

AREA II

AREA II / RCRCA

May 4, 2017 Board of Directors Meeting – BWSR Conference Room, Marshall, MN

AREA II Members Present: Dennis Potter, Norman Holmen, John Maatz, Joe Drietz, Rick Anderson, Lori Gunnink, Luke Johnson, and Glen Kack.

RCRCA Members Present: Dennis Potter, Greg Roiger, Norman Holmen, Clark Lingbeek, Joe Drietz, John Boulton, Rick Anderson, Mark Meulebroeck, Lori Gunnink, Paul Posthuma, Luke Johnson, Arvin Pater and Glen Kack.

Others Present: Kerry Netzke – Executive Director, Joy Bruns – RCRCA Office Manager, Trudy Hastad – LQP/YB WD, and John Boulton – YMRWD.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00AM by RCRCA Chairman Holmen.

ADOPT AGENDA. Area II Chairman Johnson asked for any additions to the agenda. Hearing none, motion was made by Meulebroeck, seconded by Potter, to approve the Agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

AGENCY AND MEETING REPORTS.

AMC – Commissioner Anderson reported that the subgroup for the Drainage Work Group met to discuss the DNR proposing to require permits for ditch cleanouts. AMC is working to introduce language in opposition to this proposal.

Area V MASCWD – Supervisors Lingbeek and Roiger reported that the Outdoor News had negative views on the CWF/Legacy funds which passed on a 130 to 0 vote. To administer the Buffer Law, SWCDs are to receive \$22 million from CWF; MASWCD wants the financial support to be General Funds. The rebuild of Hwy 60 requires 150,000 CY of gravel to be excavated next to the Red Rock Rural Water wells. Representative Rod Hamilton has been asked to get involved as over \$4 million has been invested in groundwater protection for these same wells.

MN RIVER CONGRESS – Supervisor Lingbeek reported that the MN River Congress will meet May 18th in Redwood Falls at the Redwood Area Community Center. Lingbeek will be speaking on behalf of GBERBA. Netzke has been asked to provide opening remarks to the Congress, and in exchange, will receive free booth rental for the networking fair.

YMRWD – Boulton reported many tiling permit applications were requested. Updates were given on the following projects: Nordland 6 Road Retention; existing Marble 13 re-evaluation/inlet modification; and interest in 1'-2' of bounce on Steep Bank Lake. Netzke added that she will attend the YMRWD meeting on May 8 to update the Board on the Nordland 6 changes.

LQP-YB – Hastad reported that the WRAPS monitoring is completed. The Professional Judgement Group (PJG) will assess the results and determine priorities for the WRAPS. They were 10 samples short for a determination that would delist an impaired water. The District is funding the collection and testing of these samples in an attempt to delist the impairment before the WRAPS is completed. Mitch Enderson has been busy with education at the schools, rain barrel projects, and watershed-wide education. The MAWD Summer Tour will be in June. MAWD Executive Director, Ray Bohn, is retiring and will continue to lobby for MAWD until June 2018. Reorganization of the MAWD Association, due to the retirement, will be acted upon at the June Directors meeting. Several ditch improvements/repairs are ongoing; ditch redeterminations are slowing them down. There were 47 tile permits approved at the last meeting.

APPROVE RCRCA MINUTES of April 6, 2017 Monthly Board Meeting. Motion by Johnson, seconded by Gunnink, to approve the April 2017 Minutes as corrected. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE AREA II MINUTES of April 6, 2017 Monthly Board Meeting. Motion by Potter, seconded by Anderson, to approve the April 2017 Minutes as corrected. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE RCRCA TREASURER’S REPORT – April 2017. Netzke reviewed the April 2017 financials with the Board. Motion by Posthuma, seconded by Drietz, to approve the April 2017 Treasurer’s Report and the bills as paid. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE AREA II TREASURER’S REPORT – April 2017. Netzke reviewed the financials with the Board. Income received: \$4,395.93 Contract Services Income, \$149.05 Interest Income, \$50,000.00 1W1P Grant Amendment, \$21,784.37 Bonding Reimbursement, \$2,483.00 Levy, and \$25.90 Refund on Supplies order. Expenses were routine. Bills to approve: \$4,548.00 Professional Services, \$8,200.00 Investigation & Testing and \$2,700.00 Capital Outlay (R8 GPS Unit). Motion by Potter, seconded by Anderson, to approve the April 2017 Treasurer’s Report and for payment of the bills. Motion carried unanimously.

