

## AREA II

### AREA II / RCRCA

**February 7, 2025 - Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Lyon County Government Center, Marshall, MN/Hybrid**  
**Roll Call Votes on all motions – \*attended via Zoom**

**AREA II Members Present:** Brian Braun\*, Larry Anderson, Greg Thole\*, Gary Crowley, Luke Johnson and Glen Kack.

**RCRCA Members Present:** Brian Braun\*, Bill Eckstein, Larry Anderson, Clark Lingbeek\*, Ron Bunjer, Gary Crowley, Allen Deutz\*, Luke Johnson, Ed Carter\* and Glen Kack.

**Others Present:** Kerry Netzke – Executive Director, and Joy Bruns – RCRCA Office Manager.

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 AM by RCRCA Chairman Johnson and Area II Chairman Anderson, confirming that quorum for both organizations was met.

#### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.**

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

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

**MASWCD.** Supervisor Lingbeek reported that MASWCD Legislative Day is March 4, 2025.

**AMC.** Commissioner Johnson reported that the Drainage Conference was held February 4-6 in Alexandria. AMC's Legislative Conference is scheduled for February 26-27.

**APPROVE RCRCA MINUTES of January 2025 Board Meeting.** Motion by Anderson, seconded by Eckstein, to approve the January 2025 Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

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**APPROVE AREA II MINUTES of January 2025 Board Meeting.** Motion by Johnson, seconded by Kack, to approve the January 2025 Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**RCRCA TREASURER'S REPORT – January 2025.** Financials were reviewed by the Board. Motion by Bunjer, seconded by Eckstein, to file the January 2025 Treasurer's Report subject to audit and approve payment of the bills. Motion carried unanimously.

**AREA II TREASURER'S REPORT – January 2025.** Financials were reviewed by the Board. Revenue received: \$6,689.91 Contract Services Income, \$22,252.50 MMB Grant Funds, \$70,217.80 County Levy FY2025, and \$4,282.62 Interest Income. Bills for approval: \$6,927 Bolton & Menk and \$1,537.30 DLT Solutions (Civil 3D subscription). Motion by Kack, seconded by Crowley, to file the January 2025 Treasurer's Report subject to audit and to approve payment of the bills. Motion carried unanimously.

### Revenue as recorded:

Contract Service Income (RCRCA)	\$ 6,689.91	Projects-MMB General Fund	\$ 22,252.50
Interest Income	\$ 4,282.62	County Levy	\$ 70,217.80
State of MN-Administrative	\$ 0.00	SWCD Tech Assistance	\$ 0.00
Water Quality & Storage Grants	\$ 0.00	Miscellaneous Income	\$ 0.00

### Paid bills are summarized below:

Administration	\$ 19,195.50	Office Supplies	\$ 0.00
Bonding Project Funds	\$ 0.00	Other Insurance	\$ 5,926.00
Capital Outlay	\$ 0.00	Postage	\$ 0.00
Contract Services - RCRCA	\$ 1,747.40	Professional Services	\$ 16,845.00
Directors' Expense	\$ 0.00	Project Expenses Paid	\$ 0.00
Directors' Insurance	\$ 0.00	Project Permit Fees	\$ 0.00
Employee Expense	\$ 21.00	Rent	\$ 837.00
Field Supplies	\$ 0.00	Telephone	\$ 60.44
Investigating & Testing	\$ 0.00	Utilities-Web Hosting	\$ 0.00
Maintenance & Repair	\$ 131.44	Vehicle Expense	\$ 58.01
Miscellaneous Expense	\$ 212.98	Continuing Education	\$ 130.00
Insurance	\$ 0.00	Investigation& Testing	\$ 0.00

### Bills for approval:

Professional Services	\$ 6,927.00	Maintenance & Repair	\$ 1,537.30
Project Costs	\$ 0.00	Insurance	\$ 5,926.00

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**CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES.** Board members and staff are required annually to sign the disclosures. Board members who were present turned them in. The forms will be emailed to the board members that joined via zoom or were not present.

**RCRCA – Election of Officers – 1 Year Term.** The current officers were willing to continue serving with the exception of Treasurer Meulebroeck who retired in December. Discussion followed. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Lingbeek, to nominate Deutz for Treasurer, for all the other officers to remain the same, and to cease nominations. Motion carried unanimously. ***RCRCA Executive Board: Chairman Johnson, Vice Chairman Lingbeek, Secretary Posthuma, Treasurer Deutz, Member-At-Large Drietz, and PR&I Crowley.***

**AREA II – Election of Officers – 2 Year Term.** Netzke noted that last fall the board voted to remove term limits. All the officers were willing to continue serving. Motion by Johnson, seconded by Crowley, to re-elect all the current officers and cease nominations. Motion carried unanimously. ***Area II Executive Board: Chairman Anderson, Vice Chairman Veerkamp and Secretary/Treasurer Crowley.***

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

- **Annual Reports** Annual reports for BWSR and MPCA grants were submitted by 1/28/25.

