

Recreational Advisory Committee
DRAFT Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 6, 2011

Committee Members Present: Del Bergseth, Hank Ludtke, Dennis Hopman, Ray Vlasak, Karen Mulari, Larry Knutson

Staff Present: Brad Wentz, Ryan Tangen, Guy Fischer, Michelle Andresen

1. Introductions:

- **Approval of Agenda:** There was a motion (Ludtke) and a second (Hopman) to approve the agenda as submitted. Motion carried.

- **Approval of November 1, 2011 meeting minutes:** There was a motion (Ludtke) and second (Hopman) to approve the minutes as submitted. Ray Vlasak asked if outstanding bio diversity should be switched to high bio diversity in November minutes. Everyone was in favor. Motion carried.

2. Open Forum:

No one signed in for open forum.

NEW BUSINESS

- 3. Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Coalition(GMRPTC) Membership-**
Guy Fischer led the discussion on the specifics of membership with the inclusion of the yearly membership fee of \$150.00. Hank Ludtke stated that the GMRPTC is a lottery group for legacy funding. He also stated that the city of Detroit Lakes and the city of Frazee are members. Larry Knutson stated he would like to see a list of members of the GMRPTC. Dennis Hopman made a motion to join GMRPTC and Ray Vlasak seconded. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

4. Parameters discussion:

The discussion on parameters was led by Guy Fischer. The November meeting ended with question 3 on parameters and the December meeting picked up from there. Ray Vlasak commented on silent sport set asides- he thought they would be bigger areas and should the RAC make those areas off limits.

Karen Mulari wanted clarification on what exactly a silent sport set aside should be and is there a process already in place for this?

Del Bergseth gave the example of GIA trails and what if a group came in and wanted to use a set aside area - could they? He also stated that he felt clarification has not been met on the set aside areas and it should be added to recommendations.

Larry Knutson stated that there should be a broader look at the whole county to help classify. Guy Fischer stated he would work on the verbiage to clarify the set asides areas for silent sports users and also compatible issues with silent sports trails.

Hank Ludtke interjected that the RAC Committee needs to monitor the AIS issue and also to inform the committee that Minnesota is now ranked above Oregon for recreational biking. He also posed the question if Becker County gravel pits could be used for possible mountain biking activities. After a brief discussion with Brad Wentz, Becker County engineer, it was decided the county gravel pits are too small for these activities.

Guest Willis Mattison asked the RAC committee if it was going to be proactive or reactive with the recreational trails program. He suggested the RAC Committee be proactive.

Karen Mulari asked if there were DNR parameters for trails. Staff noted that the DNR already has parameters per the DNRs' Trail Planning, Design and Development Guidelines and that they would be utilized per a GIA trail development.

Mulari was also wondering where the software issue was regarding the trails and also stated that she felt that there was a need for someone with more expertise on high biodiversity areas to advise the RAC committee as to where the trails should and should not be placed.

Guy Fischer stated that a request has been placed to the IT department for the software and was waiting for a response, he was going to check with IT for an update on the status. Brad Wentz informed the committee that the Highway Department has GIS capabilities to make maps if needed.

Ray Vlasak suggested that maybe a committee or subcommittee should be made up of local people who are familiar with the areas for possible trails. Guest Willis Mattison stated to the committee that his group has seven parameters that they go by and they are: land ownership, soils, wetlands/highway accessibility, roads, slopes, biodiversity and hydrology.

Dennis Hopman made a motion to move forward with parameters and present them to the county board and Hank Ludtke seconded. There was further discussion after the motions with Karen Mulari stating that the parameters were not ready to go to the county board with Larry Knutson agreeing.

Guy Fischer noted that per a conversation with the DNR about where the RAC was at in looking at parameters to inform a DNR GIA process, the DNR rep wanted to know if the County thought there was something wrong with the DNR GIA process. Fischer

noted that per the conversation he had stressed that the County was looking at developing parameters as a way of being pro-active and having input into the DNRs' GIA process on the front end and that ultimately the County Board had to decide on whether it wanted to be a sponsor to a DNR Grant In Aid Trail process. He noted to the Committee that the RAC should continue to work on establishing parameters (bio diversity, staying off county and township roads, mitigating or buffering motorized trails with walking trails) as a means of moving forward. Hank Ludtke would like to make sure the trails connect with amenities. Mulari and Vlasak vocalized that they were not in favor of going through the DNR for trail design. Brad Wentz suggested that the RAC committee get a parameters list from the DNR and go over these lists and get ideas and then the Highway Department can make up maps for the RAC committee. Wentz also stated he would recommend bringing the DNR to the next RAC meeting. Hopman withdrew his motion to take the parameters to the county board and Ludtke seconded the motion.

Del Bergseth requested that staff review the DNR's Trail Planning Design and Development Guidelines and look at their parameters prior to the next meeting and report the findings back to the group at the next RAC meeting. Del Bergseth also was interested in having a discussion on camping and requested staff bring relevant information on that topic back for group for additional discussion at the next meeting of the RAC.

5. Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force Formed-

Guy Fischer gave an update on the AIS Task Force meeting that was held Nov. 8th. Subcommittees were formed in the areas of Enforcement, Inspections, Lake Service Providers, Education, and Funding to begin looking at goal and strategy development for AIS prevention. He spoke of the interest by some Task Force members of creating more Category 1 inspectors which can prevent someone from putting a boat in lakes if an invasive species is found on their watercraft, whereas a volunteer inspector cannot. There was discussion on controlling water events on area lakes and also performing more watercraft inspections. There will be further investigation into funding for Category 1 Inspectors, Category 2 Inspectors and also exploring a decontamination unit. Ray Vlasak stated he would like to be on the funding sub-committee. Hank Ludtke informed the committee that an AIS summit is to be held January 14th, 8AM-Noon in Detroit Lakes.

6. Agenda items for next meeting:

- Parameters Discussion
- Primitive Campground areas
- Mtn. View Recreational area and hunting
- Willis Mattison- Round Lake Township Proposal presentation

Meeting Adjourned