

AREA II

AREA II / RCRCA

July 6, 2023 – Boards of Directors Meeting

Marshall, MN

AREA II Members Present: Jeff Veerkamp, Larry Anderson, John Maatz, Joe Drietz, Gary Crowley, Luke Johnson, and Glen Kack.

RCRCA Members Present: Jeff Veerkamp, Bill Eckstein, Larry Anderson, Gary Crowley, Mark Meulebroeck, Paul Posthuma, Luke Johnson, Brad Kruisselbrink, Ed Carter, and Glen Kack.

Others Present: Kerry Netzke – Executive Director and Courtney Snyder – Lyon SWCD Conservation Technician.

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 AM by RCRCA Chairman Johnson and Area II Chairman Anderson. Introductions were made. Courtney was thanked for taking meeting notes today in Joy Bruns' absence. Commissioner Crowley shared that the son of former Lyon County Commissioner Charlie Sanow (Joseph Sanow, Nobles County Attorney) was killed recently in a motorcycle accident.

ADOPT AGENDA. *RCRCA* - Motion by Crowley, seconded by Veerkamp, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously. *Area II* - Motion by Crowley, seconded by Veerkamp, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

AGENCY AND MEETING REPORTS.

AMC – Johnson reported that AMC District meetings were recently held (June 5, June 8, and June 9.) Updates on new state mandates were covered.

LQP-YB WD – Darrel Ellefson is retiring after 16 years on the watershed district and over 28 years as the LQP County Ditch Inspector. His retirement party is Friday, July 7 from 1:00-3:00 PM at the LQP Courthouse basement breakroom.

APPROVE – RCRCA MINUTES of June 2023 Board Meeting. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Carter, to approve the minutes as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE – AREA II MINUTES of June 2023 Board Meeting. Motion by Johnson, seconded by Maatz, to approve the minutes as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

RCRCA TREASURER'S REPORT – June 2023. Financials were reviewed by the Board. Motion by Posthuma, seconded by Drietz, to file the June 2023 Treasurer's Report subject to audit and approve payment of bills. Motion carried unanimously.

AREA II TREASURER’S REPORT – June 2023. Financials were reviewed by the Board. Revenue received: \$5,529.24 Contract Services Income, \$16,284.00 Levy, \$3,319.50 Other Revenue, and \$498.05 Interest. Bill for approval: \$4,056.00 Bolton & Menk. Motion by Veerkamp, seconded by Wakefield, to file the June 2023 Treasurer’s Report subject to audit and to approve payment of the bill. Motion carried unanimously.

Revenue as recorded:

Contract Service Income (RCRCA)	\$ 5,077.16	Projects-Bonding	\$ 0.00
Interest Income	\$ 531.50	County Levy	\$ 0.00
State of MN-Administrative	\$ 0.00	SWCD Tech Assistance	\$ 0.00
Water Quality Storage Grant	\$ 0.00	Miscellaneous Income	\$ 16.16

Paid bills are summarized below:

Administration	\$ 16,600.14	Office Supplies	\$ 18.45
Bonding Project Funds	\$ 0.00	Other Insurance	\$ 0.00
Capital Outlay	\$ 0.00	Postage	\$ 0.00
Contract Services - RCRCA	\$ 1,261.98	Professional Services	\$ 4,056.00
Directors’ Expense	\$ 0.00	Project Expenses Paid	\$ 0.00
Directors’ Insurance	\$ 0.00	Project Permit Fees	\$ 0.00
Employee Expense	\$ 74.67	Rent	\$ 837.00
Field Supplies	\$ 0.00	Telephone	\$ 57.59
Investigating & Testing	\$ 0.00	Utilities	\$ 0.00
Maintenance & Repair	\$ 251.88	Vehicle Expense	\$ 551.34
Miscellaneous Expense	\$ 271.97	Continuing Education	\$ 0.00
Insurance	\$ 0.00		

Bills for approval:

Professional Services	\$ 4,056.00
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RCRCA – CONTRACT AMENDMENT & CONTRACT FOR PAYMENT:

Netzke presented one contract amendment for Plum Creek CWF Grant: Holly 21 - Murray; and one contract for payment for Plum Creek CWF Grant: Holly 21 – Murray. Motion by Carter, seconded by Drietz, to approve the contract amendment Holly 21 – Murray, and payment of the Holly 21 – Murray contract as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT.

