

AREA II

AREA II / RCRCA

April 7, 2022 Board of Directors Meeting Redwood County Learning Center, Redwood Falls, MN

(Hybrid meeting due to weather forecast – Zoom attendees did not vote. All votes by voice.)

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

RCRCA Members Present: Jeff Veerkamp, Mark Wellner (Zoom), Larry Anderson (Zoom), Clark Lingbeek (Zoom), Joe Drietz (Zoom), Glen Sorensen, Gary Crowley, Mark Meulebroeck, Lori Gunnink (Zoom), Paul Posthuma, Luke Johnson, Brad Kruisselbrink, Rick Wakefield, Brian Timm and Glen Kack.

Others Present: Kerry Netzke – Executive Director, and Joy Bruns – RCRCA Office Manager, Ken Christensen – Pipestone SWCD Alternate, and Brian Pfarr – Redwood SWCD.

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 AM by RCRCA Chairman Johnson and Area II Chairman Maatz. Introductions were made for new members. A quorum was confirmed with in-person attendees.

ADOPT AGENDA. Chairman Johnson asked for any additions to the Agenda: Netzke requested an addition for Area II's authorization to sign a letter of support for YM1W1P RCPP application. **RCRCA** - Motion by Posthuma, seconded by Veerkamp, to approve the Agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously. **Area II** - Motion by Crowley, seconded by Kack, to approve the Agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

AGENCY AND MEETING REPORTS.

AMC – Chairman Johnson reported that the Legislative Conference was held last week. Nothing new to report.

AREA V MASWCD – Supervisor Lingbeek reported that stable funding for SWCDs from the General Funds, similar to local government aid to counties and cities, is being sought by MASWCD.

APPROVE RCRCA MINUTES of March 2022 Board Meeting. Motion by Crowley, seconded by Sorenson, to approve the March 2022 Minutes as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE AREA II MINUTES of March 2022 Board Meeting. Motion by Johnson, seconded by Kack, to approve the March 2022 Minutes as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE RCRCA TREASURER'S REPORT – March 2022. Financials were reviewed with the Board. Motion by Kruisselbrink, seconded by Meulebroeck, to file the March 2022 Treasurer's Report subject to audit and approve payment of the bill. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE AREA II TREASURER'S REPORT – March 2022. Financials were reviewed with the Board. Revenue Received: \$6,306.47 Contract Services Income, and \$13.75 Interest. There were three pay periods during the month. Bill for approval: Bolton & Menk \$5,056.00. Motion by Crowley, seconded by Veerkamp, to file the Match 2022 Treasurer's Report subject to audit and to authorize payment of the bill. Motion carried unanimously.

Revenue as recorded:

Contract Service Income (RCRCA)	\$ 6,306.47	Projects-Bonding	\$ 0.00
Interest Income	\$ 13.75	County Levy	\$ 0.00
State of MN-Administrative	\$ 0.00	SWCD Tech Assistance	\$ 0.00
Miscellaneous Income	\$ 0.00	Special Project Funds	\$ 0.00

Paid bills are summarized below:

Administration	\$ 22,636.08	Office Supplies	\$ 0.00
Bonding Project Funds	\$ 0.00	Other Insurance	\$ 0.00
Capital Outlay	\$ 0.00	Postage	\$ 0.00
Contract Services - RCRCA	\$ 1,517.12	Professional Services	\$ 6,320.00
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	\$ 0.00	Telephone	\$ 57.19
Investigating & Testing	\$ 0.00	Utilities	\$ 0.00
Maintenance & Repair	\$ 1,579.93	Vehicle Expense	\$ 1,030.81
Miscellaneous Expense	\$ 44.34	Continuing Education	\$ 0.00
Insurance	\$ 0.00		

Bill for approval:

Professional Fees	\$ 5,056.00
-------------------	-------------

RCRCA – COST SHARE APPLICATIONS/AMENDMENTS/CANCELLATIONS/PAYMENTS.

