

AREA II

AREA II / RCRCA

August 4, 2022 Board of Directors Meeting
Redwood County Government Center, Redwood Falls, MN / In-person & Zoom

Note: Roll call votes were taken for all motions.

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

RCRCA Members Present: Jeff Veerkamp, Mark Wellner, Larry Anderson, Joe Drietz (Zoom), Glen Sorensen, Gary Crowley, Mark Meulebroeck, Lori Gunnink, Paul Posthuma, Luke Johnson, Rick Wakefield, Ed Carter and Glen Kack.

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

The meeting was called to order at 9:07 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 of two bills for Area II under Item 6. **RCRCA** - Motion by Gunninck, seconded by Carter, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously. **Area II** - Motion by Johnson, seconded by Gunnink, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

AGENCY AND MEETING REPORTS.

AMC – Chairman Johnson reported that the AMC Board’s Strategic Planning session is upcoming in a few weeks and the Fall Policy Meetings are scheduled for mid-September.

APPROVE RCRCA MINUTES of July 2022 Board Meeting. Motion by Meulebroeck, seconded by Veerkamp, to approve the July 2022 Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE AREA II MINUTES of July 2022 Board Meeting. Motion by Johnson, seconded by Anderson, to approve the July 2022 Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE RCRCA TREASURER’S REPORT – July 2022. Financials were reviewed with the Board. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Posthuma, to file the July 2022 Treasurer’s Report subject to audit and to approve payment of the bill. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE AREA II TREASURER’S REPORT – July 2022. Financials were reviewed with the Board. Revenue received: \$5,154.40 Contract Services Income and \$14.03 Interest. Bills for approval: \$5,056.00 Bolton & Menk, \$12,458.16 Dave Kremer (wetland credits), and \$837.97 BWSR wetland bank withdrawal fees. Motion by Crowley, seconded by Gunnink, to file the July 2022 Treasurer’s Report subject to audit and to authorize payment of the bills. Motion carried unanimously.

Revenue as recorded:

Contract Service Income (RCRCA)	\$ 5,154.40	Projects-Bonding	\$ 0.00
Interest Income	\$ 14.03	County Levy	\$ 0.00
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	\$ 16,316.13	Office Supplies	\$ 0.00
Bonding Project Funds	\$ 0.00	Other Insurance	\$ 0.00
Capital Outlay	\$ 0.00	Postage	\$ 114.40
Contract Services - RCRCA	\$ 2,609.97	Professional Services	\$ 4,977.00

Directors' Expense	\$ 0.00	Project Expenses Paid	\$ 0.00
Directors' Insurance	\$ 0.00	Project Permit Fees	\$ 0.00
Employee Expense	\$ 62.01	Rent	\$ 837.00
Field Supplies	\$ 0.00	Telephone	\$ 18.13
Investigating & Testing	\$ 0.00	Utilities	\$ 0.00
Maintenance & Repair	\$ 337.20	Vehicle Expense	\$ 341.96
Miscellaneous Expense	\$ 9.99	Continuing Education	\$ 0.00
Insurance	\$ 0.00		

Bills for approval:

Professional Fees	\$ 5,056.00	Wetland Credits/Fees	\$ 13,296.13
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RCRCA – COST SHARE APPLICATIONS/AMENDMENTS/CANCELLATIONS/PAYMENTS.

NEW CONTRACTS – AMENDMENTS - PAYMENTS

Netzke presented three new projects for Plum Creek CWF Grant – Springdale 24 – Redwood grade stabilization, Holly 10 – Murray grade stabilization, and Holly 11 – Murray grade stabilization. One amendment was presented for approval for Pell Creek CWF, North Hero 30 – Redwood grassed waterway. Two contracts were presented for payment: Plum Creek CWF Holly 9 – Murray and Pell Creek CWF North Hero 30 – Redwood. Motion by Meulebroeck, seconded by Carter, to approve the cost-share contracts, one amendment and two payments (signatures pending) as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT.

- **GoDaddy Transition** – The transition to GoDaddy for website hosting and email services is nearing. Area staff will eventually have email extensions of “____@area.org”. Bruns has designed RCRCA’s new website, and is nearing completion of Area II’s website. Once NetPoint provides some information to SW/WC, we will be ready to make the transition to the new websites and email addresses.
- **Internship** – Katelyn Schauer ended her 180-hour internship on July 29. She enjoyed her 3 days/week with RCRCA and Area II and gained considerable experience with: stream and lake water quality sampling/sample preparation and delivery to the lab/assessment of results; annual dam inspections; topographic surveying and construction staking; GIS uses and search for dams in need of repair; and an introduction of AutoCAD using the acquired survey data. After a trip to Greece in August, she will return to SMSU for her senior year.