AREA II

- **BWSR Water Quality & Storage Grants.** Area II received full funding for both applications: Alta Vista 27 Road Retention in Lincoln County (\$586,813.00), and Redwood Falls 8/9 Dam and Terraces (\$140,214.00). Work Plans are in progress; the grant agreements will follow when the Work Plans are approved by BWSR. Of the 6 applications received by BWSR, only 2 were in the priority area (Minnesota River and Lower Mississippi).
- **BWSR Southern Region Water Plan Committee.** The committee intends to meet July 25 to review Area II’s Biennial Plan (FY24-FY25) and recommend approval to the BWSR Board. The BWSR Board should approve the Plan and release the administrative funds at their August meeting.
- **MN River Congress.** June 15, 2023: The Congress met in Mankato with a smaller than usual attendance. Most of the meeting focused on water storage. John Biren, Lyon SWCD gave a presentation of their Water Quality & Storage grant project that involves a county ditch, WMA, and some other unforeseen obstacles. BWSR likes this project and how all the partners are coming together to make it work. BWSR staff spoke about the new \$17 million appropriation to the Water Quality & Storage program and some possible changes which could include using the

funds for storage incorporated into ditch improvement projects. *The Minnesota River is Growing* – This informational flyer was prepared by the Freshwater Society for the MN River Congress meeting. Within the flyer, different governance models were discussed for basin-wide floodwater project implementation. Area II was listed as a possible model to follow.

- **Annual Dam Inspections.** Area II staff completed annual dam inspections on June 9, 2023. No major issues were encountered, and reports will be sent to the counties next week. Leafy Spurge is spreading with some spotted at each reservoir. Proactive measures are strongly recommended to prevent further spread.

RCRCA

- **Lake Redwood Dredging Update.** Schmidt Construction and Mathiowetz Construction Company (MCC) submitted quotes for knockdown of the sand pile, create windrows within the CDF to curb wind erosion, and provide internal drainage within the CDF. The quotes were \$177,100 and \$56,000. RCRCA signed the contract with MCC with work beginning 6/29/2023 with 2 dozers and a scraper. The seed mixture is ready and aerial applicator (Mulder Air) on standby. MCC understands that we are hoping to find wet sand with organics to help the seed get a good start. Seeding may have to be delayed to Fall dependent upon weather conditions.
- **Cottonwood-Middle MN 1W1P.** The Policy Committee will meet July 19. The agency and public comments will be summarized and categorized into Ground Water, Surface Water, Water Quantity and Lands. The Steering Team met virtually on June 21 to acquaint themselves with Rachel Olm, Project Manager and to begin discussing priority issues.
- **Redwood 1W1P.** The application was submitted June 16 in the amount of \$238,700. The BWSR Board will announce awards at their August meeting.
- **JPA.** All counties and SWCDs have approved the original JPA provided. The Redwood County attorney has redrafted the JPA to be more inclusive of governmental statutes. She has also included language so that signatures every 2 years are no longer necessary – the agreement goes until terminated or amended. All parties should review the redrafted document and approve for signature.
- **Redwood Canoe Trips.** Canoe trips were held on June 27 and 29 with 33 and 15 people on the river. Flows were lower than usual, but the rock rapids were still passable without portaging. Ages ranged from 6 to 80 and both groups were fantastic helping one another. RCRCA purchased 2 new 10'-long kayaks and extra life jackets as the youth sizes were very limited.

AREA II – ENGINEER’S REPORT. *Springdale 24 Small Dam, Redwood County.* We await the DNR Dam Safety and Corps of Engineers permits for this project. The DNR permit is nearly ready; the Corps response has been very slow. The Corps visited the site with Area II staff on June 22. *Monroe Water and Sediment Basins, Lyon County.* The Monroe 17 and 22 projects will be constructed soon. *Holly 10 Small Dam, Murray County.* The DNR Dam Safety and MPCA Section 401 Water Quality Certification have been issued. The Corps visited the site on June 22 with particular interest in the stream channel to determine if it’s an intermittent or ephemeral stream. *Holly 11 Small Dam, Murray County.* Construction is progressing well. The project should be completed in the next couple of weeks. *Holly 21 Dam Repair, Murray County.* Work has been completed on this project by Ryan West. We are processing final payment. *Lake Marshall 28 Small Dam Repair, Lyon County.* The Contractor (Ground Works) intends to start work after the 4th of July. *Holly 4 Small Dam, Murray County.* Preliminary design for this project is completed. The dam site would be adjacent to an unnamed protected water stream and in a potential wetland area. We hope to design the dam as a conservation project to minimize wetland impacts and to provide a field crossing for the landowner. We will meet with the landowner soon. *Lake Shaokatan Dam, Lincoln County.* The revised plans for this dam with a rough fish barrier have been submitted to the DNR. We anticipate a permit in July and will prepare the bid package for Lincoln County. *Florida 15 Dam Repair, Yellow Medicine County.* Design work is nearly completed for this project. This is a typical repair of an old SCS dam with a corroded outlet pipe, serious erosion on the dam and trees which need to be removed. We met with the landowner, and he would like to proceed. *Nordland 6 Dam Repair, Lyon County.* Ryan West Excavating

