

AREA II

AREA II / RCRCA

August 3, 2023 – Boards of Directors Meeting
Redwood County Learning Center, Redwood Falls, MN - Zoom

NOTE: Roll Call Voting on all motions

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, Mark Wellner, Larry Anderson, Clark Lingbeek*, Gary Crowley, Mark Meulebroeck, Lori Gunnink*, Paul Posthuma*, Luke Johnson, Rick Wakefield, Ed Carter, and Glen Kack.

Others Present: Kerry Netzke – Executive Director, Joy Bruns – RCRCA Office Manager, Samantha Wocken – Peterson Company LTD*, and Jeanne Prescott – Redwood SWCD Office Manager.

**Joined meeting via Zoom*

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM by RCRCA Chairman Johnson and Area II Chairman Anderson.

ADOPT AGENDA. Netzke requested an addition to the agenda for an Area II Letter of Support for a BWSR RCPP Application. **RCRCA** - Motion by Carter, seconded by Crowley, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously. **Area II** - Motion by Crowley, seconded by Veerkamp, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

RCRCA – FY22 Audit Report – Peterson Company LTD. Samantha Wocken with Peterson Company LTD reviewed the audit report and financial statements with the Board. She reported a clean audit opinion. As with previous audits, there is a lack of segregation of duties (due to small staff) but the Board has policies in place to reduce risk. The Lease Asset has been discontinued for entities without formal long-term leases. Motion by Veerkamp, seconded by Anderson, to approve the audit report. Motion carried unanimously.

AGENCY AND MEETING REPORTS.

MASWCD – Lingbeek reported that there is a meeting mid-August for the State MASWCD Board.

AMC – Johnson reported that AMC fall conference will be in September.

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

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

RCRCA TREASURER’S REPORT – July 2023. Financials were reviewed by the Board. Motion by Crowley, seconded by Veerkamp, to file the July 2023 Treasurer’s Report subject to audit and approve payment of bills. Motion carried unanimously.

AREA II TREASURER’S REPORT – July 2023. Financials were reviewed by the Board. Revenue received: \$5,519.28 Contract Services Income, \$9,055.67 Other Revenue, and \$522.22 Interest. Bill for approval: \$5,999.50 Bolton & Menk. Motion by Kack, seconded by Wakefield, to file the July 2023 Treasurer’s Report subject to audit and to approve payment of the bill. Motion carried unanimously.

Revenue as recorded:

Contract Service Income (RCRCA)	\$ 5,519.28	Projects-Bonding	\$ 0.00
Interest Income	\$ 522.22	County Levy	\$ 0.00
State of MN-Administrative	\$ 0.00	SWCD Tech Assistance	\$ 9,055.67
Water Quality Storage Grant	\$ 0.00	Miscellaneous Income	\$ 0.00

Paid bills are summarized below:

Administration	\$ 16,751.16	Office Supplies	\$ 0.00
Bonding Project Funds	\$ 0.00	Other Insurance	\$ 0.00
Capital Outlay	\$ 0.00	Postage	\$ 0.00
Contract Services - RCRCA	\$ 1,182.55	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	\$ 55.02	Rent	\$ 837.00
Field Supplies	\$ 0.00	Telephone	\$ 97.62
Investigating & Testing	\$ 0.00	Utilities	\$ 0.00
Maintenance & Repair	\$ 132.78	Vehicle Expense	\$ 448.55
Miscellaneous Expense	\$ 126.30	Continuing Education	\$ 0.00

Bills for approval:

Professional Services	\$ 5,999.50
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RCRCA COST SHARE CONTRACT PAYMENT.

Netzke presented one cost share contract for payment: Holly 11 – Murray 410 Grade Stabilization project for payment. Motion by Carter, seconded by Veerkamp, to approve the Holly 11 – Murray 410 Grade Stabilization project for payment. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT.

AREA II

• **Corps of Engineers Responses** Area II has been struggling with the requests for additional information from the Corps. As a result, the permit applications are being modified so that they are a single-purpose project (erosion control) instead of multi-purpose focus. The response letter is being reviewed by several parties before being submitted the first week of August.

Without the Corps permits in hand, the federal 319 funds allocated to the projects will likely have to be returned as that grant does not allow for extensions. These funds were from other SWCDs that were unable to use the funding and reassigned to Redwood SWCD. Plum Creek Clean Water Funds can cover up to 75% of the project cost, and Area II’s bonding funds can also be utilized for both projects.

• **Lake Redwood Dredging Update** Mathiowetz Construction Company (MCC) completed the work to knockdown the sand pile and to create windrows within the CDF to curb wind erosion. Internal drainage was created as well as replacing the silt fence with bio roll. Jim Doering from the City of Redwood Falls continues to perform weekly inspections of the CDF to document vegetation and erosion control measures.

With the carpet of grass and weeds that are covering the CDF, a decision was made to postpone seeding until mid-September in hopes of increased precipitation. Seeding now is not recommended.

The City has arranged for 2,4-D to be aerially applied to control the weeds and to allow for more direct seed-to-soil contact when the aerial seeding is completed.

Pioneer Public TV contacted Netzke on July 28 and is tentatively planning to film at Lake Redwood on September 11. They want to focus on the benefits of the dredging: fishing, birding/wildlife, and recreation.

• **Cottonwood-Middle MN 1W1P** The Steering Team and Policy Committee met July 19. The agency and public comments were summarized and categorized into Ground Water, Surface Water, Water Quantity and Lands. The draft Land and Water Resources narrative was presented by Houston Engineering and comments were provided by both committees. The next meetings will be Wednesday, August 16.

