

AREA II

AREA II / RCRCA

June 7, 2021 Board of Directors Meeting Redwood County Learning Center and via Zoom

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

AREA II Members Present: Dean Simonsen, John Maatz (zoom), Joe Drietz (zoom), Gary Crowley, Lori Gunnink (zoom), Luke Johnson, Dennis Groebner and Glen Kack.

RCRCA Members Present: Dean Simonsen, Mark Wellner, Clark Lingbeek (zoom), Joe Drietz (zoom), Glen Sorensen, Gary Crowley, Mark Meulebroeck, Lori Gunnink (zoom), Paul Posthuma, Luke Johnson, Larry Fenicle, Dennis Groebner, Ed Carter (zoom) and Glen Kack.

Others Present (In-person & zoom): Kerry Netzke – Executive Director, and Joy Bruns – RCRCA Office Manager.

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 AM by RCRCA Chairman Johnson and Area II Chairman Maatz. Introductions were made for the first in-person/zoom meeting in over a year.

ADOPT AGENDA. Chairman Johnson asked for any additions to the Agenda. Netzke requested an addition of an RCRCA cost share contract, Highwater Creek Illegal Tire Dumping, and Lake Redwood Dredging Project Tour following the meeting. Motion was made by Posthuma, seconded by Wellner, to approve the Agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

AGENCY AND MEETING REPORTS.

AMC – Commissioner Johnson reported that the AMC District 8 meeting is scheduled for June 10.

MASWCD – Supervisor Lingbeek announced the in-person Area V meeting and tour is scheduled for June 17 in Pipestone County.

APPROVE RCRCA MINUTES of May 2021 Board Meeting. Motion by Meulebroeck, seconded by Sorensen, to approve the May 2021 Minutes as corrected. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE AREA II MINUTES of May 2021 Board Meeting. Motion by Johnson, seconded by Crowley, to approve the May 2021 Minutes as corrected. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE RCRCA TREASURER’S REPORT – May 2021. Financials were reviewed with the Board. Motion by Groebner, seconded by Posthuma, to file the May 2021 Treasurer’s Report subject to audit and to authorize payment of the bills. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE AREA II TREASURER’S REPORT – May 2021. Financials were reviewed with the Board. Revenue Received: \$3,428.37 Contract Services Income, \$29.98 Interest and \$12,971.00 FY21 Levy. Bill for approval: Bolton & Menk, Inc. \$5,244.00. Motion by Crowley, seconded by Gunnink, to file the May 2021 Treasurer’s Report subject to audit and to authorize payment of the bills. Motion carried unanimously.

Revenue as recorded:

Contract Service Income (RCRCA)	\$ 3,428.37	Projects-Bonding	\$ 0.00
Interest Income	\$ 29.98	County Levy	\$ 12,791.00
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	\$ 15,709.30	Office Supplies	\$ 0.00
Bonding Project Funds	\$ 0.00	Other Insurance	\$ 0.00
Capital Outlay	\$ 0.00	Postage	\$ 0.00
Contract Services - RCRCA	\$ 1,527.12	Professional Services	\$ 4,864.00
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	\$ 365.62	Telephone	\$ 101.85
Investigating & Testing	\$ 0.00	Utilities	\$ 20.00
Maintenance & Repair	\$ 119.80	Vehicle Expense	\$ 111.01
Miscellaneous Expense	\$ 0.00	Continuing Education	\$ 0.00
Insurance	\$ 0.00		

Bill for approval:

Professional Fees	\$ 5,244.00
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AREA II APPROVE BONDING COST SHARE APPLICATIONS/AMENDMENTS/CANCELLATIONS.

None presented.

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

CWF-2021-02

Tim Doubler	Springdale 25 - Redwood	412 Grassed Waterway
EST Cost: \$39,982.00		EST Cost Share: \$29,986.50 (75%)
		<u>CWF C/S: \$ 9,995.50 (25%)</u>
		319 Funds \$19,991.00 (50%)

Netzke presented one new cost share contract for Springdale 25-Redwood for a 412 Grassed Waterway. Motion by Meulebroeck, seconded by Groebner, to approve the cost share contract. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT.

AREA II

- **Annual Dam O&M Inspections** – Area II staff conducted inspections on May 13 & 14 to make sure they were completed prior to construction projects beginning. All reports have been emailed to the counties and to the YMRWD for signature (to allow the reports to be submitted to DNR Dam Safety). Most of the dams require the usual annual maintenance (spraying of thistles and small trees), however some of the dams have more urgent maintenance issues, as follows:
 - **Schoper-Bush** – the bolts connecting the low flow trash rack to the intake tower have broken. New bolts will need to be drilled into the concrete to secure the trash rack.
 - **Wellner-Hageman** – large logs have washed up on the shoreline and into the emergency spillway that need to be removed. Brown County Highway Department sprayed the Leafy Spurge that has progressed from 2020. Some of the shoreline erosion has worsened and consideration should be given to repairing these areas. Unfortunately, no cost share funding for this work exists at the current time.
 - **Porter Dam** – the Russian Olive tree near the Plunge Pool has fallen in and is directing the outflow into the bank of the channel causing erosion. The tree must be removed as well as some Cedar trees around the Plunge Pool. The Cathodic Protection system for the metal pipe needs to be tested by NRCS.
 - **Minett-Krantz** – the trash rack is not bolted onto the riser and is at a tilt due to ice. Some scrap 2x4 lumber is floating near the inlet to be removed.

