



## CARVER COUNTY PARKS

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Division of Public Works

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### Park Commission

## Meeting Wednesday, December 10, 2014

**6:30 Regular Meeting**  
**Carver County Public Works**  
**11360 Hwy 212, Cologne, MN 55322**

### Agenda

- 1) Call Meeting to Order, Roll Call (6:30 p.m.)
- 2) Introduction of Jessica Fenn, Recreation and Volunteer Specialist (6:31 p.m.)
- 3) Approval of the November 12, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes (6:35 p.m.)
- 4) Additions or Deletions to the Agenda (6:36 p.m.)
- 5) Approval of Agenda (6:37 p.m.)
- 6) Commissioner Liaison Report (6:38 p.m.)
- 7) Open to the Public (6:40 p.m.)
- 8) Old Business (6:45 p.m.)
  - a. Eagle Lake Aerators Policy
- 9) Discussion (7:00 p.m.)
  - a. Aquatic Invasive Species 2015 Program
  - b. Park Land Preservation Draft Policy
- 10) Staff Reports (8:00 p.m.)
  - a. Trails Cost Participation Policy for Standalone Trails
  - b. MN River Bluffs Regional Trail
  - c. Regional Solicitation for Bikeway and Trail Projects
  - d. DNR
    - i. LWP Boat Access
    - ii. LMP Cooperative Plank Agreement
  - e. Events and Activities
- 11) Commission Member Reports (8:15 p.m.)
- 12) Set Next Meeting Date (8:20 p.m.) – Proposed date January 14th
- 13) Adjourn Meeting (8:25 p.m.)

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

# Draft Meeting Minutes November 12, 2014

**Members Present:** Carroll Aasen, Ron Trick, Tom Hermann, Jim Manders, Gerald Bruner, Jim Boettcher

**Staff Present:** Marty Walsh, Sam Pertz, Connie Keller

**CALL TO ORDER:** Manders, called the meeting to order at 6:30p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** (6:30p.m.)  
Trick motioned to approve the minutes of the October 8, 2014 regular meeting minutes. Aasen seconded the motion.  
Motion passed 6 to 0.

**Additions/Deletions to the Agenda:** (6:30p.m.)  
None

**AGENDA:** (6:30p.m.)  
Bruner motioned to approve meeting agenda, Boettcher seconded the motion.  
Motion passed 6 to 0.

**Commissioner Liaison Report:** (6:31p.m.)  
Not present

**Open to the Public:** (6:32 p.m.)  
None

**Discussion:** (6:32p.m.)

**A. Eagle Lake Aerator Policy**

Staff presented to commission a redlined draft memo on revising the aeration policy slightly.

A lengthy discussion was had on the process of when to turn on aerators, the cost of running the aerators, the number of aerators to use and where to place them and how far out the aerators should go. Mr. Sawday from the Carver County Water Management Department was on hand to answer any questions that the Park Commission had on oxygen levels of water and what the DNR recommends for when aerators should be turned on.

Questions or comments:

Bruner asked if we have researched alternative energy to run the aerators and if there is a grant available to achieve this; Staff stated that they have not looked into other alternatives not sure if there is anything available. Short discussion was had on solar panels and if they would work.

Bruner would like to propose a motion Staff to research other alternative energy and any grants available; Trick seconds the motion; motion passes 6 to 0

Park Commission is ok with accepting the new language; staff will redraft with new language and bring back to vote on recommendation at next month's meeting.

No other questions or comments

*B. Diversion of Park Property Policy*

Due to the last months request to consider providing a utility easement across a portion of Lake Waconia Regional Park and possible future request from City for utility easements; Staff presented to the Park Commission a policy from another implementing regional park agency as an example for how land within a park may be considered for non-park purpose.

Also presented was language from the Regional Parks Policy Plan providing some System Protection Strategies for dealing with circumstances that may convert park land to an unintended use.

Staff asked the commission to discuss under what circumstances a request to divert park property to another use be considered and what if any compensation/consideration should be provided for the diversion of park property.

