

AREA II

AREA II / RCRCA

June 5, 2025 – Board of Directors Meeting
Redwood County Learning Center – Redwood Falls, MN

AREA II Members Present: Jeff Veerkamp, Larry Anderson, Joe Drietz, Gary Crowley, Luke Johnson, Rick Wakefield and Glen Kack.

RCRCA Members Present: Jeff Veerkamp, Bill Eckstein, Larry Anderson, Clark Lingbeek, Joe Drietz, Ron Bunjer, Gary Crowley, Allen Deutz, Paul Posthuma, Luke Johnson, Brad Kruisselbrink, 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.

ADOPT AGENDA. There were no additions to the agenda. **RCRCA** – Motion by Wakefield, seconded by Carter, 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 the Area V meeting will be held in Windom on June 26, with a tour of the new Amo Creamery planned for the afternoon. A very contentious meeting regarding String Lakes was held with landowners concerned with lake levels and fish passage concerns (good and bad fish). Tom Kresko, DNR answered questions. The Ditch Authority will own the dam as three ditches drain into the lake. LSOHC money is being sought for the \$450,000 estimated cost.

AMC. Chairman Johnson reported that the District Meeting is next Thursday, June 12, 2025 at Marshall Golf Club.

APPROVE RCRCA MINUTES of May 2025 Board Meeting. Motion by Lingbeek, seconded by Veerkamp, to approve the May 2025 Minutes as corrected. Motion carried unanimously.

Joint Meeting Area II/RCRCA Board of Directors

APPROVE AREA II MINUTES of May 2025 Board Meeting. Motion by Johnson, seconded by Crowley, to approve the May 2025 Minutes as corrected. Motion carried unanimously.

RCRCA TREASURER'S REPORT – May 2025. Financials were reviewed. Motion by Drietz, seconded by Posthuma, to approve the May 2025 Treasurer's Report subject to audit and to approve payment of the bills. Motion carried unanimously.

AREA II TREASURER'S REPORT – May 2025. Financials were reviewed with the board. Revenue received: \$ 5,955.18 Contract Services Income and \$3,952.50 Interest Income. Bills for approval: \$80,590.00 Bolton & Menk, Flowage Easements, and Soil Technologies, Inc. Motion by Veerkamp, seconded by Wakefield, to approve the May 2025 Treasurer's Report subject to audit and approve payment of the bills. Motion carried unanimously.

Revenue as recorded:

Contract Service Income (RCRCA)	\$ 5,955.18	Projects-MMB General Fund	\$ 0.00
Interest Income	\$ 3,952.50	County Levy	\$ 0.00
State of MN-Administrative	\$ 0.00	SWCD Tech Assistance	\$ 0.00
Water Quality & Storage Grants	\$ 0.00	Miscellaneous Income	\$ 0.00

Paid bills are summarized below:

Administration	\$ 19,195.52	Office Supplies	\$ 0.00
Bonding Project Funds	\$ 0.00	Other Insurance	\$ 0.00
Capital Outlay	\$ 0.00	Postage	\$ 0.00
Contract Services - RCRCA	\$ 2,410.20	Professional Services	\$ 6,212.50
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	\$ 50.57
Investigating & Testing	\$ 0.00	Utilities-Web Hosting	\$ 0.00
Maintenance & Repair	\$ 137.89	Vehicle Expense	\$ 112.01
Miscellaneous Expense	\$ 13.00	Continuing Education	\$ 0.00
Insurance	\$ 0.00	Investigation & Testing	\$ 0.00

Bill for approval:

Professional Services	\$ 8,745.00	Maintenance & Repair	\$ 0.00
Project Costs	\$ 71,845.00	Insurance	\$ 0.00

RCRCA – Approve/Amend/Pay Completed Cost Share Contracts. None

Area II – Approve/Amend/Pay Completed Cost Share Contracts. None

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- **17th MN River Congress** June 12, 2025 at 6 PM at the Kato Ballroom in Mankato.

AREA II

- **Legislative Update**

Capital Investment **House File 1455/Senate File 904** No omnibus developed.

Administrative Funds **House File 939/Senate File 946** The omnibus bills, hf2439 and sf2077, both have Area II budgeted for \$140,000 per year for 2026 and 2027.