-- **Lake Laura (Walnut Grove Reservoir)** – Two areas near the intake structure are missing soil and riprap. It is uncertain what may have caused this. Additional riprap is needed under the outlet pipe in the Plunge Pool. The outflow from the Plunge Pool is off-centered and can be corrected when the riprap is added under the outlet pipe.

RCRCA

• **Lake Redwood Dredging** – Work this month included:

- 1) Attorney Frank Munshower continues to be in negotiations with the owners of the property where the pipeline will lay.
- 2) PERMITS: The MNDOT Utility Accommodation permit application was submitted on April 26. It is anticipated that this permit will take 6-8 weeks before all the necessary approvals are obtained, however MNDOT is reporting 8-10 weeks for processing. The contractor is aware of this.

• **RCRCA's Public Waters Work General Permit** – The permit expired March 4, 2021, however DNR was contacted February 11, 2021 to request an amendment to extend the permit for another 5 years. The amendment has been approved and final language edits are being made.

• **2021 Canoe Trips** – Both the Redwood and Cottonwood canoe trips have been cancelled. The launch site south of Essig, MN on the Cottonwood River has not been repaired since the 2020 ice jams removed several of the bottom steps. Even experienced kayakers/canoers would have difficulty launching. Netzke learned that Brown County is responsible for this launch site, and she will contact the County accordingly. As for the Redwood River, low flows create difficult conditions as portaging over rock outcrops becomes necessary. There is also concern about paddling across Lake Redwood as much of the sediment is exposed currently, and if a kayak/canoe would get stuck, the person/people cannot get out to dislodge themselves. With the dredging anticipated to start this summer, the City has chosen to not install the dock this year. Wohnoutka is test running some other stretches of the Redwood River (Russell to Camden State Park, and Vesta to County Road 6) for potential 2022 trips.

• **WRAPS Last Local Work Group Meeting Held** – The last meeting of the Local Work Group for both the Redwood and Cottonwood WRAPS was held on May 27. The TMDL reports for the Redwood and Cottonwood have been sent to EPA, comments received, and final edits are being made. The Redwood RES (River Eutrophication Standard) TMDL will be submitted to EPA soon. This is a new TMDL which is expected to meet controversy/contesting. Both WRAPS reports are 98% complete. The Stressor ID (SID) Report for the Cottonwood is lagging as a staff person has had family medical issues, and additional MPCA staff have been assigned to help complete it. The report is being written with placeholders for information to be inserted when the SID is completed. The WRAPS reports are not sent to EPA, but the respective TMDL and WRAPS will be put on 30-day public notice at the same time. It is estimated that this will happen around August 1. This is about 3 months prior to the planned public notice date.

AREA II – ENGINEER'S REPORT.

Springdale 19 Dam, Redwood County. The Redwood WCA concurrence with USACE-determined wetland mitigation should be resolved when the comment period for the Notice of Decision (NOD) expires on May 21. The 25% local match will be collected from local contributions without establishment of a special taxing district. We anticipate advertising the project in June once the NOD is complete, 2,998 wetland credits are purchased, and assurance of the local match collection is made. ***Del Clark Lake Sediment Ponds, Yellow Medicine County.*** A & C Excavating will start work the week of May 24. Area II is providing construction staking and inspection for the watershed district. At the May 20 preconstruction meeting, it was agreed that the three project sites will be completed one-at-a time to avoid interrupting the busy campground and lake usage. ***Springdale 21 Road Retention, Redwood County.*** Ryan West Excavating completed this project in mid-May. As-built drawings and photo were provided to DNR Dam Safety per permit requirements. The invoice was provided to the township for payment to finalize the FEMA paperwork for the project. ***Holly 2 Small Dam, Murray County.*** Ryan West