AREA II

- **Water Quality and Storage Pilot Program Update** – The Custer 10 Grade Stabilization work plan has been entered into eLINK and approved by BWSR. 0.2860 acres of Fresh (Wet) Meadow wetland credits are reserved for this project (\$1.00/sq. ft. = \$43,560/acre). The grant agreement for signature arrived on July 28, and once signed by BWSR, we may begin encumbering expenses to the project. *Chairman Johnson noted that the Supreme Court will hear arguments on Sackett vs EPA on 10/3/2022. This is the 14-year old case where Waters of the US (WOTUS) included wetlands connected by underground drainage tile to a navigable water. The result of this case could impact agricultural drainage as we know it.*
- **Soil Boring Crew Arrival** – American Engineering Testing arrived July 28 to begin boring several sites. They are starting in the Walnut Grove area on 3 grade stabilizations, then moving into Lyon County for a road retention and Lyon SWCD’s Water Quality & Storage project, and then finishing in Lincoln County at Lake Shaokatan. This is anticipated to take 4-5 days to complete all sites.
- **FY23 Administrative Services Grant** – The agreement arrived July 28 for signature. Once signed and executed by BWSR, payment of \$140,000 should arrive in early August.

RCRCA

- **Lake Redwood Dredging Update** – Work this month included:
 - 1) **Brennan Work Schedule:** Brennan has decided to move to 7 days/week. The dredge has been contracted for 2023 so completion for Lake Redwood in 2022 is a must.
 - 2) **Third Month Progress:** As of July 26, Brennan reported 320,252 cubic yards removed; 48% towards the contract quantity of 657,329 CY. A map of completed dredge area was provided with finish elevations.

- 3) **Diesel Increase Consideration:** Netzke met with attorney Frank Munshower to obtain a legal opinion of providing some level of compensation for the escalating diesel fuel versus a performance-based payment. An opinion by August 3 had been requested in order for the Board to discuss the issue further, however that opinion was not received.
- 4) **Tours:**
 - July 12, Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District: Eleven visitors from the watershed district and City of Worthington were on site.
 - July 27, Redwood County 4-H AIS Team: 10 youth (4th graders and older) with 3 chaperones wanted to learn more about dredging. Shawn and Joy attended, as well as Jim Tersteeg who is allowing RCRCA to have time-lapse camera on his property. The kids were really well behaved.
 - The City of Cottonwood needed to reschedule their visit due to a last minute change.
 - August 4, 2022: Tom Chervenky from the West Central Tribune, Willmar.
- 5) **Presentation:** Netzke had made arrangements to attend the Yellow Medicine SWCD meeting to obtain the signature on the Joint Powers Amendment. With a light agenda, they requested a presentation on the Lake Redwood Reclamation Project.

• **Cottonwood & Redwood WRAPS Grants** – Netzke submitted both final reports on July 22. Once approved, the retainage of \$20,000 per grant will be paid. Public Noticing of the documents is anticipated this Fall as the new MPCA South Watersheds Section Manager, Heather Johnson, is personally reviewing these documents. Heather previously worked for MN Department of Ag, and prior to that, was once an employee of RCRCA in the 1990s.

MCIT VIRTUAL/HYBRID MEETING GUIDANCE: Netzke reviewed the MCIT Virtual/Meeting Guidance with the board. Discussion followed. The boards will follow the guidance as recommended. All members must be able to see and hear one another in order to vote on motions.

2022 LEGISLATIVE GATHERING LOCATION. Netzke asked the boards for location recommendations for the 2022 Legislative Gathering. She noted that last year there was interest in Painted Prairie Vineyard in Currie. The board will leave the planning and details to Netzke and Bruns, with the date to be Thursday, November 4th.

AREA II – ENGINEER’S REPORT.