Lengthy discussion was had on the different strategies presented on how these strategies impact out parks. Also discussed where the future alignment of sewer and water services that the City wants to come through the park and the ParkSide Church's request, discussed were pro's and con's and the impacts on the park.

Staff asked should we come up with a policy that states what would be considered for use of park property; is it an exchange for something or a dollar value for example.

Recommendation by Park Commission is park staff to draft a policy similar to the Met Council policy strategies; Staff will attempt to draft a policy for next meeting or early 2015.

Question or comments:

Manders asked do we establish a policy or handle one by one; Staff stated that we may have other request at the other parks at some time in the future.

Aasen motions that we come up with a policy similar to Met Council strategy policy.

Manders asked when the church was planning on coming back; Staff stated possible in December or January

No other comments

**New Business:** (7:57p.m.)

*A. Trails Cost Participation Policy for Standalone trails*

*i. Amendment to the Parks Opens Space Trails Chapter of the County Comprehensive Plan*

Staff reviewed the background with the Park Commission the Draft Trails Cost Participation Policy from last September by showing of PowerPoint presentation on the cost participation for standalone trails and explaining the types of trails and which trails in the county fall into each category.

Staff explained that after reviewing the trails cost participation policy, staff from Planning and Water Management Department noted that the new policy has language and mapping work that is now inconsistent with the County's Comprehensive plan for the Parks, Open Space and Trails (POST). Staff has recommended bringing the County Comprehensive plan up to speed with the Trails Cost Participation Policy for Standalone Trails which will require an amendment to the County's Comprehensive Plan.

The amendment's purpose is to reference the cost participation policy for standalone trail improvement projects adopted by the County Board. The cost participation policy will be referenced in the 2030 Comprehensive Plan as an implementation tool. A list of the proposed edits was presented to the park commission, along with the new trail classifications, this does not change trail alignments or locations; it simply changes how trails are classified and recognizes implementation progress.

It is requested that the Park Commission recommend to the Planning Commission the noted changes to the 2030 comprehensive plan. Staff does not find anything inconsistent with the plan.

Comments or Questions:

Aasen asked about some of the language in the draft policy on page 6.32 wanted some clarification also had questions on language on 6.37 "Another important aspect of this trail is making a connection to regional trails in Scott County, most likely via an existing road corridors or new MN river crossing. Another option for making the connection is to establish a trail crossing in the existing rail corridor in the City of Carver should the Union pacific railroad line become abandoned and an opportunity occur.";

Would like to see it read "Another important aspect of this trail is making a connection to regional trails in Scott County, most likely via an existing road corridors or new MN river crossing. Another option for making the connection is to establish a trail crossing in the existing rail corridor in the City of Carver. **Should it not be practical to cross MN River at that location, the trail should follow County Road 40/County Road 11 road alignment to Jordan.** ~~Union pacific railroad line become abandoned and an opportunity occur.~~

Park Commission accepts the proposed language changed with the addition of the proposed language change on page 6.37 the third paragraph.

Boettcher recommends a motion with the changed language, Trick seconds the motion  
Motion passes 6 to 0

**Staff Reports:** (8:33p.m.)

*A. Update on Aquatic Invasive Species Program Update*

Staff updated commission on the application for grant funding for decontamination unit, went through first phase successfully and second phase would be in Mid-December.

Training opportunity that Commissioner Aasen and Boettcher went to the meeting they stated it was an interesting meeting with interesting proposals, like putting tags on every boat for tracking purposes; they think this concept will get thrown out, also discussion occurred about refining the inspection process. Boettcher stated they also talked about the money that will be used for 2015 for the AIS services. The majority of the people in attendance were watershed people and lake shore groups.

Staff commented that they would be going to training at the U of M in the next few weeks.

DNR has labeled Lake Waconia as a Zebra Mussel infested lake.

