

AREA II

AREA II / RCRCA

April 4, 2024 - Board of Directors Meeting
Redwood County Learning Center, Redwood Falls, MN - Hybrid

NOTE: Roll Call Voting on all motions.

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

RCRCA Members Present: Jeff Veerkamp, Bill Eckstein, Larry Anderson, Clark Lingbeek, Joe Drietz, Gary Crowley, Mark Meulebroeck, Lori Gunnink (Zoom), Paul Posthuma, Brad Kruisselbrink, 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 9:02 AM by RCRCA Vice Chairman Lingbeek and Area II Chairman Anderson.

ADOPT AGENDA. There were no additions or corrections to the Agenda. **RCRCA** - Motion by Meulebroeck, seconded by Veerkamp, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously. **Area II** - Motion by Crowley, seconded by Drietz, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

AGENCY AND MEETING REPORTS.

MASWCD – Supervisor Lingbeek reported that the MASWCD State Board meets next week. Cottonwood SWCD will host the Area V MASWCD meeting on Friday, June 14 in Windom with a tour of the Jeffers Petroglyphs planned. Lingbeek added that Kay Clark is celebrating 36 years with the Cottonwood SWCD today.

APPROVE RCRCA MINUTES of March 2024 Board Meeting. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Drietz, to approve the March 2024 Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE AREA II MINUTES of March 2024 Board Meeting. Motion by Veerkamp, seconded by Crowley, to approve the March 2024 Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

RCRCA TREASURER’S REPORT – March 2024. Financials were reviewed with the Board. Motion by Veerkamp, seconded by Posthuma, to file the March 2024 Treasurer’s Report subject to audit and approve payment of the bills. Motion carried unanimously.

AREA II TREASURER’S REPORT – March 2024. Financials were reviewed with the Board. Revenue received: \$4,136.55 Contract Services Income, and \$1,700.82 Interest. Bills for approval: \$5,472.00 Bolton & Menk, \$12,645.00 Soil Technologies Inc. Motion by Crowley, seconded by Veerkamp, to file the March 2024 Treasurer’s Report subject to audit and to approve payment of the bills. Motion carried unanimously.

Revenue as recorded:

Contract Service Income (RCRCA)	\$ 4,136.55	Projects-Bonding	\$ 0.00
Interest Income	\$ 1,700.82	County Levy	\$ 0.00
State of MN-Administrative	\$ 0.00	SWCD Tech Assistance	\$ 0.00
Water Quality Storage Grant	\$ 0.00	Miscellaneous Income	\$ 200.00

Paid bills are summarized below:

Administration	\$ 17,196.78	Office Supplies	\$ 0.00
Bonding Project Funds	\$ 0.00	Other Insurance	\$ 0.00
Capital Outlay	\$ 0.00	Postage	\$ 0.00
Contract Services - RCRCA	\$ 1,607.32	Professional Services	\$ 6,583.50

Directors' Expense	\$ 0.00	Project Expenses Paid	\$ 0.00
Directors' Insurance	\$ 0.00	Project Permit Fees	\$ 0.00
Employee Expense	\$ 0.00	Rent	\$ 837.00
Field Supplies	\$ 0.00	Telephone	\$ 49.99
Investigating & Testing	\$ 34,015.00	Utilities	\$ 0.00
Maintenance & Repair	\$ 1,675.63	Vehicle Expense	\$ 113.00
Miscellaneous Expense	\$ 12.00	Continuing Education	\$ 0.00
Insurance	\$ 0.00		

Bills for approval:

Professional Services	\$ 5,472.00	Investigation/Testing Exp.	\$ 12,645.00
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RCRCA – NEW COST SHARE CONTRACTS:

CWF-2022-11	*PELL CREEK*
Trent Baker	North Hero 32 - Redwood
EST Cost: \$87,406.50	638 WSCBs
	EST Cost Share: \$65,554.88 (75%)
	<u>CWF C/S: \$65,554.88 (75%)</u>

Netzke presented a cost share contract for the Pell Creek Grant, North Hero 32 – Redwood 638 WSCBs project. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Drietz, to approve the North Hero 32 – Redwood 638 WSCBs project. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT.

AREA II

• **Yellow Medicine Watershed Pilot Water Storage Project** The 3rd meeting was held virtually March 22. The project leaders provided more visual details on the identified storage locations including natural depression areas, restorable wetlands, and road retentions. With some changes made to the ranking/scoring, the modelers plan to identify the top 50 sites for each type of: road retentions, wetlands/enhancements, and depressions. The 48-hour retention time for a 10-year storm event restriction had not been applied, so the results are a little deceiving until those criteria are applied. The existing structures of Area II and Lyon County have not been removed from their model, however that information has been provided. The next meeting will be Friday, April 5 at 10:30 at the Lyon County Commissioners Room.

• **Corps of Engineers** Recent discussions with the Corps have led to their determination that the Holly 10 and Springdale 24 projects will require stream mitigation. This program is in its infancy and a bank with credits for purchase has not been established but is near. Impacts greater than 200 feet in length require mitigation. Mitigation can also be achieved by restoring other stream reaches. Further details will be provided once the Corps-provided documents have been reviewed and stream assessments completed to compute stream credits needed. It may be possible for the Corps to permit the project with stream credits to be purchased when they become available; however, no dollar amount was estimated at what that cost may be.

