

AREA II

AREA II / RCRCA

October 5, 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*, Joe Drietz*, Gary Crowley, Lori Gunnink*, and Rick Wakefield*.

RCRCA Members Present: Jeff Veerkamp, Mark Wellner, Larry Anderson, Clark Lingbeek*, Joe Drietz*, Gary Crowley, Mark Meulebroeck*, Lori Gunnink*, Paul Posthuma*, Rick Wakefield*, and Ed Carter*.
**Joined meeting via Zoom*

Others Present: Kerry Netzke – Executive Director, Joy Bruns – RCRCA Office Manager, and Nick Brozek – Redwood SWCD/Environmental.

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

ADOPT AGENDA. Chairman Anderson asked for any additions to the agenda which there were none. **RCRCA** - Motion by Carter, seconded by Drietz, 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.

DNR – Netzke informed the board that the DNR has moved into a new office location, the former Dubbledee Auto Repair (2716 – 290th Street, Marshall). The new location has increased security.

AMC – Commissioners Crowley and Anderson reported that the Fall Policy Conference was in Alexandria last month. The Annual Convention in Minneapolis is scheduled for December 4-6.

MASWCD – The Area V meeting will be held in November with the Annual Convention on December 11-13 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Bloomington.

APPROVE – RCRCA MINUTES of September 2023 Board Meeting. Motion by Veerkamp, seconded by Wellner, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE – AREA II MINUTES of September 2023 Board Meeting. Motion by Crowley, seconded by Drietz, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

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

AREA II TREASURER’S REPORT – September 2023. Financials were reviewed by the Board. Revenue received: \$4,533.27 Contract Services Income, \$51.00 Other Revenue, \$401,403.04 Water

Quality & Storage Grants, and \$436.74 Interest Income. Bills for approval: \$1,600.00 Flowage Easements. Motion by Veerkamp, seconded by Crowley, to file the September 2023 Treasurer’s Report subject to audit and to approve payment of the bills. Motion carried unanimously.

Revenue as recorded:

Contract Service Income (RCRCA)	\$ 4,533.27	Projects-Bonding	\$ 0.00
Interest Income	\$ 436.74	County Levy	\$ 0.00
State of MN-Administrative	\$ 0.00	SWCD Tech Assistance	\$ 0.00
Water Quality & Storage Grant	\$ 401,403.04	Miscellaneous Income	\$ 51.00

Paid bills are summarized below:

Administration	\$ 16,959.92	Office Supplies	\$ 0.00
Bonding Project Funds	\$ 0.00	Other Insurance	\$ 0.00
Capital Outlay	\$ 0.00	Postage	\$ 51.00
Contract Services - RCRCA	\$ 1,253.15	Professional Services	\$ 5,062.00
Directors’ Expense	\$ 0.00	Project Expenses Paid	\$ 84,837.01
Directors’ Insurance	\$ 0.00	Project Permit Fees	\$ 0.00
Employee Expense	\$ 16.37	Rent	\$ 837.00
Field Supplies	\$ 0.00	Telephone	\$ 147.60
Investigating & Testing	\$ 0.00	Utilities-Website	\$ 0.00
Maintenance & Repair	\$ 130.87	Vehicle Expense	\$ 407.06
Miscellaneous Expense	\$ 12.99	Continuing Education	\$ 0.00

Bills for approval:

Professional Services	\$ 0.00	Project Costs	\$ 1,600.00
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RCRCA COST SHARE CONTRACT PAYMENT.

CFW-2022-10	PELL CREEK	
Dusty Vandewiele	N. Hero 34 – Redwood	412 Grassed Waterway
EST Cost: \$9,045.60	EST Cost Share: \$ 6,784.20 (75%)	CFW C/S: <u>\$6,784.20 (75.0%)</u>
ACT Cost: \$10,578.75	ACT Cost Share: \$ 7,934.06 (75.0%)	CFW C/S: <u>\$ 3,018.50 (28.5%)</u>
		EQIP Funds \$ 4,915.56 (46.5%)

2022 WATER QUALITY & STORAGE GRANT

Tim Woelfel	Redwood Falls 8/9 - Redwood	410 Grade Stabilization
EST Cost: \$62,220.50	EST Cost Share: \$ 46,665.38 (75%)	
ACT Cost: \$62,220.50	ACT Cost Share: \$ 46,665.38 (75%)	

The City of Redwood Falls approved providing 15% of the local match to these Water Quality and Storage Grant projects, using remaining City funds from the Lake Redwood Reclamation

and Enhancement Project, due to the significant benefits to Lake Redwood. RCRCA should approve this expenditure as RCRCA will write the check on behalf of the City.

City of RWF:	\$9,333.08 (15%)
Landowner:	\$6,222.04 (10%)

Netzke presented two cost share contracts for payment: 1) Pell Creek CWF Grant – North Hero 34 – Grassed Waterway, and 2) City of Redwood Falls Funds – Redwood Falls 8/9 – 410 Grade Stabilization. The City of Redwood Falls has approved payment and authorized RCRCA to issue payment using the remaining funds that RCRCA maintains for the Lake Redwood Reclamation Project. Motion by Carter, seconded by Anderson, to approve both cost share contract payments. Motion carried unanimously.