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- **Florida Creek Restoration Project – Garfield 32/33** After gathering all technical data and additional survey, its review resulted in no change to the Cost Estimate and Scope of Work submitted. The LQP-YB Watershed District and other project partners were notified of this. We have not received permission to proceed.
- **Bonding Bill Request** The Senate Capital Investment Committee has requested appropriation requests for the 2025 Legislative Session. The paperwork asks for a resolution supporting this request which will be provided to the Board for action.
- **BWSR RCPP Kickoff Meeting** The meeting focused on the \$21M of federal funds to be added to the \$17M of Water Quality & Storage funds. The federal funds will not be available until Fall 2025 at the earliest due to contracting procedures. Partners, including Area II, can start tracking match of October 23, 2024. A revised support letter from the partners is needed based on new information regarding financial assistance (cash match) and technical assistance (in-kind match). Area II’s prior letter needs to be redone as all contract services (engineering, soil borings, wetland delineations, and stream assessments) are to be considered as technical assistance by USDA.

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- **Cottonwood-Middle MN 1W1P Update** The BWSR Board approved the Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan at their January 22, 2025 meeting.

Attorneys Ann Goering and Jordan Soderlind (Ratwik, Roszak & Maloney) provided revisions to RCRCA's joint powers for Plan implementation and draft Bylaws on January 2. Netzke provided comments/corrections back and requested revisions for the February meeting.

Planning Grant Engineering Services Amendment – The Policy Committee approved expenditures for the remaining grant dollars (\$69,900) including development of the BEAST (Benefits Estimator and Spreadsheet Tool), MS4Front Tracking System, and a Hydrologic Model to focus floodwater storage efforts. As the grant holder, RCRCA will need to approve and sign the Amendment.

The Policy Committee will meet on Wednesday, February 19 at 1:00 PM.

- **Redwood CWMP Update** The Steering Team will meet Monday, March 10, 2025 at 10:30 AM. Revisions to the Measurable Goals and Targeted Implementation Tables will be on the Agenda in order to provide the revised documents for the Advisory Committee on Monday, March 10. The Policy Committee would like to meet that afternoon.

A presentation was made to the City of Marshall's Public Improvement & Transportation Committee on January 23. The meeting was to consider cost-sharing on a Redwood River streambank stabilization within city limits as a 'pilot project' for other projects to follow when a known cost-share source was identified. Lyon County had proposed paying 40% (\$16,320) if the City would match. The committee did not act upon the proposal and recommended that a policy should be in place prior to allocating any funds. The City collects \$78/resident for Surface Water Management which covers a large range of maintenance issues, and projects such as this would be eligible. The City will contact us once a proposed policy is drafted.

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- **IRS Repayment** The approved payment of \$4,723.21 was made to the IRS. Netzke has not had the time to contact the IRS by phone for an explanation of RCRCA's designation as government versus nonprofit. Answers will continue to be sought for this issue stemming from 2020 and the Covid-19 employee retention funds.

### **AREA II ENGINEER'S REPORT.**

**North Hero 34 Road Retention, Redwood County.** This project, funded by a BWSR Water Quality & Storage Grant, has a final design completed and final plans are nearly complete. Once this is completed, a meeting with all parties involved will be held to discuss any changes as well as borrow areas and flowage easements. 2025 construction is anticipated.

**Alta Vista 27 Road Retention, Lincoln County.** Final plans and a cost estimate have been completed, and the project is progressing towards a meeting with all involved parties to discuss any changes, flowage easements, borrow sites, wetland delineation and permitting needs. We are patiently waiting for feedback from the DNR and the USACE regarding stream mitigation for a segment of natural channel that will be impacted by construction. *\*\* Netzke added that DNR would like to see 2/3rds of the channel length restored in an oxbow that fits the topography and aligns with the new culvert nicely. \*\** A new wetland delineation will also be needed as the previous delineation is not acceptable to WCA. The Local Government Wetland Replacement Program requirements include designing the roadway to the minimum standards for road safety and justification that the project will prevent future road damages. 2025 construction is anticipated.

**Florida Creek Restoration, LQP County.** The DNR is interested in restoring approximately 1,000 feet of natural channel on a portion of ground that the DNR currently owns. Sharing of technical information and additional survey work has been completed. Upon review, no changes to the cost estimate are suggested. This information has been submitted to the LQP-YB Watershed District for consideration and acceptance.

**Holly 20 Small Dam, Murray County.** This is a grade control structure that has a working preliminary design that had to be altered to avoid impacts to existing wetlands. A preliminary cost estimate is being finalized based on the new design, and a meeting with the landowner is expected to discuss the alterations. This project is in the Plum Creek watershed which could utilize the Clean Water Fund grant.

