

AREA II

AREA II / RCRCA

**June 6, 2019 Board of Directors Meeting
Tyler Golf Club – Tyler, MN**

AREA II Members Present: Jeff Veerkamp, Larry Anderson, John Maatz, Mic VanDevere, Rick Anderson, James Jens, Luke Johnson, Dennis Groebner and Glen Kack.

RCRCA Members Present: Jeff Veerkamp, Jeff Nielson, Larry Anderson, Clark Lingbeek, Mic VanDevere, Glen Sorensen, Rick Anderson, James Jens, Luke Johnson, Dennis Groebner, Ed Carter, Glen Kack and Tom Remmele.

Others Present: Kerry Netzke – Executive Director, Joy Bruns – RCRCA Office Manager, and John Boulton – YMRWD.

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 PM by Area II Chairman Maatz and RCRCA Chairman Johnson.

ADOPT AGENDA. Chairman Johnson asked for any additions to the Agenda. Motion by Lingbeek, seconded by Carter, to approve the Agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

AGENCY AND MEETING REPORTS.

MASWCD AREA V– Supervisor Lingbeek reported that the Area V MASWCD meeting will be held on Friday, June 21 at the Center Post (former American Legion) in Lake Benton followed by a tour which will include the Lincoln County CD 37 wetland/pump station.

AMC – Commissioner Anderson reported that SWCD funding will come from CWF. SWCD levy authority is still being discussed and is not supported by AMC. 404 permit authority assumption by the State is proceeding. Drainage Work Group – Tom Gile is replacing Al Kean (BWSR retiring today) and the group is looking for direction.

YMRWD – Boulton reported that tiling permits are coming in. Area II is waiting for good weather conditions to survey a proposed project.

APPROVE RCRCA MINUTES of May 2, 2019 Board Meeting. Motion by Lingbeek, seconded by Nielsen, to approve the May 2019 Minutes as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE AREA II MINUTES of May 2, 2019 Board Meeting. Motion by Johnson, seconded by Rick Anderson, to approve the May 2019 Minutes as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE RCRCA TREASURER’S REPORT – May 2019. Netzke reviewed the financials with the board. Motion by Nielsen, seconded by Carter, to approve the May 2019 Treasurer’s Report and for payment of the bills. Motion carried unanimously. Netzke presented two bills received today for approval: Redwood Gazette \$102 for 1 year subscription renewal and SW/WC Cooperatives \$502.00 for the remote backup of the server. Motion by Lingbeek, seconded by Sorensen, to approve the SW/WC Cooperatives bill for payment. Motion carried unanimously. After some discussion, motion by Veerkamp, seconded by Lingbeek, to approve renewing the Redwood Gazette for 1 year. Motion carried with Carter opposed.

APPROVE AREA II TREASURER’S REPORT – May 2019. Netzke reviewed the financials with the Board. Revenue received: \$2,728.88 Contract Services Income, \$12,971.00 County Levy, \$2,777.50 Other Income, and \$23.85 Interest Income. Motion by Rick Anderson, seconded by Groebner, to approve the March Treasurer’s Report and for payment of the bills. Motion carried unanimously.

Revenue as recorded:

Contract Service Income (RCRCA)	\$ 2,728.88	Projects-Bonding	\$ 75,957.80
Interest Income	\$ 23.85	County Levy	\$ 12,971.00
State of MN-Administrative	\$ -0-	SWCD Tech Assistance	\$ -0-
Miscellaneous Income	\$ 2,777.50	Other Income	\$ -0-

Paid bills are summarized below:

