

**Recreational Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 10, 2012**

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

Staff Present: Brad Wentz, Gerry Schram, Guy Fischer, Michelle Andresen, Nancy Grabanski

Audience/Guest Participation Per Agenda: Terry Kalil, Willis Mattison, Arvin Mathany

1. Introductions:

- **Approval of Agenda:** There was a request by Gerry Schram for an amendment to the agenda regarding the Forest Riders re-route as it has already been to the County board and approved. There was a motion (Ludtke) and a second (Hopman) to approve the agenda as submitted. Motion carried.
- **Approval of December 6, 2011 meeting minutes:** There was a motion (Mulari) and second (Ludtke) to approve the minutes as submitted. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

2. Open Forum:

- Terri Kalil spoke updating everyone on the status of the legislative summit to be held on January 14th, 2012. She stated that is growing in popularity with many other counties joining in the summit, also area legislative representatives will be present.

3. Round Lake Wild Forest Recreation Area presentation:

- Willis Mattison and Arvin Matheny gave the presentation along with a power point presentation. They talked about the project history, their personal qualifications and discussed the methodology they were using for the project which involves modification of Forest Service guidelines for Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC).
- Next they voted on what were the most important concerns to the citizens of which several were noted, ex. equal voice - no undue political influence.
- They noted various parameters that would be utilized as part of GIS mapping including soils, wetlands wildlife, vegetation, biodiversity, invasive species, and contaminants.
- A survey was mailed out to area tourist based businesses to gauge what people thought about what type of land based recreational activities would be considered of interest to their clients and beneficial to their businesses in the proposed areas and how they interact with each other.

- The lands involved in the proposed recreational area are the county tax forfeited land, state land, Greenwater scientific and natural area and tribal land within Round Lake Township.
- Utilize multivariate regression map data for physical and biological activity for an array of recreational activities for certain areas.
- Resources used were the Becker County GIS, MN DNR and USDA NRCS websoil survey.
- They hope the proposal will be ready in 2 months.

Comments:

- Vlasak- the advantage to this procedure is that it takes the emotion out of the process.
- Bergseth- the social aspect adds the emotion.
- Fischer- regarding the survey info- are they still getting information coming in? Mattison stated they are still receiving information. Most of the businesses surveyed were resorts and public meetings were held for residence concerns.
- Fischer- other aspects to keep in mind are the time line, the DNR GIA program and methodology aspects and the new NRM Director being hired.
- Mattison- regarding the Round Lake planning: they wanted to make sure they took into consideration all activities instead of picking just one to focus on. Stated the County is more than welcome to use the LAC/GIS method when starting their trail work.
- Bergseth- Can we start with the DNR and switch over to use the *LAC/GIS* information later?
- Fischer- both can be incorporated, need to make sure to look at silent sport users and where they belong.
- Mulari- Can the maps be used for the county? Can they be overlapped with other public considerations? Mulari thought the surveys should be county wide as opposed to just one geographic area. Mattison responded that the reasons why the survey area was defined were limits on practicality.
- Mulari – RAC can deal with non –social aspects; County Board can deal with social aspects of trail development per results of the survey.
- Knutson- stated if the social aspect can be kept out of the process it would be good for the County.
- Bergseth- the next step should be to wait for the Round Lake survey to be done.
- There will be an update at the March RAC meeting.

4. Camping Discussion:

- Led by Guy Fischer
- Ludtke stated Chilton sites should be separate from each other and a trail is needed by the lake. At Chilton the users could also hike in and Guy Fischer stated it would be a good starter campground.

- Vergas Trails opportunity- characteristics discussed regarding property ID 197036050. Ownership issues determined (DNR administering for local school district – although this could change per conversations at the legislature about tax forfeited school lands) The site has outstanding biodiversity and depending on where the NCT is routed (crossing Hwy 10 and moving through Otter Tail County) the parcel might make a good trail head with parking etc.,. Also a large swath of privately owned land (numerous land owners) below this parcel in Otter Tail County also have outstanding biodiversity and trail could help protect biodiversity. Mention of previous effort by the township to widen Vergas Trails and concerned citizens who sought no changes to the trail.
- Also, Guy Fischer stated that the RAC committee should watch the DNR land by Vergas Trails relative to the NCT route, it may be something the committee could work with the DNR to purchase or possibly trade land for.

Meeting Adjourned