

# AREA II

## AREA II / RCRCA

June 1, 2023 –Board of Directors Meeting

Redwood Falls, MN

**NOTE:** *Roll Call Voting on all motions.*

**AREA II Members Present:** Jeff Veerkamp, Larry Anderson, John Maatz\*, Thomas Andries, Lori Gunnink\*, Luke Johnson, Rick Wakefield, and Glen Kack.

**RCRCA Members Present:** Jeff Veerkamp, Bill Eckstein, Larry Anderson, Clark Lingbeek\*, Thomas Andries, Mark Meulebroeck, Lori Gunnink\*, Paul Posthuma, Luke Johnson, Brad Kruisselbrink\*, Rick Wakefield, Ed Carter, and Glen Kack.

**Others Present:** Anthony Sellner – Redwood County Highway Engineer, Nick Brozek – Redwood SWCD, Kerry Netzke – Executive Director and Joy Bruns – RCRCA Office Manager.

*\*joined virtually via Zoom*

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 AM by RCRCA Chairman Johnson and Area II Chairman Anderson. Introductions were made.

**ADOPT AGENDA.** **RCRCA** - Motion by Wakefield, seconded by Veerkamp, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously. **Area II** - Motion by Wakefield, seconded by Veerkamp, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

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

**MASWCD** – Lingbeek reported that the SWCDs received \$12 million in permanent funding. The Area V MASWCD meeting is in Luverne on June 15 with a tour. Resolutions for state-wide consideration must be presented at this meeting.

**AMC** – Johnson reported that AMC District meetings are coming up: District 8 in Luverne on June 8 and District 9 in Glencoe on June 5. The General Government Policy Chairman, Commissioner Blair Nelson of Waseca County, died unexpectedly on May 30.

**REDWOOD COUNTY HWY DEPT.** – Anthony Sellner, Redwood County Highway Engineer announced that the county received \$500,000 federal funds for the County Road 20 project near Walnut Grove, MN. Sellner has asked Area II to look into retention possibilities for these 3 culverts scheduled to be replaced.

**APPROVE – RCRCA MINUTES of May 2023 Board Meeting.** Motion by Veerkamp, seconded by Eckstein, to approve the minutes as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVE – AREA II MINUTES of May 2023 Board Meeting.** Motion by Johnson, seconded by Wakefield, to approve the minutes as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

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

**AREA II TREASURER’S REPORT – June 2023.** Financials were reviewed by the Board. Revenue received: \$5,529.24 Contract Services Income, \$16,284.00 Levy, \$3,319.50 Other Revenue, and \$498.05 Interest. Bill for approval: \$4,056.00 Bolton & Menk. Motion by Veerkamp, seconded by Wakefield, to file the June 2023 Treasurer’s Report subject to audit and to approve payment of the bill. Motion carried unanimously.

**Revenue as recorded:**

Contract Service Income (RCRCA)	\$ 5,529.24	Projects-Bonding	\$ 0.00
Interest Income	\$ 498.05	County Levy	\$ 16,284.00
State of MN-Administrative	\$ 0.00	SWCD Tech Assistance	\$ 3,319.50
Water Quality Storage Grant	\$ 0.00	Miscellaneous Income	\$ 0.00

**Paid bills are summarized below:**

Administration	\$ 16,600.13	Office Supplies	\$ 67.41
Bonding Project Funds	\$ 0.00	Other Insurance	\$ 0.00
Capital Outlay	\$ 0.00	Postage	\$ 0.00
Contract Services - RCRCA	\$ 697.18	Professional Services	\$ 3,971.50
Directors’ Expense	\$ 0.00	Project Expenses Paid	\$ 0.00
Directors’ Insurance	\$ 0.00	Project Permit Fees	\$ 0.00
Employee Expense	\$ 32.75	Rent	\$ 837.00
Field Supplies	\$ 0.00	Telephone	\$ 136.13
Investigating & Testing	\$ 3,246.00	Utilities	\$ 0.00
Maintenance & Repair	\$ 1,183.25	Vehicle Expense	\$ 77.01
Miscellaneous Expense	\$ 9.99	Continuing Education	\$ 0.00
Insurance	\$ 0.00		

**Bills for approval:**

Professional Services	\$ 4,056.00	Investigating & Testing	\$ 0.00
Maintenance & Repair	\$ 0.00		

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT.**

**AREA II**

• **Legislative Update.** Area II fared very well with this interesting legislative session: **Administrative Funding:** \$190,000/year for FY24 & FY25. \$140,000/year for FY26 and beyond. **Capital Investment:** \$1.5 million in the cash portion of the bonding bill (HF670). Netzke attended the Town Hall meeting yesterday in Redwood Falls to personally thank Senator Dahms and Representative Torkelson for their successful efforts for Area II. Printed Thank You notes for the local legislators, conference committee conferees, and key capital investment committee members were provided for Area II Board and staff signatures.

