

# AREA II

## AREA II / RCRCA

**June 6, 2024 - Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Redwood County Learning Center, Redwood Falls - Hybrid**

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

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

**RCRCA Members Present:** Brian Braun, Bill Eckstein, Larry Anderson, Clark Lingbeek, Joe Drietz (Zoom), 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 9:00 AM by RCRCA Chairman Johnson and Area II Chairman Anderson. Introductions were made.

**ADOPT AGENDA.** There were no additions to the agenda. **RCRCA** - Motion by Gunnink, seconded by Wakefield, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously. **Area II** - Motion by Crowley, seconded by Wakefield, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

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

**MASWCD** – Supervisor Lingbeek reported that the Cottonwood SWCD will host the Area V MASWCD meeting on Friday, June 14 in Windom. The State Board meeting is on June 12.

**AMC** – Chairman Johnson reported that the AMC District Meeting is June 13 in Jackson County at the Round Lake Winery.

**APPROVE RCRCA MINUTES of May 2024 Board Meeting.** Motion by Meulebroeck, seconded by Carter, to approve the May 2024 Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVE AREA II MINUTES of May 2024 Board Meeting.** Motion by Johnson, seconded by Wakefield, to approve the May 2024 Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**RCRCA TREASURER’S REPORT – May 2024.** Financials were reviewed by the Board. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Lingbeek, to file the May 2024 Treasurer’s Report subject to audit and approve payment of the bills. Motion carried unanimously.

**AREA II TREASURER’S REPORT – May 2024.** Financials were reviewed by the Board. Revenue received: \$5,179.68 Contract Services Income and \$1,931.25 Interest. Bill for approval: \$6,840.00 Bolton & Menk. Motion by Crowley, seconded by Gunnink, to file the May 2024 Treasurer’s Report subject to audit and to approve payment of the bill. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Revenue as recorded:**

Contract Service Income (RCRCA)	\$ 5,179.68	Projects-Bonding	\$ 0.00
Interest Income	\$ 1,931.25	County Levy	\$ 0.00
State of MN-Administrative	\$ 0.00	SWCD Tech Assistance	\$ 0.00
Water Quality Storage Grant	\$ 0.00	Miscellaneous Income	\$ 0.00

### **Paid bills are summarized below:**

Administration	\$ 17,196.77	Office Supplies	\$ 89.98
Bonding Project Funds	\$ 0.00	Other Insurance	\$ 0.00

Capital Outlay	\$ 0.00	Postage	\$ 0.00
Contract Services - RCRCA	\$ 2,356.19	Professional Services	\$ 8,293.50
Directors' Expense	\$ 0.00	Project Expenses Paid	\$ 0.00
Directors' Insurance	\$ 0.00	Project Permit Fees	\$ 0.00
Employee Expense	\$ 56.95	Rent	\$ 837.00
Field Supplies	\$ 0.00	Telephone	\$ 46.71
Investigating & Testing	\$ 0.00	Utilities	\$ 0.00
Maintenance & Repair	\$ 1,455.70	Vehicle Expense	\$ 139.01
Miscellaneous Expense	\$ 12.00	Continuing Education	\$ 0.00
Insurance	\$ 0.00		

**Bills for approval:**

Professional Services	\$ 6,840.00	Investigation/Testing Exp.	\$ 0.00
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**RCRCA – NEW COST SHARE CONTRACTS:**

<b>CWF-2021-20</b>	<b>*PLUM CREEK*</b>	
<b>North Hero Township</b>	<b>North Hero 5 - Redwood</b>	<b>580 Streambank Stabilization</b>
<b>EST Cost: \$35,830.00</b>		<b>EST Cost Share: \$26,872.50 (75%)</b>
		<b><u>CWF C/S: \$26,872.50 (75%)</u></b>

<b>2022 Water Quality &amp; Storage Grant – Redwood Falls 8/9</b>		
<b>Hagert Farms, Inc.</b>	<b>RWF 8/9 - Redwood – Support Tile</b>	<b>412 Terraces</b>
<b>EST Cost: \$10,036.38</b>		<b>EST Cost Share: \$ 7,527.28 (75%)</b>
		<b>WQ&amp;S Grant: \$ 7,527.28 (75%)</b>

NOTE: The City of Redwood Falls has approved providing 15% of the local match to the Water Quality and Storage project, using a portion of the remaining City funds from the Lake Redwood Reclamation and Enhancement Project, due to the significant benefit to Lake Redwood. RCRCA should approve this expenditure as RCRCA will issue payment from this account.