Netzke presented six new cost share contracts: two for the Plum Creek CWF Grant: Holly 8 – Murray Grade Stabilization and Holly 9 – Murray Dam Repair; and four for the Pell Creek CWF Grant: North Hero 27 – Redwood Grade Stabilization, Ann 6 – Cottonwood WSCBs, North Hero 19 – Redwood and North Hero 30 – Redwood both Grassed Waterways. Motion by Meulebroeck, seconded by Posthuma, to approve all the cost share contracts as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT.

• Server & Email Issues – The Area II/RCRCA server had a power supply unit and 1 of the 4 hard drives go out this month. Repair was \$152 for parts plus SW/WC's labor. The 5-year warranty has now expired, and Dell does not offer an extended warranty as one was sought prior to expiration. We are being advised to move to cloud-based storage and backup that is safe, reliable and affordable. In lieu of replacing the server (quoted cost of \$11,000), both organizations will migrate to Microsoft 365. This is a subscription service that you pay per-user, instead of per-computer, at about \$21/month/user.

RCRCA continues to have hacking attempts from a China location. Additionally, the website software provided by NetPoint is not up to date and causes headaches for Joy. NetPoint doesn't appear to be in a hurry to update the software despite requests. It has been advised that both organizations leave NetPoint for website hosting and transfer to GoDaddy. Area II's domain is already through GoDaddy, so the website would need to be rebuilt/redesigned, and Area II staff would have new email addresses. As for RCRCA, NetPoint owns the RCRCA.com domain name which will be requested when we leave. We don't anticipate any problems keeping the name. Email addresses will remain the same, and the website would also be rebuilt/redesigned using GoDaddy's software. SW/WC is helping with this transition.

AREA II

• 2022 Bonding Request – Area II's bonding request of \$1.5 million has been introduced as SF 2789 and HF 3059. Netzke has not been informed of any hearings, although virtual House testimony was given in 2021, and Netzke was asked to provide the justification of the increase from \$1.0M to \$1.5M to the Senate Capital Investment Committee earlier this year. The Bonding Tour stop in Marshall last Fall was considered as testimony for this request. Another bill (SF 3044/HF 3028) has been introduced that would appropriate a one-time General Fund appropriation to BWSR to develop a plan to increase water storage in strategic locations across the state. "The plan must: (1) provide money to projects in Area II, the Red River Valley, the Greater Blue Earth River basin, and other areas of the state that are most likely to benefit from water storage projects;..." The bill is authored by Senators Weber, Wiger & Eaton and Representatives Torkelson & Poston.

- Water Quality and Storage Pilot Program – Due to the newness of this program and only \$1M in funds, only one project is being submitted from Area II – Custer 10 Small Dam, Lyon County. This particular project is permitted by the DNR and USACE, fully designed and shovel ready. Once funded, 0.2860 Wet (Fresh) Meadow wetland credits need to be purchased prior to construction. The RFP requires hydrographs at the “area of interest” AND at the HUC12 outlet, which makes this application more difficult if an entity does not have an engineer on staff. The grant amount requested was \$94,723.84 with \$23,681.00 of local match. Project expenses included: estimated construction cost, engineering, flowage easements and 0.286 wetland credits.

RCRCA

- Lake Redwood Dredging – Work this month included:

- 1) **Request to DNR Fisheries:** RCRCA drafted a request letter on February 23 to DNR Fisheries formally requesting an early start to dredging. After much discussion, permission was granted to start April 15 with a few conditions added. RCRCA and JF Brennan agreed to:
 - a) Install a floating silt fence upstream of the dam, anchored to both shorelines. Brennan is providing this at no cost to the project.
 - b) Begin dredging operations in the western bay, south of Perk’s Park, for the first month to keep silt out of the mainstream channel.
 - c) 2 turbidity probes will be installed: one downstream of the floating silt curtain, and one at the start of the project on Laser Avenue. Equipment will be provided and installed by MCPA with RCRCA assistance on April 18. The data collected will be downloaded by DNR every 30 days. RCRCA will assist both agencies, and will provide the steel posts, 2x4s and conduit needed for the shoreline access to the data loggers. This data will be collected throughout the dredging season.
- 2) **CDF Outlet Structure:** DNR Dam Safety approved JF Brennan’s outlet design on March 16. Per permit requirements, DNR Dam Safety will inspect the structure on April 14.
- 3) **2022 Pre-Construction Meeting:** This meeting has been scheduled for April 11.
- 4) **Time Lapse Cameras:** Shawn is working with the time lapse cameras that will be installed prior to the start of dredging.

