

# AREA II

## AREA II / RCRCA

November 2, 2023 – Boards of Directors Meeting  
Key Largo on Lake Shetek, Slayton, MN

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

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

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

The meeting was called to order at 2:34 PM by RCRCA Chairman Johnson and Area II Chairman Anderson.

**ADOPT AGENDA.** Chairman Anderson asked for any additions or corrections to the agenda.

**RCRCA** - Motion by Posthuma, seconded by Veerkamp, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously. **Area II** - Motion by Crowley, seconded by Veerkamp, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

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

**AMC** – Commissioner Johnson reported that resolutions are due November 3. The Annual Convention in Minneapolis is December 4 - 6. Johnson is running for Secretary/Treasurer of AMC and asked for support from the fellow commissioners.

**MASWCD** – The Area V meeting will be held November 16 in Marshall. The Annual Convention is December 11-13 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Bloomington.

**APPROVE – RCRCA MINUTES of October 2023 Board Meeting.** Motion by Lingbeek, seconded by Anderson, to approve the minutes as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

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

**RCRCA TREASURER’S REPORT – October 2023.** Financials were reviewed by the Board. Revenue received: \$1,655.40 Contract Services Income, \$171,816.43 Grant Reimbursement, \$8.58 Miscellaneous Income, and \$3,002.63 Interest Income. Bill for approval: \$19,657.50 Houston Engineering Inc. for CW-MM 1W1P plan development. Motion by Meulebroeck, seconded by Veerkamp, to file the October 2023 Treasurer’s Report subject to audit and approve payment of bill. Motion carried unanimously.

**AREA II TREASURER’S REPORT – October 2023.** Financials were reviewed by the Board. Revenue received: \$6,853.45 Contract Services Income, \$10,035.03 Other Revenue, \$190,000.00 Administration Grant, and \$394.70 Interest Income. Bill for approval: \$10,309.00 Bolton & Menk Inc. professional services for 2 months. Motion by Crowley, seconded by Gunnink, to file the October 2023 Treasurer’s Report subject to audit and to approve payment of the bill. Motion carried unanimously.

**Revenue as recorded:**

Contract Service Income (RCRCA)	\$ 6,853.45	Projects-Bonding	\$ 0.00
Interest Income	\$ 394.70	County Levy	\$ 0.00
State of MN-Administrative	\$ 190,000.00	SWCD Tech Assistance	\$ 10,035.03
Water Quality & Storage Grant	\$ 0.00	Miscellaneous Income	\$ 0.00

**Paid bills are summarized below:**

Administration	\$ 16,970.09	Office Supplies	\$ 0.00
Bonding Project Funds	\$ 0.00	Other Insurance	\$ 0.00
Capital Outlay	\$ 0.00	Postage	\$ 0.00
Contract Services - RCRCA	\$ 1,655.40	Professional Services	\$ 0.00
Directors’ Expense	\$ 0.00	Project Expenses Paid	\$ 48,855.38
Directors’ Insurance	\$ 0.00	Project Permit Fees	\$ 0.00
Employee Expense	\$ 207.12	Rent	\$ 837.00
Field Supplies	\$ 0.00	Telephone	\$ 188.50
Investigating & Testing	\$ 0.00	Utilities-Website	\$ 0.00
Maintenance & Repair	\$ 176.45	Vehicle Expense	\$ 73.50
Miscellaneous Expense	\$ 250.00	Continuing Education	\$ 0.00

**Bills for approval:**

Professional Services	\$ 10,309.00	Project Costs	\$ 0.00
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**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT.**

**AREA II**

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• **Hansel’s Replacement** Bolton & Menk has identified another employee with qualifications to replace Hansel. Internal discussions are being held, and a meet-and-greet is scheduled with Area II staff on November 16. Netzke may make some inquiries of other engineers/firms of their interest in Area II should arrangements with Bolton & Menk not work out. Maatz inquired on professional liability insurance and if MCIT provides this. Netzke will inquire should that become necessary.

• **Funding** Area II received the \$190,000 administrative funds and we still await the agreement for the \$1.5M of bonding. MMB is wanting a resolution from Area II stating that the 25% match is on hand (\$500,000), which is not possible. BWSR has provided proof to MMB that the local match comes from landowners, counties, townships, WDs, etc. and of the history of always exceeding the 25% match. No current update is available.

• **JPA** With the last-minute changes to the RCRCA JPA, Area II’s JPA was overlooked as it will expire December 31, 2023. The draft was emailed to all members asking for authorization of signatures. All JPA terms remain the same except for extending the agreement 2 years to December 31, 2025.

