

AREA II

AREA II & RCRCA Boards of Directors Meeting

April 7, 2016 – 9:00 AM – Lyon Street Service Center – Marshall, MN

AREA II Members Present: Dennis Potter, Norman Holmen, Roy Marihart, Joe Drietz, Rodney Stensrud, Bob Moline, Luke Johnson and Louis Sherlin.

RCRCA Members Present: Dennis Potter, Jack Vogel, Norman Holmen, Clark Lingbeek, Joe Drietz, Glen Sorensen, Mark Meulebroeck, Rodney Stensrud, Bob Moline, Paul Posthuma, Luke Johnson, Arvin Pater, Louis Sherlin and Burton Kuehn.

Others Present: Kerry Netzke – Executive Director Area II and RCRCA, Joy Bruns – RCRCA Office Manager, John Boulton – YMRWD, Kaitlin Culver – Southern Minnesota Sugar Beet Cooperative (SMSBC) Environmental Department.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM by Area II Chairman Johnson and RCRCA Chairman Holmen.

ADOPT AGENDA. RCRCA Chairman Holmen asked for any additions to the agenda. Motion by Sherlin, seconded by Drietz, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

AGENCY AND MEETING REPORTS:

AMC – Commissioner Moline reported on the District VIII conference call Monday afternoon. AMC is looking at restructuring the board. The next AMC Board meeting is Friday, April 15. District meetings will be held the first week in June. A Strategic Planning meeting will be held August 18-19 at a location to be determined.

MASWCD – Supervisor Lingbeek reported on the Legislative Day at the Capitol. Representatives Hansen, Torkelson, McNamara and Senator Marti attended the event. Lease issues continue with NRCS and FSA. MASWCD has established a subcommittee with BWSR and NRCS to help assist with the office space issues.

MN River Congress – Supervisor Lingbeek attended the March 10 meeting and agreed to be nominated as a board member representing SWCDs. 78 people were in attendance. Netzke shared a list of the current board members. Ron Harnack and Linda Loomis, representing the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District, also attended. SF2563 was discussed which could potentially create a watershed district for the entire Minnesota River if One Watershed One Plan (1W1P) efforts are not underway in any of the major watersheds by 2017. Netzke reported that the Yellow Medicine 1W1P will be presented to the BWSR Board in September 2016 for approval.

Drainage Conference in Willmar – Commissioner Johnson reported on the Rinke-Noonan sponsored event. Regarding the Des Moines Water Works court case, the federal court has ruled that the state court must rule before the case can be dismissed at the federal level. Bill Stokes wants tile outlets designated as point source pollution and “never to exceed 10 mg/l of nitrates” language adapted to tile outlets. Cedar Rapids was used as an example as they work with farmers for projects on the ground. Naturally occurring nitrate and sediment is rarely discussed.

SOUTHERN MN SUGAR BEET COOPERATIVE (SMSBC) – Kaitlin Culver introduced herself and explained that she has worked with the growers and watershed coordinators for 8 months. In the Hawk Creek watershed, SMSBC reports 90% of their growers planting Spring cover crops, mostly oats and wheat, as growers are reimbursed \$4/acre. The cover crop is on the field until the 5-leaf stage of the sugar beet, approximately a month. Pre-lift of the sugar beets is August and full harvest is typically in October. Currently SMSBC does not have a cover crop program for fall. With the late harvest, many growers fear that a cover crop will not be established before winter. SMSBC cannot implement projects themselves, but they have the knowledge and the people base to generate ideas to improve the water quality

and reduce sediment and nutrient runoff. SMSBC would like to work with our organizations towards a common goal and possibly receive grants to implement new ways to improve the water quality.

YMRWD – Boulton reported on the MAWD Legislative Day at the Capitol on March 30-31. He lobbied for \$500,000 for LQP-YB for engineering of larger projects. The district has processed approximately 200 permits for tiling. They expect less tiling in 2016 with the Porter Elevator bankruptcy and lower farm revenue projections. Emily Javens, the new Administrator, is also a Professional Engineer. She has asked to help design projects that involve the YMRWD.

APPROVE AREA II MINUTES of March 3, 2016 Monthly Board Meeting. Motion by Moline, seconded by Potter, to approve the March 2016 minutes as corrected. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE RCRC A MINUTES of March 3, 2016 Monthly Board Meeting. Motion by Johnson, seconded by Meulebroeck, to approve the March 2016 minutes as corrected. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE AREA II TREASURER’S REPORT. Netzke reviewed the financials with the Board for month ending March 31. A Cash Sweep Account has been opened, which may have a higher interest rate than the checking account. The Wells Fargo account will be closed after confirming that all the ACH deposits have been directed to the HomeTown Bank account. Professional Fees were higher than normal due to the Bassford Remele invoice for legal services and Duane Hansel working two days per week to complete plans for the EQIP funding deadline. Motion by Sherlin, seconded by Marihart, to approve the financial report and the bills for payment. A voice vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

Revenue as recorded:

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|--------|
| Contract Service Income (RCRCA) | \$ 1,531.60 | Projects-Bonding | \$ -0- |
| Interest Income | \$ 33.71 | Misc. Income | \$ -0- |
| 1W1P Grant Income | \$ 23.20** | County Levy | \$ -0- |
| County Funds-Redwood SWCD | \$ -0- | 1W1P Grant Funds | \$ -0- |

Paid bills are summarized below:

| | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| Administration | \$ 13,076.97 | Director Expense | \$ 175.08 |
| Maintenance & Repair | \$ 324.00 | Rent & Utilities | \$ 837.00 |
| Miscellaneous Expense | \$ 257.31 | Office Supplies | \$ 12.72 |
| Professional Services | \$ 13,412.34 | | |
| Contract Services - RCRCA | \$ 1,825.12 | Vehicle Expense | \$ 138.66 |
| Bonding Project Funds | \$ -0- | Field Supplies | \$ 518.62 |
| Postage | \$ 49.00 | Employee Expense | \$ 158.58 |
| 1W1P Grant Expenses | \$ 48.97 | Project Expense | \$ 300.00 |
| Directors’ Insurance | \$ -0- | Investigating & Testing | \$ 13,350.00 |
| Continuing Education | \$ -0- | Telephone | \$ 13.80 |

Approved bills for payment summarized below:

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|----------------------------|------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| Contract Services - RCRCA | \$ -0- | Professional Services | \$ 6,699.50 |
| Consulting Services - 1W1P | \$ -0- | Investigation/Testing | \$ 8,800.00 |
| Contract Services - 1W1P | \$ 23.20** | Maintenance/Repairs | \$ -0- |

**** To be approved by 1W1P Policy Committee**

APPROVE RCRC A TREASURER’S REPORT. Netzke reviewed the financials with the Board for the month ending March 31. Motion by Drietz, seconded by Posthuma, to approve the financial report and for payment of the bills. Motion carried unanimously.

RCRC A - APPROVE NEW COST SHARE APPLICATIONS/AMENDMENTS/CANCELLATIONS

NEW COST SHARE CONTRACTS: None

CONTRACT AMENDMENT: None

CONTRACTS FOR PAYMENT: None

AREA II – APROVE COST SHARE APPLICATIONS/AMENDMENTS/CANCELLATIONS

FY2016 Bonding

Thomas Morley

EST Cost: \$81,340.05

Brian Hicks

EST Cost: \$80,860.00

Redwood – Redwood Falls 18 Dam

EST Cost Share: \$61,005.04 (75%)

Redwood – Gales 15 Dam

EST Cost Share: \$42,286.00 (75%)

Two cost share contracts for dams were presented for approval for Redwood County – Redwood Falls 18 and Gales 15. The Gales 15 project is a SWROC experiment, an irrigation pond for sub-irrigation. Wetland credits costing approximately \$18,000 and the boring costs have been included in the project total. Motion by Moline, seconded by Potter, to approve the cost share contracts. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT:

• Lyon SWCD has conducted technician interviews and has made an offer to the top candidate. We anticipate mid-April as the start date. MARCO moved the copier and all other wiring was completed by Lyon County IT. In lieu of rent, the new employee will offer in-kind services to RCRCA and Area II.

• To comply with grant requirements, website reporting of all State grant funds had to be completed by March 15. This included the following:

RCRCA – WPLMN monitoring grant, Cottonwood 319 grant, Drainage Water Management grant, LiDAR grant, Clean Water Funds grant, Redwood Turbidity grant, and Septic Loans.

AREA II – FY15 Admin funds, FY16 Admin funds, FY12 Bonding, FY16 Bonding, FY15 One Watershed One Plan, and FY16 One Watershed One Plan.

•The St. Matthew Lutheran Youth Group (Wabasso) has accepted the Adopt-A-Highway request from RCRCA and Area II. They did ask if full payment could be received in May after the first cleanup, as the group leaves for the Black Hills the first week of June for their mission trip and are in need of the funds. They are willing to sign an agreement certifying their commitment to complete the Fall cleanup. Netzke approved their request.

AREA II

• Yellow Medicine **One Watershed, One Plan** Planning Work Group and agency representatives met March 17, March 23 and will meet again on April 6 to review the 1st Draft of the Plan document. Several revisions have been recommended to make the document more reader-friendly. The 2nd Draft is due by April 15. RESPEC has requested that the comments and edits be submitted in a consolidated format to make their revisions easier and quicker. Being the coordinator for the Plan, that responsibility fell upon Netzke.

• Julie Krebs, BWSR Verification Specialist, will be visiting on April 11 to follow up on the recommendations following the verification in 2015. All recommendations have been put in place.

RCRCA

• The final Civic Engagement Training session was held March 30 and ended with a graduation ceremony. The training was very beneficial in improving facilitation skills, especially with people who have different conflict resolution approaches than yours.