AREA II COST SHARE CONTRACT PAYMENT.

2022 WATER QUALITY & STORAGE GRANT

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ACT Cost: \$62,220.50		ACT Cost Share: \$ 46,665.38 (75%)
		<u>City of RWF:</u> \$9,333.08 (15%)
		Landowner: \$6,222.04 (10%)

One cost share contract was presented for payment: Redwood Falls 8/9 - 410 Grade Stabilization project. Motion by Crowley, seconded by Veerkamp, to approve the Redwood Falls 8/9 410 Grade Stabilization project for payment. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT.

• November Meeting/Legislative Gathering

Key Largo on Lake Shetek - 29 Valhalla Drive, Slayton, MN 56172
 Guest Speaker: Rita Weaver, BWSR Chief Engineer
 2:30 Board Meeting, 3:30 Registration, 4:00 Legislative Gathering, and 5:30 Meal.

AREA II

- **Hansel’s Replacement** Bolton & Menk have identified another employee with qualifications to replace Hansel. Internal discussions are being held. Meanwhile, Netzke will make some inquiries of other engineering firms of their interest in Area II should arrangements with Bolton & Menk not work out.
- **GIS Mapping Tool** Bolton & Menk will attend our December meeting to demonstrate the GIS product discussed last month mapping all projects completed by Area II. When a project is hovered over, details of what, when, who, etc., as well as an option to download plans, photos or other pertinent information will appear.
- **Funding** The struggle to receive funds, and grant agreements, continues. This week 50% of the new Water Quality & Storage Grant funds finally arrived; the agreement was executed August 3. The agreements for the \$190,000 of administrative funds and \$1.5M of bonding are being drafted now. Netzke added that the agreement for the administrative funds was completed yesterday.

RCRCA

- **Lake Redwood Dredging Update** Aerial seeding of the CDF was completed September 12, the day after 1.5” of rainfall. Netzke submitted the last reimbursement request for bonding after Houston Engineering approved the final payment and retainage release for JF Brennan. Any remaining expenses will be paid out of the City of Redwood Falls’ remaining local funds.
- **Cottonwood-Middle MN 1W1P** The Steering Team and Policy Committee will meet October 18 in-person and virtually. Only the Steering Team met in September. The project is on schedule as planned.
- **Redwood 1W1P** RCRCA awaits the grant agreement from BWSR. Letters will be sent to the Cities within the watershed boundary for their interest in participation. MOA members will be asked to appoint delegates and alternates at their January organizational meetings. Planning will start early in 2024.
- **JPA** The executed JPA was emailed to all members after all signatures were obtained.
- **Environmental Fair** Shawn and Joy presented the Stream Table during the Environmental Fair at the Lyon County Fairgrounds on September 26 & 27. 8 oz bottles of water were provided to the 380 students and teachers with printed labels promoting RCRCA’s 40th Anniversary in water quality improvements. From the surveys collected, the Stream Table is always the kids’ favorite session to attend.
- **Hail Damage** ABRA quoted repair at \$1,076 with a \$500 deductible. MCIT issued payment of \$576 with the repair date scheduled for January 8.
- **Sampling** Shawn will finish helping Brown SWCD with their lake sampling program in October. Shawn and Kerry will attend required ***WPLMN*** training in St. Cloud on October 3.

Middle MN Round 2 – Another meeting on October 3 will cover the streams/lakes selected as part of the 2nd Round of Intensive Watershed Monitoring. This is the precursor to the 2nd Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS). From the information shared by MPCA, it appears that the 3 sites recommended by RCRCA (Spring Creek, Crow Creek and Wabasha Creek) have been approved. After meeting with MPCA, RCRCA will prepare an application for a Surface Water Assessment Grant (SWAG) to collect these samples over the 2024-2025 timeframe.

The boat, canoes and trailers will be put into storage at the Lyon County Fairgrounds in October.

- **Redwood River thru Marshall** Ron Halgerson, a Marshall resident who lives adjacent to the Redwood River, has drawn attention to the river and the disrepair of its’ banks through the city. There are 3 low-head dams, unsightly and deteriorating retaining walls, dumped concrete riprap and other issues throughout the stretch. DNR’s watershed unit was asked to kayak the stretch with the Lyon SWCD technicians to identify and prioritize the worst areas of concern and lay out a staged plan for restoration. Lyon SWCD took photos and pinned the locations to an aerial map from Google. A meeting was held on September 29 to review the photo footage and discuss restoration ideas from DNR. Funding for the restoration efforts was a large topic of discussion. A follow up meeting will be scheduled for January.

