

AREA II

AREA II / RCRCA

December 5, 2019 Board of Directors Meeting Redwood County Government Center, Redwood Falls, MN

AREA II Members Present: Jeff Veerkamp, Larry Anderson, John Maatz, Joe Drietz, Rick Anderson, Lori Gunnink, Lon Walling and Glen Kack.

RCRCA Members Present: Jeff Veerkamp, Jeff Nielsen, Larry Anderson, Clark Lingbeek, Joe Drietz, Glen Sorensen, Rick Anderson, Mark Meulebroeck, Lori Gunnink, Paul Posthuma, Lon Walling, Ed Carter, Glen Kack and Tom Remmele.

Others Present: Kerry Netzke – Executive Director, Joy Brunns – RCRCA Office Manager

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM by RCRCA Vice-Chair Lingbeek and Area II Chairman Maatz.

ADOPT AGENDA. Vice Chairman Lingbeek asked for any additions to the Agenda. No additions requested. Motion by Walling, seconded by Gunnink, to approve the Agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

AGENCY AND MEETING REPORTS.

MASWCD – Supervisor Lingbeek reported that the MASWCD Annual Convention runs December 8th-12th.

MN RIVER CONGRESS – Lingbeek reported that contrary to what was reported at the congress, Area V & Area VI MASWCD are not in support of the proposal to incorporate floodwater storage onto the landscape. Area VI feels that storage is often understood as permanent water; they recommend promoting a “catch and release” concept instead to promote temporary floodwater storage/retention.

AMC – Netzke reported on behalf of Commissioner Johnson in his absence. Johnson is currently the Vice Chair of AMC’s Environment & Natural Resources Committee. Commissioner Randy Kramer (Renville) and Johnson will be meeting with BWSR, DNR, MPCA and MDA on 12/20/2019. If anyone has concerns that they would like discussed at this meeting, please contact him or talk with him at the AMC Annual Convention.

AG URBAN PARTNERSHIP – On 11/18/2019 a meeting was held in Mankato with 150-200 attendees. There was typical finger-pointing at agricultural tiling as a contributing source for flooding. There are concerns with putting more dollars towards the environment, while the efforts of the funded 1W1P implementation projects haven’t been recognized yet. **1W1P Watonwan** – Dr. Satish Gupta spoke at their recent meeting. Evidence shows that tiling is less of a culprit than saturated soils for causing the streambank failures.

APPROVE RCRCA MINUTES of November 2019 Board Meeting. Motion by Meulebroeck, seconded by Nielsen, to approve the November 2019 Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE AREA II MINUTES of November 2019 Board Meeting. Motion by Rick Anderson, seconded by Gunnink, to approve the November 2019 Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE RCRCA TREASURER’S REPORT – November 2019. Netzke reviewed the financials with the Board. Motion by Meulebroeck, seconded by Veerkamp, to approve the November 2019 Treasurer’s Report and authorize payment of the bills. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE AREA II TREASURER’S REPORT – November 2019. Netzke reviewed the financials with the Board. \$140,000.00 State Admin Grant, \$409.00 MCIT Dividend Income, \$7,244.60 Landowner Wetland Credit

reimbursement, \$870.00 Professional Services, \$5,305.13 Contract Services Income, and \$93.97 Interest Income. Monthly expenses were routine. \$100,000.00 was transferred into the MAGIC Account. Bill for approval: Bolton & Menk \$3,117.50 for Professional Services. Motion by Rick Anderson, seconded by Larry Anderson, to approve the November 2019 Treasurer’s Report and authorize payment of the bills. Motion carried unanimously.

Revenue as recorded:

Contract Service Income (RCRCA)	\$ 5,305.13	Projects-Bonding	\$ 0.00
Interest Income	\$ 93.97	County Levy	\$ 0.00
State of MN-Administrative	\$ 140,000.00	SWCD Tech Assistance	\$ 0.00
Miscellaneous Income	\$ 0.00	Other Income	\$ 8,523.60

Paid bills are summarized below:

Administration	\$ 15,379.01	Office Supplies	\$ 37.94
Bonding Project Funds	\$ 0.00	Other Insurance	\$ 0.00
Capital Outlay	\$ 0.00	Postage	\$ 0.00
Contract Services - RCRCA	\$ 1,470.33	Professional Services	\$ 6,960.00
Directors’ Expense	\$ 0.00	Project Expenses Paid	\$ 14,697.60
Directors’ Insurance	\$ 0.00	Project Permit Fees	\$ 0.00
Employee Expense	\$ 112.44	Rent	\$ 837.00
Field Supplies	\$ 0.00	Telephone	\$ 52.20
Investigating & Testing	\$ 0.00	Utilities	\$ 0.00
Maintenance & Repair	\$ 116.03	Vehicle Expense	\$ 136.12
Miscellaneous Expense	\$ 209.13	Continuing Education	\$ 0.00

Bill for approval:

Professional Fees (Bolton & Menk)	\$ 3,117.50
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APPROVE AREA II NEW COST SHARE CONTRACT. None presented.

APPROVE AREA II COST SHARE CONTRACT PAYMENT. None presented.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT.

