

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
RICE COUNTY COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Commissioner's Room / Government Services Building
Tuesday, May 20, 2025 at 8:30 AM**

I. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

(At each Committee of the Whole Work Session meeting, the floor will be open to solicit public comments on items on the agenda after they are presented. A Comment Card will need to be filled out in order to speak about any of the items. Public comments will be limited to (3) minutes for each person, subject to the discretion of the County Board Chairperson) Charlie Peters was Chair.

II. PARKS: Dennis Luebbe

- A.** It has been proposed to include construction of a portion of the Mill Towns State Trail as part of the Highway Department's reconstruction of CSAH 78 (Armstrong Road).
To advance this concept, the Mill Towns State Trail Joint Powers Board has drafted a letter of support. The County Board should discuss endorsing this letter as part of the process to secure State Trail funding through the DNR, and subsequent agreements for design, engineering, construction, and ownership of the completed Trail. More to come on this item.
- B.** The Parks Committee has reviewed the concept of creating shore fishing platforms that will provide ADA access to fishing locations within Rice County. This is a program funded by the DNR. If approved, the DNR will provide funding for the design and construction of potentially up to (6) platforms. The County has the ability to provide the major structural component of the fishing pier, using salvaged concrete box culvert segments. This reduces the cost of the project, and implies the project. This item will be brought back for approval at the Board of Commissioners Meeting May 27, 2025.
- C.** The 2022 Parks Plan includes the goal of establishing the Cannon River Wilderness Park as a Regional Park as designated by the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission (GMRPTC). I have received proposals for this effort from the consultant hired to develop the Parks Plan (HKGI), as well as (WSN), a consultant with direct experience working with county Regional Parks efforts. Discussion on awarding a contract to apply for the Regional Park designation from GMRPTC is desired. There is approximately \$15,000 in funding remaining from the 2022 Parks Plan. Additional funding can be secured from reserves.
- D.** Invasive species have been looked for. The proposal is to have a site visit on May 22nd to advertise the work. They will meet with contractors. The deadline for the proposal is May 27th and is due by June 14th. This will start later in late June or July. (Cannon River Wilderness)

Working with Cannon Wells Lake Association to help with public access-Shager Park to address needs, including the beach area. Roads are in disrepair; fishing pier needs work. DNR doesn't have the ability, so Parks is working with legal/admin to explore a solution.

Donations from Scheel's Lake for a bench out at McCullough Park. Jim Becker will be donating the Park Bench. After it's placed, we will be responsible for up keep.

Ackman owns property by Cannon/Wells and the sign is needing repair. This will be brought to board on the 27th of May.

III. HIGHWAY: Dennis Luebbe

- A.** Dennis Lubbe, Highway Engineer, gave a brief overview of the projects being worked on. Replacing a 1988 water truck by refurbishing a snow truck removed all snow items and made it into a wash truck to remove salt and snow, weed spraying which will need water, possibility of the use of anti-deicing could be used in winter.

Pothole patcher contains a manufacturer defect which is currently being replaced, so those are currently

on hold.

Ditches-Gravel must be completed by June 30th.

County Road 79 in Northfield the Culvert is complete. Storm Sewer is now going into the ground.

Spring Creek Road intersection to close down during construction. Currently working on the reopening progress. County Road 27 Mill and Fill Nerstrand Blvd to start in early June.

Admin work has been applying for grants through MnDOT-Active Trails. This is the second year that they were not successful. Working on a different approach to applying for the grants.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Galen Malecha, seconded by Jim Purfeerst, to adjourn the meeting.

RESULT: Approved, AYES: Steve Underdahl, Galen Malecha, Jim Purfeerst, Gerry Hoisington, Charlie Peters, NAYS: None