- Cottonwood and Redwood WRAPS/TMDLs – The last of the stressor identification information has finally been obtained by MPCA to complete the Cottonwood WRAPS. Both WRAPS and TMDL documents for both watersheds will be placed on public notice in April. The grants expire June 30, 2022 which requires all expenses paid by that date, and the final report to be submitted within 30 days.

- Cottonwood 1W1P – BWSR released the RFP for the 1W1P planning grants. The member counties and SWCDs are anxious to proceed, and to date, resolutions from the counties and SWCDs of Brown, Cottonwood and Redwood have been received. Lyon and Murray will be asked to provide resolutions this month. Applications are due June 10.

- Grant Updates –

- 1) Plum Creek Clean Water Funds – Redwood SWCD has received a large allotment of federal 319 funds earmarked for this watershed. MPCA would like to see these funds expended by August 31, 2022.
- 2) Pell Creek Clean Water Funds – Once project possibilities are exhausted in Plum Creek, the 319 funds can then be used in the Pell Creek Watershed.
- 3) Cottonwood and Redwood WRAPS/TMDL – These grants have minimal balances and expire June 30.
- 4) MN Dept of Ag Pesticide Monitoring – Water quality sample collection will continue for these 4 sites, and N Double Lake, by Purchase Order. One site requires less sampling which reduces the income by \$650.
- 5) WPLMN – FY20-21 grant will expire June 30. MPCA and RCRCA will begin the 2-year Amendment process in April that will budget through FY23.
- 6) Discovery Farms – This cooperative agreement goes until either party chooses to end it.

AREA II – ENGINEER’S REPORT.

Springdale 24 Small Dam, Redwood County. We have completed the preliminary design for this dam on the northwest corner of Walnut Grove. Soil borings are needed to complete the Plans. We have been in discussion

with NRCS and DNR Dam Safety regarding what sampling/testing is required by Dam Safety and if NRCS may be able to provide these services. ***Island Lake 3 Road Retention, Lyon County.*** We met with the landowners and the township regarding this project. All parties are willing to proceed once cost-share funding is secured. ***Alta Vista 27 Road Retention, Lincoln County.*** We have developed a preliminary plan and cost estimate for this project. The project is at an intersection of two township roads and the location is a safety concern. We met with the township and they would like to proceed. The cost of the project is estimated at \$600,000, so the next task is for the township to find the \$150,000 local match sources. ***Lynd 31 Road Retention, Lyon County.*** We also met with Lynd township officials about this project. The construction would raise the road about 9 to 16 feet. The estimated cost for this project depends on the option chosen, which ranges between \$330,000 and \$460,000. Again, raising the local match for the project is the next task for the township. ***Holly 9 Sediment Pond, Murray County.*** We met with the landowner regarding this project. He would like us to redesign the project to move the berm further downstream. The structure is located just upstream of a larger dam and the intent is to create a small ponding area to remove sediment before it flows into the dam pond. We are in the process of completing some additional survey work and redesign. ***Holly 9 Small Dam Repair, Murray County.*** Ryan West Excavating will construct this project this spring. ***Stanley 19 Small Dam, Lyon County.*** We have started design work for this dam northeast of Marshall. A wetland delineation has been completed indicating about an acre of wetlands potentially impacted. Design work is substantially completed and a meeting with the landowner is the next step. ***Monroe 17 & 24 Water & Sediment Control Basins, Lyon County.*** The Monroe 24 project is scheduled for construction by Ryan West Excavating this spring. The Monroe 17 project is waiting for the landowner's decision before proceeding, since the required local match is quite high for these farmable basins. ***Holly 10 Small Dam, Murray County.*** Design work is nearly complete on this dam located just off of Plum Creek. The site appears to have good storage capacity. We met with the landowner and he is willing to proceed. This is another site in need of soil borings and analysis for DNR Dam Safety review. Funding will likely be available through the CWF grant. ***Amiret 36 Streambank Stabilization, Lyon County.*** Design work is completed for this small streambank repair project. The eroded streambank is in a pasture area and is threatening a crop field. The landowner will provide funding for the project. The DNR permit was submitted after meeting with the landowner. ***Request for Soil Borings.*** We have now received two proposals for soil borings, and both have been quite extensive in services and thus high in price compared to past projects. We are exploring the possibility of the NRCS providing these services, although their equipment and laboratory capabilities may not fully meet the needs of the DNR Dam Safety requirements. We are continuing discussions with both in hopes of a suitable arrangement.