<b><u>City of RWF:</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,672.74 (15%)</u></b>
Landowner:	\$ 836.36 (10%)

Netzke presented two new cost share contracts Plum Creek Grant – North Hero 5 – Redwood 580 Streambank Stabilization and a project partially funded by the City of Redwood Falls for RWF 8/9 – Support Tile for 412 Terraces: Area II's 2022 Water Quality & Storage Grant. Motion by Carter, seconded by Posthuma, to approve both cost share contracts. Motion carried unanimously.

**AREA II – NEW COST SHARE CONTRACTS:** [GFCG = General Fund Construction Grant]

<b>GFCG-2023-01</b>	<b>Fortier 8 – Yellow Medicine</b>	<b>410 Dam Restoration</b>
George & Cindy Potz		
<b>EST Cost: \$73,915.60</b>		<b>EST Cost Share: \$55,436.70 (75%)</b>
		<b><u>Local Match: \$18,478.90 (25%)</u></b>
		<b>LQP-YB WD \$8,812.70</b>
		<b>Area II \$4,812.70</b>
		<b>Landowner \$4,000.00</b>

<b>GFCG-2023-02</b>	<b>Florida 15 – Yellow Medicine</b>	<b>410 Dam Restoration</b>
Nathan Thorpe		
<b>EST Cost: \$57,829.02</b>		<b>EST Cost Share: \$43,371.76 (75%)</b>
		<b><u>Local Match: \$14,457.26 (25%)</u></b>

<i>LQP-YB WD</i>	\$6,551.88
<i>Area II</i>	\$1,353.50
<i>Landowner</i>	\$6,551.88

<b>GFCG-2023-03</b>	<b>Island Lake 27 – Lyon</b>	<b>410 Dam Restoration</b>
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Chambers/Schrunk/Krenz/Schrunk

**EST Cost: \$84,921.12**

**EST Cost Share: \$63,690.84 (75%)**

*Local Match:* \$21,230.28 (25%)

*Lyon County* . \$12,163.82

*Area II* \$957.25

*Landowners* \$8,109.21

<b>GFCG-2023-04</b>	<b>Johnsonville 29 – Redwood</b>	<b>410 Dam Restoration</b>
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Gary Jensen Family Trust/Cory Jensen

**EST Cost: \$36,306.00**

**EST Cost Share: \$27,229.50 (75%)**

*Local Match:* \$9,076.51 (25%)

*Area II* \$416.00

*Landowners* \$8,660.50

<b>GFCG-2023-05</b>	<b>Storden 10 – Cottonwood</b>	<b>410 Dam Restoration</b>
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Tyson Anderson

**EST Cost: \$124,056.94**

**EST Cost Share: \$93,042.70 (75%)**

*Local Match:* \$31,014.24 (25%)

*Area II* \$978.50

*Landowners* \$30,035.74

<b>2022 Water Quality &amp; Storage Grant – Redwood Falls 8/9</b>
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Hagert Farms, Inc.

