



## CARVER COUNTY PARKS

11360 Highway 212 West, Suite #2  
Cologne, MN 55322  
Phone (952) 466-5250 Fax (952) 466-5223  
[www.co.carver.mn.us/parks](http://www.co.carver.mn.us/parks)

Division of Public Works

11360 Hwy. 212 West, Suite #1  
Cologne, MN 55322  
Phone (952) 466-5200  
Fax (952) 466-5223

### *Carver County Park Commission Regular Meeting*

7:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, December 13th, 2011**

*Public Works Building  
11360 Hwy 212, Cologne, MN 55322*

#### Agenda

- 1) Call Regular Meeting to Order (7:00 p.m.)
- 2) Roll Call (7:01 p.m.)
- 3) Approval of the November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011 Regular Meeting Minutes (7:02 p.m.)
- 4) Additions or Deletions to the Agenda (7:03 p.m.)
- 5) Approval of Agenda (7:04 p.m.)
- 6) Commissioner Liaison Report (7:05 p.m.)
- 7) Open to the Public
- 8) Old Business (7:10 p.m.)
  - a. Policy and Direction for Future Capital Improvement Projects (Walsh)
- 9) New Business
  - a. Dakota Rail Regional Trail Depot Planning Work (Walsh)
  - b. Recognition of Wingert and Von Bargaen for years of service to the Park Commission. (Walsh)
- Staff Reports (7:55 p.m.)
  - c. Dakota Rail Regional Trail (Walsh)
    - i. Phase I Construction
    - ii. Phase II Planning
  - d. TH 41 Trail and Underpass (Walsh)
  - e. Southwest Regional Trail Connections (Walsh)
    - i. Victoria
    - ii. Chaska/Chanhassen
  - f. Events and Activities (Klevan Schmitz)
- 10) Commission Member Reports (8:00 p.m.)
- 11) Set Next Meeting Date (8:05 p.m.)
- 12) Adjourn Meeting (8:10 p.m.)

**Please note if a Commission Member cannot attend the meeting, please call the Park Office at 466 – 5250.**

**Draft**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011 Regular Meeting**

**Members Present:** Neil Wingert, Jerald Moja, Thomas Hermann, Cindy Dobratz, Gail Von Barga, Myron Karki, Jeff Anderson, and Commissioner Tom Workman

**Staff Present:** Marty Walsh, Lenny Klevan Schmitz

**Public Present:** Joe Shneider, Jerry and Kathy Martin, Jim Bjork

**CALL TO ORDER -** Moja called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

**MINUTES -** Wingert motioned to approve the September 14th, 2011 minutes. Karki seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

**AGENDA-** Karki motioned to approve agenda. Wingert seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC-** No one was in attendance that wanted to speak on items not on the agenda.

**LIAISON REPORT-** Commissioner Workman noted that the Carver County Board is in the midst of finalizing the 2012 County Budget. The Final budget is planned to be approved the middle of December.

**OLD BUSINESS**

a. Aquatic Invasive Species Inspections

Walsh briefly went through a memo he had provided on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011 to the park commission along with the staff recommendation for 2012 AIS inspections at Lake Minnewashta Regional Park.

After the staffs update the park commission chair Moja opened up the meeting to discussion from the public.

Joe Shneider, member of the Christmas Lake Homeowners Association, shared a lot of information he had received when he met with a representative of the MN DNR on November 7<sup>th</sup>. He noted that the DNR expressed an interest in partnering and delegating authority to local government units such as watershed districts, cities and counties and did not want to try and manage all of the individual request from lake associations because of the large number state wide.

Shneider also indicated that the DNR has developed several levels of AIS inspectors for future inspection sites. Level two inspectors are planned to have higher authority including the ability to check the

inside of boats for compliance along with the ability to refuse entry into a lake if they are not in compliance.

Lastly, Shneider indicated that on Christmas Lake they are planning to provide 100% inspection coverage from the middle of May to the middle of September from 6 am – 10 pm in 2012. They hope to provide this coverage through state inspectors, Minnehaha Creek Watershed inspectors and their own hired or funded inspectors. When the launch is not open (10pm-6am) an electronic gate will be closed not allowing access to the launch on the lake.

Jim Bjork is a member of the Lake Minnewashta Preservation Association (LMPA) shared a handout with the park commission requesting that Carver County allocate around \$30,000 for the 100% inspection of the Lake Minnewashta Regional Park boat access from May 15 – September 15 from 5 am – 8 pm. Bjork shared information about how the \$30,000 figure was derived and the LMPA wanted to see something done in 2012 because they felt the state was not doing enough and the risk is too high.

The discussion about AIS inspections and who's responsibility and cost it should be continued with lots of questions and good discussion.

Jerry Martin who lives on Lake Zumbra also expressed some concern about the need to protect all of the lakes in the County. He understood Carver County does not own any land on the lake and he hopes to work with Three Rivers Park District but was glad to see there is an interest in protecting our lakes in the area.

After the hour of discussion between staff, park commission members and the public, Wingert suggested that the commission should request the \$30,000 in funding for 2012 inspections at Lake Minnewashta Regional Park. Wingert noted he understands we cannot protect every lake and that all lakes in Carver County are equally important and inspections should be uniform state wide, but the reality is the state does not have the funds to have inspectors at all lakes, we have a park on Lake Minnewashta and if we do nothing who will.