- **BWSR Water Quality & Storage Grants** The application for the LQP Floodways (YM County), requesting \$150,000 grant with \$15,000 of local match (LQP YB WD, YM County, Area II) was approved May 28. After the grant agreement is executed, project partners will meet to develop the RFP for consultant services.

- **BWSR Academy** In addition to being a co-presenter with Rita Weaver, BWSR Engineer, Netzke has also been asked to be a co-presenter with two others on the topic of Operation and Maintenance Plans and Procedures. The Academy is October 21-23, and the registration fee is waived for presenters. Netzke intends to only stay one night.

- **BWSR Board Tour** On August 27, the BWSR Board will be touring a few counties in SW MN starting from Jackpot Junction. They would like to include some of Area II's projects on their way through Redwood County. Seeing projects from the bus will be difficult given mature crops in the fields, however, the Birch Cooley 19 Dam in Renville County (Hwy 71 north of Morton) has been suggested by Area II staff. This dam was designed by Area II, with engineering reimbursed by Disaster Relief funds from Renville SWCD.

- **Swedes Forest 19 (Redwood County)** The 7th property owner for this existing pond project agreed to the flowage easement with no legal action needed. Netzke will schedule an appointment with the Redwood County Commissioners for approval of the General Fund Construction Grant agreement, and for signatures on the flowage easements and declaration. Area II will act upon the resolution for local match commitment although the match to the construction is being paid by the property owners and match to the easements is being provided by Redwood SWCD. July/August construction is planned.

- **Monroe 17 (Lyon County)** Netzke was requested to participate in a conciliation court (small claims) proceeding concerning this project. Despite working with the landowner to provide a retrofit to the project to meet NRCS Design Standards, and providing full payment for the retrofit, the landowner is seeking damages from Bolton & Menk. The claim is that the as-built plans were signed by Duane Hansel stating that NRCS Standards were met. It was not until about 3 weeks later that Area II was notified by NRCS that plans had not been received or reviewed for NRCS approval. Upon review, some items did not meet NRCS

Joint Meeting Area II/RCRCA Board of Directors

specifications. Bolton & Menk's attorney asked Netzke to provide a timeline of the events and efforts taken to provide NRCS compliance, and to participate in the virtual hearing on June 5 at 11:00 AM.

- **Annual O&M Inspections of Dams** Netzke and DeSchepper conducted the dam inspections on May 29-30. Emails were sent to the dam owners extending an invitation to attend the inspection; none responded. Don Wellner, a Brown County Park Board member, attended the inspection for Wellner-Hageman. All dams were in good condition, however Sonstegaard-Telste and Hauschild-Thange have partially plugged low flow intakes creating larger than normal pools. The inlet structure to the Porter Dam is full of debris that is partially blocking the culvert. The watershed district administrator was immediately notified by text to remedy these situations ASAP. A discussion concerning the spread of Leafy Spurge was had. Beetles are available from the MN Dept of Ag and the county ag inspectors are to be contacted to request the beetles.

RCRCA

- **Cottonwood-Middle MN 1W1P Update** The Steering Team/Technical Committee met virtually on May 21 to revise the cost-share procedure policy, Scoring and Ranking worksheet, SSTS incentive worksheet, and Agreement to Disburse Grant Proceeds. The grant was executed on May 14 and 50% of the grant deposited into the account on May 22.

- **Redwood CWMP Update** The Steering Team and Policy Committee met May 12. The Steering Team proposed changing the acreage goal for nonstructural projects as it was learned that the Cover Crop RCPP will be available after July 1. This results in Houston Engineering rerunning the PTMApp to recalculate estimated reductions. A little time will be needed to complete this so the tentative date to provide the draft Plan (cover-to-cover) will be May 26. A joint Steering Team/Advisory Committee meeting will be held 10:30 AM on June 9, both in-person and virtually, to review and discuss the draft Plan. The formal review will be scheduled for August - October with the public hearing to be held in November. The BWSR Southern Region Committee will meet in December with the BWSR Board approval following in January 2026.

