

# AREA II

## AREA II / RCRCA

### May 6, 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, Gary Crowley, Lori Gunnink, Luke Johnson, Rick Wakefield and Glen Kack.

**RCRCA Members Present:** Jeff Veerkamp, Larry Anderson, 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, Michelle Overholser – YMRWD Administrator.

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 AM by RCRCA Chairman Johnson and Area II Chairman Maatz.

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

#### **AGENCY AND MEETING REPORTS.**

**AMC** – Commissioner Johnson reported that AMC District meetings are scheduled for June.

**YMRWD** – Overholser reported that the District is starting the second year of monitoring for the second round WRAPS. RCRCA is assisting the District with monthly lake samples starting in May upon four area lakes. The District will host a Biennial Summit for the YM-1W1P August 9 at 6 PM at the Minnesota Sportsmen's Club, with a virtual attendance option available. A meal will be provided by the District. Instead of holding the District's Annual Meeting prior to the Biennial Summit, the District has chosen to host every-other-year Annual Meetings to offset the years when the Summit is held. The District went back to in-person meetings in April and provides a virtual link to those unable or uncomfortable to attend the in-person meeting.

**APPROVE RCRCA MINUTES of April 2021 Board Meeting.** Motion by Sorensen, seconded by Carter, to approve the April 2021 Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVE AREA II MINUTES of April 2021 Board Meeting.** Motion by Johnson, seconded by Anderson, to approve the April 2021 Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

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

**APPROVE AREA II TREASURER'S REPORT – April 2021.** Financials were reviewed with the Board. Revenue Received: \$4,384.37 Contract Services Income, \$31.43 Interest and \$23,326.90 FY21 Levy. Bill for approval: Bolton & Menk, Inc. \$4,864.00. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Kack, to approve and file the April 2021 Treasurer's Report subject to audit and to authorize payment of the bills. Motion carried unanimously.

**Revenue as recorded:**

Contract Service Income (RCRCA)	\$ 4,384.37	Projects-Bonding	\$ 0.00
Interest Income	\$ 31.43	County Levy	\$ 23,326.90
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	\$ 70.84
Bonding Project Funds	\$ 0.00	Other Insurance	\$ 0.00
Capital Outlay	\$ 0.00	Postage	\$ 0.00
Contract Services - RCRCA	\$ 1,381.68	Professional Services	\$ 7,600.00
Directors' Expense	\$ 0.00	Project Expenses Paid	\$ 0.00
Directors' Insurance	\$ 0.00	Project Permit Fees	\$ 0.00
Employee Expense	\$ 56.00	Rent	\$ 837.00
Field Supplies	\$ 0.00	Telephone	\$ 35.06
Investigating & Testing	\$ 0.00	Utilities	\$ 0.00
Maintenance & Repair	\$ 120.57	Vehicle Expense	\$ 60.00
Miscellaneous Expense	\$ 200.00	Continuing Education	\$ 0.00
Insurance	\$ 0.00		

**Bill for approval:**

Professional Fees	\$ 4,846.00
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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.**

- **New Telephones** – The phones were installed April 8.
- **BCBS to Medica Change** – SW/WC held a virtual meeting April 22 to provide information regarding the change from BCBS to Medica. Every 5 years, SW/WC requests bids per policy. Five bids were received and second interviews were held with BCBS, Medica and United Health Care. Significant savings are to be realized and premium information should be available in late August.
- **Hybrid Meetings** – The Redwood County Learning Center (former MN West) and the Lyon County Commissioner's Room have been reserved for hybrid Area II/RCRCA meetings starting in June. June, August, October and December are scheduled in Redwood Falls; July and September are scheduled for Marshall. November has not been reserved pending decision of the Annual Meeting.

**AREA II**

- **Birch Cooley S 12 (Renville County)** – Renville SWCD contacted Area II requesting engineering assistance. The project is on the south end of the City of Franklin, just north of the Minnesota River. Drainage from the City is adding to a deep ravine with an unstable bank that is jeopardizing a home located about 150' from the most recent slough. Staff met onsite April 19 to better understand the project before considering the work. The project has been handed over to American Engineering Testing to make recommendations/cost estimations to Renville SWCD and the City of Franklin.

