



# COUNTY OF BECKER

## Recreational Advisory Committee

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### RAC Meeting

Tuesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012 @ 4:00 PM

Becker County Court House

1<sup>st</sup> Floor Board Room

### AGENDA

**1. Chair Welcome & Introductions**

- Introduction of New NRM/Parks and Recreation Director Martin Wiley

**2. Meeting Minutes Review/Approval for January 3<sup>rd</sup> and February 7<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes (meeting minutes taken on Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> – no quorum). March 6<sup>th</sup> Agenda Review/Approval**

**3. Election of RAC Officers: Chair and Vice Chair for 2012**

**4. Open Forum**

### NEW BUSINESS

**5. Complete Streets Discussion Continued**

- Guests: SHP4Health (Patrick Hollister/Karen Nitzkowski)

**6. Recreational Needs Survey**

- Guests: PartnerSHIP4Health and North Dakota (NDSU) Data Center (Kay Schwarzwalter) - *see draft Recreational Needs Survey proposal on page 2 of this document.*

**7. Map of Existing Trails – Discussion – Martin Wiley**

**8. Agenda Items for Next Meeting**

Becker County prides itself as a recreation destination. Forests and waters are a prime reason many people come here to fish, swim, boat, hunt, ski, hike, snowmobile, and just relax. Becker County manages nearly 75,000 acres of public tax-forfeited trust lands that are open for public recreation such as bicycling, hunting, hiking, ATV use, bird watching, and nature viewing. Natural Resource Management and the Parks and Recreation Department also maintain a number of parks, public water accesses, motorized and non-motorized recreation trails, and a popular swimming beach.

Becker County is committed to: 1) enhancing outdoor recreational opportunities for its residents and 2) long term sustainability of County administered lands by protecting natural resources and balancing recreational activities among all user groups.

To that end, the Recreational Advisory Committee is exploring participation in a recreation needs survey in collaboration with PartnerSHIP 4 Health, the lead organization for a similar Active Living Study for the City of Detroit Lakes, September 2010. Becker County and PartnerSHIP 4 Health share interests in a county-wide recreational use study.

The Active Living Study was conducted by the Center for Social Research at North Dakota State University on behalf of PartnerSHIP 4Health. Funding for the study was provided through the Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP) grant through the Minnesota Department of Health as part of the 2008 Health Care Reform Legislation in Minnesota.

The goal of a written survey is to gather input from residents on their satisfaction on topics such as trails, park amenities, opportunities for walking and biking, and the many other opportunities provided in the Becker County recreational plan.

PartnerSHIP 4 Health is interested in partnering with Becker County on the needs assessment survey to the extent that the questions provide information that will help them create accessible and sustainable recreational resources for all users and create systemic changes that make it easier for residents to incorporate healthy behaviors into their daily lives.

Timeline: 6-8 weeks to send out the survey, analyze the data and prepare a report with a June/July final report.

Cost: \$8,000 - \$12,000; PartnerSHIP 4 Health could potentially participate at 25% + depending on the questions and approval from the Minnesota Department of Health and Becker County.

The \$8,000 figure assumes the Center for Social Research would:

- use the Detroit Lakes Active Living Survey as a base with only minor adjustments
- not include Detroit Lakes in the sampling
- provide a basic report with only simple frequencies (the template is adapted from the Detroit Lakes Active Living report)
- not include our meetings and travel times

The \$12,000 assumes the Center for Social Research would:

- redesign of a new electronic survey tool rather than simply modify the Detroit Lakes tool
- include Detroit Lakes in the sampling
- need to redesign the format of the report to fit a new survey tool
- with the inclusion of Detroit Lakes, our sample size increases and therefore the printing and mailing costs associated with it
- include time and travel

The Center for Social Research can tailor efforts to reflect any budgetary restrictions and dependent on the monetary level of participation on behalf of PartnerSHIP 4 Health.