

# AREA II

## AREA II / RCRCA

**September 1, 2022 Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Lyon County Government Center, Marshall MN / In-person & Zoom**

*Note: Roll call votes were taken for all motions.*

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

**RCRCA Members Present:** Jeff Veerkamp, Mark Wellner (Zoom), Larry Anderson, Clark Lingbeek (Zoom), Glen Sorensen, Gary Crowley, Mark Meulebroeck, Lori Gunnink, Luke Johnson, Brad Kruisselbrink, 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 9:07 AM by RCRCA Chairman Johnson and Area II Chairman Maatz.

**ADOPT AGENDA.** Chairman Johnson asked for any additions to the Agenda. **RCRCA** - Motion by Crowley, seconded by Gunnink, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously. **Area II** - Motion by Crowley, seconded by Gunnink, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

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

**DNR** – Jim Sehl, EWR North District Manager announced his retirement after 33 years with the DNR.

**MASCWD** – Lingbeek reported that MASWCD continues to work on local government aid, addressing staffing needs, comparing 1W1P plans and how well it is working across the state, and TSA differences across the state. In the southwest, we are fortunate to have Dawn Madison who has been doing an excellent job at JAA training.

**AMC** – Chairman Johnson reported that the AMC Board has a Fall Policy Conference September 14-15. Dave Wierens, BWSR will be presenting proposed WCA rule changes.

**APPROVE RCRCA MINUTES of August 2022 Board Meeting.** Motion by Anderson, seconded by Sorensen, to approve the August 2022 Minutes as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

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

**APPROVE RCRCA TREASURER’S REPORT – August 2022.** Financials were reviewed with the Board. Motion by Veerkamp, seconded by Carter, to file the August 2022 Treasurer’s Report subject to audit and to approve payment of the bills. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVE AREA II TREASURER’S REPORT – August 2022.** Financials were reviewed with the Board. Revenue received: \$8,226.54 Contract Services Income, \$140,000 BWSR Admin Grant, \$47,361.92 BWSR Water Quality/Storage Grant, \$45.00 Miscellaneous Income, and \$33.23 Interest. Bills for approval: \$7,584.00 Bolton & Menk and \$1,343.75 Dale Sterzinger (delineation). Motion by Crowley, seconded by Gunnink, to file the August 2022 Treasurer’s Report subject to audit and to authorize payment of the bills. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Revenue as recorded:**

Contract Service Income (RCRCA)	\$ 8,226.54	Projects-Bonding	\$ 0.00
Interest Income	\$ 33.23	County Levy	\$ 0.00
State of MN-Administrative	\$ 140,000.00	SWCD Tech Assistance	\$ 0.00

Water Quality Storage Grant	\$ 47,361.92	Miscellaneous Income	\$ 45.00
<b>Paid bills are summarized below:</b>			
Administration	\$ 23,076.44	Office Supplies	\$ 0.00
Bonding Project Funds	\$ 0.00	Other Insurance	\$ 0.00
Capital Outlay	\$ 0.00	Postage	\$ 0.00
Contract Services - RCRCA	\$ 1,470.07	Professional Services	\$ 5,056.00
Directors' Expense	\$ 0.00	Project Expenses Paid	\$ 13,296.13
Directors' Insurance	\$ 0.00	Project Permit Fees	\$ 0.00
Employee Expense	\$ 0.00	Rent	\$ 837.00
Field Supplies	\$ 0.00	Telephone	\$ 28.13
Investigating & Testing	\$ 0.00	Utilities	\$ 0.00
Maintenance & Repair	\$ 1,419.12	Vehicle Expense	\$ 201.86
Miscellaneous Expense	\$ 239.53	Continuing Education	\$ 0.00
Insurance	\$ 0.00		
<b>Bills for approval:</b>			
Professional Services	\$ 8,927.75		

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

Netzke presented one new project for Plum Creek CWF Grant – North Hero 10 – Redwood 638 WSCB and 410 grade stabilization. Two amendments were presented for approval for Plum Creek CWF – North Hero 10 – Redwood 580 Streambank Stabilization and one for Pell Creek CWF – North Hero 19 – Redwood for 412 grassed waterway. Four contracts were presented for payment: one Plum Creek CWF project North Hero 10 – Redwood 580 streambank stabilization and three Pell Creek CWF projects North Hero 27 – Redwood 410 grade stabilization, North Hero 19 – Redwood 412 grassed waterway and Lamberton 32 – Redwood 412 grassed waterway. Motion by Carter, seconded by Gunnink, to approve the cost-share contract, two amendments and four payments as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT.**

- **GoDaddy Transition** – Both of the new websites are up and running. We are still working through the bugs with Area II’s new email addresses and switching from server-based files to cloud-based storage. Staff are working to remove/delete files from the server and old email accounts and move to the new system.
- **Office Space** – Netzke and Lyon SWCD met with building owner, James Carr, regarding a potential move of the offices to share the former U of M Extension office across the hallway. Carr’s proposal was received August 26. Area 2/RCRCA/Lyon SWCD will work with the numbers and possibly submit a counteroffer.