• The Biennial Budget Request (BBR) was announced mid-March and is due April 15. An extension was requested due to my needed attention to the **One Watershed, One Plan** edits and comments; the extension was granted. RCRCA’s BBR is now due by April 30. The requests are being submitted via eLINK and are expected to be inclusive of all financial grant needs of the organization for the 2017-2018 biennium. If done correctly, the organization can pull information directly from the BBR to use in grant applications.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE.

sf 2563/hf 3677 -- Netzke reported that the bill to create a Minnesota River Commission has been withdrawn due to an overwhelming amount of opposition. As stated earlier, sf2563 has been introduced by Senator Sheran calling for comprehensive water management plans for the 13 major watersheds to be completed by December 31, 2020. If a Plan is not being implemented in any of the 13 major watersheds, (i.e. One Watershed, One Plan), the county or counties within the watershed shall petition for the establishment of a watershed district. Netzke stated that the Yellow Medicine One Watershed, One Plan will be complete by the end of 2016

sf 34/hf 58 – LQP-YB WD is seeking pre-engineering funds, in similar fashion to those received to design Lazarus Creek. The bills were introduced last session and are still active in committee.

sf 1421/hf 1473 -- Lake Redwood – Netzke noted that this bill was introduced last year and is currently in the capital investment committee.

RCRCA and AREA II POLICY COMMITTEE – MEETING DATE. Netzke requested to set a date for a joint Policy Committee meeting to review revised policies. Discussion followed. April 25 at 8:00 AM at the Lyon SWCD conference room was chosen. This will involve: Luke Johnson, Mark Meulebroeck, Rodney Stensrud, Kerry Netzke, and Joy Bruns.

AREA II ENGINEER’S REPORT:

Sherman 22 Streambank Stabilization, Redwood County. The Corps of Engineers has issued their permit for this project; we are waiting for the DNR permit. ***Nordland 20 SE Grade Stabilization, Lyon County.*** We are in the design process for this proposed dam located downstream from a second proposed dam structure on the same property. Soil borings have been obtained and the geotechnical report has been received recently. ***Lake Stay 3 Small Dam, Lincoln County.*** Design work is progressing on this project, scheduled for 2016 construction. So far, no wetlands or other permitting issues have been identified for this project. The geotechnical report for this site has been received. The landowner has requested financial assistance from YMRWD. Netzke plans to attend the next YMRWD meeting on the landowner’s behalf. ***Charlestown 30 Small Dam, Redwood County.*** Updating of the design is continuing. We will be sending information to the DNR and to the Corps of Engineers for permits shortly. Soil Borings have been obtained and the geotechnical report has been received. ***Monroe 31 Grade Stabilization, Lyon County.*** This project includes a series of small dikes in an agricultural waterway as a means to reduce erosion and control flow. A tile outlet system would convey flows to an established outlet. After meeting with the landowners, the project is now ready to be bid. ***Redwood Falls 18 Small Dam, Redwood County.*** Design work has been started on this project which is near another dam on the property which was constructed in 2014. The site is adjacent to the Redwood River. Some wetland mitigation is anticipated to be needed for this project. The geotechnical report has been received. ***Lamberton 27 Streambank Stabilization, Redwood County.*** We have also been working on design work for this bank stabilization project along Dutch Charlie Creek near Lamberton. The creek has eroded the outside bend located just upstream from a county road bridge. The Redwood County Highway Department supports the project to protect the bridge. Permits are nearly complete. ***Upper Delhi 30 Small Dam Repair, Redwood County.*** Design work is complete for the repair of this dam northeast of Belview. Bids will be opened April 14. ***Gales 15 Small Dam, Redwood County.*** Bids were received for this project and were considerably below the engineer’s estimate. Wetland credits are being purchased so that the project can be built by early summer, with a specified completion date of June 30th. ***Lamberton 1 Grade Stabilization, Redwood County.*** Bids were received for this project this week and were considerably below estimate. The engineer’s estimate was \$56,387.65; the low bid from Ryan West Excavating was \$43,469.80. Netzke reported that the bids have been coming in 15-20% under the engineer’s estimate. Holmen asked where the savings is coming from. Netzke responded “a combination of things, possibly lower fuel costs and the contractors needing work”. The project will be built this fall. ***Honner 32 Reconstruction, Redwood County.*** Plans for this reconstruction project are nearly complete. We will be meeting with the landowner on April 14 to gain his concurrence with the design and anticipate construction to be completed this summer.

DISSOLUTION OF AREA II’S CORPORATE STATUS – Area II Resolution for Approval. Netzke reported that she has received the resolutions from the member counties supporting the dissolution and authorizing delegates to sign the new Joint Powers Agreement. A similar resolution for Area II has been prepared for approval. The new Joint Powers Agreement is being reviewed by MCIT and will be ready for signature at the May meeting. Motion by Sherlin, seconded by Stensrud, to approve the Resolution dissolving the corporate status of Area II and remaining a joint powers entity. Motion carried unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS. None

ADJOURNMENT. Chairman Holmen and Chairman Johnson adjourned the meeting at 10:30 AM.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

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| May Board Meeting | Thursday, May 5, 2016 | BWSR Conference Room – Marshall, MN – 9:00 AM. |
| June Board Meeting | Thursday, June 9, 2016 | Redwood Government Center, Redwood Falls, MN – 9:00 AM |
| July Board Meeting | Thursday, July 7, 2016 | BWSR Conference Room – Marshall, MN – 9:00 AM. |