

**Recreational Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 6, 2011**

Committee Members Present: Del Bergseth, Arthur Bakker, Hank Ludtke, Keven Anderson, Dennis Hopman, Karen Mulari, Larry Knutson, Ray Vlasak, Gerry Schram

Staff Present: Guy Fischer, Doug Leitheiser, Ryan Tangen, Patty Swenson

Open Forum Sign-In: Howard Kluender

Audience/Guest Participation Per Agenda: Terry Kalil

1. **Introductions/**Del requested a secretary be made available to take minutes for the RAC – recommendation and request to the County to provide secretary to help with meeting minutes.
2. **Approval of Agenda:** There was a motion and second to approve the agenda as submitted. Motion carried.
3. **Approval of August 2nd 2011 Meeting Minutes:** There was a motion and second to approve the August 2nd 2011 minutes as submitted. Motion carried.
4. **Open Forum Guideline Changes Reviewed (Revised Draft 8/10/2011):** Changes to the guidelines in *italics* and ~~strikeout~~ discussed. Motion to approve changes, seconded.
5. **Open Forum**
Howard Kluender: Spoke to status of ATV trail development; had read RAC meeting information that staff had sent – concerns about one of the documents (Draft ATV Needs Assessment: Current Scope/Rationale May 2011); staff noted that the document was developed by County staff to provide an alternative opinion on what a needs assessment entails. Karen Mulari had requested staff make it available to the RAC for their review.

OLD BUSINESS

6. **Aquatic Invasive Species/County Lake Access Update:** Terry Kalil/COLA discussed grant application submitted August 19th; 20 different locations – 2 different versions of signage (depends on parking places). Signage must be installed within 30 days of receipt – don't know when signs will come or how many they'll get. Discussion/RAC recommendation (Vlasak/Mulari/Knutson) to do locates on all posts (directed at staff/Doug). Terry provided flyer for legislative summit to be held on Jan. 14th. (no location as yet); Darby Nelson, DL native to be keynote speaker (PHD Aquatic Ecology, State legislature, Conservation MN), various sponsors COLA, Pelican River Watershed, Lake Detroiters, will be requesting \$ (100-200) from County to help with event. Update on zebra mussel migration: Douglas County, Mille Lacs infestation measurements (14 zebra mussels per sq. feet up to 4,500 z.m. per sq.

ft.), Minnetonka (controlling access via gates; decontamination/inspection prior to granting access) - DNR and local watershed district showdown.

7. Planning & Zoning Recommendations Planning & Zoning Recommendations (R) 1 & 5 (BC Rec Plan, 1. Recreational Review Process, Strategy 3, p. 8) Discussion: Patty Swenson provided an update on R1 which involves adding a line item 7. Recreational Review Process to the Planning and Zoning Ordinance and that the Zoning Advisory Committee would be meeting in September and discuss – additional review/approval process; Planning Committee and County Board. R5 (“Revisiting the County Zoning Ordinances as it relates to recreational uses”) was also discussed and Patty provided information on the P&Z language associated with protection zones which generating some RAC comment and segued to a discussion of the next agenda item: **DNR presentation on the County biological survey.** Comments initially centered on the County’s forest preserve areas (were these considered protection zones by resolution from the Board?) Flyer sponsored by NRM/Resource Stewardship Association. Comments on the DNR presentation: interesting that nothing further has been done legislatively (to protect some of these areas – Ludtke) good presentation, but disappointed, value to public of maintaining these areas (Vlasak). How does the biological diversity data match up with these preserve areas (Knutson)? Staff to research and report back.

8. Parks Information Review

Per review of assorted MN Parks/inventory related information Arthur Bakker provided comment per exploring the idea of developing a regional park in Becker County: “many different definitions and cross definitions on what constitutes a regional park. . . could start smaller and work up from there. . . grants available LCCMR/Legacy. . . Detroit Mountain could be a regional park – not just skiing, but mountain biking and camping. . . one of documents identified the need for a regional park within 30 miles of Detroit Lakes” RAC discussion/comments: Regional park should be close to population areas (Mulari), take advantage of unique opportunities, Heartland Trail connection (Anderson); Look at So. side of Pickerel (Schram) – DNR groomed, heavily wooded and hilly - proximity to population areas (6-7 miles) and make it more accessible. Ray Vlasak also provided comment: studies/data are current spoke – priority of residents vs. visitors – Becker County has less nature based resources than other areas – population growing faster/older population – user conflicts and user turnoffs to trail use: hearing other people on the trail, litter, evidence of off trail use, rudeness – regional park concept hard to envision here. (Bergseth) – its how they are designed; (Bakker) – many different types of parks. (Anderson) Our needs are different than the twin cities – local residents not as involved in nature/park because nature is all around us – neighbors don’t live 10’ away – country living vs. those that live in metropolitan areas must travel to ride their bikes – here you just get on your bike – Who would we be building it for? To draw tourism? There are some existing regional parks – should this be pursued? Camping (Ludtke). Staff/Doug – Many visitors and locals searching for a place to go for the weekend. RAC summary: there is a need (rustic camp sites lacking) – where are the opportunities – subcommittee to bring back some recommendations (Parks Subc. Vlasak, Hopman)

Staff provided maintenance update on Dunton Locks (paint/repairs on sheds, shelters, bollards, improvements to grill/flag in Lions shelter, new roof on utility shed, picnic table by Tram); Lions Park – resolution being developed by County to turn over Lions park to Frazee (NRM review on Sept. 19th then to County Board on 27th) – Frazee resolution to go before the City Council on Sept. 11th), Chilton/Pine Island update.

NEW BUSINESS

9. GIS Toolkit

Staff provided update of the status of the GIS toolkit and its applicability to trail development – additional costs associated with phase II (\$1,560-\$3,660). Lunch discussion with Jesse Adams (consultant) and Willis Mattison on having RAC weight criteria as part of an exercise built into Phase II to determine relative importance of various criteria (wetlands, soils, use of existing trails, biodiversity) to help RAC understand implications of choices. In use the GIS toolkit was helpful in that it provided a visual map to have a preliminary discussion with the DNR about Heartland trail routing through the Smoky Hills. RAC comments were that the GIS toolkit would be helpful and recommended that its support for moving forward with Phase II be provided to the NRM for their consideration.

10. ATV Needs Assessment

RAC discussion on the needs assessment do we have enough information to determine if there is a need for a designated ATV trail. RAC comments/discussion, Conflicts in use, ATV's running in places where we don't want them running/damage, blazing new trails were mentioned. Must establish criteria (Vlasak); consider classification change/trail closures (Knutson). Designated route, signed, restrictions enforced (Anderson). Is it fair to use GIA funds for an ATV trail located on forest roads/recreational trails which may be used by other motorized users? (Vlasak). Greg Snyder from DNR will come to talk about the GIA trail process as it relates to ATV's and can address RAC questions. Motion by Hank Ludtke that there is a need for a designated ATV trail; seconded by Bergseth – motion passed unanimously.

11. Fall Parks Tour

October 4th – will meet at Courthouse at 9 a.m. for RAC meeting first prior to beginning the Fall Parks Tour.

12. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- o Greg Snyder, DNR - ATV GIA Discussion
- o Criteria Discussion
- o Park Subcommittee Report

13. Meeting Adjourned