• **2019 Legislative Gathering** – The Grandview Winery was enjoyed by everyone despite the room being smaller and not the most ideal for presentations. Cost of the annual meeting was considerably less than usual when split between the two organizations.

AREA II

• **Audit Update** – Peterson Company, Ltd. is finishing the audit. From recent communications, they do not intend to present their findings to the Board in person due to the distance from St. Paul. They would do this via teleconference if wanted. A draft report is expected in the near future (received 3 PM 12/4/2019). They provided the representation letter language which was printed on letterhead for the Board to review/approve/sign.

• **Minnesota River Congress Meeting** – November 21 at Mankato – Information regarding MRC’s proposal to obtain significant funding for water storage was provided to the meeting attendees. Rep. Jeff Brand (St. Peter) was in attendance to hear the concerns and need for the funding. Small group discussions answered questions about what would appeal to landowners, what would make the process easy for the government units, perpetual vs. shorter term contracts, and mandatory or voluntary hunting access. Although the group was very much in favor of the proposal, and good ideas were discussed and shared with the entire group, the proposal is lacking the Prioritized, Targeted and Measurable (PTM) piece that has been required for all State of MN funding.

Rinke Noonan Letter – City of Pipestone Flood Issues – Residents who are experiencing the flooding have retained Rinke Noonan to help spur action. Netzke was copied on a letter from Kurt Deter asking for a meeting to discuss the flooding issues. Netzke explained that three bridges (Hwy 23, Hwy 75 and the

railroad) are undersized and act as constrictors for JD1. Nielsen stressed that Area II's position of water retention be reinforced in any discussions for this project and that the wrong message isn't given to support larger bridge openings. Gunnink recommended that a Missouri Basin representative be invited to the meeting as the 1W1P was recently completed.

RCRCA

- **Ford Pickup Clutch** –The clutch in the Ford pickup has completely gone out and is not movable. With it being parked on a city street in Morgan, and with heavy snow expected the week of Thanksgiving, arrangements were made with Redwood County to move the vehicle (with tow assistance from Area II) to the county highway shop in Morgan for a few weeks until we know if the vehicle will be traded in or salvaged. Options to replace the vehicle are still being researched and will be presented at the December 5 Board meeting.
- **Grant Update** – Change Order #7 for the WPLMN monitoring grant was executed and quarterly payment received from MPCA. Over the new few months we will begin working on a 2-year amendment to the contract to continue this work with MPCA.
- **Lake Redwood Dredging Project Update** –
11/15/2019: Teleconference with the property owners of the proposed laydown area. The owners are very agreeable and will give thought to a fair amount for a lump sum easement for use of the property in 2021 and 2022. If the project is not completed in 2022, a month-by-month arrangement will be made for 2023.
11/18/2019: Meeting was held at 7:00 PM in Redwood Falls with landowners surrounding the lake, along the disposal pipeline route, and surrounding the CDF. A 25-minute presentation was made by Netzke with what they may expect leading up to and during construction. 30 people were in attendance with about 90 invitations mailed out. The presentation is available on the RCRCA and City of Redwood Falls websites. A new issue has arisen with a peninsula to be dredged that is actually an 8-acre parcel of land being owned and taxed. The Redwood County Assessor is looking into the parcel history further as it didn't appear on the tax rolls until 1992.
- **Manitou Fund** – Commissioner Johnson brought in a *Star Tribune* article regarding this philanthropic fund. The article stated that the fund is required to donate 5% of their assets annually to maintain non-profit status. Some organizations who are recipients of their funds were named including MCEA. Finding information as to how to contact the fund with regard to applying for grants has been difficult. Netzke will continue to investigate.

AREA II ENGINEER'S REPORT (November). Netzke reviewed the Engineer's Report with the Board.

Projects Being Designed: *Springdale 19 Dams, Redwood County.* Plans for this project are completed and permit applications have been submitted to the DNR and Corps of Engineers. Additional information has been submitted to the DNR as requested. We have been attempting to meet with the Tracy Golf Course to verify the location of the dam on the golf course property before providing further information to the USACE. Response from the golf course has been slow. *Custer 10 Small Dam, Lyon County.* The DNR has issued the Dam Safety Permit for this 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. A Phase I archeological survey has been completed which did not find any artifacts. The Corps permit is the last task to complete. *Kurtz Wetland Restoration, Lyon County.* The project plans are complete and we are responding to comments received from BWSR from a preliminary submittal. *Sodus 2 Small Dam, Lyon County.* Construction work on this project will be delayed until 2020 because of wet conditions this year. R & G will honor their quote for the work. *Royal 36 Small Dam Repair, Lincoln County.* The contractor for this project, Ground Works, has not started work on the project due to the onset of winter weather. *Del Clark Lake Sediment Ponds.* The plans for these three structures are nearly complete. WCA No-Loss Exemption 8420.0514 Subpart D for the purpose of fish and wildlife habitat restoration is being applied for. *Holly 16 Grade Stabilization Repair, Murray County.* The contractor for this project, Ryan West Excavating, has not yet scheduled work on this project. We expect postponement to 2020. *Holly 2 Small Dam, Murray County.* A wetland delineation has recently been completed for this project. The delineation identified some small areas of wetlands, primarily in the eroded creek channel, which need to be mitigated for

