

**Recreational Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, October 4, 2011**

**Committee Members Present:** Del Bergseth, Arthur Bakker, Hank Ludtke, Dennis Hopman, Karen Mulari, Larry Knutson, Gerry Schram

**Staff Present:** Doug Leitheiser, Ryan Tangen, Guy Fischer, Michelle Andresen

**Open Forum Sign-In:** Hank Ludtke, Willis Mattison

**Audience/Guest Participation Per Agenda:** Terry Kalil

**1. Introductions:**

- **Approval of Agenda:** There was a motion (Mulari) and a second (Hopman) to approve the agenda as submitted. Motion carried.
  
- **Approval of September 6, 2011 meeting minutes:** There was a motion (Ludtke) and second (Mulari) to approve the minutes as submitted with slight modification to include "Audience/Guest Participation Per Agenda: Terry Kalil". Motion carried.

**3. Open Forum:**

**Hank Ludtke:** Stated there was Legacy Funding available for North Country Trail and that Ray Vlasak had requested that he ask for the support of the Recreational Advisory Committee as a precursor to getting NRM and County Board support to be the fiscal agent should grant funds be received. Ludtke noted that there is \$40,000 available and there would be no additional funding required from Becker County. The improvements being considered are a half mile boardwalk and one, possibly two, bridges to traverse wetland areas. This issue was moved to be included as an agenda item to be discussed by the RAC because of the time sensitivity. Motion to include as agenda item (Mulari), second (Bergseth).

**Willis Mattison:** Expressed concerns about the ATV needs assessment and whether the problems associated with ATV use had been clearly identified. Isaac Waalton League to host an expert to speak to the results of the County's biological diversity at the Holmes Theater on October 15, 2011 at 10 a.m. Round Lake Township proposal is getting ready and they would like to have a date to present their information.. Request data files - need additional data from County regarding forest roads and trail inventory – Commissioner Knutson asked that this be expedited. Staff will check with the County attorney's office to determine if they have developed disclaimer language. Staff will also provide written DNR data on trails that corresponds to DNR trail segment number data that appears on the map once the disclaimer language has been developed.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- 6. Grant in Aid ATV trail Discussion:** Greg Snyder from the DNR works in the Division of Parks & Trails. He works with clubs that want to get trails into the GIA program and was wondering if Becker County would be interested in this program. Mr. Snyder presented a slideshow of the steps taken for this program with handouts and stressed that the main point of the program was to promote managed use on managed trails. There would be fiscal support for this program in which they pay for 65% of new trail development and 90% for ongoing trail maintenance. He stated he would be available for any further questions and information requested by the RAC committee. Mr. Snyder then gave a presentation outlining various elements of the GIA process, provided copies of the GIA program manual and answered questions.
  
- 7. Parameters discussion:** Karen Mulari started the discussion with a request to other committee members for their input and opinions on what the parameters for the upcoming trails should be. A few things that are currently not an option are- no designated trails on County roads, for GIA trails landowner permission and county permission are needed, trails should stay away from high biological diversity areas and there was further discussion on how this would be accomplished. The final decision on this matter was a request for staff to provide additional information on what other counties had done in relation to ATV trail development and it would be added to the agenda for next month's meeting.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- 8. Park subcommittee update:** Dennis Hopman presented the findings of the Parks subcommittee meeting (9-24-2011 meeting minutes provided). In looking at a Regional Park opportunity the group looked at tax forfeited areas within the County that were within 8 miles of Detroit Lakes and those greater than 8 miles away. Staff noted potential camping/opportunity areas with high biodiversity such as west and north of Big Sugarbush, Mary Yellowhead, and SE Corner of LakeView Township (outstanding biodiversity). Hopman then referred to the Parks subcommittee meeting minutes and shared the subcommittee's recommendations:

“the Parks subcommittee also felt that the County would be better served to focus on creating smaller, carefully crafted camping areas, that could provide eco-tourism and exploration experiences. Overnight camping stays would be 7 days maximum; rates could be in the \$15-20/night; fire rings/bathroom facilities; Online registration of camping reservations. CCC crew could help develop campsites, etc., “

Doug Leitheiser suggested Hungry Man Lake Access for possible camp sites and agreed to take pictures of the area for further review. Guy Fischer and will look at current lake accesses, and make suggestions as to which ones should be considered for future primitive campsites.

**FYI Status of RAC recommendations to NRM:**

**9. GIS Toolkit:** Guy Fischer noted that NRM had approved moving forward with the toolkit but wanted to do it in conjunction with IT which would need to request ARCGIS Spatial Analyst software which would cost around \$2,100 - \$2,200 (would re-check cost). Task 3 of refining the toolkit (which needs to be adjusted/fine tuned to incorporate a trail development exercise for the RAC involving weighting of criteria would be in a range of approximately \$1,560-\$3,660, but that a conversation with Jesse (consultant for North Point GIS) would need to occur. Hank Ludtke added that there possibly was funding available through the Sustainable Development Resource. Guy Fischer will check into that option.

**10. Lake Access List:** Ryan Tangen explained how the lake accesses were placed in the priority groups on our handouts. Priority 1 accesses have concrete ramps, parking areas and were maintained by the county on a regular basis. Priority 2 accesses have dirt or earthen ramps, parking areas and are somewhat maintained by the county. Priority 3 accesses have no ramps, no real parking areas and are not maintained by the county at all. Ryan Tangen also stated that signing would be done on lake accesses in Priority 1 and Priority 2 areas only.

**11. AIS signing-** Terry Kalil presented a news release from the COLA group (Becker County Coalition of Lake Associations) announcing the infestation of zebra mussels in Rose Lake. The news release was given on Friday September 30, 2011. The DNR will try three applications of copper sulfate to the lake and there will be some fish kill. She requested people get educated in decontamination of equipment when moving it from lake to lake. Chain of custody issues important (boats/docks/lifts). Zebra mussels can survive approximately 14 days out of water. She also stated that Becker County is one of the most educated in this area in terms of numbers who have taken the decontamination training, while the Twin Cities is at zero.

**12. Agenda items for next meeting:**

- Parks and Recreation camping review
- Parameter Discussion
- AIS update -Terry Kalil

**Meeting Adjourned**