**AREA II – Monroe 17 (Lyon County) Modifications from County Funds.** Netzke explained what had happened with this project design, the miscommunications, and a possible solution to the problem to make it NRCS cost-share eligible. Bolton & Menk have agreed to pay 1/3 of the cost. Discussion followed. Motion by Johnson, seconded by Kack, to use

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\$2,493.00 from the County Funds for the corrective work to this project. Motion carried unanimously.

**AREA II – RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT 1.5M State of MN Bonding Funds.** Netzke has requested 1.5M in State of Minnesota Bonding Funds. The intention is to return the remaining general funds from the 2023 legislative appropriation which has been too cumbersome to utilize. Motion by Johnson, seconded by Crowley, to approve the Resolution to Support the 1.5M Bonding Funds Request as presented. Motion carried unanimously. This resolution is needed to accompany the request from the Senate Capital Investment Committee.

**RCRCA – Appoint Delegate & Alternate to Redwood 1W1P Policy Committee.** With Meulebroeck's retirement, a replacement is needed for the Policy Committee. Discussion followed. Motion by Eckstein, seconded by Crowley, to appoint Anderson as delegate and Kack as alternate. Motion carried unanimously.

**Area II – Appoint Delegate & Alternate to Redwood 1W1P Policy Committee** The current delegate and alternate are Crowley and Veerkamp. Discussion followed. No changes were made to the appointments.

**Area II – Appoint Delegate & Alternate to YM 1W1P Policy Committee** The current delegate and alternate were assigned to the Chairman and Vice Chairman. Netzke noted that this needs to be changed due to the drive needed for Anderson or Veerkamp to serve. Discussion followed. Motion by Thole, seconded by Braun, to appoint Kack as delegate and Anderson as alternate. Motion carried unanimously.

**Area II – Appoint Delegate & Alternate to LQP-YB 1W1P Policy Committee.** With the retirement of Maatz, a new delegate will be needed. Discussion followed. Motion by Johnson, seconded by Crowley, to appoint Thole as delegate and Kack as alternate. Motion carried unanimously.

**RCRCA – Approve CW-MM 1W1P Engineering Services Amendment #1.** Netzke presented an amendment from Houston Engineering to use some of the remaining planning grant funds to develop the BEAST (Benefits Estimator and Spreadsheet Tool), MS4Front Tracking System, and a Hydrologic Model to focus floodwater storage efforts. RCRCA approves this amendment as the Grantee. Motion by Eckstein, seconded by Carter, to approve Amendment #1 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**RCRCA Joint Powers Agreement Revisions, Bylaws & 2026 Appropriation.** Netzke reviewed with the board the changes recommended by Ratwik, Roszak & Maloney PA to the Joint Powers Agreement. The biggest change required is to add the orphan areas in the 1W1P boundaries as RCRCA's watershed is for the Cottonwood and Redwood River

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watersheds only. No changes will be needed when the Redwood 1W1P is completed. Like before, this is a self-renewing agreement unless changes are made. Discussion followed. Motion by Bunjer, seconded by Eckstein, to recommend approval to the counties and SWCDs. Motion carried unanimously.

The new Bylaws drafted by the legal team were reviewed. The only notable change is that the Annual Meeting will be moved to February in order to elect officers. The Bylaws will not need approval by the counties or SWCDs, only the RCRCA Board. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Bunjer, to approve the Bylaws as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

An increase in the appropriations is requested as the current \$80,000 per year is no longer covering administrative costs not covered by grant programs. A spreadsheet was provided detailing the individual county appropriations at \$80,000, \$85,000 and \$90,000 levels. The county percentages will not change, only the total amount collected. Discussion followed. The last increase was set in 2020 that took effect in 2021. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Eckstein, to approve raising the appropriation to \$90,000 per year starting in 2026. Motion carried, with Braun opposed and favoring the \$85,000 level.

### **RCRCA – Approve Debris Disposal Fee from Redwood River near RR1 Sampling Site.**

Netzke presented to the board a picture of the debris found by Wohnoutka during his sampling route. With this site located three miles upstream of Lake Redwood, the debris should be removed and disposed of. Permission was granted to remove and dispose of the debris and pay any fees required. Motion by Crowley, seconded by Bunjer, to approve the expenditure with thanks to RCRCA staff for doing this. Motion carried unanimously.

### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

**ADJOURNMENT.** Chairman Anderson and Chairman Johnson declared the meeting adjourned at 10:44 AM. The next meeting will be at the Lyon County Government Center on March 6, 2025 at 10:00 AM.

### **UPCOMING MEETINGS:**

March Board Meeting	Thursday, March 6, 2025	Lyon County Government 9 AM
April Board Meeting	Thursday, April 3, 2025	Redwood Learning Center 9 AM

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Larry Anderson, Area II Chairman

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Date