

AREA II

AREA II / RCRCA

April 1, 2021 Board of Directors Meeting Area II/RCRCA Marshall Office via Zoom

Board consensus for voice voting. If the vote is not unanimous, a roll call vote will be taken.

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

Others Present: Kerry Netzke – Executive Director, and Joy Bruns – RCRCA Office Manager, Tim Dritz – YMRWD Supervisor.

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

ADOPT AGENDA. Chairman Johnson asked for any additions to the Agenda. Netzke requested an addition to Other Business: Area II Laptop Computer Replacement. Motion was made by Meulebroeck, seconded by Gunnink, to approve the Agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

AGENCY AND MEETING REPORTS.

MASWCD – Supervisor Lingbeek added that an in-person Area V meeting is planned for June in Pipestone.

AMC – Commissioner Johnson reported that AMC is busy fending off the legislative attempts to pass laws that will negatively affect counties.

APPROVE RCRCA MINUTES of March 2021 Board Meeting. Motion by Crowley, seconded by Lingbeek, to approve the March 2021 minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE AREA II MINUTES of March 2021 Board Meeting. Motion by Johnson, seconded by Gunnink, to approve the March 2021 minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE RCRCA TREASURER’S REPORT – March 2021. Financials were reviewed with the Board. Motion by Posthuma, seconded by Veerkamp, to file the March 2021 Treasurer’s Report subject to audit and to authorize payment of bills. Motion carried unanimously.

RCRCA GRANT 068 Plum Creek Turbidity. RCRCA received \$200,403 (50%) of the grant up front. When that is spent, 40% more will be received, and the final 10% will be received when all the reporting is complete. The funds have been placed in the HomeTown Bank Cash Sweep account for accurate tracking of expenditures.

APPROVE AREA II TREASURER’S REPORT – March 2021. Financials were reviewed with the Board. Revenue Received: \$7,417.15 Contract Services Income, \$30.06 Interest. Bill for approval: Bolton & Menk \$7,600.00. Netzke noted that there were 3 pay periods in March and the Civil 3D software annual maintenance was changed to a yearly subscription at a lower price than originally quoted and approved last month. Motion by Crowley, seconded by Gunnink, to file the March 2021 Treasurer’s Report subject to audit and to authorize payment of bills. Motion carried unanimously.

Revenue as recorded:

Contract Service Income (RCRCA)	\$ 7,417.15	Projects-Bonding	\$ 0.00
Interest Income	\$ 30.06	County Levy	\$ 0.00

State of MN-Administrative	\$ 0.00	SWCD Tech Assistance	\$ 0.00
Miscellaneous Income	\$ 0.00	PERA Assistance	\$ 0.00

Paid bills are summarized below:

Administration	\$ 22,164.43	Office Supplies	\$ 19.27
Bonding Project Funds	\$ 0.00	Other Insurance	\$ 0.00
Capital Outlay	\$ 0.00	Postage	\$ 0.00
Contract Services - RCRCA	\$ 1,572.57	Professional Services	\$ 4,832.00
Directors' Expense	\$ 0.00	Project Expenses Paid	\$ 0.00
Directors' Insurance	\$ 0.00	Project Permit Fees	\$ 0.00
Employee Expense	\$ 0.00	Rent	\$ 837.00
Field Supplies	\$ 17.16	Telephone	\$ 21.60
Investigating & Testing	\$ 0.00	Utilities	\$ 21.00
Maintenance & Repair	\$ 1,494.94	Vehicle Expense	\$ 59.50
Miscellaneous Expense	\$ 6.78	Continuing Education	\$ 0.00
Insurance	\$ 0.00		

Bill for approval:

Professional Fees	\$ 7,600.00	Maintenance & Repair	\$ 0.00
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AREA II APPROVE BONDING COST SHARE APPLICATIONS/AMENDMENTS/CANCELLATIONS.

None presented.

RCRCA – APPROVE CWF COST SHARE APPLICATIONS/AMENDMENTS/CANCELLATIONS.