Administration	\$ 14,983.33	Office Supplies	\$ 24.79
Bonding Project Funds	\$ -0-	Other Insurance	\$ -0-
Capital Outlay	\$ -0-	Postage	\$ -0-
Contract Services - RCRCA	\$ 1,085.72	Professional Services	\$ 13,195.00
Directors’ Expense	\$ -0-	Project Expenses Paid	\$ -0-
Directors’ Insurance	\$ -0-	Project Permit Fees	\$ -0-
Employee Expense	\$ -0-	Rent	\$ 837.00
Field Supplies	\$ 467.48	Telephone	\$ 53.98
Investigating & Testing	\$ -0-	Utilities	\$ -0-
Maintenance & Repair	\$ 258.45	Vehicle Expense	\$ 269.86
Miscellaneous Expense	\$ 285.00	Continuing Education	\$ -0-

Bill for approval moved to April due to no meeting in March:

Professional Fees (Bolton & Menk)	\$ 2,320.00
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Netzke presented a bill received today for approval: SW/WC Cooperatives \$502.00 for the remote backup of the server. Motion by Rick Anderson, seconded by Groebner, to approve the SW/WC Cooperatives bill for payment. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT.

• **Hwy 19 Road Ditch Cleaning** – The St. Matthew Lutheran (Wabasso) Youth Group agreed to provide ditch cleaning services as they have in the past few years. This was completed on May 29.

AREA II

• **Administrative Funding Request** – Area II’s appropriation remained the same at \$140,000/year. (91st Legislature, 1st Special Session, Chapter 4, Article 1, Section 4(g)). The amount was agreed upon by both sides and was not debated during conference committee.

• **Lyon County Buffer Enforcement Funds** – Netzke attended the May 7 Lyon County Commissioners meeting with John Biren, Lyon SWCD/P&Z Administrator to request that these funds assist landowners with their 25% share of local match to floodwater retention projects. The commissioners approved this assistance for the Nordland 20 and Monroe 25 projects which involves Area II, paying 75% of the 25% local match.

• **Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program** – All of southwestern MN has been included in an area for a potential presidential disaster for the Spring 2019 flooding which would enable this federal funding. We have been working with SWCDs and counties to submit sites for eligibility consideration. Types of work include: debris removal from streams, culverts, bridges; reshaping of streambanks; protecting destabilized streambanks, repair of drainage channels and public flood prevention structures, and establish cover on critically eroding lands.

• **Finalizing FY16 Bonding Appropriation** – Engineering, soils exploration and permit expenses for completed projects were requested which will spend the bonding funds entirely. Once the final payment is received, the final report will be submitted via eLINK to close out the grant.

• **Lyon County Museum Exhibit** – The Lyon County Museum is working with a consultant on a historical flooding exhibit. The consultant spent 90 minutes with Netzke collecting information and refining ideas about the exhibit. The goal is to present the larger historical floods and what responses (emergency management, floodwater retention, mitigation/prevention, etc.) followed.

- **Dam Inspections** will be conducted soon when the water levels recede. DNR Dam Safety inspected the Sonstegaard-Telste, Walnut Grove (Lake Laura) and Schoper-Bush Reservoirs which all received Satisfactory status.

RCRCA

- **Change Orders** – Change Orders for WPLMN, Cottonwood WRAPS, and Redwood WRAPS grants were executed in May. Funds were moved between the Objectives with no additional funds added to grants. To coincide with the WRAPS Change Orders, amendments to the RCRCA/Wenck Subcontractor Agreements are necessary to allow Wenck to work on the newly identified impairments and increase the funds for Wenck to do this. Additional impairments were anticipated as well as the extra consultant work.

New impairments are: **Redwood River** – 1 TSS, 1 E. coli, 1 lake and 1 RES (River Eutrophication Standard)

Cottonwood River – 3 TSS, 8 E. coli and 3 lakes.

- **City of Springfield Flooding** – A meeting is scheduled for June 3 with the Brown SWCD, RCRCA, Springfield school district superintendent and the mayor to discuss opportunities that may be available to the City to help with the flooding of their public facilities. Upstream tile drainage is being blamed as the main cause of the increased volume of water. Netzke recommended a special meeting with Senator Dahms and Representative Torkelson to discuss possible opportunities for the State to assist the City of Springfield. Town hall meetings are being held June 10 where this request will be made of the legislators.

