

# AREA II

## AREA II / RCRCA

**June 4, 2026 – Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Redwood Government Center – Redwood Falls/Hybrid**  
***Roll Call Vote on All Motions – Attended via Zoom\****

**AREA II Members Present:** Jeff Veerkamp, Larry Anderson, Gary Crowley, Loy Woelber, Luke Johnson and Glen Kack.

**RCRCA Members Present:** Jeff Veerkamp, Bill Eckstein, Larry Anderson, Dave Bucklin, Gary Crowley, Loy Woelber, Paul Posthuma\*, Luke Johnson, Brad Kruisselbrink, Ed Carter\* and Glen Kack.

**Others Present:** Kerry Netzke – Executive Director, Courtney Williams – RCRCA Watersheds Coordinator, Joy Bruns\* – RCRCA Office Manager, and Samantha Hoskins\* – Peterson & Company Ltd.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM by RCRCA Chairman Johnson and Area II Chairman Anderson and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**RCRCA FY2025 Audit Presentation – Peterson Company Ltd.** Samantha Hoskins presented the audit report and findings. An unqualified audit was performed as in previous years. Three findings include: Segregation of duties (lack of enough employees), financial statement presentation (no accountant on staff) , and adjusting entries (no accountant on staff). Due to the timing of project expenditures and grant reimbursements from the State, a deficit balance exists. The State may reach out regarding the deficit and ask for a correction plan and estimation of time to correct it. Motion by Veerkamp, seconded by Bucklin, to approve the FY2025 Audit as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**ADOPT AGENDA.** Two additions to the agenda: RR-1W1P Planning Grant - Authorize amendment to extend grant to 8/30/26; and RCRCA Executive Committee meeting date for Williams performance review/wage adjustment. **RCRCA** – Motion by Anderson, seconded by Woelber, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously. **Area II** - Motion by Crowley, seconded by Veerkamp, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

**Joint Meeting Area II/RCRCA Board of Directors**

**AGENCY AND MEETING REPORTS.**

**AMC** – Chairman Johnson reported that the District 8 meeting is June 11<sup>th</sup> at the Country Club in Pipestone, 8:00 AM.

**APPROVE RCRCA MINUTES of May 2026 Board Meeting.** Motion by Woelber, seconded by Eckstein, to approve May 2026 Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVE AREA II MINUTES of May 2026 Board Meeting.** Motion by Johnson, seconded by Crowley, to approve May 2026 Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**RCRCA TREASURER’S REPORT – May 2026.** The financials were reviewed with the board. Motion by Veerkamp, seconded by Kruisselbrink, to approve May 2026 Treasurer’s Report subject to audit and for payment of bill. Motion carried unanimously.

**AREA II TREASURER’S REPORT – May 2026.** Financials were reviewed with the board. Revenue received: \$ 3,905.30 Contract Services Income, and \$3,847.00 Interest. Bills for approval: \$4,890.00 Bolton & Menk, \$20,993.50 Barr Engineering (LQP Floodway) and \$1,444.00 Dale Sterzinger (North Hero 34 Wetland Delineation). Motion by Crowley, seconded by Woelber, to approve May 2026 Treasurer’s Report subject to audit and for payment of the bills. Motion carried unanimously.

**Revenue as recorded:**

Contract Service Income (RCRCA)	\$ 3,905.30	Projects-MMB General Fund	\$ 0.00
Interest Income	\$ 3,847.00	County Levy	\$ 0.00
State of MN-Admin Services	\$ 0.00	Tech Assist/Misc.	\$ 0.00
Water Quality & Storage Grants	\$ 0.00	Soil Borings Reimburse	\$ 0.00

**Paid bills are summarized below:**

Administration	\$ 18,586.38	Office Supplies	\$ 0.00
Bonding Project Funds	\$ 0.00	Other Insurance	\$ 0.00
Capital Outlay	\$ 0.00	Postage	\$ 0.00
Contract Services - RCRCA	\$ 2,584.85	Professional Services	\$ 10,494.50
Directors’ Expense	\$ 0.00	Project Expenses Paid	\$ 48,940.00
Directors’ Insurance	\$ 0.00	Project Permit Fees	\$ 0.00

## Joint Meeting Area II/RCRCA Board of Directors

Employee Expense	\$	0.00	Rent	\$	837.00
Field Supplies	\$	0.00	Telephone	\$	90.11
Investigating & Testing	\$	0.00	Utilities-Web Hosting	\$	0.00
Maintenance & Repair	\$	453.07	Vehicle Expense	\$	184.10
Miscellaneous Expense	\$	14.00	Continuing Education	\$	0.00
Insurance	\$	0.00	Investigation & Testing	\$	0.00

### Bills for approval:

Professional Services	\$	27,327.50	Maintenance & Repair	\$	0.00
Project Costs	\$	1,444.00	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