Revenue as recorded:

Contract Service Income (RCRCA)	\$ 4,395.93	Projects-Bonding	\$ 21,784.37
Interest Income	\$ 149.05	County Levy	\$ 2,483.00
State of MN-Administrative	\$ -0-	1W1P Grant Funds	\$ 50,000.00
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$ 25.90		

Paid bills are summarized below:

Administration	\$ 13,746.46	Directors’ Expense	\$ -0-
Maintenance & Repair	\$ 247.39	Rent	\$ 837.00
Miscellaneous Expense	\$ 177.87	Office Supplies	\$ 106.56
Professional Services	\$ 4,434.00	Vehicle Expense	\$ 259.32
Contract Services - RCRCA	\$ 1,464.32	Field Supplies	\$ 126.00
Bonding Project Funds	\$ -0-	Employee Expense	\$ 101.14
Postage	\$ -0-	Project Expense	\$ -0-
1W1P Grant Expenses	\$ -0-	Investigating & Testing	\$ 11,800.00
Directors’ Insurance	\$ -0-	Telephone	\$ 77.48
Other Insurance	\$ -0-		

Approved bills for payment are summarized below:

Contract Services - RCRCA	\$ -0-	Professional Services	\$ 4,548.00
Consulting Services - 1W1P	\$ -0-	Project Expenses	\$ -0-
Contract Services - 1W1P	\$ -0-	Investigation/Testing	\$ 8,200.00
Capital Equipment- Used R8 GPS	\$ 2,700.00		

RCRCA - APPROVE NEW COST SHARE APPLICATIONS:

REDWOOD WATERSHED:

Netzke presented two cost share contract applications: 1) Lyon – Lynd 10 Streambank Stabilization, and 2) Redwood – Vesta 24 Water and Sediment Control Basins. The Lyon SWCD and Redwood SWCD will provide 5% additional funding to reach 75% cost share available to the landowners. Motion by Lingbeek, seconded by Gunnink, to approve both cost share contracts. Motion carried unanimously.

RCRCA CONTRACTS FOR AMENDMENT: None

RCRCA CONTRACTS FOR PAYMENT: None

AREA II – APPROVE NEW COST SHARE APPLICATIONS:

Dane Schmiesing
Original Bid: \$26,428.00

Redwood – Gales 26

Grade Stabilizations
Original Cost Share: \$19,821.00 (75%)

Steven Geis
EST Cost: \$149,090.65 (including wetland credits)

Redwood – Charlestown 34

Grade Stabilization Structure
EST Cost Share: \$111,817.98 (75%)

Netzke presented two new cost share contract applications: 1) Redwood – Gales 26 Grade Stabilizations, and 2) Redwood – Charlestown 34 Grade Stabilization Structure. Netzke added that Charlestown 34 will require a Corps of Engineers permit, and if other projects can be completed before that permit is received, those projects will be given preference for the funding. Motion by Gunnick, seconded by Maatz, to approve both cost share contracts. Motion carried unanimously.

AREA II CONTRACT AMENDMENT: None

AREA II CONTRACTS FOR PAYMENT: None

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT.

- Attended the Watershed Professionals Network meeting in Redwood Falls on April 20.
- Adopt-A-Highway cleanup by the St. Matthew Lutheran Youth Group is planned for May 3 (May 10 – rain date).

