

# AREA II

## AREA II / RCRCA

### February 3, 2022 Board of Directors Meeting Redwood County Learning Center – Redwood Falls, MN

*(Roll call votes were recorded for all motions as some members joined virtually.)*

**AREA II Members Present:** Jeff Veerkamp, Larry Anderson, John Maatz (Zoom), Joe Drietz, Gary Crowley, Lori Gunnink, Luke Johnson, Rick Wakefield and Glen Kack.

**RCRCA Members Present:** Jeff Veerkamp, Mark Wellner, Larry Anderson, Clark Lingbeek (Zoom), Joe Drietz, Glen Sorensen, Gary Crowley, Mark Meulebroeck (Zoom), Lori Gunnink, Paul Posthuma (Zoom), Luke Johnson, Ken Christensen (Zoom), Rick Wakefield, Ed Carter (Zoom) 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 Maatz. Roll call was taken to determine quorum. Quorum was met for both organizations.

**ADOPT AGENDA.** Chairman Johnson asked for any additions to the Agenda; Netzke requested two additions: Item 12) change to Area II - Soil Boring Update, and Item 15) RCRCA - Pell Creek Funds Investment. **RCRCA** - Motion by Crowley, seconded by Anderson, to approve the Agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote. **Area II** - Motion by Crowley, seconded by Anderson, to approve the Agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

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

**AREA V MASWCD** – Supervisor Lingbeek reported that at the State Board meeting, SWCD’s may seek state-aid in similar fashion to counties. This would draw sustainable funding from the general fund rather than Clean Water Funds. The Area V meeting will be 2/17/22 in Marshall where the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary for Cottonwood, Lyon & Rock SWCDs will be recognized. BWSR’s Water Quality & Storage Pilot Grant RFP and TruTerra’s Carbon Trading/Credits Program are on the agenda.

**AMC** – Chairman Johnson recommended rescheduling the Area II/RCRCA March 3 meeting as the AMC Legislative Conference is 03/01/22 - 03/03/22.

**APPROVE RCRCA MINUTES of January 2022 Board Meeting.** Motion by Drietz, seconded by Veerkamp, to approve the January 2022 Minutes as amended. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

**APPROVE AREA II MINUTES of January 2022 Board Meeting.** Motion by Johnson, seconded by Gunnink, to approve the January 2022 Minutes as amended. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

**APPROVE RCRCA TREASURER’S REPORT – January 2022.** Financials were reviewed with the Board. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Meulebroeck, to file the January 2022 Treasurer’s Report subject to audit and to authorize payment of the bills. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

**APPROVE AREA II TREASURER’S REPORT – January 2022.** Financials were reviewed with the Board. Revenue Received: \$3,723.52 Contract Services Income, \$46,021.20 FY22 Levy and \$15.07 Interest. Bill for approval: Bolton & Menk \$2,784.00. Motion by Crowley, seconded by Drietz, to file the January 2022 Treasurer’s Report subject to audit and to authorize payment of the bill. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

**Revenue as recorded:**

Contract Service Income (RCRCA)	\$ 3,723.52	Projects-Bonding	\$ 0.00
Interest Income	\$ 15.07	County Levy	\$ 46,021.20
State of MN-Administrative	\$ 0.00	SWCD Tech Assistance	\$ 0.00
Miscellaneous Income	\$ 0.00	Special Project Funds	\$ 0.00

**Paid bills are summarized below:**

Administration	\$ 16,051.39	Office Supplies	\$ 0.00
Bonding Project Funds	\$ 0.00	Other Insurance	\$ 0.00
Capital Outlay	\$ 0.00	Postage	\$ 0.00
Contract Services - RCRCA	\$ 1,424.05	Professional Services	\$ 7,104.00
Directors' Expense	\$ 0.00	Project Expenses Paid	\$ 0.00
Directors' Insurance	\$ 0.00	Project Permit Fees	\$ 0.00
Employee Expense	\$ 5.65	Rent	\$ 837.00
Field Supplies	\$ 0.00	Telephone	\$ 96.57
Investigating & Testing	\$ 0.00	Utilities	\$ 0.00
Maintenance & Repair	\$ 304.65	Vehicle Expense	\$ 19.25
Miscellaneous Expense	\$ 9.97	Continuing Education	\$ 0.00
Insurance	\$ 4,645.00		

**Bill for approval:**

Professional Fees	\$ 2,784.00
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**RCRCA – COST SHARE APPLICATIONS/AMENDMENTS/CANCELLATIONS/PAY COST SHARE CONTRACTS.** None at this time.