### **AREA II**

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- **Announcements** Long-time LQP-YB Watershed District board member Darrel Ellefson passed away on May 8, 2026 at the age of 85. Contractor Chris Nibbe, from A&C Excavating, passed away on May 24, 2026 from his battle with cancer. He was 51.
- **Bonding Bill Language** Area II was not included in the 2026 bonding bill. Requests were 3x the approved amount. The Town Hall meetings for Sen. Dahms, Rep. Swedzinski, and Rep. Torkelson were attended where appreciation of their many years of support for Area II and RCRCA was expressed.
- **Alta Vista 27 Road Retention (Lincoln County)**  
Application for the Section 401 Water Quality Certification was submitted May 8. USACE/MPCA established a Responsible Period of Time (RPOT) for review of 120 days. A 60-day period was requested to accommodate bid letting, construction and opening the road before harvest starts in September. The request was denied, and we were informed that 60 days is a more typical time frame for their reviews.
- **North Hero 34 Road Retention (Redwood County)**
  - The DNR Public Waters Permit was submitted on March 19<sup>th</sup>.

## Joint Meeting Area II/RCRCA Board of Directors

- The wetland delineation report was received on May 29. The Joint Application will be submitted to the Corps of Engineers in early June. We anticipate a Water Quality Certification being needed, and that request will be made the same day to start the 30-day submittal clock.

### • **LQP Floodway (Yellow Medicine County)**

A virtual meeting with Barr Engineering was held May 19<sup>th</sup> which included DNR Floodplain Unit staff to present the model's flow predictions and to discuss mapping. DNR agrees that a Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) will be needed to include the area in the floodplain maps. An in-person meeting will be scheduled in August that will include the landowners. At this meeting, options will be presented to improve the weir inlet, restore the river channel, correctly size culverts, and improve the current flooding situation with the design.

• **Dam Inspections** Dam inspections were completed on May 19 and May 22. The only dams with significant issues were Hauschild-Thange (Lincoln) with high pool conditions caused by a partially-clogged low flow inlet, and Schoper-Bush (Cottonwood) as the low flow trash rack has completely fallen off the concrete riser due to broken bolts. Reports will be completed in the next few weeks and sent to the proper authorities for signature.

Area II staff were asked to look at a small dam project near Lamberton. The manhole riser was in 2 sections due to its length (usually 8' for longer) as excavators can usually only handle 6' sections due to weight. It appears that ice jams have managed to move the top manhole section just enough to cause some leakage at the joint between the 2 sections. Staff also witnessed this on a project east of Marshall, but it had not moved to the extent of the Redwood County project. Discussions are being had to include Gator Wrap, and very strong and tacky wrap that can be applied to this joint to prevent this from happening in the future. This product can be applied to the interior of the pipe, but dry conditions are needed for application.

## **RCRCA**

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• **Redwood CWMP Update** The Redwood River WBIF Workplan was approved and the grant agreement for \$1,121,292 was signed on May 20<sup>th</sup>. The Technical Committee met May 28<sup>th</sup> to finalize the grant policy and scoring/ranking sheet. Several projects have been submitted for cost-share funding which will initiate the Policy Committee's (RCRCA) first meeting on June 4<sup>th</sup>, following the Cottonwood-Middle Minnesota meeting. We await the deposit for the first 50% of the grant.

• **Cottonwood-Middle MN CWMP Update** Staff intend to request the 2<sup>nd</sup> WBIF grant in Fall 2026. Project expenditures and progress towards goals for the 1<sup>st</sup> WBIF grant need to occur before requesting more funds. BWSR reviews the first grant closely to ensure that funds are being spent according to the policy in high priority areas.

## Joint Meeting Area II/RCRCA Board of Directors

- **Springfield Log Jam** The **Conservation Legacy Partners Grant** RFP will be released in August. This grant has funded log jam removals in the past with the focus on the habitat and fish passage benefits. The City of Springfield has agreed to provide the 10% match (\$25,000). Brown County will be approached with a request to assist with local match.
- **Pell Creek/Plum Creek CWF Grant Reconciliations** The reconciliations have been completed with RCRCA receiving a letter of noncompliance. The letter details the amendments needed to specific cost-share contracts and adjustments to be made in eLINK. Within 60 days, these amendments are to be completed, and a written corrective action plan submitted to BWSR, to address how RCRCA will prevent the reoccurrence of these violations. A virtual meeting with BWSR staff was held on May 18<sup>th</sup> to review the letter contents and ask questions. These changes will impact the amount of the 10% reimbursement to be received by RCRCA. I continue to discuss this with BWSR and will share the letter with Redwood SWCD for their assistance with these contract amendments.
- **2026 Canoe Trips** The trips are planned for Tuesday, June 16<sup>th</sup> for the Redwood River and Thursday, June 18<sup>th</sup> for the Cottonwood River. The Cottonwood River route (County Road 4 to County Road 10) has been confirmed by Shawn who kayaked the stretch to ensure navigability. We will picnic lunch at the landing site. Low flow conditions may warrant portaging canoes for both rivers.