## RCRCA

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- **Cottonwood-Middle MN 1W1P** The Steering Team and Policy Committee met October 18 in-person and virtually. Resources and issues have been identified and prioritized; priority area maps have been drafted and edited with help from the Steering Team. Measurable goals are being drafted using PTMApp. The Advisory Committee will meet on November 15 to review the work to date and to offer comments. The next Policy Committee meeting will be December 20. The project is on schedule.
- **Redwood 1W1P** A Work Plan with Budget and signed MOA are required before the BWSR grant agreement can be executed. A Kickoff Meeting date for early December is being selected (tentatively December 8), followed by invitation letters to the cities within the watershed and Lower Sioux Tribal Nation for this meeting in Marshall. MOA members will be asked to appoint delegates and alternates at their January organizational meetings. Planning will start early in 2024.
- **Middle MN Round 2 (Minnesota River – Mankato)** The 3 sites recommended by RCRCA (Spring Creek, Crow Creek, and Wabasha Creek) for continued sampling have been approved. RCRCA will prepare an application for a Surface Water Assessment Grant (SWAG) to collect these samples over the 2024-2025 timeframe. The SWAG Kickoff meeting was virtual on October 27 to review any program changes. RCRCA intends to train Brown SWCD staff and utilize them as a backup since Spring Creek lies within Brown County. Another virtual meeting will be held November 28 to answer questions pertaining to the application.
- **CW-MM 1W1P and Redwood 1W1P Shared Position.** Discussions have begun concerning the administration of the CW-MM plan for implementation. Netzke introduced the possibility of a new RCRCA full-time position when the Implementation Phase begins. The intention is for the position to be fully funded with the 1W1P grant funds, however the employee would be a RCRCA employee, housed in the office, and provided with RCRCA benefits. Discussion followed. The Board responded favorably to the idea which will need to be discussed further at a later date.

**AREA II – ENGINEERS REPORT.** *Springdale 24 Dam, Redwood County.* The Corps of Engineers has determined that they still have jurisdiction over this project due to the “relatively permanent” standard for the water. We will begin working on responses to their latest series of questions. *Holly 10 Small Dam, Murray County.* The Corps has determined that they still have jurisdiction over this project as well. Responses to their latest series of questions will be underway. *Lake Shaokatan Dam, Lincoln County.* The contractor is in the process of constructing this project. The sheet pile and riprap are in place, and painting and final shaping and seeding remain to be completed. *Lake Shaokatan 31 Dam Repair, Lincoln County.* This project is nearly complete as a Punch List of items was provided to the contractor, A&C Excavating, to perform before project certification and payment vouchers would be finalized. Reshaping, seeding, and mulching remain. This project is being funded through Yellow Medicine One Watershed, One Plan. *CSAH 20 Road Retentions, Redwood County.* We are working on a report to the County Engineer outlining our recommendations for this project. Of the three potential sites along this road for retention projects, two show good promise. *Storden 2 Road Retention Repair, Cottonwood County.* R & G Construction has completed work on the repairs for this project. *Redwood Falls 8/9 Dam, Redwood County.* The grade stabilization portion of this project is completed. The other portion of the project, large terraces across the gullies that dump into the Redwood River, will be completed as soon as the corn is harvested. Ryan West Excavating is the contractor for both projects. *Holly 20 Small Dam, Murray County.* We are in the early design stages for this project. The dam seems to have good storage characteristics, but the watershed is relatively small. Once a cost estimate is completed, we will meet with the landowner to see how he wants to proceed. *Rock Lake 2 Dam Repair, Lyon County.* We have completed the preliminary design. Two alternatives have been considered with prices between \$115,000 and \$150,000. We plan to meet with the landowner to discuss these options.

**AREA II – JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT RENEWAL.** – Netzke brought the agreement before the board which will expire December 31, 2023. The Redwood County attorney would like to make the agreement self-renew, like RCRCA’s recent JPA, if no changes to the JPA are made. Discussion followed. Consensus of the board is to sign the renewal at this time, and then work on the self-renewal clause for the next renewal. The board members who were present signed the agreement.

**RCRCA – 2024 HEALTH INSURANCE RENEWAL - Bruns.** Netzke reported that the insurance administrator has requested that the board grant permission for Bruns to remain on the policy as she would qualify for Medicare coverage in the coming year. Bruns would like to remain on RCRCA’s plan so that RCRCA will maintain group coverage for the employees. ***RCRCA*** – Motion by Anderson, seconded by Posthuma, to grant permission for Bruns to remain on the organization’s health insurance plan. Motion carried unanimously.

**RCRCA – DRAFT FY’24 BUDGET – DISCUSSION.** Netzke presented an updated FY’24 draft budget. Missing information includes SWAG grant (MN River - Mankato) income and expenses. A final revised draft will be presented, and approval scheduled for the December 7, 2023 meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT.**

With no other business, Chair Johnson and Chairman Anderson adjourned the meeting at 3:20 PM. The next meeting will be on December 7, 2023, at Redwood Co. Government Center in Redwood Falls.

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**UPCOMING MEETINGS.**

December Board Meeting	Thursday, Dec 7, 2023	Redwood Co Govt. Center, Redwood Falls
January Board Meeting	Thursday, Jan. 4, 2024	Lyon Co. Government Center, Marshall

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Larry Anderson, Area II Chairman

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Date