AREA II

- **Yellow Medicine One Watershed One Plan (1W1P):**
 - The Plan Work Group met on April 17 to begin drafting a new MOA for Implementation.
 - The Grant Amendment was signed on April 11 and funds received by Area II on April 17.
 - RESPEC was informed to begin work.
 - Performance Based Funding (*aka “Fund The Plan”*) is in HF70 (\$10.45M) and SF566 (\$9.75M). A non-state match must be identified and other Legacy funds may supplement projects funded by this legislation.
- Invoices were emailed to the 9 member counties on May 1 for the FY17 levies. Board members received a copy of their county’s invoice.
- Assuming the \$140,000/year State appropriation will be approved by the Legislature, the FY18 budget was developed.
- Annual Dam Inspections have been scheduled for Monday, May 22 (Sonstegaard-Telste, Hauschild-Thange, Porter Dam, Fales-VanHyfte, and Minett-Kranz) and Tuesday, May 23 (Wellner-Hageman, Schoper-Bush, and Walnut Grove/Lake Laura). May 25 is the rain date. Potter added that Laine Sletta from the Brown County Environmental Department would like Area II staff to instruct him how to take piezometer level readings on the downstream wells at Wellner-Hageman.

RCRCA

- **Surface Water Assessment Grant (SWAG):** The approved Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) from MPCA was received on May 1 which is the last item necessary before sampling can begin after May 1. Wahnoutka and Devin Ryan visited all the lake monitoring sites on April 26 to verify access locations.
- **Phase 1 WRAPS:**
 - The “Local Work Group Kick-Off” meetings for the Cottonwood and Redwood watersheds were held April 19. These groups will meet jointly for future meetings. The next meeting is being scheduled for late May/early June.
 - No public meetings are planned for the Redwood River; however the Cottonwood River is thinking about three meetings at parks along the river (Lamberton, Springfield, and New Ulm). *Concerns were expressed by the Board on park entrance fees to attend these meeting and feel fees should not be charged to encourage attendance.*
 - The \$7,000 amendment to the \$70,000 grant is being routed through MPCA for approval to reimburse RCRCA for mileage, staff time, and testing expenses for the “Gap” monitoring.
- **Discovery Farms** – Wahnoutka has been visiting the site and working out the “bugs” with MN Dept. of Ag to get both sampling sites up and running smoothly.

- **Watershed Pollutant Load Monitoring Network (WPLMN):** January – March quarterly invoice was prepared and payment received. The recent rains have spurred sampling activity.
- **MN River Congress – May 18 – Redwood Falls:** In exchange for my willingness to provide opening remarks and update the audience on RCRC and Area II activities, we were offered a free booth at the Networking Fair (4:30 – 6:00 PM). Wahnoutka will plan to attend unless sampling calls him away.

2017 LEGISLATIVE SESSION UPDATE.

Area II –

FY'18/FY19 Administrative Services – hf398/sf348 – As of today, both the House and Senate omnibus bills have \$140,000/year for Area II's administration (hf 888/sf723). Conferees have been named and include Representative Chris Swedzinski.

Area II Bonding – hf447/sf588 – \$1M bond proceeds to BWSR for a grant to Area II for flood hazard mitigation projects. No hearings have been scheduled. The Senate has approved the 2016 Bonding bill language. The House just released it bill, which does not include bonding for Area II.

LOP-YB WD Bonding – hf1230/sf761 – \$500,000 in bonding for the engineering of two floodwater control projects. No hearings have been scheduled. Funding is not included in either the Senate or House versions of the bill.

RCRCA –

Lake Redwood Reclamation and Enhancement Project – hf413/sf294 – \$7.825M in bonding. The project was included in the 2016 Bonding Bill which was not signed by Governor Dayton. That same bonding bill was approved by the Senate Capitol Investment Committee and awaits vote by the full Senate. The House version of the bonding bill does not include the funding, nor does the Governor's recommendation. No conferees have yet been named (hf892 1E, sf210 1E).

AREA II ENGINEER'S REPORT.