None presented.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT.

- **New Telephones** – The phones have been delivered to the office, however due to a porting issue with CenturyLink, the transition to the new system has been delayed.
- **SW/WC Service Cooperative** – A notice was just received of a change in health insurance providers from BCBS to Medica beginning January 1, 2022. A virtual meeting on April 22 is scheduled to answer questions regarding this transition which Netzke and Bruns plan to attend.

AREA II

• **Springdale 19 (Redwood County)** – A meeting with watershed landowners was held March 25 to discuss pooling funds as the 25% local match source vs. creation of a Special Taxing District. Netzke added that the meeting was attended by about a dozen landowners. After hearing the advantages and disadvantages of the Special Taxing District, the consensus of the group was to fund the project locally by contributions. As of the end of the meeting, \$80,000 of the \$110,000 had been committed. Within a few days after the meeting, \$85,000 had been committed and another \$25,000 would be made available by an undisclosed source if the funds were not contributed by others. Redwood County had asked that the remaining FY2019 Bonding Funds (\$322,393.29) be reserved for this project. The county would like to bid the project as soon as the WCA Notice of Decision is made (April 30 tentatively).

• **City of Springfield** – Jason Ulrich (Science Museum of MN – St. Croix Research Station) is revising his unfunded 2020 LCCMR proposal that has similar intention/focus on landscape resilience to large precipitation events, or in other words, how much water the current landscape can handle before out of bank flooding occurs. The City will support and provide in-kind to Jason's updated 2021 proposal, as well as other groups and agencies. Jason's modeling results from the Cottonwood watershed can be used in similar watersheds within the Minnesota River watershed. Area II/RCRCA has offered a Letter of Support since providing in-kind is not possible.

RCRCA

• **Redwood 1W1P** – The local work group discussed submitting a planning application, however with the current RFP format, the Redwood would fall into the "preferred" category compared to "highly preferred". With the amount of funding available for 4-5 plans, BWSR feels that the unfunded 2020 proposals will likely receive the funding. The Redwood and Cottonwood watersheds could both apply in 2022. Workload may not be ideal should both be funded, however it gives the watersheds adequate time to get organized and fall into that "highly preferred" category for funding consideration. 2020 applications are due early June which would be difficult to meet.

• **Lake Redwood Dredging** – Bids were opened at Redwood Falls on 2/11/2021. JF Brennan Company, Inc. submitted the low bid of \$4,468,111.45. Award must be made within 60 days of opening. Houston Engineering is thoroughly reviewing the work plan and working through particulars including booster pump location and laydown areas. Other work this month included:

- 1) Agreement with the owners of the laydown area has been made. Terms and conditions were provided to attorney Frank Munshower to draft the temporary construction easement.
- 2) A financial offer is being made to the owner of the 4.81 acres of peninsulas within the lake. The attorney will relay this information to the owner.
- 3) The MNDOT permit applications will be submitted soon. Details regarding the booster pump location along Hwy 19, within MNDOT ROW (23'-wide corridor between ROW line and Clear Zone), its access from Hwy 19, and the culvert to be jack-and-bored underneath Hwy 19 need to be included with the applications.
- 4) DNR Public Waters Permit – The permit was issued 3/19/2021 and included a Fisheries Exclusion period from Ice-out to May 15 where no dredging can be conducted due to spawning/migration. There is a clause where written request to DNR Regional Fisheries Manager can be made to request starting sooner than May 15. A virtual meeting is scheduled for April 7 to define under what conditions starting earlier than May 15 would be permissible. JF Brennan estimates the “standby” cost at \$155,000 per month if their equipment and labor force are unable to work due to this exclusion.