- **Lake Redwood: Use Agreement** Senator Dahms was working on rider language for a potential bonding bill that would allow the CDF property to be returned to ag production. When seeking approval of the language from MMB, MMB informed the senator that this language is not needed as Minn. Statute § 16A.695 allows for RCRCA to enter into a Use Agreement with the City of Redwood Falls for the long-term operation and maintenance of the CDF and to rent the property for agricultural use. Income generated would have to be placed into a designated account for O&M needs of the CDF and lake. Netzke is meeting with the City on June 3 to discuss the terms of the long-term O&M. The City is proposing a burn of the CDF for further control of the trees and weeds. The aerial spraying in 2024 was very effective at controlling the tree growth, and burning should replace the need to spray in 2025. The proposal from Native Resource Preservation for burn services is \$7,999.54.

Joint Meeting Area II/RCRCA Board of Directors

Shoreline Protection The City asked Bill Moldestad, PE for a design to protect the shoreline from further wave action and erosion which has increased after the islands were dredged. Netzke submitted the MPARS application for the DNR permit. The DNR has proposed changing the area leading to the handicap-accessible fishing pier to be concrete instead of riprap. This will reduce the amount of excavation needed, provide better access to the pier, and increase the ease of insertion/removal of the fishing pier. Details are being finalized so the permit can be issued. City crews will do the work late summer/early fall and utilize the funds held by RCRCA.

- **Canoe Trips** Wohnoutka kayaked the stretch of the Cottonwood River from County Road 4 to Country Road 11. The Essig landing is not a good option with a steep grade and large riprap. The Iberia landing is a better alternative; however, parking is limited. Flows are currently lower than normal, so we are planning for kayaks only unless flows increase to allow for canoes. The trips have been set for June 17 for the Redwood River and June 19 for the Cottonwood River. With June 19 being a holiday (Juneteenth), it is thought it may entice people to go kayaking. Staff will utilize June 20 as their belated holiday.

AREA II ENGINEER'S REPORT.

North Hero 34 Road Retention, Redwood County. This project, funded by a BWSR Water Quality & Storage Grant, has a final design and plans completed. The township has requested a meeting with all parties involved to discuss any changes as well as road approaches, borrow areas and flowage easements. Late 2025 construction is anticipated pending permits. **Alta Vista 27 Road Retention, Lincoln County.** Final plans and a cost estimate have been prepared, and the project is progressing towards a meeting with all involved parties to discuss any changes, tree removals, flowage easements, borrow sites, mitigation and permitting needs. The DNR-approved new stream alignment has been proposed to USACE who have briefly commented on it in a positive way. An updated wetland delineation and a stream assessment are being conducted by Bolton & Menk this week. Fall 2025 construction is anticipated pending permits. **Florida Creek Restoration, LQP County.** Work continues on this project to restore 1,000 feet of natural channel on DNR property. Sharing of technical information and additional survey work has been completed. A virtual progress meeting was held on April 11, and 60% plans are anticipated for a meeting on June 11. **Norman 34 Small Dam Repair, Yellow Medicine County.** This is a grade control structure repair project with a failing pipe and a clean out of silt and sediment accumulation in the pond. Preliminary review of the contributing watershed has been started. A set of repair plans from 1999 have been found and are being utilized in the design process. Original design documents are being located for comparison as preliminary calculations are showing larger than anticipated water volumes. **Springdale 24 Grade Control Structure, Redwood County.** This is a proposed grade control structure that originally had a permanent pool to help capture sediment and reduce flows from the City of Walnut Grove's storm sewer system. After a USACE review, the stream impacts from fill and inundation will require stream mitigation. To minimize impacts to the lowest extent, the permanent pool has been removed, and the dam backslope made steeper from 3:1 to 2.5:1. This information was input into the USACE's Debit Calculator and resulted in 98.3 functional feet of loss. 100