Boettcher asked why Lake Waconia wasn't treated like Christmas Lake; Staff stated three zebra mussels were found initially but in further search efforts no other samples were collected by Carver County or DNR staff. Outside information provided to the DNR indicated zebra mussels were found at the marina access in town, however again in further search efforts no additional samples were obtained. Due to the uncertainty of zebra mussel locations in the water body as well as the characteristics of the boat access, treatment options similar to ones performed at Christmas lake did not seem reasonable. In addition, treatment of any option have not been discussed with the County Board.

Boettcher also stated the Watershed was going to present at the Chanhassen American Legion on the treatment at Christmas Lake.

Staff is hoping to wrap up the data and get invoices out by end of year.

No other Comments or Questions

B. Lake Minnewashta Regional Park Road and Parking Lot Improvements

Staff presented to commission pictures of the construction area at Lake Minnewashta; Staff also stated that with the weather that paving is pretty much done for the season, work will continue at the boat access. Work will start back up in the spring.

Staff stated that they had a couple issues with some bad soils that need correcting and more aggregate needed; does not anticipate any more surprises.

Questions or comments:

Manders asked if the intent to have park open for winter season; Staff the park will be open for the winter

Aasen asked since we have pulled boat ramp out of the proposal have we had any contact with DNR for planking; Staff stated they are working with the DNR to get planking for boat ramp.

No other comments

C. MN River Bluff RT – Open House November 18, 2014

There will be an open house for the MN River Bluffs trail project being held at the Church by the River on November 18, 2014 at 6:30 – 8:00pm for local residents, City representatives from Chaska and Carver.

Staff shared with Commission plans for the trail head which will be located in Carver. Also working on a memorandum of understanding with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife.

Staff also stated that the project prices are running about a 100% over what was anticipated, high demand of product and resources maybe the cause of this. We may have to looking on changing things which could consist of not including the bridge.

No comments

D. Events and Activities

Held the first MEA fall day camp at LMP was a great camp partnering with Eastern Carver County Schools Community Ed and the 4-H Extension staff. It was a great day and good turnout.

Eleventh annual Chili cook off was a great time.

Upcoming events for 2015 are the candlelit ski events at Baylor Park and Lake Minnewashta Park – looking for volunteers for these events.

New staff programmer will be starting in December

**Commission Member Reports: (9:11p.m.)**

Manders wanted to thank Marty for attending the Eastern Carver County Community Ed Meeting.

**Next Meeting Date: (9:14p.m.)**

Next meeting will be on December 10, 2014 at 6:30pm meeting at Public Works Building in Cologne.

**Adjourn Meeting: (9:15p.m.)**

Hermann motioned to adjourn the meeting, Aasen seconded the motion. Motion passed 6 to 0.



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## **MEMO**

**TO: Members of the Park Commission**

**FROM: Marty Walsh, Parks Director**

**SUBJECT: Draft Aerator Policy**

**DATE: December 5, 2014**

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At its November 12, 2014 meeting, the Park Commission reviewed the attached draft Aeration Policy.

The Commission did not recommend any changes.

**Recommendation:** It is requested that the Park Commission recommend approval of the Aeration Policy to the County Board.



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## Draft

### Aeration Policy

#### Purpose:

This policy establishes a procedure for operating aeration equipment in a safe and responsive manner for Eagle Lake.

#### Responsibility:

The aeration operation on Eagle Lake will be a responsibility of Carver County.

#### Policy:

The Carver County Board authorizes Parks Department to obtain permits, manage and operate an aeration system at Eagle Lake.

#### Definition(s):

Aeration – means the operation of Aire O2 mechanical aerators in conformance with recommended operating guidelines for these machines.

Signage – “WARNING THIN ICE”, “WARNING an aeration system creating open water and thin ice is in use on this lake. USE EXTREME CAUTION”

Affidavit – Written notice submitted to papers no more than 60 days prior to operation of aeration system

Permit – DNR document giving authority or permission to a person, group or entity to operate aeration system

Fishery – An environment where fish of various species live

DNR – Department of Natural Resources, Department of the State of Minnesota

Dissolved Oxygen (DO) – a relative measure of the amount of oxygen that is dissolved or carried in lake water

Inspection Report – DNR a document used to evaluate compliance of aeration operation with Permit.