Excavating plans to start this project in mid-June. Funding is being provided by the Plum Creek CWF grant (RCRCA) and federal 319 grant (Redwood SWCD). Impacted trees were removed during the winter to avoid the nesting season of the Northern Long-Eared Bat, which is an endangered species. ***Lac qui Parle River Flow Restoration, Yellow Medicine County.*** We are awaiting further requests and information from the DNR. ***Lake Benton Outlet/Dam Repair, Lincoln County.*** The DNR permit for the project has been received. The County is bidding the project. A minimum of two bids was requested with work to take place later summer/early fall when water levels are low. ***Springdale 13/24 Grade Stabilization, Redwood County.*** This grade stabilization will reduce downstream erosion and significantly reduce downstream flows. The storage area is in an agricultural field with a tile outlet to an open ditch. The project did not receive EQIP funds, and will be funded with Plum Creek CWF and 319 funds. ***Stately 9 Small Dam, Brown County.*** This would be a large dam on a draw upstream of several road crossings which are overtopped by large storm events. The site has good storage characteristics with flow reductions for most storms in excess of 50%. We met recently with the landowner and are awaiting his decision on proceeding due to the project cost. ***Holly 7 Water and Sediment Control Basin.*** Design work on this small structure draining into Plum Creek is complete. The project would reduce the current erosion and provide temporary storage in an agricultural field. We will meet with the landowner in the near future before proceeding further. ***Monroe 17 Water and Sediment Control Basins, Lyon County.*** This project involves small dikes in an agricultural field with the intent to temporarily pond runoff and reduce erosion. We are in the design process to determine the number and placement of basins.

2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION. Netzke informed the Board that Area II's administrative funds (\$140,000/year) are included in the Senate and House omnibus environment bills (sf 959/hf1076). With the next Special Session scheduled for June 14, it is hopeful that resolution will be made and the State's budget bill passed.

Although the House Capital Investment Committee has drafted a Bonding Bill (in which Area II is not included), the Senate committee is not planning for one. Only modifications to prior capital investment appropriations have been addressed so far. At this time, it is uncertain whether a Bonding Bill will emerge from the Special Session.

AREA II – FY2022-2023 Biennial Plan (draft). Netzke presented the plan to the Board of Directors. Netzke requested that this be tabled until the July meeting as she found one page where the updates were not saved. Legislative action on the administration funding will hopefully be resolved by that meeting as well.

AREA II & RCRCA – Policy Regarding Interactive Technology Use with Open Meeting Law. Netzke and Johnson reviewed the changes that would be necessary when the boards meet via Zoom after July 1, 2021 per Minnesota Statutes, Section 13D.02. Changes include:

- 1) The new law updates terminology. Interactive TV and other electronic means has been replaced with “***interactive technology***”, defined as “a device, software program, or other application that allows individuals in different physical locations to see and hear one another.”
- 2) Effective 5/7/2021: Meeting notices do not need to contain the remote locations that are not accessible to the public.
- 3) §13D.02, subd. 1(a)4: all votes conducted and recorded by roll call starting 7/1/2021.
- 4) §13D.02, subd. 1(b): Board members may participate from a non-public location no more than 3 times in a calendar year, and: (1) the member is serving in the military and is at a required drill, deployed, or on active duty; or (2) the member has been advised by a health care professional against being in a public place or personal or family medical reasons. This clause only applies in a declared State of Emergency and expires 60 days after removal of the emergency.
- 5) §13D.02, subd. 3: To the extent practical, a public body shall allow a person to monitor the meeting electronically from a remote location.

Area II and RCRCA policies will need to be amended for these changes.

LAKE REDWOOD RECLAMATION PROJECT UPDATE.

Engineering: Netzke reviewed Houston Engineering, Inc.'s (HEI) report for the April 11, 2021 to May 8, 2021 period with the Board.

Authorize Construction Agreements – Motion by Groebner, seconded by Gunnink, to authorize the Executive Director to sign the agreements with Jeanne Palmer for \$10,000, and Scott Kohler for \$4,500 and issue payment upon execution of the agreements. Motion carried unanimously.

Project Tour – Following the Board meeting, Netzke will narrate a short tour covering: dredge launch site, laydown area, pipeline route, pump station location, and Confined Disposal Facility and outlet.

RCRCA – JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT RENEWAL (July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2023). Board members present at today’s meeting were asked to sign the agreement if authorized by their respective county/SWCD. Netzke will acquire the remaining signatures by the end of the month. Executed copies of the Joint Powers Agreement will be emailed to the counties and SWCDs.

HIGHWATER CREEK ILLEGAL DUMPING OF TIRES. Motion by Crowley, seconded by Drietz, to approve payment of \$592 to Lamberton Township for the expense of transporting the tires. L&S Construction was hired to load and transport as the tires on the two hayracks were not roadworthy. Up to \$1,000 was authorized at April meeting; \$408 has been paid to date. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT. With no other business, RCRCA Chairman Johnson and Area II Chairman Maatz adjourned the meeting at 10:14 AM.

Lake Redwood Dredging Project Tour was attended by: Netzke, Johnson, Kack, Sorensen, Meulebroeck, Posthuma, Wellner, Crowley, Groebner and Bruns.

UPCOMING MEETINGS.

July Board Meeting	Thursday, July 1, 2021	via Zoom – In-person (Hybrid) Marshall
August Board Meeting	Thursday, August 5, 2021	via Zoom – In-person (Hybrid) Redwood
September Board Meeting	Thursday, Sept. 2, 2021	via Zoom – In-person (Hybrid) Marshall

John Maatz, AREA II Chairman

Date