

AREA II

AREA II / RCRCA

**March 4, 2021 Board of Directors Meeting
Area II/RCRCA Marshall Office via Zoom**

Board consensus for voice voting. If the vote is not unanimous, a roll call vote will be taken.

AREA II Members Present: Jeff Veerkamp, Larry Anderson, John Maatz, Joe Drietz, Gary Crowley, Lori Gunnink, Luke Johnson and Rick Wakefield.

RCRCA Members Present: Jeff Veerkamp, Mark Wellner, Larry Anderson, Clark Lingbeek, Joe Drietz, Glen Sorensen, Gary Crowley, Mark Meulebroeck, Lori Gunnink, Paul Posthuma, Luke Johnson, Larry Fenicle, Rick Wakefield and Ed Carter.

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

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 AM by RCRCA Chairman Johnson and Area II Chairman Maatz.

ADOPT AGENDA. Chairman Johnson asked for any additions to the Agenda. With no additions, a motion was made by Meulebroeck, seconded by Crowley, to approve the Agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

AGENCY AND MEETING REPORTS.

MASWCD – Supervisor Lingbeek reported that MASWCD is busy trying to get bills passed. A per diem increase has been requested and to keep SWCD sustainable funding in the general fund and out of Clean Water Funds.

AMC – Commissioner Johnson reported: 1) Rep. Rick Hansen introduced a bill for a \$25 fee on land transfers; proceeds would go to the SWCDs. AMC is not supporting this bill. 2) MN Rural Counties & AMC Environmental Committee oppose the Clean Car Initiative (CCI) and have drafted comments. Senator Dahms' website has a link to provide comments by 3/15/21. Lyon County and Cottonwood County adopted a resolution against CCI. Murray County does not support the initiative and did not adopt a resolution as it is too political, and not a county interest. Pipestone County also did not adopt a resolution for similar reasons.

APPROVE RCRCA MINUTES of February 2021 Board Meeting. Motion by Lingbeek, seconded by Anderson, to approve the February 2021 minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE AREA II MINUTES of February 2021 Board Meeting. Motion by Johnson, seconded by Veerkamp, to approve the February 2021 minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE RCRCA TREASURER'S REPORT – February 2021. Financials were reviewed with the Board. Motion by Gunnink, seconded by Meulebroeck, to file February 2021 Treasurer Report subject to audit and to authorize payment of the bills. Motion carried unanimously.

RCRCA CD INVESTMENT OPTIONS - MATURED 2/13/2021 AT 2.05%. Netzke presented the board with current CD rates from local institutions to consider. Discussion followed. Motion by Crowley, seconded by Anderson, to approve investing \$100,000 at the State Bank of Taunton at 0.70% for 6 months. The earned interest from the matured CD will be deposited into checking. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE AREA II TREASURER'S REPORT – February 2021. Financials were reviewed with the Board. Revenue Received: \$3,197.62 Contract Services Income, \$3,904.40 FY21 Levy and \$35.30 Interest. Bills for approval: Bolton & Menk \$4,832.00, and DLT Solutions (Civil 3D Maintenance Plan) \$1,670.90. Motion by

Crowley, seconded by Drietz, to file February 2021 Treasurer Report subject to audit and to authorize payment of the bills Motion carried unanimously.

Revenue as recorded:

Contract Service Income (RCRCA)	\$ 3,197.62	Projects-Bonding	\$ 0.00
Interest Income	\$ 35.30	County Levy	\$ 3,904.40
State of MN-Administrative	\$ 0.00	SWCD Tech Assistance	\$ 0.00
Miscellaneous Income	\$ 0.00	PERA Assistance	\$ 0.00

Paid bills are summarized below:

Administration	\$ 15,708.89	Office Supplies	\$ 37.58
Bonding Project Funds	\$ 0.00	Other Insurance	\$ 0.00
Capital Outlay	\$ 0.00	Postage	\$ 0.00
Contract Services - RCRCA	\$ 1,436.22	Professional Services	\$ 8,008.72
Directors' Expense	\$ 0.00	Project Expenses Paid	\$ 0.00
Directors' Insurance	\$ 0.00	Project Permit Fees	\$ 0.00
Employee Expense	\$ 0.00	Rent	\$ 837.00
Field Supplies	\$ 0.00	Telephone	\$ 52.36
Investigating & Testing	\$ 0.00	Utilities	\$ 0.00
Maintenance & Repair	\$ 116.87	Vehicle Expense	\$ 0.00
Miscellaneous Expense	\$ 0.00	Continuing Education	\$ 0.00
Insurance	\$ 0.00		

