

AREA II

AREA II / RCRCA

August 1, 2024 - Board of Directors Meeting
Redwood County Government Center - Redwood Falls, MN

AREA II Members Present: Jeff Veerkamp, Larry Anderson, Gary Crowley, Lori Gunnink, and Glen Kack.

RCRCA Members Present: Jeff Veerkamp, Bill Eckstein, Larry Anderson, Clark Lingbeek, Ron Bunjer, Gary Crowley, Mark Meulebroeck, Lori Gunnink, Paul Posthuma, 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 Vice Chair Lingbeek and Area II Chairman Anderson.

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

AGENCY AND MEETING REPORTS.

MASWCD – Supervisor Lingbeek reported that there was a Governance 101 Meeting in Alexandria on July 16-17 to cover open meeting law, modern management, SWCD essential services, etc. Good information was presented.

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

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

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

AREA II TREASURER’S REPORT – July 2024. Financials were reviewed by the Board. Revenue received: \$9,816.84 Contract Services Income and \$1,836.27 Interest Income. Bills for approval: \$8,037.00 Bolton & Menk, and \$2,063.00 Bolton & Menk (ArcGIS Online). Motion by Gunnink, seconded by Veerkamp, to file the July 2024 Treasurer’s Report subject to audit and to approve payment of the bills. Motion carried unanimously.

Revenue as recorded:

Contract Service Income (RCRCA)	\$ 9,816.84	Projects-Bonding	\$ 0.00
Interest Income	\$ 1,836.27	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	\$ 24,814.10	Office Supplies	\$ 0.00
Bonding Project Funds	\$ 0.00	Other Insurance	\$ 0.00
Capital Outlay	\$ 0.00	Postage	\$ 0.00
Contract Services - RCRCA	\$ 1,461.20	Professional Services	\$ 7,524.00
Directors’ Expense	\$ 0.00	Project Expenses Paid	\$ 15,400.52
Directors’ Insurance	\$ 0.00	Project Permit Fees	\$ 0.00
Employee Expense	\$ 35.51	Rent	\$ 837.00
Field Supplies	\$ 0.00	Telephone	\$ 10.08
Investigating & Testing	\$ 0.00	Utilities	\$ 0.00

Maintenance & Repair	\$ 131.44	Vehicle Expense	\$ 141.50
Miscellaneous Expense	\$ 127.84	Continuing Education	\$ 0.00
Insurance	\$ 0.00		
Bills for approval:			
Professional Services	\$ 10,100.00	Investigation/Testing Exp.	\$ 0.00
Project Costs	\$ 0.00	Project Permits	\$ 0.00

RCRCA – COST SHARE CONTRACTS:

NEW CONTRACTS:

CWF-2022-13	*PELL CREEK*	
Trent Baker	Ann 6 - Cottonwood	638 WSCBs
EST Cost: \$69,133.80		EST Cost Share: \$51,850.35 (75%)
		<u>CWF C/S: \$51,850.35 (75%)</u>

CONTRACT CANCELLATION:

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

Federal EQIP funding was awarded, and no additional funding is needed.

Netzke presented one new cost share contract: Pell Creek Grant – Ann 6 - Cottonwood – 638 WSCBs and one contract cancellation: Pell Creek – North Hero 32 – Redwood 638 WSCBs. The landowner received full EQIP funding on the cancellation and had another project that he wanted to do. Motion by Posthuma, seconded by Crowley, to approve the new cost share contract and the cancellation of the cost share contract. Motion carried unanimously.

AREA II – NEW COST SHARE CONTRACTS:

CONTRACTS FOR PAYMENT:

GFCG-2023-01	Fortier 8 – Yellow Medicine	410 Dam Restoration
George & Cindy Potz		
EST Cost: \$73,915.60		EST Cost Share: \$55,436.70 (75%)
ACT Cost: \$70,501.60		EST Cost Share: \$52,876.20 (75%)
		<u>Local Match: \$17,625.40 (25%)</u>
		<u>LQP-YB WD \$8,812.70</u>
		<u>Area II \$4,812.70</u>
		<u>Landowner \$4,000.00</u>

Netzke presented one cost share contract for payment: Fortier 8 – Yellow Medicine – 410 Dam Restoration. Motion by Gunnink, seconded by Kack, to approve the cost share payment of \$52,876.20 and the Area II local match payment of \$4,812.70. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

• **Felony Forms** – As of January 1, OGM Policy 08-06 applies to legislative grants. Any grantees of \$50,000 or more must attest to no felony criminal history by an organizational principal in the last 10 years. This form applies to each grant. Needless to say, several of these forms have been signed.