### Guiding Principles:

- 1) Communicate with Public through policy, newspaper and other media
- 2) Follow applicable laws and permitting for the safe operation of aerators
- 3) Work to maintain dissolved oxygen level sufficient to support the Fishery
- 4) Provide routine monitoring of aeration system

### Procedure for Installation and Operation of Aerators:

- 1) Submit aeration permit to DNR
- 2) Prepare equipment for service
- 3) Notice of intent to operate aerators is submitted to legal and area newspapers not less than 60 days before installation of aerators
- 4) Install signage before operation of aerators
  - a. WARNING THIN ICE
  - b. WARNING an aeration system creating open water and thin ice is in use on this lake. USE EXTREME CAUTION
- 5) Installation of aerators
  - a. Aerators will be installed when ice conditions allow for the safe deployment of equipment and signage.
  - b. Installation consists of no less than 2 aeration units and work to maintain an area of open water of approximately 150' x 150' in dimension
- 6) Monitor aeration system with completion of inspection checklist
- 7) Respond to items addressed on Inspection Report by the DNR and file
- 8) Analyze aeration system inspection reports completed by maintenance staff and file
- 9) Remove aerators and signage when condition allow for the safe removal.

### Summary:

Many factors contribute to the health of a Fishery. It is recognized that the operation of aerators is not a failsafe measure for insuring the health of a Fishery. The above policy outlines the measures to be taken to help ensure that the aeration system at Eagle Lake is provided in a safe, and responsive manner to providing the service.



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## Memo

**To:** Members of the Carver County Park Commission  
**CC:** Martin Walsh  
**From:** Sam Pertz  
**Date:** 12/5/2014  
**Re:** AIS Services: Discussion for 2015 and Beyond

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### Background:

Staff is preparing 2015 AIS operations plans. The 2014 Legislative session allocated funds to each County within the State based on formula (number of public water accesses & trailer parking capacity) within that County for AIS prevention efforts. In July of 2014 Carver County received \$59,671 and is anticipating \$132,603 in 2015.

State Statute requires Board resolution for the intention of how 2014 funds would be utilized. For 2014, these funds were not expended. At the December 16, 2014 County Board meeting, the Board is requested to pass resolution indicating the 2014 funds will be rolled-over to 2015.

Previous discussion with the County Board about AIS services indicated that 2014 funds would be programed for operation enhancements: online scheduling; comprehensive signage at accesses; inspection technology improvements; water monitor testing and FTE costs related to a County AIS Coordinator.

For discussion purposes, Staff has identified two service level options for 2015 based on the Priority Lake services model.

### Level 1 "Maintain Current Watercraft Inspection Service" Plus Decontamination & Trailer-tag Services

- Provide same level of service in 2015 as was done in 2014 – no extended season, no increase in service hours

### Level 2 "Expand Current Watercraft Inspection Service" Plus Decontamination & Trailer-tag Services

- Longer service season – extend by three weeks
- More service at priority lakes, additional service at other accesses within County plus roving inspections at low-priority lakes by and at Minnesota River watercraft access sites
- Coordinated Carver County AIS effort - hire FTE dedicated to AIS prevention work

Concerning 2015 AIS Prevention Aid Funds, Staff proposes to discuss and receive input on how these funds could be used during 2015 and perhaps beyond...

The service level options above can be modified in a number of ways. Below is a menu of options for review.

- Expand service hours, locations and season
- Provide free decontamination service
- Provide trailer-tag service
- Completely supplant County & WMO funding
- Partially supplant County & WMO funding
- Fund rapid response lake treatment for AIS
- Hire consultant for planning work needed for a centralized service model
- Provide grant funds to local units of governments to administer their own AIS service

More information and details will be presented at the meeting.