Netzke reviewed the Engineer's Report submitted by Duane Hansel. ***Redwood Falls 18 Small Dam, Redwood County.*** We are still awaiting the Corps further review and comments. ***Lincoln CD 37 Pump Station, Lincoln County.*** A contract for this work has been processed for Thompson Excavating. We have been processing shop drawings and are awaiting the contractor's construction schedule. ***Morton Dam Repair – Birch Cooley 19, Renville County.*** We are revising the emergency spillway design for this project. Final plans will be completed soon. The project is planned to be constructed in Spring using Flood Recovery Funds from the Renville SWCD. ***Delhi 5 Small Dam Repair and Diversion Project, Redwood County.*** We have met with the landowner for these grade stabilization and diversion channel projects. The grade stabilization received funding through EQIP and the diversion project will be funded through the Redwood SWCD. ***Charlestown 34 Small Dam, Redwood County.*** This small dam was planned several years ago at this location, but substantial sand was discovered in the borings. A new site, further upstream of the previous location, has now been investigated. Additional borings have been completed by American Engineering Testing and their report indicates that the site will be suitable for dam construction. We are working on finalizing the plans, and after landowner approval, will then be forwarded to the Corps of Engineers for permitting. ***Gales 26 Grade Stabilization, Redwood County.*** Design work for this project was also completed in January. This project failed to be funded with EQIP, but does qualify for Area II Bonding funds with floodwater storage and 25-year lifespan. We have met with the landowner who approved the design. ***Charlestown 30 Small Dam (Jeckell).*** This project is ready for construction when the soil conditions are suitable. The job will be funded with Flood Recovery funds through the Redwood SWCD. ***Nordland 20 Small Dam, Lyon County.*** The plans for this dam are completed and the Corps of Engineers permit application has been submitted. The dam will impact a small wetland area, so mitigation of the impact in terms of a bypass tile line is anticipated to be required as well as wetland credits purchased. ***Johnsonville 34 Small Dam Repair, Redwood County.*** This project is ready for construction when the soil conditions are suitable. This project is being funded with Flood Recovery funds through the Redwood SWCD. ***Shelburne 19 Wetland Restoration, Lyon County.*** In conjunction with the Lyon SWCD, we are designing this wetland restoration for a landowner near Florence. The landowner would like to create a wildlife pond on his property. The preliminary plans are nearing completion and a meeting with the landowner will be scheduled to discuss funding options. ***Nordland 6 Road Retention, Lyon County.*** This road retention project, which was originally proposed about three years ago, is again being promoted by the Yellow Medicine River Watershed District. Local funding is being sought from the YMRWD, two townships and Lyon County. The design is being updated to current Atlas 14 precipitation data and NRCS standards. Hopefully this project can be completed this summer or fall. ***Holly 1 Small Dam Repair, Murray County.*** The plans for this repair project are nearly complete. The project will include some grading of a nearby township road ditch to insure that runoff is directed to the pond without impacting the roadway.

FY' 18 AREA II BUDGET (Draft). Netzke reviewed the draft budget with the board of directors. Several items need revision, including: 1) Professional Services actual cost, 2) formula issues in the Salaries COLA/merit column; 3) Investigation/Testing cost averaged over 3 years, 4) trade-in value of pickup, and 5) Capital Outlay amount. Netzke will adjust and review the budget and present the budget in June for approval.

RCRCA SUMMER CANOE TRIP UPDATE. Netzke reported that the canoe trips have been set: Redwood River on June 20, Cottonwood River on June 22. Postcards have been mailed to past participants that have requested to be reminded of the trips, postings on Facebook and the RCRCA website, and flyers were provided to the counties and SWCDs to be posted in their offices. Subway box lunches are planned for the meals. Bruns sent invites to the local newspapers.

RCRCA – JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT RENEWAL (July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2019). Netzke provided the Board with a draft RCRCA Joint Powers Agreement last month so the members could obtain authorization to sign the agreement. The partners that were already authorized signed the Agreement. The remainder will sign in June.

ADJOURNMENT. With no other business to address, Area II Chairman Johnson and RCRCA Chairman Holmen declared the meeting adjourned at 10:37 AM.

UPCOMING MEETINGS.

June 2017 Board Meeting	June 1, 2017	Redwood Falls, MN – MN West Conf. Room – 9:00 AM
July 2017 Board Meeting	July 6, 2017	Marshall, MN – BWSR Conference Room – 9:00 AM
August 2017 Board Meeting	August 3, 2017	Redwood Falls, MN – MN West Conf. Room – 9:00 AM