• **Construction Starting.** Two contractors have moved onto sites (Nordland 6 and Holly 11) and construction will start up after Memorial Day.

- **Annual Dam Inspections.** Area II staff intend to fit in dam inspections on very short notice to the owners. It is hoped to complete the inspections and reports by mid-June. Between the late winter and Mother's Day heavy rains, the inspections are later than usual.

## **RCRCA**

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- **Lake Redwood Dredging Update.** Houston Engineering conducted the lake bathymetry (underwater survey) on May 16-17. JF Brennan was onsite May 9 to assist with CDF drawdown efforts. One of the 9 vertical conduits is lower than the other 8, which is still discharging some water. The other PVC conduits cannot be removed without risking substantial sediment from discharging. Pumping of the remaining water into the outlet structure will likely be done by the City. RCRCA continues to collect weekly samples of the discharge to ensure the permitted standards are met. Schmidt Construction and Mathiowetz Construction Company are submitting quotes for knockdown/removal of the sand pile and to create windrows within the CDF to curb wind erosion. The City of Redwood Falls has the seed mix ready and aerial applicator (Mulder Air) on standby.

- **Cottonwood-Middle MN 1W1P.** The Policy Committee met May 17. Policy Committee Bylaws were approved. The 60-day notice of planning was announced April 21; comments are due June 20. Kickoff meetings have been scheduled for June 1 (5-7 PM at Springfield Area Community Center) and June 2 (10-Noon Walnut Grove Community Center). The Policy Committee accepted the Selection Committee's recommendation to hire Houston Engineering as the plan consultant. RCRCA will approve and sign the \$159,200 contract (\$169,500 budgeted) at the June Board meeting.

- **Redwood 1W1P.** To date, Yellow Medicine County and SWCD have opted out of planning, and Murray SWCD. The necessary resolutions are being collected to accompany the application due June 19.

- **Brown County Lake Sampling Assistance.** Brown SWCD reached out to RCRCA asking for assistance with the final year of a 5-year sampling program for 4 lakes: Sleepy Eye, Wellner-Hageman, Clear Lake, and Lake Hanska. RCRCA has previously sampled 3 of the 4 lakes. The SWCD recently lost one of their technicians and the other technician has been on staff for one year. Wohnoutka was glad to assist with the once per month samples (May – September). The SWCD will reimburse RCRCA at Wohnoutka's billable rate and mileage. They plan to use RCRCA's john boat as well.

- **Redwood Canoe Trips.** RCRCA is advertising 2 trips on the Redwood – June 27 and 29. We will consolidate to one trip if few sign up for the Thursday trip. A prototype kayak trailer was purchased from Teske Mfg in Springfield for \$800. RCRCA will acquire 2 new 10'-long kayaks and will sell the longer 14' kayak.

**AREA II – ENGINEER'S REPORT.** *Springdale 24 Small Dam, Redwood County.* We are awaiting the DNR Dam Safety and the Corps of Engineers permits for this site. The DNR permit is nearly ready, but the Corps has been very slow to act on their permit. We have requested a site visit to speed up the review process. *Monroe Water & Sediment Basins, Lyon County.* The Monroe 17 and 22 projects were not completed last fall and will be constructed this spring. *Holly 10 Small Dam, Murray County.* Plans and permit applications for this project are completed, and the project has been submitted for DNR, Corps and WCA permits. The DNR permit has been issued, and WCA Notice of Decision made. The Corps has requested additional information which we have provided and have requested a site visit. Netzke has been strongly urging the Corps to set the date for permitting to proceed. Also, the Section 401 Water Quality Certification from the MPCA has been issued. *Holly 11 Small Dam, Murray County.* The owner accepted the low bid of A & C Excavating, and the project has started construction. *Holly 21 Dam Repair, Murray County.* Bids were received for this project on April 24. The low bidder was L & S Construction at \$88,733.40. The second bid was by Ryan West Excavating at \$90,719.15, while the engineer's estimate was \$87,196.73 with contingency. The landowner has accepted the bid of Ryan West Excavating as he has previously worked with him. We have been seeing higher bid costs on all projects lately. *Lake Marshall 28 Small Dam Repair, Lyon County.* This project has been bid; construction was delayed until 2023. *Nordland 8*