### Recommendation:

A Staff recommendation is not provided, nor is a recommendation from the Commission requested at this time.



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Administration  
Operations  
Program Delivery  
Parks

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## **MEMO**

**TO: Members of the Park Commission**

**FROM: Marty Walsh, Parks Director**

**SUBJECT: Draft Land Protection Policy**

**DATE: December 5, 2014**

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This memorandum and attached draft policy for park land projection is in response to the Park Commission's request to consider policy language which would assist the County as requests are made to utilize park property for purposes other than the intended use.

For practical purposes it is desirable for the County to have a policy in order to deal with such matters in a consistent way.

The Commission had requested at its November 12, 2014 meeting that staff develop policy language consistent with land protection strategies identified in the Metropolitan Councils 2030 Regional Park Policy Plan.

For the Commission's consideration, a draft policy is attached.

The below list of guiding principles was drawn upon to help state the need for policy language.

### Guiding Principles:

- 1) To communicate with public park land protection policy, and be consistent with requests to utilize park property
- 2) Be consistent with Metropolitan Council's Regional Parks and Opens Space Policy Plan for land acquired with Metropolitan Council Funding
- 3) Lands intended for outdoor recreation activities are considered to be in their highest and best permanent use, these lands should be protected from unintended uses
- 4) The park or trail master plan defines acceptable uses and activities within a system unit
- 5) A proposed use of park land which is inconsistent with the intended use is considered to have an impact on the property if it precludes or substantially limits the future use of the property for which it was purchased

Recommendation: It is requested that the Park Commission review the draft policy and provide comments and suggestions. A staff recommendation is not provided and a recommendation from the Park Commission is not requested at this time.



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## Draft

### Park Land Protection Policy

#### Purpose:

This policy establishes a means to consider a request to utilize park land for purposes other than the intended use.

On occasion, individuals, institutions, and organizations, both public and private, have expressed interest in obtaining or diverting County park lands for other purposes. Examples may include: roadways, warning sirens, telecommunications towers, utility lines, billboards, and buildings. It is anticipated that such requests will continue as competition for space increases near County park property.

#### Responsibility:

Carver County Board shall have authority to approving or denying requests to utilize park land for purposes other than the intended use. The Carver County Park commission shall make recommendation to the County Board.

#### Definition(s):

Park Land –land or water area specifically purchased for recreational enjoyment of the public.

Master plan – Approved document which defines the park unit

#### Policy:

The County Board considers lands intended for outdoor recreation activities to be in their highest and best permanent use and will protect park land from being converted to uses other than their intended use.

Where proposed conversions of park property appear to be in the best interest of the County\County Park System and where all reasonable alternatives have been exhausted, the below criteria will be used to further evaluate conversion of park property.

- For land purchased with Metropolitan Council funding, whether the park system unit can continue to meet Council site and site attribute standards established for the particular type of park system unit (regional park, park reserve, trail greenway or special recreation feature)
- Whether the park system unit will continue to function as originally planned
- Whether environmental features (wildlife habitat, water quality) will be adversely affected

- Whether the loss of site or function will be made up through acquisition of a site with comparable characteristics adjacent to or in the immediate area of the current location
- Whether the need for the conversion, is generated by the recreational park system unit
- Whether loss of features or function will be made up through compensation. Such compensation to be utilized to develop or redevelop the park unit.
- Whether there is benefit to the park unit by the conversion

In those instances where the County Board determines that a proposed conversion of park property may meet these conditions; easements, permits or conversions may be granted which include the following requirements:

- Restoration of any physical or natural property removed or damaged, or equivalent monetary compensation shall be provided.
- Compensation will reflect the impact of the intrusion on the aesthetic and recreational values of parkland as well as the market value of affected land measured by its highest and best use, and for associated administrative costs.
- In any case where conversion of park property to other uses is proposed, applicants must satisfy Metropolitan Council policies governing such conversions, including, but not limited to, the requirement that equally valuable land or facilities be exchanged.