COUNTY OF BECKER

Recreational Advisory Committee

- *telephone:* 218-847-0099
  Website: www.co.becker.mn.us

RAC Meeting- NOTES

Monday August 31, 2026
1:00 – 2:30 p.m.
Becker County HIGHWAY DEPT.
1771 North Tower Road, Detroit Lakes MN

Attendees: Commissioner Hansen and Meyer, Karen Mulari, Keith Zachiarson, Jim Granger, Del Bergseth, Glenn Gifford, John Okeson, Mitch Lundeen.

AGENDA

1. Welcome & Introductions

2. Open Forum – None

3. July 13, 2026 –Meeting Notes Review and Approval
   Gifford made a motion to approve, Zachiarson seconded.

4. BC Regional Trail Alliance –
   BCTA signs, decals, and window clings are being distributed around the county by different groups, Mitch will check with IT Dept to see if QR code searches can be tracked to see how many people are using the QR code to get to the County Website (Trail Directory Page).
   https://www.beckercountymn.gov/dept/parks_recreation/trails.aspx

5. Dunton Locks Park- **Staff worked with MNDNR to remove trees and other woody vegetation from the north end of the old PRWD storage building. The plan is to turn this into a stormwater retention pond and expand the parking lot at the park. If all goes well, we will design and prep the parking lot expansion in 2027, then pave in 2028 when Highway Dept reconstructs CR 19.**

   Staff are also gathering recommendations and cost estimates for possible redesigning/upgrading the septic system at the park. The septic system has been struggling for some time and is seeing much more usage than it has historically. Staff will also begin cutting invasive woody specie buckthorn this fall, DNR awarded Becker County with a grant for this.

A bike rack will be installed soon at the park; this bike rack was funded through an Essentia Health Grant.

6. Heartland Trail **– HT Committee meets on September 9th. Proposed routes, state approved corridor, and bonding fund uses will be discussed. The RAC discussed both routes presented but does not have an overall recommendation to the HT committee at this time.**

7. Wannigan Park – **See attached meeting minutes. They also received $1.85 Million for design, engineering, and constructing North River Drive, including related water and sewer infrastructure improvements.**

8. City of DL Park Board- **City of DL is reviewing city park signage. Attached is the Park Board Agenda and Related Items for Review.**

9. Bucks Mill – **Project is complete, there has been several tours onsite. There is a group that will be asking to donate a bench in memory of former PRWD admin Tera Guetter to the site. The RAC would like to see a bench put out there and would also like to see a small shelter placed out there if there's enough room and an appetite for this. Mitch will dig into this more and come up with some bench and small shelter options.**

10. Little Sugarbush Park**- Cabin has been removed, the hayfield with encroaching brush has been cut. Signs installed stating the property is Tax Forfeited Property. $15,000 from cabin proceeds is to be put back into the parcel of land for park improvements/maintenance.**

    Next Steps-

    1. Recommend filling in basement, keeping plumbing and well accessible for future use possibly. It may be possible to drop in a holding tank inside the existing basement and fill in around it so we could possibly install a vault toilet in the future. The basement is secured with snow fencing for now.
    2. Create trail network through woods.
    3. Fix roof on existing small shelter.
    4. Add a charcoal grill or small fire pit near the lake.

Mulari mentioned that she heard from people that a playground and frisbee golf course would be greatly appreciated at the park. Commissioner Hansen requested Mulari to reach out to Hank Ludke or the current co-owners of the parcel about used playground equipment located at was formally the City of Frazee managed Eagle Lake Park.

11. Chilton Park – **This chunk of county land needs some forest management (selective harvesting). There is evidence of beetle kill likely due to some disease on the pine species. Hoping to set up a timber sale this fall to sell in the spring of 2027. Logger will be required to make some trail and possible primitive day use site pad while harvesting the timber.**

    Some of this property is located on Tax Forfeited land and some of the property is County Fee land because it was donated to the county a while ago.

12. Per Diem Requests – 30 days.

    Per diems were handed out.

13. Other

-Commissioner Hansen requested that Mitch provide updates on any vandalism that occurs on county park/rec property if and when it happens.

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 5th 1-2:30 Unless there is nothing to convene on.

14. Adjournment- 2:25 PM