AREA II – ENGINEERS REPORT. ***Springdale 24 Dam, Redwood County.*** We continue to wait for the DNR Safety and Corps of Engineers permits for this project. USACE Headquarters issued WOTUS Guidance on September 1. Now the Corps staff need training on the new rules. The latest indication is that the project will still be under the Corps’ jurisdiction, and we will then respond to the latest set of questions. ***Holly 10 Small Dam, Murray County.*** The DNR Dam Safety and MPCA Section 401 Water Quality Certification have been issued. As with the above project, we are waiting for WOTUS training at the Corps and will then respond to the latest set of questions if the project remains under their jurisdiction. ***Lake Shaokatan Dam, Lincoln County.*** The contractor is in the process of constructing this project.

Most of the old dam has been removed, and sheet pile driving is scheduled for this weekend. Lincoln County staff are assisting with project inspection. **Lake Shaokatan 31 Dam Repair, Lincoln County.** This project is nearly complete as a Punch List of items was provided to the contractor, A&C Excavating, to perform before project certification and payment vouchers would be finalized. This project is being funded through Yellow Medicine One Watershed, One Plan. **CSAH 20 Road Retentions, Redwood County.** At the request of the County Engineer, we are investigating preliminary design at three locations along CSAH 20 west of Walnut Grove for floodwater retention. All three of the bridges at these locations are planned to be replaced in the next couple of years which presents an opportunity for road retention. **Storden 2 Road Retention Repair, Cottonwood County.** Cottonwood County has received quotes and has selected R&G Construction as the contractor for this repair work to be completed this fall. Chairman Anderson added that work is to start October 9. **North Hero 34 Road Retention, Redwood County.** After a recent inspection showed that the existing corrugated metal pipes at the crossing are in danger of collapse, the County Engineer is recommending that either the crossing be improved, or the road closed. The North Hero 34 Retention was designed several years ago and was on hold due to lack of funding, both state and local. The Township wishes to proceed with the project and does not expect Fall 2023 construction given the scale and size of the project. We will continue to talk about funding sources and how to proceed. **Redwood Falls 8/9 Dam, Redwood County.** The contractor, Ryan West Excavating, has recently completed the work. Payment is being processed as it was funded by a Water Quality & Storage Grant. The other portion of the project, large terraces across the Redwood River, will be completed this fall by Ryan West after the corn crop has been harvested. **Custer 10 Dam, Lyon County.** D&G Excavating has completed the work. Payments are being made as this was the first project financed with a Water Quality & Storage Grant. **Holly 20 Small Dam, Murray County.** We are in the early design stages for this project. The dam seems to have good storage characteristics, but the watershed is relatively small. Once a cost estimate is completed, we will then meet with the landowner.

Area II – Soil Boring RFP to Soil Technologies, Inc. – Netzke presented a proposal from Soil Technologies, Inc. for Alta Vista 27 Road Retention for \$13,525.00; Lynd 31 Road Retention for \$11,630.00; and Marble 23 Small Dam for \$12,175.00. Motion by Gunnink, seconded by Crowley, to approve up to \$37,330.00 for soil borings for the projects listed. Motion carried unanimously.

Area II/RCRCA – 2024 Health Insurance Renewals. Renewal prices reflecting a 6.3% increase, the minimum increase, were presented. There is no change in the current coverage. **Area II** – Motion by Crowley, seconded by Veerkamp, to approve the renewal of the Medica plan at the rates presented. Motion carried unanimously. **RCRCA** – Motion by Carter, seconded by Wakefield, to approve the renewal of the Medica plan at the rates presented. Motion carried unanimously.

RCRCA – Draft FY'24 Budget – Discussion. Netzke presented a FY'24 draft budget to the board. Missing information includes SWAG grant (Middle MN River) income and expenses. A revised draft will be presented at the November meeting, with approval scheduled for the December 2023 meeting.

RCRCA – Performance Review of Bruns. Netzke met with Bruns who has completed 13 years with RCRCA. She received a very satisfactory review. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Veerkamp, to approve a 1% merit raise effective upon her anniversary date of October 4 and COLA applied on January 1. Motion carried unanimously.

AREA II – Performance Review of Deschepper. Netzke met with Deschepper who has completed 30 years with Area II. He received a very satisfactory review. Motion by Crowley, seconded by Drietz, to approve a 1% merit raise effective upon his anniversary date of October 15 and COLA applied on July 1. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT.

With no other business, Vice Chairman Lingbeek and Chairman Anderson adjourned the meeting at 10:08 AM. The next meeting will be on November 2, 2023, at Key Largo on Lake Shetek, Slayton, MN at 2:30 PM. The Annual Legislative Gathering registration/meeting starts at 3:30 PM.

UPCOMING MEETINGS.

November Board Meeting Annual Legislative Gathering	Thursday, Nov. 2, 2023	Key Largo on Lake Shetek, Slayton, MN
December Board Meeting	Thursday, Dec 7, 2023	Redwood Co Govt. Center, Redwood Falls
January Board Meeting	Thursday, Jan. 4, 2024	Lyon Co. Government Center, Marshall

Larry Anderson, Area II Chairman

Date