RWF 8/9 - Redwood – Support Tile 412 Terraces

**EST Cost: \$10,036.38**

**EST Cost Share: \$ 7,527.28 (75%)**

**WQ&S Grant: \$ 7,527.28 (75%)**

Netzke presented six new cost share contracts: Fortier 8 – Yellow Medicine 410 Dam Restoration, Florida 15 – Yellow Medicine 410 Dam Restoration, Island Lake 27 – Lyon 410 Dam Restoration, Johnsonville 29 – Redwood 410 Dam Restoration, Storden 10 – Cottonwood 410 Dam Restoration, and Redwood Falls 8/9 – Redwood – Support Tile for 412 Terraces. She explained that the GFCG agreements are between BWSR and the LGU (county/SWCD/WD/township) and does not involve the landowner. A cost-share contract between Area II and the landowner will provide for that agreement that stipulates the funding arrangement and their share of the cost. Motion by Gunnink, seconded by Wakefield, to approve all six cost share contracts. Motion carried unanimously.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT.**

• **16<sup>th</sup> MN River Congress** 6:00 PM Kato Ballroom 6/13/24 – Mankato. The agenda includes a history of the Isaak Walton League Upper Mississippi Initiative, Successes of MN River Collaborative Actions (Lyon CD 14, YM CD 9, Limbo Creek, etc.), Water Storage Program update, and potential collaboration of state agencies for water storage. Netzke plans to attend and invited any of the board members to join her.

**AREA II**

- **Yellow Medicine Watershed Pilot Water Storage Project** The next meeting will be June 10, 2024.
- **Water Quality & Storage Grants** Applications submitted were Redwood Falls 5/8/9 Grade Stabilizations (\$466,957.17), North Hero 34 Road Retention (\$867,549.51), Lynd 31 Road Retention

(\$559,444.05), Holly 22 Road Retention (\$555,770.38), and Ann 17 Grade Stabilization (\$206,664.12) – total of requests \$2,656,385.23. Area II’s projects ranked 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup>. The top 5 projects were awarded including North Hero 34 and Holly 22. Netzke will complete the Work Plans in eLINK to initiate the grant agreement. During the BWSR Board meeting, it was noted that if more funding was available for construction, any project scoring over 70 points would have been funded which would have been all 5 of Area II’s applications.

- **General Fund Construction Grants** Frustrations continue with the MMB process to access these funds. We continue to work through suitable grant agreement language. MMB requires: 1) LGUs to be the grant recipients (counties, SWCDs, WDs, townships); 2) formal resolutions from all parties providing local match to the projects, 3) proof of funding availability, and 4) flowage easements on all projects unless an easement already exists. A huge time delay exists when requesting agreement approvals. It is hoped that once the first project is approved, the process will be established, and approval will occur more quickly. Three contractors are waiting for these grant agreements to be approved to start working.
- **2024 Dam Inspections** Area II staff conducted the inspections on May 28 & 29. Counties/WDs/SWCDs/NRCS were notified by email of the inspection schedules and invited to attend. The only dam that wasn’t inspected was the Sonstegaard Dam (Lyon County) as the entrance road was too muddy. It will be completed soon. No major items of concern were noted, only typical maintenance issues.
- **ArcGIS Project Inventory** The ArcGIS licenses were secured, however Area II only qualified for a government discount instead of a non-profit discount that RCRCA receives. Licensing through RCRCA is not an option. Bolton & Menk is working on setting up the app now.
- **Springdale 24/Army Corps of Engineers** Netzke submitted the Stream Assessment Worksheet requested by the Corps on May 23. Netzke and DeSchepper took 18 detailed photos of the stream reach to document conditions and support the assessment. The stream is ephemeral, responds to rainfall and the storm sewer flow from Walnut Grove, and is very degraded/eroded. A week later, the comments from the Corps were that the assessment submitted did not provide enough information for their determination. The stream reach needs to be broken into small reaches and the Stream Quality Tool will need to be used to determine functional lift and impacts. Discussion followed. The consensus of the Board was for Netzke to contact Representative Michelle Fischbach for assistance as this project needs to be completed by December 2024 or loss of federal infrastructure and Clean Water Funding will occur.

