

**Recreational Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 2nd, 2012**

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

Staff Present: Martin Wiley, Guy Fischer

Audience/Guest Participation Per Agenda: Steve and Rayna Tucker, Kay Schwarzwalter, Patrick Hollister, Karen Nitzkowski, Gina Nolte

1. Chair Welcome/Introductions:

- September Meeting Minutes Review/Approval (Bergseth motion; Scram 2nd; motion passed)
- October Agenda: Marty requested to add Middle Cormorant Beach to 8. on agenda; Fischer requested to add SHIP – bike rack agreement to agenda; approval of updated agenda (Ludtke motion; 2nd Neuner; motion passed)

2. Open Forum: Steve and Rayna Tucker mentioned need for additional funds to help with trail repairs due to ATV damage and estimated the amount needed to address it at \$1,000-\$1,500. Can't have ATV's doing damage on snowmobile trails (Knutson). Nothings changed – there are many trails like those described (Warren). Where do we go to make that request for \$ to get these trails back into condition (Tucker).

3. Survey Review: Kay Schwarzwalter wondered if there were any questions about survey. Providing additional context for Survey Question Q11: *Have you or members of your household ever experienced a conflict or interference while engaging in a recreational activity that diminishes the quality of your recreational experience on Becker County managed land? 11a. What was the conflict? 11b. Where did it occur? Handout listing responses received per 11a/11b was provided.* Synopsis from the handout was mentioned: *86.4% of people visiting recreational areas did not experience conflict. Of the 13.6% of respondents (32 people) who had experienced a conflict/interference, 25% (8 people) named ATV's. Of these 3 of the respondents referenced ATV's and snowmobiles. One respondent referenced ATV's and 4x4 trucks. Four respondents specifically mentioned damage to natural areas/trails attributable to ATV's.* Not everyone who responded to the question wrote what there response was (Schwarzwalter).

So now that we have our scientific study what do we want to do with it? (Mulari)

Discussion: want to see natural areas protected (Warren); emphasis on proximity to amenities/facilities – closer to town the better (Ludtke); Winter activities were considered important – recreating yr. around – mileage not really an issue – survey important for grants (Schwarzwalter); how do we interpret ATV use? (Mulari); pleased with survey data that was

SHIP related (Hollister); Should spend more time and talk about the survey relative to water, forests, and trails (Lindow) Mention of having a subcommittee to spend more time with the survey and interpret what its implications are for Recreation (Mulari); General consensus to go ahead with this option. SHIP mentioned that they could help facilitate (Nitzkowski/Nolte)

4. Trails Report/Criteria Discussion: Wiley discussed trail maintenance (repairs/gating) in relation to numerous trails (Sockeye, Sugar Bush, So. Tulaby, Manny Pt., Rat Lake – north side (g) and Mud Lake Spur (snowmobile club), Bad Medicine Lake Rd. (g)). Draft criteria for trail closure provided for discussion/review (See attached draft trail closure criteria handout). Favorable response from RAC members; Other comments: Can't we go after trucks first (Bergseth); Likes approach and pictures provided as part of draft (Warren) Provides criteria to measure against (Wiley); Need policy, but not quite ready for County Board (Knutson); Mull it over and come back next month (Wiley)
5. Exploring Conservation Easement (MN Land Trust) with Fischer Century Farms (by Frazee): Brief overview of project and potential for recreational trails and maybe Heartland Trail routing (Ludtke).
6. Wolf Lake Sportsman's Park: outhouse on site being considered per request from Wolf Lake (Wiley); motion to support outhouse on site (Bergseth); second (Ludtke); motion passed.
7. Dunton Locks trail: per site visit of the trail a .5 mile section is in need of repair. Since this section of trail is also being explored to route the Heartland Trail, a discussion with DNR should also take place about funding options (Fischer/Wiley).
8. Bike Rack agreement with SHIP: SHIP to provide \$10,000 towards purchase of bike racks, but looking for County to initially pay manufacturer and then SHIP would reimburse (within 30 days of receipt of a receipt from the County). Ludtke motion to approve; Hopman second; motion carried.
9. Other Issues: Explore Spring bus tour - Fischer Century Farms?; Road repair issue was again brought up - Can NRM help with road/trail repairs (ASV) (Tucker)? Suggestion to get on NRM agenda/talk to Wiley (Fischer/Mulari).
10. RAC meeting was adjourned.