• **JPA** Netzke sent revisions and comments from the July Board meeting to the Redwood County attorney for her consideration. The revised JPA will be presented to the RCRCA Board in August, and upon approval, all JPA parties will be asked to review the redrafted document and approve for signature.

AREA II – ENGINEERS 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 to issue. The Corps visited the site on June 22 and has now asked for more information and project justification. We are working on that response and will wait for the Corps' reaction to the Holly 10 response before submitting this response letter. We have also received the Encroachment Permit from Northern Natural Gas to allow the pond to be on top of the existing gas line. *Monroe 17 & Monroe 22 Water & Sediment Basins, Lyon County.* The projects will be constructed this fall once the crop is harvested. *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 is an intermittent or ephemeral stream. The Corps has now asked for additional information and justification. We will issue that response shortly. *Holly 11 Small Dam, Murray County.* Construction is completed with final payment paperwork preparation in progress. *Lake Marshall 28 Small Dam Repair, Lyon County.* The Contractor (Ground Works) is moving equipment onto the site and will start work in the coming week. *Holly 4 Small Dam, Murray County.* Preliminary design for this project is completed. The dam site would be adjacent to an unnamed protected waters 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. The DNR issued their permit on July 24. Bid documents will be prepared for Lincoln County with construction scheduled for this fall. *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. This is not a priority sub-watershed for the LQP-1W1P so use of bonding funds will be necessary once they become available. **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. EQIP funding was not allocated to this project. **Dovray 16 Small Dam, Murray County.** We have met with the landowner who 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 completed. The site has good storage capacity, but with gravel pits in the area, soil conditions may be problematic. We met with the landowner on July 12. The preliminary design was reviewed, and the landowner would like to proceed. It was stressed that soil borings are necessary before progressing any further with the project. We have contacted American Engineering Testing for their availability this fall. **Nordland 23 Small Dam, Lyon County.** We are in the early design process for this dam. The dam would be a rather large structure on a DNR Protected stream and would restore flow to an old oxbow and utilize the floodplain for storm storage. We will need to work closely with DNR to ensure a permittable 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 retention. All three of the bridges are planned to be replaced in the next couple of years which presents an opportunity to investigate floodwater storage. **Storden 2 Road Retention Repair, Cottonwood County.** At the request of Cottonwood County, we are preparing preliminary designs and cost estimates for the repair of this road retention project. The repairs needed include clearing of trees, fixing ditch erosion and erosion at the culvert outlet. The County will then undertake the repairs.

RCRCA Joint Powers Agreement (Redrafted by Redwood County Attorney) – for APPROVAL.

Netzke reviewed the changes that the Redwood County Attorney has proposed. Johnson and Netzke found a few minor changes needed. Netzke will review those changes with the Redwood County Attorney, and with her approval, Netzke will send the revised JPA to the member counties and SWCDs for their approval and authorization for signatures. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Crowley, to send the revised JPA to members to obtain authorization for signatures, contingent upon the Redwood County Attorney's approval of the minor revisions. Motion carried unanimously.

AREA II/RCRCA Annual Legislative Gathering. Netzke requested to set the Annual Legislative Gathering for November 2, following our regular November meeting. Save the Date/Invitations will be sent with RSVPs requested for the meeting and meal. Discussion followed. Grandview Valley Winery's new Riverdell facility near Belview was the board's preferred location. The board expressed an interest in pizza for the meal although the facility has a different menu. Netzke will follow up with the winery to see if a change of menu is allowable. Rita Weaver, BWSR Chief Engineer will be asked to speak about the Water Quality & Storage Grant programs and possible program changes to fully utilize the \$17 million. Anderson requested that Area II's 45th year and RCRCA's 40th year anniversaries be promoted at the meeting, as well as recognition of Duane Hansel for his years of service to Area II. Lingbeek requested inviting Ted Winter, former legislator and current BWSR Board member.

AREA II – Performance Review of Executive Director. Chairman Anderson sent a performance review questionnaire to the Area II Board of Directors and compiled the responses. The Executive Committee met with Netzke prior to the board meeting this morning. She received a very satisfactory performance review. Motion by Veerkamp, seconded by Wakefield, to approve a 1% merit raise effective upon her anniversary date of August 23. Motion carried unanimously.

AREA II – Letter of Support for BWSR Water Quality & Storage Grant RCPP Application. Netzke was contacted by BWSR Chief Engineer Rita Weaver requesting a letter of support for the BWSR's Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) to provide federal matching funds to the \$17 million in Water Quality & Storage Grants. Area II's \$1.5 million appropriation from the State of MN and the \$500,000 local match to the appropriation will count towards cash match. Over the next 5 years, all professional engineering fees and half of the staff salary can count as in-kind match. It was

noted that there is no cost associated with this letter, it simply identifies state/local funding already being invested in the watershed for floodwater storage. The total cash and in-kind contribution is \$2,750,000. Discussion followed. Motion by Crowley, seconded by Johnson, to approve the drafted Letter of Support for BWSR’s RCPP application. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT.

With no other business, Chairman Johnson and Chairman Anderson adjourned the meeting at 10:27 AM. The next meeting will be on Sept. 7, 2023, at the Lyon County Government Center - Marshall, MN.

UPCOMING MEETINGS.

September Board Meeting	Thursday, Sept. 7, 2023	Lyon County Government Center
October Board Meeting	Thursday, Oct. 5, 2023	Redwood County Learning Center
November Board Meeting		
Annual Legislative Gathering	Thursday, Nov. 2, 2023	TBD

Larry Anderson, Area II Chairman Date