## **RCRCA**

- **Cottonwood-Middle MN 1W1P** The Steering Team and Policy Committee met on May 15 to review the draft of the full plan, minus the Executive Summary, Table of Contents and Appendices. Netzke emailed links to the full plan and appendices on May 30 to the Steering Team, Policy Committee, and Advisory Committee with comments due June 14. These committees will meet on Monday, June 24 to review/discuss edits. Formal 60-Day Review will start July 1. The Policy Committee has chosen implementation to be administered by a Joint Powers Agreement. Two options exist: a stand-alone agreement like the Des Moines, or to utilize RCRCA’s existing JPA. Partners were asked to discuss their wishes with their respective Boards. If RCRCA’s JPA is chosen, the JPA will need revision to include the “orphan” areas outside of the Redwood and Cottonwood watersheds. Using RCRCA’s JPA will also give authority to the RCRCA Board to approve project funding as recommended by the Cottonwood-Middle Minnesota Technical Committee.
- **Redwood 1W1P** The Policy Committee met May 13. The Bylaws were approved, kickoff meeting format approved, and recommendation made for RCRCA to enter into a contract with Houston Engineering, Inc. (\$159,200). Public Information Kick-off meetings will be held on Tuesday, June 25 at Lake Benton (5-7 PM), and Wednesday, June 26 in Marshall (10 AM-12 PM) and Redwood Falls (5-7 PM). The Policy Committee will meet again July 8 to review the comments received, and review/edit the draft Land and Water Resources Narrative for the Plan. Revised logo options will be presented.

- **Lake Redwood Update** The handicap accessible fishing pier was installed just prior to the fishing opener. The City is working with Country Enterprises for installation of the signs at the lake and CDF. No news on the meeting with MMB to resolve the CDF property transfer to the City as that would not be scheduled until after the legislative session.
- **2015 Dodge Pickup** Netzke was the backup sampler over Memorial Day weekend and found the tailgate difficult to open. The roll-up tonneau cover was loose in the back corner and bouncing dangerously in the 40-mph wind. The pickup was parked until repairs can be made as lubricating the tailgate did not improve opening ease. Sundance Auto Care found that the tailgate needs a new latch, and a new tonneau cover is recommended as the plastic connectors at the ends of the metal rods are either broken or missing due to age and being parked in the elements. An estimate will be obtained by the Board meeting for approval as the repair is anticipated to cost over the \$500 expenditure limit.

- **2024 Canoe Trips**

**Tuesday, June 18: Redwood River** – County Road 6 to Lake Redwood. Lunch at Perk’s Park at Lake Redwood. **Thursday, June 20: \*NEW ROUTE\* Cottonwood River** – Soldiers and Sailors Park at Sanborn to Riverside Park in Springfield. Lunch at Shelter 2 in Riverside Park.

Wohnoutka and a friend kayaked the new route and encountered a debris blockage in the river that was not passable by the Springfield Golf Course. RCRCAs contacted DNR as this is a designated canoe route and is required to be passable. DNR Hydrologist Kyle Jarcho was asked to make a few contacts on our behalf to see if removal of the blockage would be possible by June 20. MN Conservation Corps contacted RCRCAs, and despite having some difficulty launching their boats upstream of the blockage, RCRCAs was assured that it would be passable by June 20. With lower water levels, MCC took a closer look at the log jam and determined that they do not have chain saws large enough for some of the trees. RCRCAs will arrange to have helpers at the log jam site to help portage the kayaks and canoes around the blockage.