• **Water Quality & Storage Grants** Applications are due April 11 for the \$2.5 million in funding. \$500,000 is also available for engineering/project development. BWSR changed their policy to provide 90% cost-share, which is a game changer as Area II has had several projects in the files where the 25% local match was always the problem. Applications will be submitted for: Redwood Falls 5/8/9 Grade Stabilizations, North Hero 34 Road Retention, Lynd 31 Road Retention, Holly 22 Road Retention, and possibly Ann 17 Grade Stabilization if time allows. A second RFP is expected by October 2024.

RCRCA

- **Cottonwood-Middle MN 1W1P** The Steering Team met virtually on March 20 to finalize the implementation tables and Measurable Goals section. This information will be sent to the Advisory Committee and Policy Committee who will meet in person April 17 at the Springfield Area Community Center. It is hoped that we don't lose many attendees to Spring planting.
- **Redwood 1W1P** The BWSR grant agreement is executed and 50% (\$119,350) of the grant received. Expenses can now be incurred to the grant. The first Policy Committee has been scheduled for Monday, April 8 from 1:00-2:30 at the Lyon County Commissioners Room. Election of officers, standing meeting date, formal notice of planning, and consultant hiring decisions will be made.
- **Lake Redwood** The attorneys' letter to MMB regarding transfer of the CDF property to the City of Redwood Falls didn't appease MMB. MMB stands firm that the legislation did not authorize agricultural use, nor does the grant agreement. The transferee must pay full market value for the property for this use. Senator Dahms and Representative Torkelson have been informed and asked for assistance. It is hoped to meet with them during Easter break if their schedules allow.

AREA II ENGINEER'S REPORT.

Springdale 24 Small Dam, Redwood County. The Corps of Engineers has determined that this project, in addition to Holly 10 Small Dam, will be required to mitigate stream impacts. Stream mitigation is new territory for all of us, but we'll keep moving forward with the guidance provided by the Corps. ***Holly 10 Small Dam, Murray County.*** The DNR Dam Safety permit and the MPCA 401 Certification have already been issued. The Corps has determined that stream mitigation is necessary, however there will be some credit given for the reconnecting to the tributary to Plum Creek. ***CSAH 20 Road Retentions, Redwood County.*** Field surveys have been started on two of the sites identified in this study for road retention projects. We are seeking permission to access the property to survey the 4th possible site. ***Holly 20 Small Dam, Murray County.*** Soil Technologies has submitted a Soil Exploration Report that concludes the site contains generally good soils for the construction of a small dam. We will use this information for final design. ***Lynd 31 Road Retention, Lyon County.*** This road retention has the majority of preliminary design completed. The Soils Exploration Report found that the site contains weak organic material that is recommended for removal and replacement with clay material to support the proposed weight. Once the design is revised with this change, a new cost estimate will be computed, and the project submitted for a BWSR Water Quality & Storage grant. ***Marble 23 Dam (Traen), Lincoln County.*** This is a dam creation project that has a working preliminary design. Soil Technologies Inc. has submitted a Soil Exploration Report that outlines the potential hazard of underlying sand material at the proposed location. This project is slated to be funded by the Yellow Medicine One Watershed, One Plan if it is still feasible with the soils encountered. ***Alta Vista 27 Road Retention, Lincoln County.*** This is a road retention project that has most of the preliminary design completed. Soil Technologies Inc. has submitted the geotechnical report. We will use this information to proceed with final design as this project has already received a Water Quality & Storage Grant in 2023. ***Storden 10 Dam Repair (Anderson) Cottonwood County.*** Field survey has been completed and a preliminary design, plan set, and preliminary cost estimate have been completed. This project would restore a berm that has since been compromised. A meeting with the landowner will be arranged to seek his approval on the plan and price. ***Redwood Falls 5, 8 & 9 Grade Stabilization, Redwood County.*** This is a proposed impoundment area that would work in conjunction with a series of proposed water and sediment control basins (WSCBs). ***Sodus 9 Water & Sediment Control Basins, Lyon County.*** This project involves three WSCBs with an underlying proposed tile system that would serve as the outlet system. Revisions required by the NRCS have been made and a revised signed copy of the plans submitted to the NRCS for approval. NRCS approval was granted pending shallow soil borings that NRCS staff obtained. Good clay material was found, and the project should be ready to be sent out for quotes.

RCRCA – Transfer Deed of Lake Redwood CDF Property Update. Netzke updated the board on the challenges regarding transferring the deed of the CDF to the City of Redwood Falls. She met with Senator Dahms, Representative Torkelson, Redwood Valley Law, LTD., and Jim Doering to discuss MMB's position and what options may be available. The legislators feel that MMB does not clearly understand our position and that income from the property will go into a designated fund for Lake Redwood future improvements, and not into the City's general fund. The legislators will confer with the House and Senate counsels, and then a meeting with MMB will

be arranged. If legislation language changes are necessary, that may not happen until 2025. Senator Dahms proposed grazing or alfalfa to meet the “agricultural use” rather than traditional row crop farming.

OTHER BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Netzke said that we would look at the agenda items for the May meeting and possibly have an executive board meeting due to the planting season.

ADJOURNMENT.

Vice-Chairman Lingbeek and Chairman Anderson adjourned the meeting at 9:55 AM.

UPCOMING MEETINGS.

May Board Meeting	Thursday, May 2, 2024	Lyon County Government Center
June Board Meeting	Thursday, June 6, 2024	Redwood County Learning Center
July Board Meeting	Tuesday, July 9, 2024	Lyon County Government Center

Larry Anderson, Area II Chairman

Date