**AREA II**

- **Water Quality and Storage Pilot Program Update** – 0.286 acres of Fresh (Wet) Meadow wetland credits have been purchased with BWSR confirmation received on the withdrawal from the wetland bank. Three bids were received; all were higher than Engineer’s Estimate. The landowner is deciding if he wishes to accept the lowest bid or rebid the project this winter in hopes of lower fuel prices. The concrete pipe cannot be supplied until 2023.
- **LOP-YB 1W1P** – The Advisory Committee, Steering Team and Policy Committee met on August 24 to review the draft Final Plan. Final edits are to be submitted to Houston Engineering by September 2. The next meeting in September will be for final approval on the Plan and proceed to the 60-day comment period, and to schedule a public hearing just before Christmas. We are on an accelerated schedule to obtain BWSR Board approval in April 2023 which would make the 1W1P eligible for FY2023 Watershed Based Implementation Funds. In the meantime, partners are being asked to review and approve the Joint Powers Collaboration agreement (like a Memorandum of Agreement and NOT a Joint Powers Agreement).

**RCRCA**

- **Lake Redwood Dredging Update** – Work this month included:
  - 1) **Brennan Work Schedule:** Brennan continues to work 24/7 and will shut down for observance of Labor Day. At the current pace, Brennan estimates completing dredging by mid-October.

- 2) **Third Month Progress:** As of August 24, Brennan reported 458,978 cubic yards removed; 69% towards the contract quantity of 657,329 CY. Netzke added that as of August 30, 493,224 CY has been reached (75%). A map of the completed area was provided.
- 3) **Tours:**
  - August 4, 2022: Tom Cherveney from the West Central Tribune, Willmar. The article is available at the following link: <https://www.wctrib.com/sports/northland-outdoors/reclaiming-lake-redwood-to-restore-a-popular-southwest-minnesota-recreational-destination>
  - August 19, 2022: DNR Regional Manager Corey Woodley and EWR Northern District Manager Todd Kolander, and the City of Cottonwood.
- 4) **Presentation:** After hearing good comments from the Yellow Medicine SWCD board members, the Yellow Medicine County Commissioners have requested a presentation on September 13.

• **Lower Dutch Charley & Lower Highwater Creek CWF Grant** – Netzke submitted the grant application on August 22 in the amount of \$450,275 (\$163,500 streambank stabilizations, \$272,250 Ag BMPs and \$14,525 Administration for RCRCA). BWSR Board will announce awards in December. Scott Wold from Redwood SWCD and Netzke worked jointly on the application for these two subwatersheds in the Cottonwood River watershed. These subwatersheds are adjacent to Plum Creek and Pell Creek which already have CWF grants and are both 50% spent/encumbered.

• **Joint Powers Amendment** – Netzke obtained the remaining signatures, and the executed amendment was emailed to the counties and SWCDs on August 29.

• **Cottonwood 1W1P Planning Grant** – RCRCA was notified August 31 that the planning grant application in the amount of \$253,000 was approved. A budget and work plan must be submitted and approved before contract execution. A kick-off meeting with all involved partners will be planned.

**2022 LEGISLATIVE GATHERING.** Painted Prairie Vineyard at Currie, MN has been reserved for the Annual Legislative Gathering on November 3. A tentative schedule includes: Board Meeting 2:30-3:30, Registration 3:30-4:00, Annual Meeting 4:00-5:30 with a meal served at 5:30. Houston Engineering will present a summary of the Lake Redwood Dredging Project which should be completed by then. The Board asked to check into a wine tasting and requested that Save-the-Date postcards be sent to area legislators.

**2023 HEALTH INSURANCE RENEWAL RATES.** The SW/WC Service Cooperative Annual Meeting was held on August 18. Area II received a 5% increase for (+\$76.67 for the organization, +\$19.60 for the employee: both have family coverage) and RCRCA received a 7.5 % increase (+69.45 for the organization only, both have single coverage). The coverage and plan deductible/out-of-pocket maximums remain the same.

**Area II:** Motion by Crowley, seconded by Veerkamp, to approve the 2023 health insurance renewal rates. Motion carried unanimously. **RCRCA:** Motion by Carter, seconded by Anderson, to approve the 2023 health insurance renewal rates. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **AREA II – ENGINEER’S REPORT.**

***Springdale 24 Small Dam, Redwood County.*** Funding has been secured for this project through the Plum Creek CWF and 319 funds. Soil borings have been completed and we await the geotechnical report. The wetland delineation has been completed and wetland limits plotted on the plans. A potential conflict with a Northern Natural Gas line crossing has been identified, and we are working with the company to explore a resolution.

