

# AREA II

## AREA II / RCRCA

September 7, 2023 – Boards of Directors Meeting  
Lyon County Government Center, Marshall, MN - Zoom

*NOTE: Roll Call Voting on all motions*

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

**RCRCA Members Present:** Jeff Veerkamp, Bill Eckstein, Larry Anderson, Joe Drietz, Gary Crowley, Mark Meulebroeck, Lori Gunnink\*, Paul Posthuma, Luke Johnson, Rick Wakefield, Ed Carter, and Glen Kack.

**Others Present:** Kerry Netzke – Executive Director, Joy Bruns\* – RCRCA Office Manager, Courtney Snyder – Lyon SWCD Technician.

*\*Joined meeting via Zoom*

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

**ADOPT AGENDA.** Chair Johnson asked for any additions to the agenda which there were none. **RCRCA** - Motion by Crowley, seconded by Anderson, 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.**

**DNR** – Netzke informed the board that the DNR has moved into a new office location, the former Dubbledee Auto Repair (2716 – 290<sup>th</sup> Street, Marshall). The new location has increased security. An Open House for the public is being planned.

**AMC** – Johnson reported that the Fall Policy Committee meets next week in Alexandria.

**APPROVE – RCRCA MINUTES of August 2023 Board Meeting.** Motion by Meulebroeck, seconded by Carter, to approve the minutes as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVE – AREA II MINUTES of August 2023 Board Meeting.** Motion by Drietz, seconded by Veerkamp, to approve the minutes as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

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

**AREA II TREASURER’S REPORT – August 2023.** Financials were reviewed by the Board. Revenue received: \$5,925.38 Contract Services Income, \$6,574.30 Other Revenue, and \$496.42 Interest. Bills for approval: \$5,062.00 Bolton & Menk, and \$84,191.01 Corey Krueger for cost-share and flowage easement. Motion by Drietz, seconded by Crowley, to file the August 2023 Treasurer’s Report subject to audit and to approve payment of the bills. Motion carried unanimously.

**Revenue as recorded:**

Contract Service Income (RCRCA)	\$ 5,925.38	Projects-Bonding	\$ 0.00
Interest Income	\$ 496.42	County Levy	\$ 0.00
State of MN-Administrative	\$ 0.00	SWCD Tech Assistance	\$ 6,574.30
Water Quality Storage Grant	\$ 0.00	Miscellaneous Income	\$ 0.00

**Paid bills are summarized below:**

Administration	\$ 23,879.09	Office Supplies	\$ 0.00
Bonding Project Funds	\$ 0.00	Other Insurance	\$ 0.00
Capital Outlay	\$ 0.00	Postage	\$ 0.00
Contract Services - RCRCA	\$ 1,253.15	Professional Services	\$ 5,999.50
Directors' Expense	\$ 0.00	Project Expenses Paid	\$ 0.00
Directors' Insurance	\$ 0.00	Project Permit Fees	\$ 0.00
Employee Expense	\$ 106.11	Rent	\$ 837.00
Field Supplies	\$ 0.00	Telephone	\$ 147.62
Investigating & Testing	\$ 0.00	Utilities-Website	\$ 143.88
Maintenance & Repair	\$ 148.97	Vehicle Expense	\$ 1,042.61
Miscellaneous Expense	\$ 12.99	Continuing Education	\$ 0.00

**Bills for approval:**

Professional Services	\$ 5,062.00	Project Costs	\$ 84,191.01
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**AREA II COST SHARE CONTRACT PAYMENT.**

**2021 Water Quality & Storage Grant**

<b>Corey Krueger</b>	<b>Custer 10 – Lyon</b>	<b>410 Grade Stabilization</b>
<b>EST Cost: \$109,918.02</b>		<b>EST Cost Share: \$82,438.51 (75%)</b>
<b>ACT Cost: \$109,588.02</b>		<b>ACT Cost Share: \$ 82,191.02 (75%)</b>

One cost share contract was presented for payment: Custer 10 - Lyon 410 Grade Stabilization project for payment. Motion by Johnson, seconded by Drietz, to approve the Custer 10 - Lyon 410 Grade Stabilization project for payment. Motion carried unanimously.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT.**

**AREA II**

• **Hansel’s Replacement** On August 9, Netzke and DeSchepper met with Duane Hansel, Bill Helget and Matt Simon at the Bolton & Menk office in Sleepy Eye. Matt is the replacement for Duane and is the lead for B&M’s water resources division. Matt lives in Mankato with his wife, 2.5-year-old and 5-month-old twins. It is proposed that Matt will come to the Marshall office twice per month, every-other-week, and will work remotely the in-between weeks with a brief ZOOM “staff meeting” at the start of the day. Area II can easily provide remote access to our cloud server. Duane and Matt plan to overlap during the months of November and December, and hopefully Matt will be able to start in January. ***Hansel informed Netzke on September 6 that Matt Simon announced his resignation from Bolton & Menk. We will continue to work with Bolton & Menk to find another engineer for Area II.***