AREA II

- **Water Quality & Storage Grants:** **North Hero 34 Road Retention (\$867,550)** and **Holly 22 Road Retention (\$555,770)** The grant agreement for both projects for \$1,423,320 was signed on July 26. The ‘felony form’ appears to have been the hold-up for the grant agreement. Area II will receive 50% of this amount soon and work can begin when all the signatures are collected. The Area II Administrative Services grant agreement (\$190,000) was also signed on July 26 and will be received in one lump sum as soon as all signatures are obtained on the agreement.
- **General Fund Construction Grants** The Redwood County attorney marked up the grant agreement which was forwarded to MMB for review. MMB refuses to make changes to their standard agreement. BWSR’s legal counsel is reviewing MMB’s requirements to find out if MMB is correct in their refusal, or just being difficult. No decision has been made as of yet.
- **LQP Floodways Feasibility Study Grant** Netzke was asked by DNR to assist with applying for a Water Quality & Storage (Feasibility Study) grant for the LQP Floodways project. Duane Hansel, PE did much of the preliminary design work which has been furthered by DNR staff. Due to staff turnovers and delays in hiring, the modeling work is not progressing as quickly as DNR staff desires. Netzke agreed to compile the Design Report using the project history and work completed to date. An outline of expectations from the engineering firms will be compiled. Bolton & Menk has agreed to provide a ballpark cost for the modeling work for the grant request. If funded, an RFP for engineering services will be sent to several firms to complete the modeling and design work.
- **Springdale 24/Army Corps of Engineers** Representative Fischbach’s office did speak with the Corps. A TEAMS meeting was held July 16 with four Corps staff members. Just like low-quality wetlands, low-quality streams must also have impacts mitigated. There is not an existing bank for credits, hopefully in 2025 one may evolve as a third party is necessary for bank administration. Undertaking a stream restoration project is the only way to mitigate impacts at this time.

RCRCA

- **Lake Redwood Update** Senator Dahms is scheduling a virtual meeting with Senate counsel to explore the haying/grazing option for CDF management. No date has been set yet.
- **2024-2027 WPLMN Grant** The 2022-2024 grant will end in early August when the new contract is fully executed with all signatures. The new grant will go through December 2026 (almost 2.5 years) as a joint WPLMN/IWM (Intensive Watershed Monitoring-SWAG) grant. MPCA received special permission to go beyond two years, and to amend the contract in Fall 2026 to add more funds for WPLMN, and IWM, and to extend the timeframe of the grant. Contracts cannot overlap.
- **Storage Unit Update** Kerry and Shawn worked two days to recycle, rehome, and dispose of all contents of the storage unit. MPCA is taking much of the monitoring equipment, and MSU-Mankato may take some of the auto samplers that are very old (30+ years). The landlord was notified and RCRCA should receive the \$55 deposit back.

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 meeting was held with the landowner for consideration. The landowner would like to see some existing tile implemented into the final design. **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, and a current field survey has been conducted to determine the topographic changes since then. Soil boring locations were determined by Soil Technologies, Inc., and borings were collected by American Engineering Testing on July 9. Final Design is awaiting the soils report. **Storden 10 Dam Repair (Anderson), Cottonwood County.** Bids have been received with the low bid from Ryan West Excavating at \$120,142.94. The engineer’s estimate was \$158,299.90. Once the flowage easement and funding agreement is in place, we can authorize the contractor to begin work. We have not been able to connect