LAKE REDWOOD – Kick-Off Celebration. Netzke is planning a Kick-Off Celebration on Friday, April 22 to commemorate the start of the dredging project at 1 PM at Perk's Park. The Board requested to have an alternate site if weather is inclement. This date will allow the local legislators an opportunity to attend this event as they currently have Fridays off. Netzke intends to email invitations to: all RCRCA local legislators, all RCRCA member counties and SWCDs, City of Redwood Falls Council and administration, DNR/MPCA/Agency contacts, Newspapers from Redwood Falls, Sleepy Eye, Marshall and Lamberton; KLGR, KNUJ and KMHL radio, and KEYC, WCCO and PBS-Granite Falls television stations.

RCRCA ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Johnson adjourned the RCRCA portion of the meeting at 10:13 AM.

AREA II SOIL BORING RFP UPDATE. Netzke reported that this topic is unresolved. Hansel has spoken with several folks in the past few weeks. He first spoke with Brandon DuRoe, NRCS Soil Scientist who conducts this work for NRCS projects. Brandon has some limitations to this equipment and analyses. He can only collect auger samples as opposed to split-spoon samples, and cannot drill deeper than 25 feet. DNR State Dam Engineer, Jason Boyle, was then contacted as to what samples and analyses are required. Boyle thought the 25-foot depth was adequate, however split-spoon samples are required. DNR does not feel that the tri-axial shear, settlement and seepage analysis are necessary for low hazard dams and could be eliminated. The former geotechnical engineer who recently retired has been contacted and is considering the offer. When Hansel returns from vacation next week, he will contact Braun Intertec to relay the Dam Safety requirements and ask if they would revise their proposals without the unnecessary analyses. If the project is being funded with Clean Water Funds, soil borings are an eligible project expense as long as it is proven that the project has more water quality benefits than water retention benefits, as CWF projects normally do not require Dam Safety permits. We hope to have answers by the

May meeting. It was asked if borings would be paid by CWF if project does not get permitted or constructed. Netzke feels that it would be difficult to ask for CWF to pay in that case.

AREA II - AUTHORIZATION TO SIGN RCPP LETTER OF SUPPORT TO YM-1W1P. BWSR is in the process of a Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) application for water storage with the YM1W1P boundary listed as one of the eligible areas. RCPP is an accelerated version of the federal EQIP project without the ranking/scoring process. BWSR will provide the template letter and is seeking organization’s authorized signatures. Motion by Johnson, seconded by Crowley, to authorize Netzke to sign a letter of support as discussed. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

AREA II – Draft Budget FY2023. Netzke presented a draft FY’23 Budget to the board. She noted that there are several unknown variables at this time, including: new Flex Plan administrator/monthly fee, server vs cloud-based user subscriptions, website hosting costs, remote backup services, and Investigation & Testing. 1% and 2% COLAs were used for FY’23 options. A revised budget will be presented to the board next month along with the Biennial Update required for BWSR.

ADJOURNMENT. With no other business, Area II Chairman Maatz adjourned the meeting at 10:28 AM. The next meeting will be May 5, 2022 in Marshall – in-person only.

UPCOMING MEETINGS.

May Board Meeting	Thursday, May 5, 2022	Lyon County Courthouse – Marshall - In-Person
June Board Meeting	Thursday, June 2, 2022	Redwood County Learning Center
July Board Meeting	Thursday, July 7, 2022	Lyon County Courthouse - Marshall

John Maatz, AREA II Chairman

Date