• **Illegally Dumped Tires in Highwater Creek (Redwood County)** – Late in 2020, approximately 125 vehicle tires were illegally dumped over the side of a bridge into Highwater Creek, just south of Lamberton. The local landowner’s family pulled the tires out and piled them alongside the roadway. A Sheriff’s report was filed and Lamberton Township put the tires onto two hayracks. Redwood County was approached for disposal cost assistance, which led to DNR being contacted, as Highwater Creek falls under their jurisdiction. DNR does not have any funding sources to pay for the disposal. This could be an excellent educational opportunity for RCRCA and the Cottonwood River WRAPS. Jon Mitchell, RRRSWA estimated the disposal cost to be approximately \$743.75 (125 tires x 35 lbs/tire x \$0.17/lb). The nearest disposal site is 10 miles south of where the tires are located, and Lamberton Township will provide transportation. Mitchell spoke to Kyle Pallatske, Cottonwood County Solid Waste Administrator, who is willing to offer a reduced cost per pound. For RCRCA’s investment, a newspaper story will be written to report the illegal dumping, discuss why it is so bad for the water and the environment, and tie it into the impairments for Highwater Creek and the WRAPS development.

• **RCRCA’s Public Waters Work General Permit** – The permit expired March 4, 2021, however DNR was contacted February 11, 2021 to request an amendment to extend the permit for another 5 years. The amendment is awaiting approval. This is the permit used for the streambank stabilization work that RCRCA undertakes.

• **MN Dept. of Ag Pesticide Monitoring Purchase Order** – MDA has requested RCRCA to continue to the monitoring of the 4 locations plus 3 samples collected from Double Lake (North) for the 2021 season. Compensation is the same as 2020 -- \$1300/site x 4 sites and \$300 for the lake samples. I did inquire as to why Double Lake is being sampled and if this will continue into the future. The insecticide, Chlorpyrifos, was detected in 2017 and 2018, but not 2019 and 2020. MDA anticipates monitoring for several more years. If the insecticide is detected again, the clock resets and monitoring will continue even longer. Chlorpyrifos is contained in the brand names of: Brodan, Bolton insecticide, Chlorpyrifos-ethyl, Cobalt, Detmol UA, Dowco 179, Dursban, Empire, Eradex, Hatchet, Lorsban, Nufos, Paqant, Piridane, Scout, Stipend, Tricel, Warhawk, and others.

AREA II – ENGINEER’S REPORT.

Springdale 19 Dam, Redwood County. A concurrence issue with WCA and USACE with wetland credits is being addressed by the TEP. Meanwhile, Redwood County is considering a Special Taxing District to raise the estimated \$105,000 local match for this project. A meeting with the watershed property owners is scheduled for March 25. If the local match is provided by the landowners, we anticipate bidding the project in late spring. If not, a Special Taxing District will be considered which will take longer to establish. ***Del Clark Lake Sediment Ponds, Yellow Medicine County.*** Spring construction is anticipated by A & C Excavating. The contract and bonds have been

executed. **Holly 2 Small Dam, Murray County.** Ryan West Excavating will be constructing this project this spring. 75% funding has been switched from Bonding to the new Plum Creek CWF grant and federal 319 grant. **Springdale 21 Road Retention, Redwood County.** Ryan West Excavating plans to complete this project this spring as FEMA funds expire in early June. **Lac qui Parle River Flow Restoration, Yellow Medicine County.** River profile and cross sectional information has been provided to the DNR. The DNR will now offer suggestions on the diversion structure and the cleaning of the old river channel. **North Hero 32 Dam Repair, Redwood County.** We have started design work on this project. The project is, like most SCS dams, in need of pipe replacement and minor grading work. **Delhi 30 Dam Repair, Redwood County.** Design work will continue on this project this spring. **Lake Benton Outlet/Dam Repair, Lincoln County.** The DNR permit for the project has been drafted and a 14-day comment period is almost complete. The County would like to take advantage of the present low water levels and complete the project as soon as possible. **Marble 23 Small Dam, Lincoln County.** Design work is mostly completed for this small dam. The landowner's intent is to create a shallow wildlife pond and there appears to be enough storage so that there will be flow reduction benefits as well. We need to meet with the landowner in order to proceed. **Lynd 31 Road Retention, Lyon County.** Design work is underway for this project near Lynd. The site is very promising from the standpoint of flood reduction, but because of the height and length of the needed pipe, it will be an expensive project. We will meet with the township to see if they want to proceed. **Nordland 18 Grade Stabilization, Lyon County.** Design work is progressing on this grade stabilization structure in an agricultural field. The intent of this project is to reduce flows and thus reduce erosion. This structure is in the same area where several other structures were completed last year. **Lamberton 22 Grade Stabilization, Redwood County.** This proposed project is in an agricultural field where severe erosion is occurring. We met with the landowner in late January and learned that he would like to incorporate other grade stabilization structures and tile into the EQIP-funded project. We are revising the design. **Springdale 13/24 Grade Stabilization, Redwood County.** We are designing this grade stabilization in order to reduce downstream erosion and to significantly reduce downstream flows. The storage area is in an agricultural field, with a tile outlet to an open ditch. We have met with the landowners and are proceeding with final plans. The plans will be submitted to the NRCS for EQIP funding consideration which will be blended with Plum Creek CWF and 319 funds.