Bill for approval:

Professional Fees	\$ 4,832.00	Maintenance & Repair	\$ 1,670.90
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RESOLUTION – ANNUAL ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER AUTHORIZATION – AREA II. Netzke overlooked this annual resolution for the January meeting which authorizes the RCRCA Office Manager to perform electronic funds transfers for payroll, investments, payment of taxes, payroll deductions and vendor payments each year for Area II. Motion by Johnson, seconded by Anderson, to authorize the RCRCA Office Manager to perform electronic funds transfers as needed. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION – ANNUAL ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER AUTHORIZATION – RCRCA. This resolution gives authority to the RCRCA Office Manager to perform electronic funds transfers for payroll, investments, payment of taxes, payroll deductions and vendor payments each year. Motion by Posthuma, seconded by Meulebroeck, to authorize the RCRCA Office Manager to perform electronic funds transfers as needed. Motion carried unanimously.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES – AREA II and RCRCA. This annual disclosure is an organizational requirement. Bruns reported that Lincoln County Commissioners need to sign and return the forms.

AREA II APPROVE BONDING COST SHARE APPLICATIONS/AMENDMENTS/CANCELLATIONS.
Contract Cancellation

Tony Quade	Holly 2 - Murray	410 Grade Stabilization
EST Cost: \$127,962.98		EST Cost Share: \$95,972.24 (75%)
		<u>Area II C/S: \$78,108.24 (61%)</u>
		<u>EQIP C/S: \$17,864.00 (14%)</u>

Note: Project funding transferred to the new Plum Creek Watershed Clean Water Fund grant

Netzke requested the cancellation of Holly 2 – Murray to allow for a change of funding for the project. Motion by Gunnink, seconded by Drietz, to approve the cancellation of Holly 2 - Murray. Motion carried unanimously.

RCRCA – APPROVE CWF COST SHARE APPLICATIONS/AMENDMENTS/CANCELLATIONS.

New Contract

CWF-2021-01

Tony Quade

EST Cost: \$127,962.98

Holly 2 – Murray

410 Grade Stabilization

EST Cost Share: \$95,972.23 (75%)

CWF C/S: \$20,524.89 (21.4%)

319 Funds \$57,583.34 (60%)

EQIP C/S: \$17,864.00 (18.6%)

Note: Project funding transferred from Area II FY'19 Bonding

Netzke presented the Holly 2- Murray Grade Stabilization project for funding with the Plum Creek Turbidity Grant. Motion by Drietz, seconded by Posthuma, to approve funding of Holly 2 – Murray with Plum Creek CWF. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT.

Netzke reported that the new phones will be installed next week on 3/12/21. The phones were purchased from the Southwest Health and Human Resources in December 2020. The system should only be down for a short time.

AREA II

- **2021 Legislative Session** – Language for \$1 Million in bonding (*hf1142/sf1023*) has been drafted, introduced, and referred to Capital Investment. Area II's Administrative Funds (\$140,000/year – *sf1498/hf1584*) have been introduced.
- **Springdale 19 (Redwood County)** – The informational meeting with landowners within the proposed special taxing district that was planned for February has been postponed. In order for WCA to agree with the Corps' wetland mitigation requirement of 2.998 acres, the TEP needs to concur on the wetland acreage before issuing a Notice of Decision and before the purchase of wetland credits. This visit will need to wait until the snow cover is gone and the wetland boundary flagged. We will monitor the snow cover weekly to speed this along.
- **Grant Reconciliations** – BWSR notified Area II that a reconciliation of the FY'20 Administration grant was to be conducted via email transfer of information. Requested reports were submitted to BWSR along with a request to explain why reconciliations are starting again when Area II was notified (May 2018) that they no longer were required.
- **City of Springfield** – A few Zoom meetings have taken place with the City which intends to submit a LCCMR proposal to study their flooding situation and develop options. Netzke invited Jason Ulrich (Science Museum of MN – St. Croix Research Station) into the Zoom meetings as his unfunded 2020 proposal has similar intention/focus on landscape resilience to large precipitation events, or in other words, how much water the current landscape can handle before out of bank flooding occurs. SWROC is also researching this topic and focusing on the impact that cover crops and improved soil health can contribute to excess Spring soil water. Resulting from the 2/25/21 meeting, the City will support and provide in-kind to Jason's 2021 proposal and will postpone their own project proposal. Other groups/agencies were asked to provide in-kind (staff hours) to support the proposal and form a Technical Advisory Committee to help assess and audit Jason's model results. Jason's results from the Cottonwood watershed can be used in similar watersheds within the Minnesota River watershed.
- **LQP-YB 1W1P** – The first Policy Committee was held virtually 2/24/2021. The By-laws and work plan were approved, and start of the Public Notice/60-day comment period was scheduled for 3/24/21. The RFQ for consultants will be issued on 3/24/21 with a due date of 5/7/21 and interviews in June. Amy Bacigalupo (LQP SWCD) is the chairwoman, Ron Antony (YM County) is vice chair, and Delon Clarksean (YM SWCD) is secretary. John Maatz and Glen Kack are Area II's representatives on the committee; Netzke is part of the Steering Team (formerly called the Planning Work Group).