**AREA II – COST SHARE APPLICATIONS/AMENDMENTS/CANCELLATIONS/PAY COST SHARE CONTRACTS.** None at this time.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES.** The annual Conflict of Interest Disclosures for both Area II and RCRCA board members were distributed. Those in attendance signed/returned the documents. Bruns will email the forms for those joining the meeting virtually and to those that have not returned them. Please sign and return by email, mail or in-person at the March meeting.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT.**

- **Ag-Urban Partnership Forum on Water Quality** – The recorded session link has been emailed to the Boards. Netzke and a few board members commented on the forum that took place on 1/18/22. This forum dealt with phosphorus and carbon credit trading programs that are being developed around the State.
- **1W1P Planning for Cottonwood and Redwood** – Netzke met with BWSR staff on January 28 to discuss the transition from WRAPS/TMDL assessments to One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P) planning. Both watersheds were done concurrently for the assessments, and the question is if 1W1P planning could also be done concurrently, or separately, to allow county/SWCD staff adequate time to fully participate. The RFP is anticipated in March.
- **OWL 360° Camera/Microphone** – As suggested at the January meeting, an OWL camera was investigated for virtual meetings. The cost is greater than anticipated at approximately \$1,000. Area II and RCRCA will continue to utilize Lyon and Redwood County's facilities as it is hoped that in-person only meetings will return.

**AREA II**

- **2022 Bonding Request** – Area II's bonding request of \$1.5 million has been discussed with and approved by Senator Dahms and Representative Torkelson as key authors. Netzke provided draft language to Senator Dahms' new assistant, Loren Dauer, to start the drafting and introduction process. Session starts January 31. As relayed by Senator Dahms, the Senate Capital Investment Committee asked for justification for the increased request from \$1.0 million in 2021. Netzke provided the history (2020: Area II included in DNR's Flood Hazard Mitigation grant with no funding, and 2021: no bonding bill developed) and a current list of projects which total over \$3.2 million (75% is over \$2.4 million.)
- **Hansel on Vacation** – Duane Hansel, PE has worked a few extra days in January as he will be off for three weeks in the month of February, vacationing in San Antonio.

- **1W1P Planning for LQP-YB** – The Steering Committee met January 26. A discussion was had concerning Plan governance and establishing a Joint Powers Agreement or Joint Powers Collaboration (similar to a MOA). The Policy Committee will be asked to start thinking about what governance format would be acceptable.
- **Water Quality and Storage Pilot Program** – The RFP is anticipated in February with a due date of April 4. Area II will be submitting at least two projects for consideration. The Governor’s Supplemental Budget recommendation includes \$15 million to bolster the program.

**RCRCA**

- **Lake Redwood Dredging** – Work this month included:
  - 1) **2021 Construction Update:** Due to the onset of winter weather, winter shutdown started January 5. Brennan will likely return in early March to complete pipeline fusing, install booster pumps and install the CDF outlet control structure. Brennan has designed the control structure and discussions are being had with DNR Dam Safety to approve the structure. Brennan will also be submitting a plan for testing the CDF effluent.
  - 2) **Partial Payment No. 3:** HEI approved Partial Payment No. 3 in the amount of \$86,212.50.
  - 3) **Last Easement:** Netzke obtained the last easement on January 21 from Wade Plotz.
  - 4) **Press Release #5:** Netzke submitted a press release on January 20 to KLGR Radio and the Redwood Gazette to update the public on the progress, winter shutdown, and to encourage caution by snowmobiles near the over-ground pipeline. The pipeline has signage identifying the danger.
  - 5) **1099s:** 1099s were issued to the recipients of easement/temporary use agreements in 2021.
- **Pell Creek CWF Grant** – RCRCA signed the \$648,075 grant agreement; and the Work Plan was approved with BWSR signature on January 25. Project funds can now be encumbered. Additionally, the Redwood SWCD met with MPCA to request more federal 319 funds. MPCA was pleased with the SWCD’s ability to spend their allotted funds so quickly, and provided \$398,000 of funding that was redirected from other grant recipients who hadn’t spent any of the funds. MPCA would like to have these funds used by August 2022. \$30,000 was requested from the 319 funds to help offset the engineering costs from Area II on these projects.
- **WRAPS/TMDL Change Orders** – Netzke met with MPCA project managers to discuss the remaining funds in each of the Cottonwood and Redwood grants. With the WRAPS and TMDL reports scheduled to be public noticed in February, no additional work from Stantec will be needed. With so many meetings held virtually instead of in-person, and the decision to provide flash drives with the Subwatershed Reports instead of printed copies, there are remaining funds in the Meetings/Supplies objective. With MPCA’s approval, the remaining funds will be moved into Fiscal Management to provide additional funds for RCRCA to complete the Final Report once the Public Notices are out. Via Change Orders, about \$1,066.21 will come from the Cottonwood grant and \$1,074.94 from the Redwood grant to RCRCA.

