

AREA II

AREA II/RCRCA

March 2, 2017 – 9:00 AM – Executive Boards Meeting – BWSR Conference Room, Marshall, MN

AREA II Members Present: Norman Holmen, Rick Anderson, and Luke Johnson.

RCRCA Members Present: Norman Holmen, Clark Lingbeek, Rick Anderson, Mark Meulebroeck, and Paul Posthuma.

Others Present: Kerry Netzke – Executive Director, Joy Bruns – RCRCA Office Manager, and Darrel Ellefson & Trudy Hastad – LQP-YB Watershed District.

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

ADOPT AGENDA. RCRCA Chairman Holmen asked for any additions to the agenda. Hearing none, a motion was made by Meulebroeck, seconded by Anderson, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

AGENCY AND MEETING REPORTS.

DNR – Netzke was asked to announce a meeting in Sanborn on March 6 to discuss the removal of three dams in the Cottonwood River, within Redwood County, to restore stream habitat and allow fish passage. These are not flood control dams and were likely constructed to cut ice. The dam within the golf course at Sanborn is used for irrigation purposes. Netzke will attend this meeting on behalf of both organizations.

MASWCD – Supervisor Lingbeek reported on a Watonwan 1WIP meeting held at St. James. The Little Cottonwood watershed will not be included within that plan boundary as was proposed. Regarding Buffers/CREP, there is currently \$58 million of state funds to match the federal funding. For a buffer strip to qualify for CREP, the area must be a minimum of 8 acres unless the owner is a minority or if special circumstances apply. Bills have been introduced to alter the buffer law and the deadlines associated with it.

Area V MASCWD – Supervisor Lingbeek reported on the Area V Meeting held on February 16 in Marshall. An update on DNR Buffer Mapping was given, as well as updates to local TMDL/WRAPS progress. MPCA is reporting an increasing trend of chlorides in surface waters with road salt and water softeners identified as the sources.

AMC – Commissioner Anderson reported that at the last AMC Executive Board meeting, AMC does not support putting SWCDs on the tax statement (i.e. granting levy authority). He noted that some SWCDs want levy authority as their counties do not provide adequate administrative funding.

LQP-YB WD – Hastad reported on renewed 3-year leases on pasture land which the watershed owns. Bids of \$57/acre and \$70/acre were accepted at the Lazarus Creek site; \$77/acre at the R6 reservoir site; and \$100/acre at the R1 reservoir site. New lease language was added requiring bale removal within 30 days, and cattle off pasture by October 15. The District has six viewers working on ditch redeterminations for JD4, CD12, CD54 and CD42. Holmen noted that Cottonwood County has experienced a 2-year window for redeterminations. They are starting Year 3 of WRAPs where the sampling is complete and civic engagement meetings are beginning. March 29-30 is MAWD's Legislative Day at the Capital.

APPROVE RCRCA MINUTES of February 2, 2017 Monthly Board Meeting. Motion made by Lingbeek, seconded by Meulebroeck, to recommend approval to the full board of the February 2017 Minutes as corrected. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE AREA II MINUTES of February 2, 2017 Monthly Board Meeting. Motion made by Anderson, seconded by Holmen, to recommend approval to the full board for the February 2017 Minutes as corrected. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE RCRCA TREASURER’S REPORT – February 2017. Financials for the month of February 2017 were reviewed. Motion made by Posthuma, seconded by Lingbeek, to recommend approval to the full board for the February 2017 Treasurer’s Report and payment of the bills. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE AREA II TREASURER’S REPORT – February 2017. Financials for the month of February 2017 were reviewed. Revenue received: \$4,367.40 contract services, \$8.08 checking interest and \$7,728.56 reimbursement of engineering services from RCRCA. Professional Services paid included engineering and the FY16 Audit. Motion made by Anderson, seconded by Holmen, to recommend approval to the full board for the February 2017 Treasurer’s Report and payment of the bills. Motion carried unanimously.