- **The 2019 Annual Canoe Trips** are planned for June 18 on the Cottonwood River and June 20 on the Redwood River. Currently, 30 are signed up for Cottonwood River trip and 20 for the Redwood. Netzke and Wohnoukta will make a decision on the safety of the river flows and levels the day before each trip. All participants will be notified if the trips are canceled.

MAGIC (Minnesota Association of Governments Investing for Counties) FUND APPLICATIONS. Netzke received more paperwork to establish the accounts requiring more signatures. The RCRCA and Area II chairmen and treasurers signed the documents. Netzke requested that the matured RCRCA CD at Pershing LLC be cashed out and deposited into the Cash Sweep Account until the MAGIC account is established. Johnson noted that some county banks are matching the rates offered by the MAGIC account. Maatz stated that LQP request rates periodically and sometimes the banks have higher rates than the MAGIC Account. CD rates will be monitored for comparable rates.

RCRCA JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT – FOR SIGNATURE. Netzke presented the RCRCA Joint Powers Agreement for signatures. The two members that were not present today (Murray and Pipestone SWCDs) will be contacted before the end of June for their signatures.

RCRCA / WENCK ASSOCIATES AGREEMENT AMENDMENTS. Netzke requested authorization to sign amendments for both the Cottonwood and Redwood WRAPS Grants. To accommodate the new impairments on both rivers, funds are being moved around within the grant to pay for Wenck’s services. No additional funds are being added to the grants which are \$200,000 for each watershed. Motion by Lingbeek, seconded by Kack, to authorize Netzke to sign the documents. Motion carried unanimously.

LAKE REDWOOD RECLAMATION PROJECT UPDATE. The contract from DNR was received for \$7.3 million for the project. Netzke requested a time extension from 2 years to 4 years (to 6/30/2023) which was granted. Netzke requested authorization to sign the contract, as the project representative, along with the RCRCA Chairman. Motion Groebner, seconded by Veerkamp, to authorize the RCRCA Chairman and Executive Director to sign the contract. Motion carried unanimously.

DEAD COON LAKE OUTLET EROSION (Lincoln/Lyon Counties). Netzke updated the Boards on the current status of the outlet which is a private driveway that has been severely eroded due to the recent snowmelt and prolonged flooding. In the past 10 years, Lincoln County has invested thousands of dollars into the gravel replacement and grading of the driveway. Lincoln County is investigating the installation of concrete matting on the area; Lyon County advised asphaltting the overflow area. As suggested at last month’s meeting, the lake is 7 miles from Tyler, and anyone interested in visiting the site can follow the caravan immediately following today’s meeting. (Netzke, Sorensen, Kack, Rick Anderson, Johnson, Larry Anderson, and Bruns visited the site.)

