

AREA II

AREA II / RCRCA

July 1, 2021 Board of Directors Meeting Lyon County Government Center and via Zoom

A roll call vote will be taken if any board members attend via Zoom.

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

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

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

The meeting was called to order at 9:06 AM by RCRCA Chairman Johnson and Area II Chairman Maatz.

ADOPT AGENDA. Chairman Johnson asked for any additions to the Agenda. **RCRCA** - Motion was made by Anderson, seconded by Fenicle, to approve the Agenda as presented. Roll call vote was taken; motion carried unanimously. **Area II** - Motion was made by Anderson, seconded by Crowley, to approve the Agenda as presented. Roll call vote was taken; motion carried unanimously.

AGENCY AND MEETING REPORTS.

MASWCD – Supervisor Lingbeek reported on the June 17 Area V meeting held in Pipestone. MASWCD Executive Director LeeAnn Buck attended and reported on the current legislative status. A tour was taken of the City of Pipestone Water Treatment Plant and an oxbow restoration project for Topeka Shiner.

AMC – Commissioner Johnson reported that the AMC District meetings went well. The AMC Board does not meet until August. The counties are awaiting legislative details from the recent special session.

APPROVE RCRCA MINUTES of June 2021 Board Meeting. Motion by Kack, seconded by Carter, to approve the June 2021 Minutes as corrected. Roll call vote was taken; motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE AREA II MINUTES of June 2021 Board Meeting. Motion by Johnson, seconded by Crowley, to approve the June 2021 Minutes as corrected. Roll call vote was taken, motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE RCRCA TREASURER’S REPORT – June 2021. Financials were reviewed with the Board. Motion by Veerkamp, seconded by Anderson, to file the June 2021 Treasurer’s Report subject to audit and to authorize payment of the bills. Roll call vote was taken; motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE AREA II TREASURER’S REPORT – June 2021. Financials were reviewed with the Board. Revenue Received: \$3,329.49 Contract Services Income, \$27.85 Interest and \$16,267.30 FY21 County Levies. Bill for approval: Bolton & Menk, Inc. \$4,416.00. Motion by Crowley, seconded by Drietz, to file the June 2021 Treasurer’s Report subject to audit and to authorize payment of the bills. Roll call vote was taken; 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	\$ 15,709.29	Office Supplies	\$ 0.00
Bonding Project Funds	\$ 0.00	Other Insurance	\$ 0.00
Capital Outlay	\$ 1,532.52	Postage	\$ 0.00
Contract Services - RCRCA	\$ 2,254.32	Professional Services	\$ 5,244.00
Directors' Expense	\$ 0.00	Project Expenses Paid	\$ 0.00
Directors' Insurance	\$ 0.00	Project Permit Fees	\$ 0.00
Employee Expense	\$ 89.04	Rent	\$ 837.00
Field Supplies	\$ 0.00	Telephone	\$ 60.53
Investigating & Testing	\$ 0.00	Utilities	\$ 0.00
Maintenance & Repair	\$ 434.52	Vehicle Expense	\$ 430.98
Miscellaneous Expense	\$ 25.14	Continuing Education	\$ 0.00
Insurance	\$ 0.00		

Bill for approval:

Professional Fees	\$ 4,416.00
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AREA II – APPROVE BONDING COST SHARE APPLICATIONS/AMENDMENTS/CANCELLATIONS.

None presented.

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

None presented.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT.

• **Pending State Shutdown** – By mid-June, notices were received preparing grant recipients of the pending State shutdown. All work on grants would have to temporarily cease until budget bills are agreed upon and the State reopened for business. This effects both organizations – Area II's Bonding projects, and all of RCRCA's grants except for Discovery Farms. Several budget bills have been approved and are awaiting signature by the Governor. Recent notifications from the State indicate that there will likely be no shutdown.

AREA II

• **LQP 1W1P** – Consultant interviews were held in-person on June 22. Two proposals were received: Houston Engineering, Inc. and Widseth/RESPEC/Upper MN Valley RDC. Widseth, etal declined the interview on June 16, so only Houston was interviewed. The Policy Committee met June 23 and awarded the contract to Houston Engineering. Despite being the only interview, Houston's proposal was solid and fits into the budget nicely.

• **YM 1W1P** – BWSR convened an Assurance Measures meeting with the 1W1P partners to ensure that the Plan is following operating guidelines and making progress towards the goals set in the Plan. The YM 1W1P continues to receive statewide attention for the solid partnership as this is not what other 1W1Ps have reported.

RCRCA

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

- 1) **EASEMENTS:** An easement was signed June 15 for the removal of the two peninsulas within the lake and payment issued to Jeanne Palmer. On June 24, the Right-of-Way Use Easement was signed and payment issued to Scott Kohler. Attorney Frank Munshower is currently drafting the Pipeline Easement with Red Del, LLC who approved the proposed payment and conditions on June 24. The last easement will be a Pipeline Easement with Wade Plotz. The area impacted and calculated payment will be determined once the pipeline is placed on his property as it will contain two curves.
- 2) **PERMITS:** The MNDOT Utility Accommodation permit application was submitted on April 26, and was anticipated to take 6-8 weeks to process. As of June 8, MNDOT is working on permits submitted

on April 7 with approximately 70-80 permit applications ahead of ours. Overall, MNDOT is taking 10+ weeks for processing of permits, which does not include a potential State shutdown.