RCRCA

- **CWF Plum Creek** – The Work Plan for the \$400,805 grant (100% project funds) has been approved, and executed grant agreement received. Separate cost share contracts will be used for CWF (covering 40%) and the federal 319 funds (covering 60%) – combined cost share cannot exceed 75% of the total project cost. One new stipulation of CWF relating to streambank or shoreline work: financial assurance of at least 20% of the total project cost is

required in the event that future maintenance or repair is necessary. An Agreement between RCRCA and the landowner has been drafted where the landowner will pledge to provide this future funding if it would become necessary. The assurance became necessary as other parts of the state have not been as successful with streambank stabilizations as they have been in southwest Minnesota. Discussion followed regarding the risk involved to the organization and design life of our streambank projects (10 years minimum, varies with each project design). The organization is not taking a risk and not obligating itself. BWSR has reviewed/commented on the agreement; Redwood SWCD has also reviewed the agreement and feels that landowners should not object to signing it.

• **Lake Redwood Dredging** – Bids were opened at Redwood Falls on 2/11/21. JF Brennan Company is the low bidder at \$4,468,111.45. Houston Engineering is thoroughly reviewing the work plan and working through particulars including booster pump location and laydown areas. Award will tentatively be announced in March once these items are secured. Other work this month included:

- 1) Negotiations are ongoing with the owner of the laydown area nearest the lake. The owners made a financial counter offer for use of the property with some other stipulations. JF Brennan only needs about half of this area as they also plan to utilize area at the CDF to fuse pipe together. An email with this new information and a request to negotiate their proposal has been made.
- 2) Once the laydown area easement is secured, the owner of the peninsulas within the lake will then be contacted to further our discussion of removal by construction easement. It is hoped to make a financial offer similar to the laydown area easement to this owner.
- 3) A teleconference with MNDOT was held 2/18/21 regarding the permit application and discussion of the booster pump location along Hwy 19. MNDOT has a 75' ROW which is currently being encroached by the farmer. MNDOT will not allow anything within the Clear Zone (52' from highway centerline). JF Brennan was asked if the booster pump configuration could work within this 23' ROW corridor (75' – 52') in order to prevent paying crop damages to the farmer beyond the ROW. This corridor is workable, as is the jack-and-boring of the culvert under Hwy 19 and staying within the ROW limits. We also discussed construction of a temporary road approach to allow the fuel truck to pull onto the ROW, turn around, and re-enter Hwy 19 driving forward as backing onto the highway would not be allowable. This is the only remaining permit to submit which required the contractor's work plan to finalize.
- 4) DNR Public Waters Permit – We still await this permit as the application was submitted 9/30/20. The review has been slow, and the comments from other divisions/agencies frustrating. MPCA considers the dredge spoil to be a "waste" and the CDF outflow will need to meet effluent limits (similar to wastewater), rather than receiving stream water quality standards. Despite having a verbal conversation with DNR prior to bidding that no further permit conditions were anticipated, DNR Fisheries is now requesting an "exclusion period" from ice-out through June 15 when no dredging can occur due to spawning/migration within Lake Redwood. We dispute this condition as it was not included in the issued 2008 Public Waters Permit. We continue to work with DNR on this condition which would impact the 2022 dredging season.

• **IRS** – A letter was received stating that some of the Covid-related sick leave was not allowable as RCRCA is a government entity. A phone call to the IRS was made, followed by a signed letter explaining that the JPO is not considered government, and including the 501(c)(3) status determination letter. We await reply from IRS.

AREA II – ENGINEER'S REPORT.