Joint Meeting Area II/RCRCA Board of Directors

functional feet has been their permit determination point; however, the temporary inundation impacts have not been calculated. With about 18 hours of storage for the 100-year storm, Area II argues that there is no impact from inundation. USACE contacted Netzke on May 29 to inform her that the determination is that stream mitigation will be required as the functional feet of loss is greater than 100. With no established bank for credits, or a nearby stream restoration that is designed and ready to construct, there is no way to construct the project by August 30 when the federal funds expire. Netzke informed the Redwood SWCD who will pass this information along to the landowner, City of Walnut Grove and Redwood County. Once mitigation credits are available, this design and information can be used to pursue construction of the project. **Springdale 30 Road Retention (CSAH 20), Redwood County.** DNR Dam Safety provided a bullet list of questions which the vast majority will need to be answered by Widseth as it concerns road design. A virtual meeting was held with Redwood County, Widseth, DNR Dam Safety staff, Kim Stoecker and Area II on May 19 to discuss the list of action items. Written responses to the DNR questions were drafted and provided to Widseth. **Custer 11 Dam Repair, Lyon County.** This is an existing small dam in Garvin Park in need of pipe replacement. Bids were received on April 16. Ryan West Excavating was the lowest bidder at \$31,692.40. Engineer's Estimate was \$32,698.00. The General Funds Construction Grant agreement has been executed providing 75% cost-share to the Lyon SWCD who will provide the local match. The Contractor intends to work the first week of June, weather dependent. **Stanley 24 Grade Control Structure, Lyon County.** Landowners were interested in a potential grade control structure for reduction of scour being caused by stormwater flows from an 1,100-acre private tile system and its outlet. After a preliminary design review, it was determined that the contributing watershed area is too large for the successful implementation of a grade control structure that could reduce peak flows without inundating the tile drainage network. Landowners have been informed of these findings. **Monroe 2 Grade Control Structure, Lyon County.** This is a proposed grade control structure for reduction of sediment deliverance to an existing structure that would have doubled as access to a building site. After a preliminary review, there is not a cost-effective structure that could provide both peak reductions and site access that is not already being provided by the downstream structure. Landowners have been updated of Area II's findings. **Monroe 8 Road Retention, Lyon County.** This is a proposed road retention project that involves a significant dip in a township road that is seeing increased truck traffic. Preliminary design calculations are promising that a road retention project is feasible. **Lake Marshall 31 Small Dam, Lyon County.** This structure was built in 2012. The landowner notified Area II that there was a leak within the riser structure. We investigated the site and found that some grout from between the pipe culvert and manhole structure must have been dislodged and will need to be replaced. We question how the water is reaching the backside of the manhole/pipe and suspect a burrowing rodent creating the pathway. The shoreline is too vegetated with cattail to easily look for the problem. We suggest drawing down the pond to the bottom of the manhole, excavating the embankment to expose the leaking area, determining the source of the water, and regrouting the area once dried. A contractor who will be working near the site in June will be asked to look at the manhole and offer his repair recommendation. Due to the age of the structure, this falls under maintenance and is not a design or installation matter.

Joint Meeting Area II/RCRCA Board of Directors

AREA II – FY26 Draft Budget Options. Netzke reported that the legislature has proposed a substantial cut to the administration funding, from \$190,000 to \$140,000 annually, for the next 2 years. Budget options were provided in May with a consensus for Option 2 (Kerry to reduce to 90% time with full benefits, reduce Professional Engineering on non-grant funded projects, and zero fund Investigation and Testing and work to include this in project grant funding). Netzke provided an updated budget using Option 2 as of May 31, 2025. Motion by Crowley, seconded by Drietz, to approve the FY26 Budget as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

AREA II – DRAFT BIENNIAL PLAN (FY26 & FY27). Netzke reviewed the draft Biennial Plan for FY26 & FY27. Discussion followed. Motion by Johnson, seconded by Wakefield, to approve the draft biennial plan with a few revisions, and inserting the approved budget. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION – Area II – Swede’s Forest 18, Redwood County. A resolution certifying local match is required to accompany the draft grant agreement. For this project, \$28,324.80 of local match is needed for the \$84,974.40 of State grant funds. The local match is being provided by: Redwood SWCD \$5,000; \$16,250.30 landowners; and \$7,074.50 Area II. Motion by Verkamp, seconded by Crowley, to approve the resolution for Swede’s Forest 18. A roll call vote was taken; the motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT. Chairman Anderson and Chairman Johnson declared the meeting adjourned at 10:15 AM.

The next meeting will be at the Lyon County Government on July 3, 2025 at 9:00 AM.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

July Board Meeting	Thursday, July 3, 2025	Lyon County Govt Center 9 AM
August Board Meeting	Thursday, August 7, 2025	Redwood Co. Learning Center 9 AM

Larry Anderson, Area II Chairman Date