2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION. Netzke testified for Area II's bonding request (hf1148) on March 11. Area II has not had a hearing in the House for several years, so this was an exciting opportunity. Testimony went well and the bill was laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill.

LAKE REDWOOD RECLAMATION PROJECT UPDATE.

Engineering: Netzke reviewed Houston Engineering, Inc.'s (HEI) report for the February 7, 2021 to March 6, 2021 period with the Board.

Project Award Recommendation – JF Brennan Company, Inc.: Houston Engineering (HEI) submitted a letter of recommendation to award the project to JF Brennan Company, Inc. for the bid price of \$4,468,111.45 plus contingencies for dredging and disposal of \$260,000. Motion by Meulebroeck, seconded by Gunnink, to award JF Brennan Company, Inc. the contract for \$4,468,111.45 and budget \$260,000 for contingencies. Motion carried unanimously.

Illegally Dumped Tires in Highwater Creek (Redwood County). As explained in the Administrator's Report, this is an excellent opportunity to inform the public of this violation, give credit to those who have helped with the cleanup, and to educate on the current watershed restoration and protection strategies. The Board asked that the newspaper article ask for information as to who may be responsible and to contact the Sheriff's office. Motion by Wakefield, seconded by Veerkamp, to approve up to \$1,000 for the tire disposal cost at the Cottonwood County Sanitary Landfill. Motion carried unanimously.

RCRCA & Area II – Letter of Support for FY2022 LCCMR Proposal “Increased Intense Rain and Flooding in Minnesota Watersheds” Netzke presented a draft letter of support for this project from both organizations. Discussion followed. **RCRCA** - Motion by Posthuma, seconded by Crowley, to approve the letter of support as presented. Motion carried unanimously. **Area II** – Motion by Johnson, seconded by Kack, to approve the letter of support for the project as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS: Area II Purchase of Laptop Computer/Dock/Monitor. Netzke has been experiencing issues with her laptop recently. The SW/WC IT technician checked it out and stated that due to its age (2013), that it is not capable of handling the newer updates and programs with only 4 MG of RAM. The existing monitor and docking station are not compatible with the new laptop. A quote was provided by SW/WC for a laptop with 16 MG RAM, monitor and docking station for \$1,674.02. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Veerkamp, to approve the purchase of a new laptop for \$1,674.02 using Capital Outlay funds. Motion carried unanimously.

Next meeting will be May 6, 2021 via Zoom. Netzke was requested to check into locations to hold the board meeting in person and via Zoom for the June meeting (hybrid meeting).

ADJOURNMENT. With no other business, RCRCA Chairman Johnson and Area II Chairman Maatz adjourned the meeting at 10:24 A.M.

UPCOMING MEETINGS.

May Board Meeting	Thursday, May 6, 2021	via Zoom
June Board Meeting	Monday, June 7, 2021	via Zoom – In-person (Hybrid)
July Board Meeting	Thursday, July, 2021	via Zoom – In-person (Hybrid)

John Maatz, AREA II Chairman

Date