While at B&M, a GIS product was demonstrated that could be very instrumental to Area II. This product would allow future employees of Area II, as well as consultants, to view a map of projects completed by Area II. When a project is hovered over, it would give you details of what, when, who, etc., as well as an option to download plans, photos, or other pertinent information. Duane encourages Area II to have B&M do a presentation. From his 20 years of working with Kerry and Joe, he knows that future

employees will not have the 30 years of project knowledge and experience to immediately identify a past project, or owner, like Kerry and Joe have the ability to do now.

- **BWSR Snapshots** Netzke provided an article from the BWSR September Snapshots newsletter. Area II's projects for the Water Quality & Storage Grants were highlighted and Netzke was interviewed.

## **RCRCA**

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- **Lake Redwood Dredging Update** The City has arranged for 2,4-D to be aerially applied to control the weeds and to allow for more direct seed-to-soil contact when the aerial seeding is done in September.

Pioneer Public TV contacted Netzke July 28 and is planning to film at Lake Redwood for a Prairie Sportsmen segment on September 12. They want to focus on the benefits of the dredging: fishing, birding/wildlife, economic impact, and recreation. Netzke has several people lined up to be interviewed.

- **Cottonwood-Middle MN 1W1P** The Steering Team and Policy Committee met August 16. The priority issues have been categorized into Ground Water, Surface Water, Excess Water and Lands and ranked (high-medium-low). The draft Land and Water Resources narrative was approved. The logo is undergoing a final revision. HUC-12 level subwatersheds were chosen. The next meetings will be Wednesday, September 20 with virtual connection options.
- **JPA** With the Redwood County attorney's concurrence, Netzke sent the revised JPA to all members for review and approval for signature. No comments have been received opposing any of the changes.
- **Environmental Fair** RCRCA was asked to present the Stream Table during the Environmental Fair to be held at the Lyon County Fairgrounds on September 26 & 27. 8 oz bottles of water will be provided to the students with printed labels promoting RCRCA's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in water quality improvements.
- **Hail Damage** During a mid-July thunderstorm, one of the RCRCA pickups received hail dents as the storm went through Morgan. ABRA will prepare an estimate on September 12 with follow up with MCIT for repair.
- **Redwood 1W1P Planning Grant** RCRCA's application was approved by BWSR.

**AREA II – ENGINEERS REPORT.** *Springdale 24 Dam, Redwood County.* We await the DNR Dam Safety and Corps of Engineers permits for this project. The DNR permit is ready; the Corps response has been very slow. The Corps visited the site on June 22, after which they requested and received more information and project justification. We had another virtual meeting with the Corps on August 22, but there is still no definitive date for issuance of their permit. USACE Headquarters is issuing WOTUS Guidance on September 1 which we have opted to wait for. The best scenario would be USACE losing jurisdiction of intermittent streams, and their permit would no longer be needed for this project. Netzke added that she contacted the Corps on September 1 to be informed that the Corps is waiting for Guidance Training which should occur within the next few weeks. *Holly 10 Small Dam, Murray County.* The DNR Dam Safety and MPCA Section 401 Water Quality Certification have been issued. The Corps visited the site on June 22 with particular interest in the stream channel to determine if it is intermittent or ephemeral. The Corps asked for and received additional information. This project was discussed during the virtual meeting with the Corps on August 22, and we will wait for the WOTUS guidance. *Holly 11 Dam, Murray County.* Construction is complete, and final payment paperwork has been processed. *Lake Marshall 28 Dam Repair, Lyon County.* Ground Works has completed the work, and final payment is being processed by Lyon County. *Lake Shaokatan Dam Outlet Restoration, Lincoln County.* Bids are scheduled to be received by Lincoln County on August 30. Acceptance of the low bid will be sought by the commissioners on September 5. Netzke added that A&C Excavating was the only