impacts. We should receive the delineation report in December and will then work on permit applications for the project. ***Nordland 18 Water and Sediment Control Basins.*** Bids were accepted for this project in early November. The project will be split between Ground Works who bid \$10,788.80 for the dirt work, and C & K Construction who bid \$24,450.00 for the tile work. Work on the tile has been started. ***North Hero 27 Grade Stabilization Repair, Redwood County.*** Plans for this small dike and outlet pipe have been completed and are being submitted to the NRCS for potential EQIP funding. The project will likely be constructed in 2020. ***Holly 4 Small Dam, Murray County.*** Preliminary design work has shown that this dam could produce significant downstream flow reduction. Survey work will begin soon. The impact on an upstream County tile system will need to be considered in the design. ***Springdale 26 Small Dam, Redwood County.*** The site for this dam is above the Wilder Pageant grounds southwest of Walnut Grove and the project could help to reduce flooding on the grounds site. The preliminary design has indicated good reduction of storm flows but temporary ponding on Ag lands would result. These landowners are being contacted regarding this ponding. ***Island Lake 11 Dam Repair, Lyon County.*** This is an old SCS dam with a washed-out corrugated metal pipe. The preliminary design shows that a significantly larger pipe and emergency spillway will be needed as compared to the original design. Design work is continuing.

AREA II JPA RENEWAL. All nine member counties have approved the new agreement extending the JPA to 12/31/2021. Netzke presented the JPA to the board for their signature. Commissioner Johnson from Pipestone County will be contacted to arrange for his signature. Executed copies of the agreement will be emailed to the member counties before year end.

AREA II FY2019 – Representation Letter. Netzke presented the Representation Letter for the audit that requires management and governance signatures. After some discussion, the board would like to table signatures until the auditor has discussed his audit findings with the Area II Executive Board. Netzke will arrange a conference call with the auditor, the executive board, any other interested board members, Netzke and Bruns – January 2nd, 8:15-8:45 am, just before our next regular board meeting. Please meet at the Area II office for this call. Bruns and Netzke will continue their review of the draft audit report and will request corrections/clarifications as needed.

RCRCA – LAKE REDWOOD DREDGING UPDATE. Netzke provided a report from Houston Engineering Inc. listing their activities from September 29 to November 16. Netzke also reported that Estebo, Frank & Munshower have met with the landowner of the dewatering pond site. The pond will require 135-145 acres, however the family would like to negotiate the sale of the entire 230 acres, with untillable acres at a reduced price. An appraisal will be provided for both options (dewatering pond only and excess property) and should be received within the next month for review. Netzke shared 1992 and 2019 photos of a new issue that has arisen. A peninsula that is to be dredged is actually an 8-acre parcel of land owned by an individual and taxed. The Redwood County Assessor is looking into the parcel history further as it didn't appear on the tax rolls until 1992. A meeting is scheduled for December 12 to meet with the landowner, City, and Houston Engineering to discuss options.

RCRCA Ford Pickup Repair/Replacement. The 2003 Ford was purchased in used condition 10 years ago. The repairs for the clutch, estimated in excess of \$1,200 is more than the vehicle's current worth. The vehicle will be needed by April when the busy sampling season starts. Staff are requesting a 4WD single cab pickup with a long box as monitoring equipment and the stream table require the box length. Short box pickups and SUVs were also considered but would be much less functional. Netzke presented the board with new and used pricing. Following discussion, a motion was made by Meulebroeck, and seconded by Walling, to accept the bid from Lockwood Motors in Marshall for a 2020 Dodge for \$24,756 (plus tax, title and license) and not to exceed \$28,000 from reserve funds. Running boards and Tonneau cover will need to be added. Motion carried unanimously. Motion by Rick Anderson, seconded by Gunnink, to declare the 2003 Ford pickup as excess property and to authorize Netzke to dispose of the vehicle as best she can.

RCRCA FY2020 DRAFT BUDGET. Netzke provided a draft budget for the board to review. Netzke polled some member counties to determine if the proposed COLA was appropriate. COLAs were in the 2-3% range; the budget includes a 2% COLA. Discussion followed to amend the budget to reflect the new pickup to come from reserve funds and add a line item in the budget for Capital Outlay – Vehicle Fund, budgeting \$2,000 per year. Motion by Meulebroeck, seconded by Walling, to approve the amended budget with a 2% COLA. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT. RCRCA Vice Chairman Lingbeek and Area II Chairman Maatz declared the meeting adjourned at 10:46 AM.

UPCOMING MEETINGS.

Area II Executive Board	Thursday, January 2, 2020	Marshall, MN – Area II Office – 8:15 AM
January Board Meeting	Thursday, January 2, 2020	Marshall, MN – BWSR Conference Room – 9 AM
February Board Meeting	Thursday, February 6, 2020	Redwood Falls – Redwood County Learning Center – 9 AM