

**Recreational Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday July 20th, 2016
County Bd. Rm - Courthouse**

Committee Members Present: Karen Mulari (C), Larry Knutson, Hank Ludtke, Del Bergseth, Lonnie Neuner, Ben Grimsley, Dennis Hopman

Staff Present: Guy Fischer

Audience/Guest Participation Per Agenda: Randy Thoreson and Tom Holms (NPS), Willis Mattison, and Blake Larson (LAMBAT)

1. Chair Welcome/Introductions
2. April Meeting Minutes approved; Neuner motion, Bergseth 2nd - motion carried
3. July Agenda approved; Hopman motion, Neuner 2nd – motion carried
2. Open Forum: Request by Willis Mattison to speak when SLB was discussed. Blake Larson with Lakes Area Mt. Biking Alliance and Trails (LAMBAT) spoke about the group's interest in promoting mountain biking through education and getting quality bike trails throughout Becker County. Working on becoming an IMBA (International Mt. Biking Association) chapter. Interest about IMBA involvement (hotspots program) where they come into a community. Provide help on the maintenance side – IMBA provided volunteer incentives (20 hrs./mo.). 30 LAMBAT members so far.
3. Dunton Locks Project Update (Fischer) – of 6 projects brought forward for discussion at NRM – 3 were moved forward: 1) Fishing Pier (donation received from Essentia, anticipate others, 2) Repave Dunton Locks Trail segment by Bowling Alley and 3) Flag Pole replacement. For the Canoe/Kayak Access staff was still seeking design information and working with a local manufacture and per trail development in Dunton Locks staff became aware of another study per looking at SHPO requirements and there are some potentially higher costs associated with conducting a Phase 1 and Phase 2 review (previous study had found cultural artifacts along trail). Comment about need for entrance signage and to explore potential help from scouts. Mention of interest in dog bags/pick-up signage, map, and trail signage.
4. Shell Lake Block – Next Steps Discussion – Karen Mulari, Guy Fischer, Randy Thoreson (NPS)
Comments:
 - Regarding the survey results aggregated per the SLB mtg. held last May, a suggestion to weigh them differently as first priorities have more emphasis than 2nd.
 - Not a lot of opposition to motorized uses in the area but communities don't want mudding.
 - Destination Place.
 - Requires parking lot, bathrooms, shelters, kiosks, campsites, fire pits, well, etc..
 - What should stay and go regarding logging (forest management).
 - Non- motorized area by policy
 - Can camp on tax forfeited/County managed land for up to 14 days

- Camping opportunities not all that plentiful near town – Shell Lake Block could be a new opportunity.
- Pro/con discussion on permanent deer stands

Comments (Randy Thoreson) on systematic approach to developing the site:

- Comfort level with input.
- Make sure committee is confident in what the communities want the site to be.
- Create a vision statement so people know what the site will be.
- Once the committee has a consensus on a vision, it will be easier to move forward and develop some goals and objectives.
- Once there is consensus on goals and objectives, create a master plan that encompasses those goals and objectives.
- Get feedback from the community on the plan and reiterate.
- Once a plan has been decided on, create a 3-5 year implementation plan.

Committee agrees to develop their own vision statements to bring back to the group for the next meeting.

5. County Public Water Accesses – Prioritization and Projects Discussion (Fischer)

Staff referenced the handout list of County Public Water Accesses. Discussion about next steps.

Mulari suggested each member choose various lake accesses and report back as to condition and suggested improvements:

Priority 1 Access Areas (concrete ramps): Big Sugar Bush (Mulari), Bass (Chilton Park – Fischer), Height of Land (Grimsley), Wolf Lake (Fischer); Priority 2 AA: Big Elbow Lake (Bergseth), Bijou (Mulari), Lake Eunice (Blake), Juggler (Bergseth), Knutson (Knutson), Net Lake (Mulari), Shipman (Knutson), White Earth (Mulari); Priority 3 Accesses: Big Rat Lake (Bergseth)

Lakes not yet claimed for visit: Priority 2: Bass (Forest), Bass (White Earth), Blueberry, Little Long Lake; Priority 3: Big Basswood, Little Bass, Mary Yellowhead, Peach, St. Clair

Other Lakes of Interest – Twin Lake, Middle Cormorant (Fischer) also request to check Little Bemidji and Round Lake to confirm if they are DNR accesses as opposed to County.

6. Other Issues

7. Next Meeting

- August 23, 2016 at 4 pm

8. Adjournment