bid received about 7% over Engineer's Estimate. The County Commissioners accepted the bid, and construction is planned for this Fall. **Lake Shaokatan 31 Dam Repair, Lincoln County.** This project is nearly complete as a Punch List of items were provided to the contractor, A&C Excavating, to perform before project certification and payment vouchers would be finalized. This project is funded through the Yellow Medicine One Watershed One Plan. **Stately 5 Small Dam, Brown County.** The Landowner has decided to put this project on hold due to cost and likely presence of gravel. **Nordland 23 Small Dam, Lyon County.** We are in the early design process for this dam. This would be a large structure on a DNR Protected stream restoring flow to an old oxbow and utilizing floodplain for storage. **CSAH 20 Road Retentions, Redwood County.** At the request of the County Engineer, we are investigating preliminary design at three locations along CSAH 20 west of Walnut Grove for floodwater retention. All three of the bridges at these locations are planned to be replaced in the next couple of years, which presents an opportunity for road retentions. We had a virtual meeting with Anthony Sellner, Redwood County Highway Engineer, on August 22. The feasibility of these sites for retention was discussed as well as funding using bond funds in addition to federal bridge funds. Sellner will seek consultant engineering assistance with the bridge design once Area II determines the appropriate culvert size/configuration to achieve retention. **Storden 2 Road Retention Repair, Cottonwood County.** At the request of Cottonwood County, we have prepared preliminary designs and cost estimates for the repair of this road retention project. Repairs include the clearing of trees, fixing of ditch erosion, and erosion at the culvert outlet. The County will be requesting bids for the repair work. **North Hero 34 Road Retention, Redwood County.** A project at this location has been under consideration for over 20 years. After a recent inspection showed that the existing corrugated metal pipes at the crossing are in danger of collapse, the County Engineer is recommending that either the crossing be improved, or the road closed. We met virtually with the Engineer and some members of the Township Board on August 22 to discuss options. The road retention was designed several years ago and was on hold due to lack of funding, both cost-share and local match. The Township wishes to proceed with the project and does not expect Fall 2023 construction given the scale and size of the project. We will continue to talk about funding sources and how to proceed. **Redwood Falls 8/9 Dam, Redwood County.** Bids for this project were received on August 16 with the low bidder being Ryan West Excavating at \$62,220.50. There was one other bidder, Brey Construction at \$67,631.50, while the Engineer's Estimate with contingency was \$61,966.85. This project, together with a related terraces job, will be financed with BWSR Water Quality and Storage grant funds. Fall construction is anticipated for both projects. **Custer 10 Dam, Lyon County.** D&G Excavating has started construction. As of today, the core trench has been built and concrete pipe laid in place. This is the first project which received a BWSR Water Quality and Storage grant. Work should wrap up in the next week or so depending on work conditions related to the extreme heat advisories.

**Yellow Medicine & Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank 1W1P Shared Coordinator Position.** Netzke reported that both Policy Committees will be scheduling a meeting soon to discuss a shared coordinator position to serve both watersheds. A Doodle Poll has been conducted, but due to poor participation in the poll, no meeting date has yet been determined.

**RCRCA Joint Powers Agreement – APPROVAL.** The revised agreement was sent to the member counties and SWCDs for their approval and authorization for signature. The JPA was presented for the members to sign. Netzke will obtain the rest of the signatures this month from Cottonwood SWCD, Lincoln SWCD, Murray County and Yellow Medicine SWCD.

**AREA II/RCRCA Annual Legislative Gathering.** Netzke reported that after several attempts to reach Rivendell and Grandview Valley Winery to secure a location for the November 2 gathering, she has received no response. She would like direction for a different location. After some discussion, Key Largo at Lake Shetek was proposed. Netzke will contact them to make arrangements. Netzke has secured a guest speaker, Rita Weaver, BWSR Chief Engineer who will speak about the Water Quality & Storage grant program and possible policy changes to better utilize the \$17 million appropriation.

**RCRCA – Performance Review of Wohnoutka.** Netzke met with Wohnoutka who has completed 20 years with RCRCA. He received a very satisfactory review. Motion by Crowley, seconded by Posthuma, to approve a 1% merit raise effective upon his anniversary date of September 2 and COLA applied on January 1. Motion carried unanimously.

**OTHER BUSINESS.** Crowley announced that the mall has been sold. The sale should not impact our portion of the building as it is owned by Carr Properties. Netzke will continue to work on storage shed options as the rent for the storage unit in Redwood Falls has increased.

**ADJOURNMENT.**

With no other business, Chairman Johnson and Chairman Anderson adjourned the meeting at 9:58 AM. The next meeting will be on October 5, 2023, at the Redwood County Learning Center, Redwood Falls, MN.

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**UPCOMING MEETINGS.**

October Board Meeting	Thursday, Oct. 5, 2023	Redwood County Learning Center
November Board Meeting		
Annual Legislative Gathering	Thursday, Nov. 2, 2023	TBD

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Larry Anderson, Area II Chairman	Date