us

RAC Meeting NOTES

February 9, 2026

1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Becker County Highway Dept

1771 North Tower Rd, Detroit Lakes, MN

Committee Members Present: Keith Zachariason, Commissioner Jepson, Commissioner Hansen, Howard Kluender, Jim Granger, Glenn Gifford, Del Bergseth

Absent: John Okeson, Karen Mulari

Staff Present: Mitch Lundeen

Guest: Sarah Hoffman

Meeting Notes

1. Welcome & Introductions – Sarah Hoffman, Project 412 - Ecosystem Builder
2. Open Forum – **None**
3. December 1, 2025 –Meeting Notes Review and Approval – **Approved Hansen, Zachariason.**
4. Becker County Trail Alliance-
Sarah Hoffman provided an update on trail counter; they're currently being tested out. Cost per counter will likely be under \$200.00. Project 412 will purchase trail counters up front; individuals or organizations can then purchase from them. A draft logo/brand of the trail alliance was shared with the group; Sarah will make sure this logo isn't copying or resembling any other existing logos. Project 412 and members of the trail alliance will be presenting at the Economic Summit, 8:30-1:00, March 27, 2026, at the Holmes theatre.
5. Dunton Locks Tramway Report-
Mitch provided an update and 9-year financial report on the tram. Seasonal Tram passes cost \$125, Daily passes cost \$25. Seasonal tram operator runs the tram on Fridays, weekends and holidays in the summer, while maintaining Dunton Locks Park as well.
6. Heartland Trail –

Next Heartland trail committee meeting is scheduled for 2/11/2026. County staff are looking to explore trail routes SW from Dunton Locks and will bring this proposal to the committee.

7. Wannigan Park-
Wannigan Park Committee has almost reached its fundraising goal. \$3.4 million is the goal, currently at \$~3.1 million. Paved trails have been established throughout the park, FCDC looking to add lighted fixtures around the trails. Secured \$75,000 CPL grant from MNDNR to do some tree and native seed plantings this spring with support from BCSWCD as well. City of Frazee hired Joe Tonihka as the Community Development Coordinator, Joe will be very involved with the Wannigan Park Planning and Implementation.

8. City of DL – Park Board-
**Snappy Park Renovations
Washington Ball Park – Actively Renovating Interior
Ortenstone Gardens – Seeking a parking lot.
Reviewing City of DL Master Park Plan.**

9. RAC Appointments Review –
Reviewed term lengths and appointees contact info. No changes needed.

10. Toad Mountain WMA-
Horse Stables/Outdoor Buildings have been removed from property; land transaction is close to complete. Multi use of trails are permitted at this time, no motorized vehicles. County staff have requested a seat at the table when developing a plan for the WMA.

11. Eagle Lake Parcel-
City of Frazee finalized purchase agreement of Eagle Lake parcel with private group (~\$210,000). Staff are communicating with MN DNR to see if there is a way to preserve the public water access.

12. Per Diems – handed out.

13. Other-
**-Kluender mentioned that ATVMN is hosting a ride and rally event September 18-20, 2026, in Park Rapids. Local clubs will be showcasing their trail systems. (Flyer Attached)
-Mitch mentioned that Woods and Wheels ATV club have submitted there +/- 57-mile ATV GIA Trail Proposal to the MN DNR. It is now under review process of MN DNR. Trails under the GIA system will help assist local clubs with financial assistance for trail maintenance, signage, monitoring, etc.**

14. Adjournment –2:14 PM

**NEXT RAC MEETING IS MARCH 9, 2026, HIGHWAY DEPT
Mitch will send calendar invite.**