has completed the work and payment is being processed using Yellow Medicine WBIF. **Sodus 9 Dam Repair, Lyon County.** Design work is nearly complete for this dam repair that involves extensive raising of the dam and emergency spillway work and thus will be more expensive than typical repairs. We are waiting to hear if EQIP funding is available for this project. **Dovray 16 Small Dam, Murray County.** We have met with the landowner, and he is interested in one of the options we presented but has concerns about the cost. He will consider his alternatives and get back in touch with us. **Stately 5 Small Dam, Brown County.** The preliminary design for this project is nearly completed. The site has good storage capacity, but with gravel pits in the area, soil conditions may be problematic. We will meet with the landowner to see if he would like to proceed. **North Star 34 Small Dam, Brown County.** We undertook a preliminary review of this site to see if it would offer a design opportunity for off-stream storage along the Cottonwood River; however, the site offers insufficient storage area for flood reduction or sediment capture. **Nordland 23 Small Dam, Lyon County.** We are also in the early design process for this dam which would be a rather large structure on a DNR Protected stream that would restore flow to an old oxbow and utilize the floodplain for storm storage. We will work closely with DNR staff on this project. **CSAH 20 Road Retentions, Redwood County.** At the request of the County Engineer, we are undertaking preliminary design at three locations along CSAH 20 west of Walnut Grove to see if any of these sites would work for road retention. All three of the bridges at these locations are planned to be replaced in the next couple of years which presents an opportunity to investigate floodwater storage.

Netzke was asked about the status of Duane Hansel's replacement from Bolton & Menk. Matt Simon, PE from their Mankato office has been determined to be the best fit. Netzke has asked for a face-to-face meeting with Matt to discuss his schedule and the possibility of working virtually a few days per month to reduce commute time and expense. A meeting in August is being planned.

AREA II – Authorization to Sign BWSR Grant Agreements. Netzke requested authorization to sign electronically for the Water Quality & Storage Grants – Alta Vista 27 (\$586,813.00) and Redwood Falls 8/9 (\$140,214.00), and FY24 Administrative Services Grant (\$190,000.00). Motion by Crowley, seconded by Drietz, to authorize Netzke to sign the three BWSR Grants when they become available. Motion carried unanimously.

AREA II – FY'23 Audit Quote – (Peterson Company). Netzke presented a quote from Peterson Company to perform the annual Audit FY'23 in the amount of \$3,500, with contingency of \$175 per lease asset amortization calculations & disclosures. A lease calculation was used last year for Area II's office space, however the State Auditor has deemed this no longer necessary if there is no formal long-term lease agreement. An adjustment will be made from the prior fiscal year to reflect the change. Motion by Drietz, seconded by Kack, to accept the Peterson Company quote of \$3,500. Motion carried unanimously. Netzke will request an Engagement Letter.

RCRCA – FY'22 Audit – Peterson Company. RCRCA has received a draft copy of the audit. Several changes were identified by staff. The revised copy has not been received due to the 4th of July holiday; however it will be sent to the board as soon as possible. Peterson Company will review the audit virtually at the August board meeting.

RCRCA – JPA RENEWAL. The RCRCA JPA has been approved by all parties for renewal (July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2025). The Redwood County Attorney and Netzke have drafted a revised JPA that includes governmental language and a provision for the agreement to remain in effect until terminated to reduce the biennial signature process. Netzke reviewed the changes with the board. It was noted that virtual meetings were not addressed in the revised agreement and confusion about debts/loans agreements. Netzke apologized as the final version of the agreement omitted these changes as they had been included in the drafts. Netzke will confirm with the Redwood County Attorney about the debt/loan statements and will send out the revised JPA as soon as it is available.

ADJOURNMENT.

With no other business, Chairman Johnson and Chairman Anderson adjourned the meeting at 9:56 AM.
The next meeting will be on August 3, 2023 at the Redwood County Learning Center, Redwood Falls, MN – 9 AM.

UPCOMING MEETINGS.

August Board Meeting	Thursday, August 3, 2023	Redwood County Learning Center
September Board Meeting	Thursday, Sept. 7, 2023	Lyon County Government Center
October Board Meeting	Thursday, Oct. 5, 2023	Redwood County Learning Center

Larry Anderson, Area II Chairman

Date