- 3) JF Brennan's remediation work in the Duluth Harbor will likely take the rest of the summer to complete. If a State shutdown does not occur, the pipe should start to arrive after July 4. After approval of the last permit, Brennan plans to fuse and lay all pipe, perform all the necessary road and driveway crossings, and complete all other ancillary project components in 2021. Depending on when the Duluth job is completed, Brennan may or may not move the dredge (*Michael B.*) to Redwood Falls and is very confident that they can complete the job in one dredging season. Brennan is also planning a new sediment survey of the lake this year using an air boat.
- 4) FYI – the bridge over the Redwood River at Redwood Falls will be under construction for 3 weeks in 2022. The date of construction is not known, and the detour will include North Redwood, County Road 25, and County Road 17. This detour will not impact dredge operations.

AREA II – ENGINEER'S REPORT.

Springdale 19 Dam, Redwood County. Wetland credits of 2.998 acres will need to be purchased now that WCA has concurred with the mitigation plan. Bids will be received on July 20. Netzke added that as of yesterday, there are 15 prime contractors who have purchased plans. ***Del Clark Lake Sediment Ponds, Yellow Medicine County.*** A & C Excavating completed this project on June 25 with seeding/mulching planned for June 28. ***Holly 2 Small Dam, Murray County.*** Ryan West Excavating started work on this project on June 21. Work is progressing nicely. ***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.*** Lincoln County received one bid from A & C Excavating for this project. Their bid of \$69,400 was accepted by the County Board; engineer's estimate with contingency was \$70,812.50. To take advantage of the dry weather, A & C started this project June 28 after Del Clark was completed. ***Springdale 13/24 Grade Stabilization, Redwood County.*** Redwood SWCD has secured funding for this project from RCPP, Plum Creek CWF, and 319 funds. Bids will be received on July 13. ***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 he would like to proceed when permits and funding are in place. ***Holly 7 Water and Sediment Control Basin.*** Bids for this project were received on June 15. Two bids were received with the low bidder being Ryan West Excavating at \$16,496; second low bid was Brey Tiling & Excavation at \$16,889. The engineer's estimate with contingency was \$14,621.20. We are awaiting confirmation that the landowner wants to proceed with the project after he consults with siblings. ***Monroe 17 Water and Sediment Control Basins, Lyon County.*** This project involves small dikes in agricultural areas with the intent to temporarily pond runoff and reduce erosion. We are in the design process to determine the number and placement of basins. ***Delhi 24 Grade Stabilization Repair, Redwood County.*** This old SCS dam, in a wooded area northwest of Redwood Falls, has a failed metal pipe and a pond which has filled with sediment. The design is nearly complete and includes removing many trees, raising the top of the dam and replacing the pipe. We will meet with the landowner to further discuss the project.

2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION. Area II's administrative funds (\$140,000/year) were included in the omnibus environment bill and was signed by Governor Walz. Additionally, the committee's spreadsheet for future funding includes Area II at this dedicated amount through FY24-FY25.

There is still discussion at the Capitol regarding a Bonding Bill this year. Senator Dahms and Representative Torkelson have indicated that Area II is not likely to be included should a bill be agreed upon.

A news release announced a new program to provide landowners with financial support to hold water back on the landscape. BWSR will receive \$1 million in FY21 and FY22 to fund the development and demonstration of the new water storage program starting with the Minnesota River Watershed. It is unknown whether Area II would have access to this funding source.

AREA II – FY22-23 Biennial Plan. Netzke presented Attachment B of the Biennial Plan that was revised from last month. Attachment C will be updated to include the FY21 year-end expenditures. Netzke asked for approval

of the Plan in order to forward it to BWSR to facilitate the grant agreement. Motion by Gunnink, seconded by Johnson, to approve the FY2022-2023 Biennial Plan with the changes noted. Roll call vote was taken; motion carried unanimously.

LAKE REDWOOD RECLAMATION PROJECT UPDATE.

Engineering: Netzke reviewed Houston Engineering, Inc.’s (HEI) report for the May 9 to June 5, 2021 period with the Board. Until dredging commences, Houston’s invoices will be small.

Project Preconstruction Meeting: Houston Engineering Inc. drafted a handout to be used as a mailer/invitation to landowners surrounding the lake and along the pipeline route for a pre-construction meeting. The tentative date for this meeting will be late July/early August when the final permit is obtained and the contractor has a definitive start date for the pipeline construction.

RCRCA – JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT RENEWAL (July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2023). Board members present signed the original agreement. All counties and SWCDs approved the agreement and individual signatures were received by each. Netzke will acquire the 3 remaining signatures on the original agreement as soon as practical. Executed copies of the Joint Powers Agreement will be emailed to the counties and SWCDs.

AREA II/RCRCA ANNUAL MEETING. November 4 would be the date of the annual meeting. Suggestions were welcomed as to location and speaker. Anderson suggested the Painted Prairie Winery near Currie. Lingbeek suggested Schell’s Brewery in New Ulm with a tour of the brewery. These venues will be contacted and information will be brought back for more discussion.

ADJOURNMENT. With no other business, RCRCA Chairman Johnson and Area II Chairman Maatz adjourned the meeting at 10:00 AM.

UPCOMING MEETINGS.

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
October Board Meeting	Thursday, Oct. 7, 2021	via Zoom – In-person (Hybrid) Redwood

John Maatz, AREA II Chairman

Date