with the cooperator for his authorization to proceed. ***Holly 22 Road Retention Project, Murray County.*** This road retention project, awarded funding with BWSR Water Quality & Storage Grant, has most of the preliminary design completed. Final plans and specifications and permit applications will be completed to progress this project towards a bid letting. We are awaiting the grant agreement execution before starting work on the project. ***North Hero 34 Retention, Redwood County.*** This project, also funded by a BWSR Water Quality & Storage Grant, has a working preliminary design completed. Once the grant agreement is executed, a wetland delineation, permit applications, and final plans and specifications will be completed to progress this project towards a bid letting. For final design, the Southwest Prairie Technical Service Area (TSA) has utilized their new survey drone to fly this large watershed to establish the survey elevations to the county's coordinate system. Drone survey data is forthcoming. ***Rock Lake 2 Small Dam (Walters), Lyon County.*** This is a grade stabilization project which has a preliminary design and cost estimate completed. A meeting with the landowner was held July 24, for his consideration and to authorize the project to proceed. The project design was approved; however, he would like to wait until 2025 when Cottonwood-Middle Minnesota Watershed Based Implementation Funds (WBIF) become available, and a higher cost-share rate may be available to reduce his share. ***Swedes Forest 18 Dam Repair, Redwood County.*** This is a dam repair project where the existing NRCS dam structure, constructed in 1986, is showing signs of deterioration. The outlet structure has become disjointed, and the storage face of the existing berm is sloughing and eroding. A preliminary design has been completed that evaluated the necessary design changes to be implemented in the repair since the original construction. A meeting with the landowners was held on July 24, where approval of the design was received. Final Plans and Specifications are being prepared. DNR Dam Safety will be notified that an amendment to the existing Dam Safety permit will be requested. ***Florida 15 Grade Stabilization Repair, Yellow Medicine County.*** The flowage easement and funding agreement have been executed. Shop drawings for the pipe and outlet structure have been received, reviewed, and returned without issue. Construction may begin anytime with Ground Works as the contractor. ***Fortier 8 Grade Stabilization Repair, Yellow Medicine County.*** Ryan West Excavating began work on July 22 as the flowage easement and funding agreement have been executed. Construction completion is anticipated by the end of July. ***Island Lake 27 Grade Stabilization Repair, Lyon County.*** Shop drawings for the pipe and outlet structure have been received, reviewed, and returned without issue. This easement will take a little time as one of the signers works overseas. Once the easement is completed, Lyon County will be approached with the MMB grant agreement for approval. ***Monroe 17 WSCB, Lyon County.*** This constructed system (2023) implements two WSCBs and a new run of tile. The project design was not reviewed by NRCS prior to construction, however there is post-construction funding available. That funding requires the NRCS approval. The NRCS engineer has agreed to the proposed post-construction repairs for the project to qualify for funding. A quote from the contractor has been received, and we are waiting for the landowner's acceptance. Fall construction is planned after the crops are harvested. ***Alta Vista 27 Road Retention, Lincoln County.*** This project has a majority of the preliminary design completed. American Engineering Testing has bored the site as a subcontractor to Soil Technologies, who has submitted their findings on the soil borings. The recommendations will be implemented into the final plans as the project progresses towards a meeting with all involved parties and permitting.

RCRCA – Cottonwood-Middle MN 1W1P Update. Netzke reported that the Plan is in the 60-day final review (07/01/24 to 08/30/24). The Steering Committee will meet on August 21, but no Policy Committee on that date. A public hearing will be held on September 18 (time to be determined) followed by a Policy Committee meeting. The BWSR Southern Region Water Plan Committee will review/approve the Plan at a meeting to be scheduled for October/November. In December, the BWSR Board will review/approve the Plan. The CW-MM 1W1P would like to utilize RCRCA's Joint Powers Agreement for plan implementation.

RCRCA – Redwood River 1W1P Update. The Steering Team and Policy Committee met on July 8. The logo was approved with a small revision. The Land and Water Resources Narrative section is drafted and out for comments. On August 12, the Steering Team and Policy committee will meet.

RCRCA – Cottonwood River Log Jam near Springfield Update. Veerkamp reported that he had checked out the log jam after the last meeting and discussed with the City of Springfield about FEMA funds to remove that log jam. Discussion followed as to who is responsible for the removal of the log jam and what funding sources may be available. Adjacent property owners are concerned about liability for those on the river who portage around the blockage and may get injured. Contacting local legislators has been recommended by all parties, although the City

of Springfield wants their highest priority to be their public facilities and do not want this log jam to take higher priority.

2024 Annual Meeting – Discussion. Netzke requested input to increase our attendance. It was suggested to call the event the Legislative Gathering rather than annual meeting as it was called years prior.

- a) Change the date/month. Consensus of the board is to check with the legislators to see what day/time would work best for them to be in attendance. Keeping the date on the 1st Thursday in November is preferred.
- b) Location Suggestions. A place that is in the middle of both watersheds.
- c) Speaker Suggestion. Carrie Jennings or Steve Woods with the Freshwater Society. List the speaker’s topic on the meeting invitation.

AREA II – Performance Review of Area II Executive Director. Chairman Anderson stated that Netzke received a satisfactory review with the executive board recommending a 1% merit increase. At the beginning of the fiscal year, a 3% COLA was given. Motion by Gunnink, seconded by Veerkamp, to accept the performance review approve the recommendation of the executive board for a 1% merit increase. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT. Chairman Anderson and Vice Chairman Lingbeek adjourned the meeting at 10:16 am. The next meeting will be in Marshall at the Lyon County Government Center, Commissioner’s Room on September 5.

UPCOMING MEETINGS.

September Board Meeting	Thursday, September 5, 2024	Lyon County Government Center
October Board Meeting	Thursday, October 3, 2024	Redwood County Government Center – Commissioners Room
November Board Meeting	Thursday, November 7, 2024	TBD

<hr/> Larry Anderson, Area II Chairman	<hr/> Date
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