Revenue as recorded:

Contract Service Income (RCRCA)	\$ 4,367.40	Projects-Bonding	\$ -0-
Interest Income	\$ 8.08	Misc. Income	\$ 7,728.56
1W1P Grant Income	\$ -0-	County Levy	\$ -0-
State of MN-Administrative	\$ -0-	1W1P Grant Funds	\$ -0-

Paid bills are summarized below:

Administration	\$ 13,287.81	Directors’ Expense	\$ -0-
Maintenance & Repair	\$ 1,129.42	Rent	\$ 837.00
Miscellaneous Expense	\$ 100.38	Office Supplies	\$ -0-
Professional Services	\$ 8,990.00	Vehicle Expense	\$ 57.02
Contract Services - RCRCA	\$ 1,210.88	Field Supplies	\$ -0-
Bonding Project Funds	\$ -0-	Employee Expense	\$ 168.01
Postage	\$ -0-	Project Expense	\$ -0-
1W1P Grant Expenses	\$ -0-	Investigating & Testing	\$ -0-
Directors’ Insurance	\$ -0-	Telephone	\$ 17.48
Other Insurance	\$ -0-		

Approved bills for payment are summarized below:

Contract Services - RCRCA	\$ -0-	Professional Services	\$ 5,031.00
Consulting Services - 1W1P	\$ -0-	Project Expenses	\$ -0-
Contract Services - 1W1P	\$ -0-	Investigation/Testing	\$ -0-

RCRCA - APPROVE NEW COST SHARE APPLICATIONS/AMENDMENTS/CANCELLATIONS: None

RCRCA CONTRACTS FOR PAYMENT: None

AREA II – APPROVE NEW COST SHARE APPLICATIONS:

NW Farm Management	Lyon – Nordland 19	Small Dam Repair
Original Bid: \$26,713.07	Original Cost Share: \$20,034.81 (75%)	

Lincoln County	Lincoln CD37- Hendricks 36	Pump Station
Original Cost: \$124,523.00	Original Cost Share: \$93,392.25 (75%)	

Netzke presented two new contracts to the Executive Board. Motion by Holmen, seconded by Anderson, to approve the contracts. Motion carried unanimously.

AREA II CONTRACT AMENDMENT: None

AREA II CONTRACTS FOR PAYMENT: None

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT.

• Attended Senator Dahms' Representative Torkelson's Town Hall Meeting in Redwood Falls on February 3. Discussion largely dealt with health insurance, ditch mowing permits, and buffer establishment.

AREA II

• Yellow Medicine **One Watershed One Plan (1W1P):**

- To date, all 10 MOA partners have adopted the plan by resolution. Work will begin to draft a new MOA for implementation of the Plan followed by a Policy Committee meeting.

- RESPEC provided a Work Plan and Budget for the SAM-ACPF conversion tool which will identify projects on a field scale level. The Work Plan and grant request were submitted to BWSR on February 22; the BWSR Board will consider the application at their March 22 meeting. This grant would not require local match.

• Lyon County Commissioners approved the sale of the Lyon SWCD's R8 GPS unit to Area II. Lyon SWCD has ordered their new unit; Area II will take possession once the new unit arrives.

• Total Station Update: An agreement has been reached where the NRCS Area Office will transfer the equipment to the Lyon Field Office for use by Area II. Area II can house the equipment, but it will remain NRCS property. NRCS will pay to clean and calibrate the station before we put it into use as well as future maintenance needs.

• All legislative bills of interest have been introduced. A Senate hearing had been scheduled for February 22, but was cancelled as Senator Dahms had a conflict and wished to accompany my testimony. It was rescheduled for March 7.

• American Engineering Testing is hoping to begin soil borings soon. They have been having issues with their semi-trailer and were stuck in Pierre, SD this week when they hoped to be working for Area II. Depending on the snowfall received, they may have to be delayed until the sites are fit for boring.

RCRCA

• The Surface Water Assessment Grant (SWAG) contract for the Cottonwood and Redwood River watersheds, beginning March 2017, was signed February 21. We are busy making arrangements with the MVTL lab for the separate sampling grants, sample bottles, coolers, etc.

• The contract for the Phase 1 WRAPS for the Cottonwood and Redwood watersheds was signed January 31. This \$70,000 grant is for the planning of the WRAPS only (i.e. establishing the local work group, meeting to discuss how to incorporate civic engagement, etc.). RCRCA, SWCDs and county staff will be reimbursed for their time. Civic engagement will be Phase II with a much larger budget. RCRCA has been working closely with MPCA to determine the "gap sampling" needed to ensure sufficient number of samples for analysis. A \$7,000 amendment to the Phase 1 agreement is being drafted to reimburse RCRCA for mileage, staff time, and testing expenses.

• Netzke and Wohnoutka attended mandatory WPLMN training in St. Cloud on February 7.

• Boat pickup in Shakopee was done on March 1.

• RCRCA will be co-sponsoring a Soil Health Workshop with NRCS on March 29 in Marshall. This is being done through the Redwood River Turbidity Reduction Grant with past RCRCA cooperators receiving special invitation.