**RCRCA**

- **Lake Redwood Dredging** – Work this month included:
  - 1) Agreement with the owners of the laydown area has been made. Attorney Frank Munshower drafted the easement and digital signatures were obtained. This lease will run 6/1/2021 – 12/31/2022 and can be renewed month-by-month into 2023 if necessary.
  - 2) A financial offer is being made to the owner of the 4.81 acres of peninsulas within the lake. Munshower continues to be in negotiations with the owner.

- 3) An Agreement Regarding Use of Right-of-Way with a landowner was drafted to compensate for the booster pump presence and added noise near his residence. Negotiations continue.
- 4) JF Brennan has identified Ryan Sands as the Project Manager for Lake Redwood. Ryan also worked on Fountain Lake at Albert Lea where we met him. Ryan was in Redwood Falls on April 16 for some reconnaissance work and met with McAlpine, Netzke and Doering. Pipeline placement on the areas outside of ROW were identified. Those landowners were met on April 8 to discuss the needed easements for monetary compensation, and both were very easy to work with.
- 5) Permits:
  - a. The MNDOT Utility Accommodation permit application was submitted on April 26.
  - b. The MNDOT Temporary Access/Driveway Permit for the booster pump location along State Hwy 19 was received on April 22.
  - c. The DNR License to Cross Public Lands & Waters (Ramsey Creek) permit application is awaiting some information from JF Brennan before issuance. Once the Contract is signed at the May RCRCA meeting, Brennan will provide this information. Brennan will also provide performance and payment bonds, and insurance certificates at which time Houston Engineering will issue the Notice to Proceed.
  - d. The DNR Public Waters Permit was issued March 19 and included a Fisheries Exclusion period from Ice-out to May 15 where no dredging can be conducted due to spawning/migration in the Redwood River downstream of the project to the Minnesota River. A virtual meeting was held on April 7 with DNR representatives to discuss possible scenarios where starting prior to May 15 may be permissible. Much of these decisions are dependent upon weather conditions. Another meeting will be scheduled for this Fall when the 2021 dredging progress can be summarized, changes in TSS discussed, and possible areas for early start pinpointed.

- **Illegally Dumped Tires in Highwater Creek (Redwood County)** – RCRCA’s cost for the 2.04 tons of tires at \$0.10/lb was \$408.00. Cottonwood County Solid Waste Administrator reduced the cost from \$0.17/lb to their cost of disposal. Netzke drafted a news story and submitted the story with photos to the *Redwood Gazette*, *Lamberton News* and *Windom News*. The Gazette plans to publish the story on the front page of the May 3 edition.
- **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 is awaiting approval. This is the permit used for the streambank stabilization work that RCRCA undertakes.
- **Yellow Medicine SWAG Lake Sampling** – Due to Covid-19, the planned lake sampling in 2020 was cancelled and rescheduled for 2021. Wohnoutka and the YMRWD Technician will sample 4 lakes, once per month, May through September. RCRCA will be compensated for staff billable hours, daily use of the boat, and vehicle mileage. A teleconference was held April 23 to clear up any questions.
- **MN Dept. of Ag Pesticide Monitoring Purchase Order** – Virtual training was held April 26 for the 2021 sampling season. All sampling supplies and coolers have been received.

## **AREA II – ENGINEER’S REPORT.**

***Springdale 19 Dam, Redwood County.*** A concurrence issue with WCA and USACE regarding wetland mitigation credits is being addressed. The 15-day comment period is underway for the Notice of Decision. After a meeting with neighbors, it appears that the local match will be raised without establishing a special taxing district. We anticipate bidding the project in early summer. ***Del Clark Lake Sediment Ponds, Yellow Medicine County.*** Early summer construction is anticipated by A & C Excavating. ***Springdale 21 Road Retention, Redwood County.*** Ryan West Excavating plans to complete this project soon as the FEMA funds expire June 9, 2021. ***Holly 2 Small Dam, Murray County.*** Ryan West Excavating will be constructing this project after Springdale 21. 75% funding has been switched from Area II Bonding to RCRCA Plum Creek CWF grant and Redwood SWCD Federal 319 grant. ***Lac qui Parle River Flow Restoration, Yellow Medicine County.*** River profile and cross sectional information has been provided to the DNR. We are awaiting further requests or information from the DNR Commissioner Kack questioned when this project will begin. Netzke responded that several questions remain