***Island Lake 3 Road Retention, Lyon County.*** The landowners and township are willing to proceed with this project once cost-share funding is secured. The geotechnical report will be completed in the next few weeks.

***Holly 9 Small Dam Repair, Murray County.*** Ryan West Excavating has completed this project funded with Plum Creek CWF and 319 funds. ***Monroe 17 and 22 Water & Sediment Control Basins, Lyon County.*** The Monroe 17 and 22 projects are set for construction by Ryan West Excavating this summer.

***Holly 10 Small Dam, Murray County.*** Design work is nearly complete on this dam located adjacent to Plum Creek. The site appears to have good storage capacity. Funding will likely be available through the Plum Creek CWF. Soil borings have been completed. The wetland delineation has been completed, and we are plotting the results.

***Island Lake 27 Dam Repair, Lyon County.*** Plans have been prepared for this repair project. The repair will be quite extensive and includes both the replacement of the pipe and grading of a new emergency spillway. Funding is pending. ***Holly 11***

**Small Dam, Murray County.** Design is well underway for this dam project. The site has good storage characteristics and would make for a good project. The landowner would like to proceed. Funding would be through the Plum Creek CWF and 319 funds. Soil borings have been completed. **Springdale 19 Small Dam, Redwood County.** R&G Construction has finished fine grading and seeding. We have issued the final payment paperwork. **Holly 21 Dam Repair, Murray County.** Design is also well underway for this dam project which will incorporate two water and sediment control basins designed by the SWCD. We will meet with the landowner soon to determine if he wants to proceed. Funding would be through the Plum Creek CWF. **North Hero 26 Small Dam Repair, Redwood County.** Preliminary design is completed for this project. The old berm at the site location is washed out, and the redesign would create both a storage and a sediment pond. We met with the landowner, and he is deciding if he wants to proceed. Funding would be through the Plum Creek CWF. **Germantown 8 Streambank Stabilization, Cottonwood County.** Design work for this project along Dry Creek is nearly complete. The creek is encroaching on a township road, and the intent of the riprap project is to reshape the streambank and protect the roadway. After the plans are completed and project is approved locally, a DNR permit application will be submitted. **Amiret 31 Streambank Stabilization, Lyon County.** Design work on this project to protect a small area along the Cottonwood River is progressing. The riprapped curve of the river would protect an adjacent field. The project would be funded entirely by the landowner. **Lake Marshall 28 Small Dam Repair, Lyon County.** This project, which was designed several years ago, has been re-activated. The dam restoration will help alleviate flooding in a downstream ditch system. Funding will be through the SWCD, Lyon County and the landowner. Bid solicitation is in process with bids due September 8. **Lynd 31 Streambank Stabilization, Lyon County.** We met with the landowner along the Redwood River interested in protecting a private pond adjacent to the river. Streambank erosion is threatening to drain the pond, and he would like to riprap the shore. Survey work will start this fall.

**Project Tour** – Several of the board members would like to have a project tour. A community transit bus could be utilized to transport the group. Netzke will check into possibilities.

**LOP-YB 1W1P JOINT POWERS COLLABORATION.** Netzke provided the board with the draft Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank 1W1P agreement which has been reviewed by a few county attorneys. Discussion followed. Consensus of the board is to table this until October after the other parties have reviewed the agreement.

**RCRCA – LAKE REDWOOD DREDGING UPDATE.**

- 1) **JF Brennan Request to Consider Fuel Escalation Payment Update.** Netzke spoke with attorney Frank Munshower who will submit a written recommendation. From a legal perspective: 1) the contract does not require or prohibit a payment; 2) a bonus or reward payment is a grey area, especially if not in the contract; and 3) the best approach is to make any payment quantifiable, based on cubic yards removed, gallons of fuel used, etc.). Discussion followed. Consensus of the Board is that a payment using public funds would be seen as an inappropriate use when fuel could have been contracted in advance.
- 2) **Downstream Culvert Replacement Agreement Update.** The landowner will not sign the agreement and sign off on the liability. He was asked to provide a different agreement for consideration, and to date, has not. Munshower stated that the agreement could be revised to make the liability culvert specific as the burden of proof falls upon him to prove any damages from the project. RCRCA has made a full faith effort to resolve the situation with the signed agreement and check. Discussion followed. Consensus of the Board was to take no further action on this issue.

**AREA II ADJOURNMENT** – With no other business for Area II, Chairman Maatz adjourned the Area II portion of the meeting at 10:07 AM.

The next meeting will be on October 6, 2022 at the Redwood Government Center, Commissioner’s Room.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS.**

October Board Meeting	Thursday, October 6, 2022	Redwood Govt Center - Commissioner’s Room
November Board Meeting	Thursday, November 3, 2022	2:30 PM - Painted Prairie Vineyard, Currie
December, Board Meeting	Thursday, December 1, 2022	Redwood County Learning Center

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John Maatz, Area II Chairman

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Date