2017 LEGISLATIVE SESSION UPDATE.

Area II –

FY'18/FY19 Administrative Services – hf398/sf348 – \$189K/year from the general fund to BWSR for grant to Area II. A hearing is scheduled for March 7 at 10:30 with the Senate Environmental Finance Committee. A House hearing has been requested.

Area II Bonding – hf447/sf588 – \$1M bond proceeds to BWSR for grant to Area II for flood hazard mitigation projects. Hearings have been requested.

LOP-YB WD Bonding – hf1230/sf761 – \$500,000 in Bonding for the engineering of two floodwater control projects. Hearings have been requested.

RCRCA –

Lake Redwood Reclamation and Enhancement Project – hf413/sf294 – \$7.825M in bonding. The project was included in the 2016 Bonding Bill which was not signed by Governor Dayton. That same bonding bill was approved by the Senate Capitol Investment Committee and awaits vote by the full Senate.

AREA II ENGINEER’S REPORT.

Redwood Falls 18 Small Dam, Redwood County. We are still awaiting review and comments from the Corps. Netzke noted that the Corps project manager called Friday as he had misplaced the application, but has since discovered it. He will expedite the review. ***Lincoln CD 37 Pump Station, Lincoln County.*** The Lincoln County Commissioners accepted bids for this project on February 21. The low bidder, Thompson Excavating, was awarded the contract for \$124,523.00, which is about 18% below the engineer’s estimate. The second lowest bid was D & G Excavating at \$127,769.00. Thirteen bids were received from the 16 plan holders. ***Morton Dam Repair – Birch Cooley 19, Renville County.*** Final plans for this project will be completed soon. The project is planned to be constructed in the spring using Flood Recovery Funds. ***Delhi 5 Small Dam Repair, Redwood County.*** We have met with the landowner for this grade stabilization and diversion channel project. We are now awaiting the EQIP funding announcements. ***Sherman 6 Streambank Stabilization, Redwood County.*** We met with the Lower Sioux Community regarding this project. While the tribe is very supportive of the project, the \$300,000 project is not yet funded as they currently have \$30,000. The next step is to research potential funding sources and/or approach the project in stages. ***Charlestown 34 Small Dam, Redwood County.*** A small dam was planned several years ago at this location; however sand was discovered in the soil borings. A new site, further upstream of the previous location, has been investigated. Additional borings are part of the scope of work which American Engineering Testing will be completing soon. Further design work will commence once their report is available. ***Gales 26 Grade Stabilization, Redwood County.*** The design for this project was completed in January. This is another project scheduled to be funded with EQIP federal funds to be announced by March 17. ***Nordland 19 Small Dam Repair, Lyon County.*** Bids were received for this project. The low bid of \$26,713.07 was submitted by Groundworks (Bill Sterzinger). The second lowest bidder was A & C Excavating at \$27,822.75. This project is a typical dam repair which will include pipe replacement, regrading of the dam and constructing a new emergency spillway. ***Nordland 20 Small Dam, Lyon County.*** The plans for this dam are completed and the Corps of Engineer’s permit application is in process. The dam will impact a small wetland area, so mitigation of the impact in terms of a bypass tile is anticipated to be required. ***Johnsonville 34 Small Dam Repair, Redwood County.*** Design work has been started on this typical repair project. The work will be funded with Flood Recovery Funds.

MEMORIALS FOR DECEASED BOARD MEMBERS. Netzke reported that Richard Holmberg’s office advised both organizations that the memorials may be paid with organizational funds as long as the total memorial amount is less than the interest earned on investments. Any grant or state funding cannot be used.

DRONE USAGE BY GOVERNMENT BUSINESS. Previously, Holmen had asked about drone usage for the organizations. MCIT’s most recent newsletter addressed legitimate use of drones by government organizations. If drones are used, MCIT outlined the needed insurance coverage for the equipment and liability associated with it.

ADJOURNMENT. With no other business to address, Area II Chairman Johnson and RCRCA Chairman Holmen declared the meeting adjourned at 10:30 AM.

UPCOMING MEETINGS.

April 2017 Board Meeting	Thursday, April 6, 2017	Redwood Falls – Minn-West Conference Room – 9:00AM or the Courthouse Basement
May 2017 Board Meeting	Thursday, May 4, 2017	Marshall, MN – BWSR Conference Room – 9:00 AM
June 2017 Board Meeting	Thursday, June 1, 2017	Redwood Falls – Minn-West Conference Room – 9:00 AM