## **AREA II ENGINEER’S REPORT.**

**North Hero 26 Dam, Redwood County.** This is a grade stabilization structure that is in the process of preliminary design. A field survey has been completed and a review of the hydraulic conditions has been processed. The preliminary design will be completed soon. **Holly 9 Dam and WSCB, Murray County.** Holly 9 is a proposed grade stabilization structure that would replace a smaller dam with a larger structure downstream and an upstream WSCB that would act as a sediment trap. The field survey has been completed, and the preliminary design with hydraulic calculations is being processed. **Springdale 30, CSAH 20 Road Retentions – Site #3, Redwood County.** This is a road retention project that is being proposed in a series of retention structures associated with a road replacement project. A preliminary design was completed years ago. A current field survey has been conducted to determine the topographic changes since the completion of the preliminary design. A request for a geotechnical report has been submitted with a proposed profile of the road. The desired soil boring locations have been determined based on the proposed road profile. American Engineering Testing plans to obtain the borings the first week of June. **Storden 10 Dam Repair (Anderson), Cottonwood County.** This is a grade stabilization repair project. The existing structure has been compromised, and the corrugated metal pipe that serves as the outlet pipe has rusted through. Bids have been received for the repairs. The low bid was received from Ryan West Excavating with a bid of \$120,142.94. The engineer’s estimate was \$158,299.90. Once the grant agreement is in place, we will authorize the contractor to begin work. **Holly 22 Road Retention Project, Murray County.** This road retention project has most of the preliminary design completed. It is near Walnut Grove with a service watershed of 1196 acres. A feasibility report has been completed and submitted as part of the BWSR Water Quality and Storage Grant application. This project was selected for funding. Final plans and specifications and permit applications will be completed to progress this project towards a bid letting. **North Hero 34 Retention, Redwood County.** This road retention project has a preliminary design completed. It is near Walnut Grove and has a service area of 6,874.27 acres. A feasibility report has been completed and submitted as part of the grant application. This project was selected for funding with a BWSR Water Quality & Storage Grant. A wetland delineation, permit applications, and final plans and specifications will be completed to progress this project towards a bid letting. **Rock Lake 2 Small Dam (Walters), Lyon County.** This is a grade stabilization project which has a field survey completed. A preliminary design and cost estimate are being processed. **Swedes Forest 18 Dam Repair, Redwood County.** This is a dam repair project.

An existing dam structure is beginning to show signs of deterioration. The outlet structure has been disjointed by the existing conditions, and the storage face of the existing berm is sloughing and eroding. A partial field survey has been completed as well as a site visit to determine the potential of utilizing LiDAR for the project as the area involved is extensive and heavily treed. ***Florida 15 Grade Stabilization Repair, Yellow Medicine County.*** Ground Works is set to begin work on this project shortly after the grant funding agreement is executed. Shop drawings for the pipe and outlet structure have been received, reviewed, and returned without issue. ***Island Lake 27 Grade Stabilization Repair, Lyon County.*** Similar to Florida 15, Ground Works is set to begin work on this project shortly after the funding is set up. Shop drawings for the pipe and outlet structure have been received, reviewed, and returned without issue.

**AREA II – Draft FY2025 Budget.** Netzke presented the board with a FY2025 Draft Budget (3% COLA + 1% merit) as selected at the May meeting. A few minor changes were reviewed from the previous budget. Discussion followed. Motion by Crowley, seconded by Johnson, to approve the FY2025 budget with an increase to the project expense to counteract the project grant income. Motion carried unanimously.

**AREA II – Draft Biennial Plan FY2025.** Netzke presented the board with a draft of the Biennial Plan FY2025. She has updated the narrative and completed projects. The FY2025 Budget numbers will be inserted into the Plan, along with the current FY2024 Administrative Services grant summary. Motion by Johnson, seconded by Drietz, to make the minor edits and to submit the Area II Biennial Plan FY2025 to BWSR. Motion carried unanimously.

**AREA II FUNDING RESOLUTIONS (Local Match for Area II & Landowner).**

***Resolution No. 2024-1 – Area II Minnesota River Basin Projects – Fortier 8 Grade Stabilization Restoration (Yellow Medicine County).*** Motion by Wakefield, seconded by Crowley, to approve Resolution 2024-1 providing proof of local funding in the amount of \$9,666.20 for the Fortier 8 Grade Stabilization Restoration Project. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

***Resolution No.2024-2 for Area II Minnesota River Basin Projects – Florida 15 Grade Stabilization Restoration (Yellow Medicine County).*** Motion by Gunnink, seconded by Kack, to approve Resolution 2024-2 providing proof of local funding in the amount of \$7,905.38 for the Florida 15 Grade Stabilization Restoration project. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