regarding spoil disposal, permitting, and funding source(s). *Lake Benton Outlet/Dam Repair, Lincoln County.* The DNR permit for the project has been received. The County will be soliciting bids for the project soon. Construction will need to wait for lower water levels. *Marble 23 Small Dam, Lincoln County.* Design work is 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 need to meet with the landowner in order to proceed. *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 agriculture 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 have revised the design and are almost ready to submit it to the NRCS for design review. Netzke added that this project was not funded by EQIP and is currently on hold for funding. *Springdale 13/24 Grade Stabilization, Redwood County.* We are designing 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 are ready to resubmit the plans to the NRCS for review. The project would be funded with RCRCA Plum Creek CWF and Redwood SWCD 319 Funds. Netzke added that this project also received EQIP funding. *Stately 9 Small Dam, Brown County.* Most of the design work for this project is completed. 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%. The final design will continue.

**2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION.** Netzke informed the Board that Area II's administrative funds request of \$140,000/year is included in the Senate and House omnibus environment bills (sf 959/hf1076). 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.

#### **LAKE REDWOOD RECLAMATION PROJECT UPDATE.**

***Engineering:*** Netzke reviewed Houston Engineering, Inc.'s (HEI) report for the March 7, 2021 to April 10, 2021 period with the Board.

***Authorize Contract Signature – JF Brennan Company, Inc.:*** Netzke requested authorization to sign the Construction Agreement with JF Brennan Company, Inc. for the Lake Redwood Reclamation project. Motion by Meulebroeck, seconded by Gunnink, to authorize the Executive Director to sign the Construction Agreement with JF Brennan Company, Inc. Motion carried unanimously.

***Approve Laydown Area Easement Payment No. 1 (\$7,000)*** – Netzke requested approval to issue the first payment which is due June 1. Next payments will be due January 1 and July 1, 2022 in the amount of \$6,000 each. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Veerkamp, to approve the first payment for the Laydown Area Easement of \$7,000. Motion carried unanimously.

***Board Tour*** – The Board asked Netzke if a tour of the project could be arranged following the June Board meeting in Redwood Falls. Netzke will plan a tour covering where the dredge will be launched, contractor's shack and laydown areas, pipeline route, pump station location, Confined Disposal Facility and outlet.

***Press Release #3*** – Netzke drafted a third Press Release which was shared with the Redwood Falls City Council, *Redwood Gazette*, and will be posted on the RCRCA website.

**RCRCA – JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT RENEWAL (July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2023).** Netzke presented the board with the Joint Powers Agreement with only change being the effective dates. Netzke is proposing a levy increase of \$5,000; total appropriation will be \$80,000. The amount has not changed since 2013 when the \$60,000 levy was increased to \$75,000. Motion by Crowley, seconded by Gunnink, to approve the renewal of the Joint Powers Agreement as presented with the \$80,000 levy amount beginning January 1, 2022. Motion carried unanimously. Netzke will send the revised Joint Powers Agreement to the counties and SWCDs, and will request board delegates to be given authorization to sign the agreement in-person at the June meeting, or to sign/scan/email the signature page to RCRCA prior to the June 30 expiration date.

**AREA II – Draft FY22 Budget.** Netzke presented the board with a draft budget for FY22. A \$5,000 increase in the levy – from \$87,000 to \$92,000 – is proposed to cover the projected budget shortfall. Discussion followed and included projected COLAs for the counties. YMRWD added that they were at 2% which was consistent with the counties polled. Motion by Johnson, seconded by Gunnink, to approve the \$5,000 increase in the levy. Motion carried unanimously. Motion by Johnson, seconded by Wakefield, to approve the FY22 Budget Option 4 (2% COLA). Motion carried unanimously.

Next meeting will be Monday, June 7, 2021 in-person at the Redwood Learning Center and via Zoom.

**ADJOURNMENT.** With no other business, RCRCAs Chairman Johnson and Area II Chairman Maatz adjourned the meeting at 10:25 AM.

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**UPCOMING MEETINGS.**

June Board Meeting	Monday, June 7, 2021	via Zoom – In-person (Hybrid) Redwood
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

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John Maatz, AREA II Chairman

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Date