AREA II ENGINEER'S REPORT (May). Netzke reviewed the Engineer's Report with the Board. ***Holly 7 Grade Stabilization, Murray County.*** Bids were received on May 13 and the low bidder was Thompson Excavating at \$26,546.15. The second low bidder was Ryan West Excavating at \$29,329.71, and the Engineer's Estimate without contingency was \$33,309.25. Funding is being provided by EQIP, Murray SWCD and the landowner. ***Nordland 20 Small Dam, Lyon County.*** Groundworks of Ivanhoe is scheduled to start this project when the weather conditions permit. Wetland credits have been purchased and all permits are in hand. ***Charlestown 34 Small Dam, Redwood County.*** Work on this project will start as soon as weather conditions permit. ***Springdale 19 Dams, Redwood County.*** Plans for this project are nearly completed. Permitting will start shortly. A possible additional downstream dam location has been investigated and a meeting with that landowner was recently held. We are awaiting his decision on whether he is interested in further investigations. Netzke added that a letter was received from the Redwood County Commissioners on May 21 asking that this project be made a top priority (which it already is) in the event that a special taxing district is decided upon for the local matching funds. ***Lyons 12 Small Dam Repair, Lyon County.*** This is a typical dam repair project. The plans are nearing completion and a meeting with the landowner will be scheduled soon. ***Ann 17 Small Dam, Cottonwood County.*** Bids were received for this project on May 6 with Mathiowetz Construction being the low bidder. Since that time, the landowner has decided to wait with the project due to the uncertainty in the agricultural economy. The contractor was notified accordingly. ***Monroe 25 Small Dam Repair, Lyon County.*** Work on this project will begin as soon as weather conditions permit. ***Custer 10 Small Dam, Lyon County.*** Design of this dam was started a number of years ago. With a recent increase in the erosion occurring at the site and with funding available, the landowner would again like to pursue the project. A Notice of Decision from WCA has been received which identifies additional wetlands to be mitigated for a potential impact area of 0.73 acres. ***Kurtz Wetland Restoration, Lyon County.*** We met recently with Mr. Kurtz to review the preliminary wetland restoration plans. Further design and drafting is continuing. Mr. Kurtz is pleased with the progress on the project. ***Lamberton 26 River Bank Stabilization, Redwood County.*** This project is targeted toward the stabilization of a portion of the bank of Dutch Charley Creek adjacent to the wastewater stabilization ponds at Lamberton. The DNR permit has been received and bids will be received on June 3. FEMA is providing some of the funding towards the project. Netzke added that L&S Construction was the low bidder at \$15,858.00; second low bidder was Towne & Country Excavating at \$31,809.50; and the Engineer's Estimate with contingency was \$25,982.00. ***Sodus 2 Small Dam, Lyon County.*** Construction work on this project will start as soon as conditions allow.

AREA II PAY SCALE DEVELOPMENT. Rick Anderson stated that two years ago the process started to revise the job descriptions for the Executive Director and Engineering Technician. This was completed late last year. Brown, Redwood and Lyon County scored the job descriptions to calculate pay scale ranges for these positions. The Area II Executive Board recommends the following pay scale ranges: Executive Director – \$29.78-\$48.25/hour (\$61,942.40 - \$100,360.00 annual) and Engineering Technician – \$21.74-30.58/hour (\$45,219.20 - \$63,606.40 annual). The board will continue to review the wages annually and determine merit and/or COLA increases at that time. Motion by Rick Anderson, seconded by Johnson, to implement the recommended pay scale ranges. Motion carried unanimously.

AREA II BIENNIAL PLAN UPDATE – DRAFT FY2020 BUDGET. Netzke provided the Board with an up-to-date FY 2019 budget, and estimated FY2020 budget with two options: Option 1 – 2% COLA; Option 2 – 2% COLA + 1% merit. Discussion followed. The counties are giving 2.0-3.5% increases, some of which do not include COLA. Motion by Johnson, seconded by Rick Anderson, to select Option 2 for the FY2020 Budget. Motion carried unanimously. Netzke presented the board with the Area II Biennial Plan. After some discussion, motion by Johnson, seconded by Groebner, to approve the Fiscal 2020 & 2021 Biennial Plan. Motion carried unanimously. This report will be submitted to the BWSR Southern Region Water Plan Committee for review/approval in July, with recommendation for approval to the BWSR Board in August.

AREA II FY19 AUDIT ENGAGEMENT. Netzke provided the board with a quote from Richard Holmberg Ltd. to perform the annual audit as per the previous year. Since it has been several years since quotes have been sought from other auditing firms, the board consensus was for Netzke to obtain more quotes for a decision next month.

ADJOURNMENT. Area II Chairman Maatz and RCRCA Chairman Johnson declared the Joint Area II/RCRCA meeting adjourned at 2:30 PM.

UPCOMING MEETINGS.

July Board Meeting	Thursday, July 11, 2019	Marshall, MN – BWSR Meeting Room – 9 AM
August Board Meeting	Thursday, August 1, 2019	Redwood Falls – Redwood County Learning Center – 9 AM
September Board Meeting	Thursday, September 5, 2019	Marshall, MN – BWSR Conference Room – 9 AM