When collecting the kayaks and canoes from winter storage at the Lyon County Fairgrounds, one of the plastic canoes was found to be damaged from something being backed into it. A large dent with a crack was found, and the canoe was not water-worthy. Action Sports was contacted regarding possible repair. They send repairs to Cottonwood, MN and in their opinion based on photos, the repair cost would be greater than the \$500 value of the canoe. Insurance deductible is \$1,000.

A 15.5' Pelican plastic canoe was located at the Redwood Falls Runnings store that was clearance priced at \$499.93. With tax, the total would exceed the \$500 expense limit without Board approval. The canoes had been reserved for use for the full weekend of May 29-May 31 which necessitated the need to replace the canoe prior to the June Board meeting. Chairman Johnson approved this expenditure due to the immediate need.

### **AREA II ENGINEER'S REPORT.**

**Shelburne 18 Grade Stabilization (JD 12 Lincoln-Lyon), Lyon County.** This project serves as a field access in lieu of replacing a deficient bridge and provides temporary water storage. The project is proceeding to a joint hearing with the ditch authority for the repair and the impoundment. Final plans and specifications, an impoundment report, and repair report have been prepared. BWSR Water Quality & Storage grant funds will reimburse engineering expenses. **Paxton 3 Dam Repair, Redwood County.** This project is on the Lower Sioux Indian Community. Bids were opened May 13, 2026. The low bid was Dusty's Service and Repair for \$48,314.25; engineer's estimate was \$64,703.10. The project is eligible for EQIP federal funding which requires additional review from the NRCS. A design report has been submitted to the NRCS for consideration along with plans and

## Joint Meeting Area II/RCRCA Board of Directors

specifications. **Custer 9 Grade Stabilization, Lyon County.** Upon the landowner's request, this proposed structure has been partially redesigned to incorporate a permanent pool without including an auxiliary spillway. After the landowner chooses which option (pool versus no pool) he desires, funding will be established. Both options have very good reduction numbers. **Sodus 9 Grade Stabilization Repair, Lyon County.** This previously designed project had the engineering updated late last year. Bids were opened May 27, 2026 with Ryan West Excavating having the low bid at \$117,248.86. The engineer's estimate is \$137,489.00. We will review the bid with the owner and establish cost-share assistance. **Holly 10 North Grade Stabilization, Murray County.** This project is a proposed new structure that preliminarily shows considerable flow reductions and is being revised to include a permanent pond. A preliminary design and cost estimate are being finalized. **Island Lake 19 Grade Stabilization, Lyon County.** This is another proposed grade stabilization project that would be a new structure in the Redwood River watershed. A preliminary design and cost estimate are being prepared.

**Area II Biennial Plan FY'27 Update.** Netzke reviewed the updates to the biennial plan. The FY'27 budget will need to be approved and included in the plan update. Motion by Woelber, seconded by Veerkamp, to approve the Area II Biennial Plan for FY2027 with the addition of the approved FY'27 budget. Motion carried unanimously.

**Area II Draft FY'27 Budget.** Netzke presented the board with a draft budget for FY'27. Last year, Area II staff did not have a merit raise or a COLA increase due to budget uncertainty with the reduced administration grant from \$190,000 to \$140,000. For FY'27 Netzke intends to keep her hours at 72 hours/2 weeks along with the other changes made for FY'26 relating to the reduced grant funding. Motion by Johnson, seconded by Crowley, to accept FY'27 Option #3 with a 3% COLA. Motion carried unanimously.

**Public Waters Inventory Update** – Brown County is the first Area II/RCRCA county to undergo the update and a discussion was requested. Commissioner Veerkamp reported that 11 waters were added to the PWI and 3 were removed. The public hearing was very loud as some nonexistent waterways that no longer exist were added to the inventory. There are 45 days to appeal decisions. DNR doesn't enforce the buffer law; BWSR will need to address the 50' buffer installation. DNR did provide updates along the way; however, the Commissioner's felt that answers weren't always provided to their questions.

### **Redwood 1W1P – Authorize to Sign Amendment extending grant to August 30, 2026.**

Netzke reported that there are remaining funds that will be used for Houston Engineering to make the approved plan ADA compliant. Houston has finished development of the BEAST, but is continuing their work on MS4Front tracking system, and the stacked subwatershed hydrograph analysis. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Woelber, to authorize Netzke to sign the amendment extending the grant to August 30, 2026. Motion carried unanimously.

**Joint Meeting Area II/RCRCA Board of Directors**

**RCRCA Executive Committee – Williams Performance Review and Wage Adjustment.**

Netzke stated that with the onset of RR-WBIF grant that Williams is due for a performance review and wage adjustment. Netzke would like to set up a virtual meeting on June 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM. Netzke will confirm the day/time with the missing executive committee members.

**ADJOURNMENT.** With no other business, Chairman Anderson and Chairman Johnson declared the meeting adjourned at 10:30 AM.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS:**

July Board Meeting	Thursday, July 2, 2026	Lyon County Government Center
August Board Meeting	Thursday, Aug. 6, 2026	Redwood County Govt Center

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Larry Anderson, Area II Chairman      Date