

**Recreational Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 6, 2012**

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

Staff Present: Martin Wiley, Guy Fischer, Ryan Tangen

Audience/Guest Participation Per Agenda: Howard Kluender, Willis Mattison, Neil Powers, Patrick Hollister, Karen Nitzkowski, Kay Schwarzwalter, Gina Nolte

1. Chair Introductions

- Introduction of New NRM/Parks and Recreation Director, Martin Wiley to Dennis Hopman.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes:

- Jan. 10th mtg. minutes (Willis Mattison requested changes per RLWFRA) and Feb. 7th mtg. minutes tabled (Ludtke motion to table mtg. minutes; Mulari 2nd; motion passed)

3. Approval of Agenda

- Request to agenda change to add Matt Davis NCT [Invasive Species signage] under agenda No.8. (Mulari motion to put NCT on Agenda; Vlasak 2nd) motion passed.
- Query - why isn't RLWFRA proposal on March agenda? (Bergseth). Proposal is not ready and should be ready to present to the RAC in April (Mattison).

4. Elections

- Ludtke motion to pick Karen Mulari as Chair; Vlasak 2nd; motion passed.
Hopman motion to pick Hank Ludtke as Vice Chair; Vlasak 2nd; motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

5. Open Forum:

- Speakers: Willis Mattison (requested to comment after needs survey discussion); Howard Kluender (also requested to comment after map discussion); Neil Powers commented on the survey and provided USGS survey on Tamarack as reference to inform County survey.

6. Complete Streets discussion revisited:

- Patrick Hollister (SHIP4 Health) presented – reintroduced “Clean Streets” concept, spoke about interim meeting with Brad Wentz – Brad’s concerns (no universal definition of complete streets – all jurisdictions define differently). Co.

Hwy committee to talk about developing policy for County on 3/7. Comments included: not RAC committees job to develop a Policy; more city oriented than rural (Vlasak); Hollister's response to the latter remark was that County roads often are the main streets in small communities and are usually the most important road in the city. North Washington provided as example of a complete streets concept.

Motion made by Ludtke: RAC likes walkable communities idea; 2nd Hopman; motion passed.

7. Recreational Needs Survey proposal discussion:

- Kay Schwarzwalter (NDSU Data Center) went through the draft recreational needs survey proposal. Provided a breakdown of the households in Becker County (13,244); that to achieve a 25% survey response rate (375 surveys returned), 1,500 households would be randomly selected. Per the proposal two different cost options were discussed: 1) \$8,000 to use the DL Active Living survey as a base with slight modifications, travel time not included, or 2) \$12,000 assuming a new electronic survey would need to be developed and that Detroit Lakes would be included in the sampling (increasing the sampling size), travel time included.

Partnership 4HEALTH expressed an interest in partnering with the County for a County wide recreational survey and could potentially participate at 25% + contingent on the survey questions (active living, biking, walking) and approval from the MN Dept. of Health.

There were numerous questions from the RAC about keeping costs low (Bergseth); what constitutes a household (seasonal residents included? (Vlasak), yes (Schwarzwalter) (scope of questions (ATV/motorized), process for designing the survey, the efficacy of the survey method/randomization (is 25% response rate enough? - Mulari) yes, studies have consistently borne this out (Schwarzwalter). Importance of tying questions to County Rec Plan as a means of supporting plan and having questions be representative of the Plan (Powers). Would be County based to engage people that would be affected (Nitzkorski). Suggestion for TAC to come up with questions (Mattison). Focus would not just be on County Tax Forfeited lands (Knutson). No Action taken – will revisit issue at next RAC meeting.

8. County Map presentation/discussion:

- Marty Wiley prepared 2 maps with various data layers to aid visualization and discussion of land uses and existing trails on County tax forfeited lands. Seeking to get more pertinent layers for ongoing discussion – Q. Are you going to be making trail closures? (Bergseth); eventually (Wiley); Kluender comment that Woods N Wheels (ATV club) is a good steward of the land and is interested in

knowing where damage attributable to ATV's is taking place. Q. Do ATV clubs advise riders (Bergseth); Kluender – ambassador programs do that work.

9. NCT Invasive Species prevention signage/boot brushes

- Matt Davis referenced the Cook Co. Invasive species team and mentioned that Becker County was doing something similar to reduce the spread of terrestrial invasives. NCT was looking at grant to improve invasive species education for users of the NCT and was wondering if the County might consider providing some funding to help develop educational Invasive signage that could be put up at kiosks as well as boot brushes. NCT could partner with the County providing in-kind labor to put up the signs etc., Stand alone signage more expensive (\$400/sign, materials) than putting up educational signage and boot brushes at trail head kiosks (2 kiosks on the NCT have been developed to-date with more planned). Comments: We are cash poor, but volunteer rich (Davis), we need to power wash equipment to go into Itasca/Greenwater (Vlasak), Soil and Water is a Resource (Kluender), but no \$ for signage (Fischer), good idea, this request lends itself more to NRM (Wiley). Wondering if invasives are mentioned in the REC Plan? (Bergseth). RAC consensus to defer issue to the NRM

10. Meeting Adjourned