

**Recreational Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 4th, 2012**

Committee Members Present: Del Bergseth, Hank Ludtke (VC), Katherine Warren, Karen Mulari (C), Larry Knutson, Katherine Warren, Dennis Hopman, Steve Lindow, Gerry Schram, Lonnie Neuner

Staff Present: Martin Wiley, Guy Fischer

Audience/Guest Participation Per Agenda: Willis Mattison, Kay Schwarzwalter, Mike Weber, Ernie Breznay, Patrick Hollister, Matt Davis, Neal Powers and Lanny Waalen

1. Chair Welcome/Introductions:

- New RAC member Steve Lindow introduced
- June Meeting Minutes Review/Approval (Ludtke motion; Neuner 2nd)
- August Agenda: Marty requested to add Middle Cormorant Beach to agenda; approval of updated agenda (Hopman motion; 2nd by Ludtke)

2. Open Forum

- Willis Mattison provided status of Round Lake Wild Forest Recreation Area (RLWFRA) Proposal. Seeking 30 minutes on agenda in October to present; Mulari requested that Willis contact Fischer to get put on agenda.

3. Survey Review: Kay Schwarzwalter provided overview of survey results; Question from Warren on Native American participation (2.4%) vs. the hoped for 6%. If outreach were done specifically to NA population then survey methodology would be altered and it would no longer be a science based, generalizable survey (Schwarzwalter). Powers asked question on 5 point rating system – describe midrange, how should group interpret ratings of 3 or under? 2.75-3.25 as median which indicates no response/opinion one way or the other (Schwarzwalter). Per review – need time to digest ask that EDA members review further and if they had any comments route them to Fischer and talk about the survey further at next RAC meeting (Mulari).

4. County Access at HOL-Campground Exploration: Weber/Breznay (representing HOL Lake Association) expressed concerns about camping/access conditions and the uptick in use a camping site would bring to the access, difficulty with finding AIS volunteers to monitor boaters at access points now - referenced the accesses (2 Tamarac, 1 County, 1 DNR). A HOL Lake Association petition had been submitted to the County Board requesting access closure, but at the meeting when pressed for clarification/intent, HOL representatives did not express an interest in following through with the request to the County Board. Fischer noted that previous email correspondence sent to Ann Dolence (HOL Lake Assoc. President) clearly indicated that frontage along the County access was not adequate to develop campsites, that County Planning and Zoning had been contacted and had conveyed to Fischer that this was a non- starter. Mulari referenced the RAC June meeting notes to clarify that the RAC had

requested staff to explore HOL (access) as a possible campsite and that per that review it had been determined that the HOL was not a viable campsite.

5. Trails Report/Criteria Discussion: Wiley mentioned assessing trail closures and sought discussion with RAC about criteria. The rationale behind the So. Greenwater Lake trail closure was discussed (wetland issues) and comment was made (Mattison) of using survey results to inform the criteria discussion. Mattison mentioned that State law does not prohibit riding on wetlands and that the Co. Sheriff can not prohibit (ATV's) from riding on County roads/lands. There was some disagreement over this statement and some questions bubbled out from the discussion: 1) Were ATV's prohibited from operating in wetland areas? 2) Could Marty (Wiley) close trails without County Board consent? Discussion ensued and RAC recommended that the County close So. Greenwater (Ludtke motion; Hopman 2nd; unanimous) Mulari requested answers to the aforementioned questions and that trail closure criteria options be provided to the RAC for discussion at its next meeting.
6. LCCMR Funding and Greater MN Parks and Trails Efforts: Fischer provided FYI/materials on Greater MN Regional Parks and Trails' Strategic Plan and the County Resolution that supports the creation of the strategic plan *that will guide regional level planning, decision making, and ultimately, allocation of Legacy and other funding sources in Greater MN.*
7. Bike Racks Initiative: Fischer provided background on the Bike Rack initiative, SHIP funding, preliminary funding guidelines and next steps; staff then identified SHIP representative Hollister who provided some additional context on the initiative and also updated the RAC that a Complete Streets Resolution had been passed by the City of Frazee and that new sidewalks had been constructed in DL as part of the Safe Routes to School Initiative.
8. Parks and Recreation Management Items: Wiley brought forward Mt. View outhouse contract – Should the County provide winter or year round access? RAC - year round access. On the issue of the Dunton Locks shelter and keeping open the kitchen and restrooms (keep open or winterize and lock) RAC recommended to consider closure of shelter if there is no need. On the matter of maintenance on the paved trail connecting Dunton Locks to Detroit Lakes, Co. Parks and Rec management will explore patching/funding options. On the issue of Middle Cormorant Beach and boat use, Grant Johnson had provided land/conditions for the beach which has been in existence for 40 years. The adjacent camp belongs to the Johnson's and Harold Johnson stated that its o.k. to public beach only. RAC recommendation to provide beach markers/buoys at property lines to discourage/prevent boat use.
9. RAC meeting was adjourned.