***Resolution No.2024-3 for Area II Minnesota River Basin Projects – Island Lake 27 Stabilization Restoration (Lyon County).*** Motion by Crowley, seconded by Wakefield, to approve Resolution 2024-3 providing proof of local funding in the amount of \$9,066.46 for the Island Lake 27 Grade Stabilization Restoration project. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

***Resolution No.2024-4 for Area II Minnesota River Basin Projects – Johnsonville 29 Grade Stabilization Restoration (Redwood County).*** Motion by Gunnink, seconded by Johnson, to approve Resolution 2024-4 providing proof of local funding in the amount of \$9,076.50 for the Johnsonville 29 Grade Stabilization Restoration project. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

***Resolution No.2024-5 for Area II Minnesota River Basin Projects – Storden 10 Grade Stabilization Restoration (Cottonwood County).*** Motion by Anderson, seconded by Braun, to approve Resolution 2024-5 providing proof of local funding in the amount of \$31,014.24 for the Storden 10 Grade Stabilization Restoration project. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

**RCRCA – Cottonwood-Middle MN 1W1P.** Netzke explained the differences between having a stand-alone JPA or using RCRCA's existing JPA. Using RCRCA's JPA, there would not be another standing meeting date for the Policy Committee/Executive Committee. The RCRCA board members would approve cost-share contracts monthly as recommended by the Technical Committee for the Cottonwood-Middle MN. RCRCA's JPA would need some revisions to include the orphan areas that are included in the CW-MM 1W1P as the current JPA only covers the Redwood and Cottonwood watersheds. Discussion followed. It was requested that Netzke contact MCIT to inquire if RCRCA increases its liability if its JPA is utilized in this way. Consensus of the RCRCA Board was in

favor of utilizing the existing JPA and to eliminate a separate meeting for the Cottonwood-Middle MN. Ideally, the Redwood River 1W1P would follow suit.

Netzke does not recommend for RCRCA & Area II to participate in the JPA as the member counties and SWCDs already cover RCRCA and Area II's interests. The City of Springfield does not intend to join the JPA as Brown County and SWCD will cover their interests. Watershed Based Implementation Funds (WBIF) cover all expenses of 1W1P except for MCIT coverage and grant audits. 2024 MCIT coverage for the Des Moines was \$3,922 which included Worker's Comp for board members. These costs would be divided between the member counties based on the acres within the watershed boundary. Consensus of the Area II and RCRCA boards agreed with Netzke's recommendation.

**RCRCA – Redwood River 1W1P Update.** The Policy Committee recommended that RCRCA enter into a contract with Houston Engineering, Inc. to provide consultant services in the amount of \$159,200. Motion by Lingbeek, seconded by Posthuma, to approve the contract with Houston Engineering Inc. and to authorize Chairman Johnson to sign. Motion carried unanimously. Kick-Off Meetings are scheduled as: June 25 (5-7 PM) Lake Benton Event Center; June 26 (10-Noon) Marshall Merit Center, Classroom C; and June 26 (5-7 PM) Redwood Area Community Center. She encouraged attendance to share concerns about the watershed to help prioritize issues. Crowley, Gunnink, Johnson and Meulebroeck will attend.

**ADJOURNMENT.**

The next meeting has been rescheduled due to the July 4th holiday for Tuesday, July 9, 2024, at the Lyon County Government Center – Commissioners Room at 2:00 PM. Chairmen Johnson and Anderson adjourned the meeting at 10:29 AM.

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**UPCOMING MEETINGS.**

July Board Meeting	<b>Tuesday, July 9, 2024</b>	Lyon County Government Center – <b>2 PM</b>
August Board Meeting	Thursday, August 1, 2024	Redwood County Learning Center
September Board Meeting	Thursday, September 5, 2024	Lyon County Govt Center

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Larry Anderson, Area II Chairman

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Date