Moja indicated that he too has done a lot of thinking about this over the last couple months and has similar feelings to Wingert. Moja said he would like it if all watercraft entering any Carver County Park to be inspected to help protect the lakes in which we have parkland.

Anderson added he is also in favor of asking the County Board for the funding for 2012.

Von Bargen expressed her concern with spending the money inspections considering there are other private accesses on the lake which people can use which would not be staffed and present similar risk for AIS introduction into the lake.

Dobratz also noted she has similar feelings as other on the park commission...if not us than who will take this on?

Wingert made the following Motion:

**It is requested that the Park Commission recommend to the County Board a resolution adopting as a part of the Board's 2012 legislative platform an AIS legislative priority to have the State DNR develop and implementation plan to prevent the spread of AIS for the 2012 boating season and to provide \$30,000 in funding for boat inspections at Lake Minnewashta Regional Park for the 2012 boating season.**

Karki seconded the motion, as stated above. The park commission voted 6-1 in favor of the motion with Von Barga voting against.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### a. Policy and Direction for Future Capital Improvement Projects

Walsh provided some background information about how Carver County has funded land acquisition and development projects. Walsh indicated that Carver County has currently around \$1,000,000 to \$1,200,000 into land purchase which are waiting to be reimbursed for over the next 6 years by the Metropolitan Council given the existing reimbursement levels (\$400,000 - \$430,000 every 2 years).

Walsh also noted that Parks and Trail Legacy funds are being used to meet the local match and design and engineering costs for projects such as the Dakota Rail Regional Trail phase 1 and 2, Lake Minnewashta Regional Park trail projects and the Southwest Regional Trail Connection projects. Carver County received approximately \$250,000/year from this account.

Walsh indicated that there is getting to be more and more of a need to find funding for maintaining our existing infrastructures such as aging buildings, playgrounds and making road improvements. Walsh noted that if the existing funding strategy continues into the future there are not enough dollars to do both (match federal trail grants and replace aging buildings and facilities).

Walsh indicated he was looking for some direction as to the strategy/philosophy Carver County should go to the Carver County Board with for future park development and redevelopment.

Members of the park commission discussed the needs and the funding options. In general they indicated we need to be opportunistic when it comes to purchasing land. It was also stated that it is important to make sure our existing parks and trails are well maintained to meet the needs of the park users. It was suggested that the County continue to pursue grants which allow the county to develop parks and trails

and to use the existing funding sources to their maximum capacity as staff has done. Additional, make sure the board is aware of the needs to maintain our aging infrastructure and the need to invest in the parks and facilities we already have.

b. Legislative Platform Request pertaining to Parks

Walsh recapped the 4 legislative priorities which staff has put together for consideration by the Carver County Board. Commission Workman noted they plan to meet with the local legislators and share their platform with them on December 20<sup>th</sup> for the upcoming legislative session.

Von Barga made a motion to support the following three legislative platform items to the county Board:

- Lake Waconia Regional Park Land Acquisition
- Eligibility for Metro Regional Parks to be able to apply for Parks and Trail Legacy Funding
- Preventing the spread of AIS

Wingert seconded the above motion. Motion passed 7-0.

The park commission has discussion about the legislative priority for the management of cormorants on Lake Waconia. There was some concern over the impacts on migratory birds by streamlining the process and that the Migratory Bird Act Treaty is in place for a reason. Others on the park commission understand and see the impacts Cormorants are having on Lake Waconia and want to see more done to reduce their population. After the discussion Karki made a motion to suggest this legislative platform to the County Board for consideration as part of their 2012 legislative platform. Hermann seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-3 with Wingert, Von Barga and Dobratz voting against.

**STAFF REPORTS-**

a. Dakota Rail Regional Trail

Phase I

Walsh stated that the contractor is working on punch list items. Staff hopes to have the project completed later this fall.

Phase II

Walsh reported that plans are still on schedule to bid the project this winter for 2012 construction.

b. Update on the Lake Minnewashta Regional Park/TH 41 Trail and Underpass

Walsh reported that the City of Chanhassen and Carver County Board have both approved the Joint Powers Agreement for the project and the County Board has

given staff the approval to go forward with bidding the project early in 2012.

- c. Union Pacific Railroad/Extension of the Minnesota River Valley Bluffs Regional Trail

Walsh reported that Union Pacific land was purchased on October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

- d. Southwest Regional Trail Connection

Walsh noted that staff and the consultant are working on the plans for this project.

- e. Events and Activities

Klevan Schmitz provided a handout which had the upcoming events and program for the remainder of 2011 and into 2012. He also thanked Wingert for helping judge the chili cook-off at Baylor Park on October 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **Commissioner Reports**

Karki reminded everyone about the 2012 Governors fishing opener which is going to take place on Lake Waconia May 11-13<sup>th</sup>. There will be a community picnic on Friday May 11<sup>th</sup> at City Square Park in Waconia which is open to the public and they anticipate 3000-5000 people to attend. Karki also mentioned that if anyone wants to buy a raffle ticket for the 2012 Crestliner Boat he would be more than happy to sell you one.

**NEXT MEETING** – December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011

**ADJOURN -** Karki made a motion to adjourn. Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.