Springdale 19 Dam, Redwood County. An issue with the Redwood WCA over wetland credits is being addressed. Meanwhile, Redwood County is pursuing a Special Taxing District to raise the approximately \$105,000 local match for this project. An informational meeting with watershed taxpayers will be scheduled as soon as possible. If the taxing district is approved, we anticipate bidding the project in late spring. ***Del Clark Lake Sediment Ponds, Yellow Medicine County.*** The contract for this project has been awarded by the Watershed District to A & C Excavating. Contracts and bonds are being executed. Spring construction is anticipated. ***Holly 2 Small Dam, Murray County.*** Ryan West Excavating will be constructing this project this spring. 75% funding will be switched from Bonding to the new Plum Creek CWF grant and federal 319 grant. ***Springdale 21 Road Retention, Redwood County.*** Ryan West Excavating plans to complete this project this spring. ***Lac qui Parle River Flow Restoration, Yellow Medicine***

County. Modeling and topographic data for this study have been forwarded to the DNR. So far, the study had found that nearly none of the low flows in the river are using the historical river channel, while the bypass channel received most of the flow. The DNR will now offer suggestions on the diversion structure and the cleaning of the old river channel. **North Hero 32 Dam Repair, Redwood County.** We have started design work on this project. The project is, like most SCS dams, in need of pipe replacement and minor grading work. **Delhi 30 Dam Repair, Redwood County.** Design work will continue on this project this winter. **Lake Benton Outlet/Dam Repair, Lincoln County.** The DNR permit for the project has been submitted. The County has allocated funds for the repair. **Marble 23 Small Dam, Lincoln County.** Design work is mostly completed for this small dam. The landowner's intent is to create a shallow wildlife pond and there appears to be enough storage so that there will be flow reduction benefits as well. We will be meeting with the landowner soon. **Lynd 31 Road Retention, Lyon County.** Design work is underway for this project near Lynd. The site is very promising from the standpoint of flood reduction, but because of the height and length of the needed pipe, it will be an expensive project. We will meet with the township to see if they want to proceed. **Nordland 18 Grade Stabilization, Lyon County.** Design work is progressing on this grade stabilization structure in an agricultural field. The intent of this project is to reduce flows and thus reduce erosion. This structure is in the same area where several other structures were completed last year. **Lamberton 22 Grade Stabilization, Redwood County.** This proposed project is also in an agricultural field where erosion is occurring. We met with the landowner the last week of January and learned that he would like to try and incorporate other grade stabilization structures and tile into the EQIP project. We will be revising the design this month. **Springdale 13/24 Grade Stabilization, Redwood County.** We have designed this grade stabilization in order to both reduce downstream erosion and to significantly reduce downstream flows. The storage area is in an agricultural field, with a tile outlet to an open ditch. We met with the landowners on 3/3/21 to solicit their input and seek approval. Before proceeding further, the landowners plan to talk to the upstream landowner who has pattern-tiled his field to request that he contribute to the cost of the larger tile needed for the downstream flows.

2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION. The majority of this was covered in the Executive Director's Report. Netzke testified on 3/03/21 via Zoom on sf1498 for Area II's Administrative funds. BWSR also testified to Area II's successful work and good standing regarding with State of MN grants and funding. It is hopeful that a bonding bill will be proposed, however it will be contentious with Governor's request for Minneapolis rebuilding funds. The latest economic forecast is showing a large budget surplus in contrast to the large deficient previously forecasted.

LAKE REDWOOD RECLAMATION PROJECT UPDATE.

Engineering: Netzke reviewed Houston Engineering, Inc.'s (HEI) report for the January 10, 2021 to February 6, 2021 period with the Board.

Bid opening: Bids were opened February 11, 2021 at Redwood Falls. Award of the project is tentatively scheduled for later this month, pending receipt or tentative approval of the DNR Public Waters permit. Netzke will contact the RCRCRA Executive Board regarding scheduling the award of the project.

RESCHEDULE June 3 BOARD MEETING TO June 10. Netzke requested a change in date due to her daughter's wedding on June 5. Discussion followed. **Area II** – Motion by Anderson, seconded by Crowley, to reschedule the meeting to Monday, June 7 at 9 AM. Motion carried unanimously. **RCRCRA** - Motion by Anderson, seconded by Crowley, to reschedule the meeting to June 7 at 9 AM. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT. With no other business, RCRCRA Chairman Johnson adjourned the meeting at 10:32 A.M.

UPCOMING MEETINGS.

April Board Meeting	Thursday, April 1, 2021	via Zoom
May Board Meeting	Thursday, May 6, 2021	via Zoom
June Board Meeting	Monday, June 7, 2021	via Zoom

John Maatz, AREA II Chairman

Date