**AREA II – ENGINEER’S REPORT.**

***Perch Lake Outlet, Lincoln County.*** A survey has been completed by Lincoln County and we will be preparing plans for the project this winter which are to include boring under the highway. ***Springdale 24 Small Dam, Redwood County.*** We have completed preliminary design for this dam just northwest of Walnut Grove. The site is just off of Plum Creek and offers good flood reduction for the drainage area which includes a portion of the City. The cost estimate is about \$180,000 and the landowner has indicated a willingness to proceed. The City of Walnut Grove is searching for infrastructure grant funding for the local portion of the project. Soil borings are being arranged. ***Island Lake 3 Road Retention, Lyon County.*** We recently met with the landowners and the township regarding this project. All parties are willing to proceed once cost-share funding is secured. ***Alta Vista 27 Road Retention, Lincoln County.*** We are in the early design stages for this road retention project. We have developed a preliminary plan and cost estimate so that information can be presented to the township to determine if they want to proceed further. ***Holly 9 Sediment Pond, Murray County.*** Design work is completed for this small basin which qualifies for funding through the Plum Creek CWF Grant. The structure is located just upstream of a larger dam and the intent is to create a small ponding area to remove sediment before it flows into the dam pond. We will meet with the landowner soon and will solicit bids with his approval. ***Stanley 19 Small Dam, Lyon County.*** We have also started work on the design for this dam northeast of Marshall. A wetland delineation has been completed indicating about an acre of wetlands potentially impacted. Design work will proceed over the next month. ***Holly 10 Small Dam, Murray County.*** Design work is underway on this dam located just off of Plum Creek. The site appears to have good storage capacity. Funding will likely be available through the Plum Creek CWF Grant. ***Request for Soil Borings.*** We have begun the process of requesting proposals for soil borings for three projects

which are scheduled for construction. The scope of work and price received for our initial request was beyond our expectations, and we are now requesting additional proposals from other geotechnical firms.

**AREA II SOIL BORING RFP UPDATE.** Netzke reported that Area II had received a quote for soil borings with each project at \$35,000; a total of \$105,000. This amount far exceeds the usual budgeted amount of \$4,500-\$5,000 per project, with 3 projects planned. The geotechnical engineer that we normally work with retired in December 2021, and the engineer replacing him is using more stringent standards for the scope of work, drilling depths, and the analyses to be performed. We requested that he lessen his scope of work, and he refused. Two additional geotechnical firms were contacted for quotes. One cannot perform the work as they do not have an all-terrain drilling rig, but the third firm will submit a bid if given more flexibility in the timing (March borings instead of February). More information will be available next month.

**RCRCA – REDWOOD & COTTONWOOD 1WIPs.** Both watersheds are completing the WRAPS/TMDL Reports which will be public noticed this month. The Cottonwood watershed partners have indicated that they would like to start 1W1P planning in 2022, and it is questioned whether the Redwood watershed could be done at the same time like the WRAPS/TMDL projects. After discussing this with BWSR staff, Netzke contacted three consultants to inquire on their staff availability, interest, and if cost savings would be realized by doing both watersheds at the same time. The consultants had divided responses. Two of the three would be willing to do both at the same time, feel that some savings would occur with holding some local meetings concurrently, but feel it would be a challenge to give each watershed the proper amount of attention needed for the planning effort. The third consultant would not be willing to do both simultaneously and feel it would be a discredit to each watershed to rush the process. After considerable thought, Netzke feels the Cottonwood watershed should apply for the planning grant in 2022, and next year for the Redwood. Netzke plans to call a meeting of the watershed partners to discuss this same topic. Regardless of that outcome, the planning effort needs an administrator. Area II, with its existing JPA, served as the administrator for the Yellow Medicine 1W1P, and now the YMRWD administers the implementation grants. It is requested that RCRCA be the administrator for the planning grant. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Crowley, for RCRCA to serve as the administrator for the Cottonwood 1W1P Planning Grant. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

**RCRCA – PELL CREEK GRANT FUNDS INVESTMENT.** RCRCA received 50% of the grant (\$324,038) yesterday. It will be mid-summer before the first project is constructed. It was questioned whether the full amount should be invested, or a portion of it. RCRCA has a \$100,000 CD maturing in March which could be kept liquid for use. Discussion followed; interest rates will hopefully increase due to inflation so a shorter term is desired. Motion by Drietz, seconded by Gunnink, to invest the full amount of \$324,038 for 6 months at the best rate to be determined by Netzke and Meulebroeck, and for the maturing CD to be kept liquid. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

**MARCH 2022 BOARD MEETING.** Chairman Johnson had noted that the March 3 meeting date is in conflict with the AMC Legislative Conference and requested rescheduling. Discussion followed for a suitable date. Commissioner Crowley added that another conference room should be available if the Commissioners’ Room is booked. **RCRCA** – Motion by Drietz, seconded by Crowley, to reschedule the meeting to March 7 at 9:00 AM in Marshall. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote. **Area II** – Motion by Drietz, seconded by Crowley, to reschedule the meeting to March 7 at 9:00 AM in Marshall. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

**ADJOURNMENT.** With no other business, RCRCA Chairman Johnson and Area II Chairman Maatz adjourned the meeting at 10:14 AM. The next meeting will be March 7, 2022 in Marshall (location to be determined).

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**UPCOMING MEETINGS.**

March Board Meeting	Monday, March 7, 2022	Lyon County Courthouse – Marshall
April Board Meeting	Thursday, April 7, 2022	Redwood County Learning Center
May Board Meeting	Thursday, May 5, 2022	Lyon County Courthouse - Marshall

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John Maatz, AREA II Chairman

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Date