**Small Dam Repair, Lyon County.** Plans are nearly complete for this project. The existing small dike has reportedly been leaking, causing a drawdown of the pond. The project, as designed, would excavate a core trench under the dike and install clay to try and stop the seepage, as well as install a new outlet pipe. Lyon SWCD may have funding for this project, and it may be redesigned by BWSR. **Holly 4 Small Dam, Murray County.** Preliminary design for this project is completed. The dam site would be adjacent to an unnamed protected waters stream and a potential wetland area. We are hoping to design the dam as a conservation project to minimize wetland impacts and to provide a field crossing for the landowner. We will meet with the landowner soon. **Lake Shaokatan Dam, Lincoln County.** The Lincoln County Board has decided to leave the dam in the original location. The DNR has requested that a carp barrier, in the form of a drop off, be added to the design. The revised plans are nearly ready to resubmit to the DNR for permitting. **Florida 15 Dam Repair, Yellow Medicine County.** Design work is nearly completed for this dam repair. This is a typical repair of an old SCS dam with a corroded pipe, serious erosion on the dam and trees which need to be removed. We met with the landowner, and he would like to proceed. Netzke added that LQP-YB 1W1P Implementation funding may be available. **Nordland 6 Dam Repair, Lyon County.** This project has been bid, and Ryan West is ready to start construction. **Sodus 9 Dam Repair, Lyon County.** Design work is nearly complete for this dam repair. The project involves extensive raising of the dam and emergency spillway work and will be more expensive than typical repairs. We are waiting to hear if EQIP funding is available for this project. **Dovray 16 Small Dam, Murray County.** We are in the preliminary design for this project. The dam would be located on an unnamed stream and should have good storage characteristics. We met with the landowner, and he is interested in one of the options we presented but has concerns about the cost. He will consider his alternatives and get back in touch with us. **Stately 5 Small Dam, Brown County.** The preliminary design for this project is nearly completed. The site has good storage capacity, but with gravel pits in the area, soil conditions may be problematic. After the preliminary design is completed, we will meet with the landowner to explain the project.

**AREA II – FY2024 BUDGET OPTIONS.** Two budget options were presented with \$190,000 funding from the State of Minnesota – Option 1 includes a 2% COLA and 1% merit raise; Option 2 is the same as Option 1 with Capital Outlay of \$30,000 for purchase of a new pickup. Discussion followed. Motion by Johnson, seconded by Wakefield, to approve Option 2 for FY2024. Motion carried unanimously.

**AREA II - BIENNIAL PLAN.** Netzke reviewed the Biennial Plan with the board. The FY2024 Budget will be inserted and the plan sent to BWSR for review/approval. Motion by Gunnink, seconded by Veerkamp, to approve the Biennial Plan with the approved FY2024 Budget numbers updated. Motion carried unanimously.

**RCRCA – JPA RENEWAL.** The RCRCA JPA is due for renewal (July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2025). The Redwood County Attorney will not approve the JPA in its current form and is willing to make the changes and add statute references. Netzke noted that this agreement hasn't been updated for several years. This item will be tabled until the next meeting. Previous to today, the agreement had been approved by 15 of the 16 partners and ready for signatures. Netzke will work with the Redwood County Attorney and send out the revised JPA as soon as possible.

**REDWOOD 1W1P PLANNING GRANT APPLICATION:** Netzke reviewed the draft Redwood 1W1P Planning Grant application with the Board. Motion by Meulebroeck, seconded by Posthuma, to approve Redwood 1W1P application for planning grant funds. Motion carried, with Gunnink abstaining as she missed the discussion.

**COTTONWOOD-MIDDLE MN 1W1P Update.** The Policy Committee recommended Houston Engineering Inc. (HEI) for the CW-MN 1W1P. HEI has completed over half of the plans statewide. A contract was provided to the Board in the amount of \$159,200, which is less than the budgeted amount. Discussion followed. Motion by Meulebroeck, seconded by Anderson, to authorize Johnson to sign the Houston Engineering Inc. contract for the CW-MM 1W1P. Motion carried unanimously.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

*2023 Canoe Trips:* RCRCA staff are planning the annual canoe trips, both on the Redwood River, June 27 and June 29. Flyers and social media announcements are being posted.

*MN River Congress* – Yesterday, information was received regarding a meeting on Thursday, June 15 at the Kato Ballroom in Mankato, MN – 6:30-9:00 PM. Agenda was provided to the boards that includes updates on the \$17 million Water Quality and Storage Program, Lyon County’s Water Storage Project, Downstream Cumulative Societal and Ecological Effects, Drainage Registry Information Portal, and more. Netzke will be attending.

*MASWCD Area V* – Meeting on Thursday, June 15 at Generations Event Center, Luverne, MN – 9:00 AM. The Boards are welcome to attend and the agenda was provided via email.

**ADJOURNMENT.**

With no other business, Chairman Johnson and Chairman Anderson adjourned the meeting at 10:08 AM.

The next meeting will be on July 6, 2023 at the Lyon Government Center, Marshall, MN – 9 AM.

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**UPCOMING MEETINGS.**

July Board Meeting	Thursday, July 6, 2023	Lyon County Government Center
August Board Meeting	Thursday, August 3, 2023	Redwood County Learning Center
September Board Meeting	Thursday, Sept. 7, 2023	Lyon County Government Center

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Larry Anderson, Area II Chairman	Date