Springdale 24 Small Dam, Redwood County. Funding has been secured for this project through the Plum Creek CWF grant. Soil borings are underway and we will await the geotechnical report. The wetland delineation has been completed and we are plotting the results. ***Island Lake 3 Road Retention, Lyon County.*** The landowners and the Township are willing to proceed with this project once cost-share funding is secured. Soil borings will be completed in the next few days. ***Holly 9 Small Dam Repair, Murray County.*** Ryan West Excavating has completed this project which is funded with Plum Creek CWF. ***Monroe 17 and 22 Water & Sediment Control Basins, Lyon County.*** The Monroe 17 and 22 projects are set for construction by Ryan West Excavating this summer. ***Holly 10 Small Dam, Murray County.*** Design work is nearly complete on this dam located just off of Plum Creek. We met with the landowner who is willing to proceed with funding through the Plum Creek CWF grant. Soil borings are expected in the next couple days. The wetland delineation has been completed, and we are plotting the results. ***Island Lake 27 Dam Repair, Lyon County.*** Plans have been prepared for this repair project. The repair will be quite extensive and includes the replacement of the pipe and grading of a new emergency spillway. Funding is pending. ***Holly 11 Small Dam, Murray County.*** Design is well underway for this dam project. The site has good storage characteristics. The landowner would like to proceed with funding through the Plum Creek CWF Grant. Borings will be completed in the next few days. ***Springdale 19 Small Dam, Redwood County.*** R&G Construction has finished fine grading and seeding. We have completed the final payment paperwork with payment to be issued by Redwood County. ***Holly 21 Dam Repair, Murray County.*** Design is well underway for this dam repair. The design will incorporate two water sediment control basins which were designed by the SWCD. We will meet with the landowner soon to determine if he wants to proceed. Funding would be through the Plum Creek CWF Grant. ***North Hero 26 Small Dam Repair, Redwood County.*** Preliminary design is completed for this project. The old berm at the site location is washed out and the redesign would create both a storage pond and a sediment pond. We met with the landowner, and he is deciding if he wants to proceed. Funding would be through the Plum Creek CWF Grant.

RCRCA – LAKE REDWOOD DREDGING UPDATE. Netzke shared the progress of the dredging project and presented the latest dredge completion maps from JF Brennan. The board asked for clarification on what happens to the City of Redwood funds designated for the project if not needed for the dredging. Netzke’s understanding is that the funds would be returned to the City to start a special account for Lake Redwood’s future needs. She will confirm this with the City of Redwood Falls.

- 1) JF Brennan Request to Consider Fuel Escalation Payment Update. Netzke spoke with our attorney and is waiting for his recommendation.
- 2) Downstream Culvert Replacement Agreement. Netzke reported that a downstream landowner has requested replacement of his culvert stating that the Lake Redwood Reclamation project has prevented him from replacing the culvert and accessing his hay field. The culvert washed out in 2018 and 2019 during flood events, and now with increased outflow from the CDF in the stream, he is unable to replace it himself. It is unknown why he did not do this in 2020 or 2021. Netzke spoke with our lawyer who drafted an agreement with a one-time payment based on a cost estimate provided by Schmidt Construction, Inc., and acknowledgement of no future liability or claims. Much discussion followed. Motion by Gunnink, seconded by Veerkamp, to approve the one-time payment to the downstream landowner and for Chairman Johnson to sign the agreement on behalf of RCRCA. A roll call vote was taken with Posthuma and Johnson voting against the motion. Motion carried (11 aye, 2 nay).

RCRCA – JOINT POWERS AMENDMENT SIGNATURES NEEDED. Netzke received signatures from the board members that were present. She will be arranging to obtain the rest of the signatures (Cottonwood SWCD, Lincoln County, and Pipestone SWCD) by the end of August.

Potential Office Location Change: Netzke will be meeting with the building owner tomorrow to explore a move across the hall to the former U of M Regional Extension Office, relocating Area II, RCRCA and Lyon SWCD into one office.

RCRCA ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Johnson adjourned the RCRCA portion of the meeting at 10:20 AM. RCRCA members who are not part of Area II exited the meeting.

AREA II – ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW - NETZKE. Area II Chairman Maatz summarized the results of the survey that the board completed for Netzke’s job performance. The Executive Board and Netzke met prior to this meeting where she received a satisfactory to excellent review. Motion by Johnson, seconded by Crowley, to approve a 1% merit raise on her anniversary date of August 23, and a 2% COLA which was approved in the budget as of 7/1/22). Motion carried unanimously.

AREA II ADJOURNMENT – Chairman Maatz adjourned the Area II portion of the meeting at 10:25 AM. The next meeting will be September 1, 2022 in Marshall.

UPCOMING MEETINGS.

September Board Meeting	Thursday, September 1, 2022	Lyon County Courthouse – Marshall
October Board Meeting	Thursday, October 6, 2022	Redwood County Learning Center
November Board Meeting	Thursday, November 3, 2022	TBD

John Maatz, Area II Chairman

Date