

AREA II

AREA II / RCRCA

March 6, 2025 – Executive Board of Directors Meeting
Area II/RCRCA Office, Marshall, MN – Zoom Only
Roll Call Votes on all motions – all attended via Zoom - *Executive Board

AREA II Members Present: *Jeff Veerkamp, *Larry Anderson, *Gary Crowley, Luke Johnson and Rick Wakefield.

RCRCA Members Present: Jeff Veerkamp, Larry Anderson, *Clark Lingbeek, *Gary Crowley, *Paul Posthuma, * Luke Johnson, and Rick Wakefield.

Others Present: Kerry Netzke – Executive Director, and Joy Bruns – RCRCA Office Manager.

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 AM by RCRCA Chairman Johnson and Area II Chairman Anderson, confirming that quorum for both organizations was met.

ADOPT AGENDA. **RCRCA** - Motion by Lingbeek, seconded by Crowley, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously. **Area II** - Motion by Crowley, seconded by Johnson, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

AGENCY AND MEETING REPORTS.

MASWCD. Supervisor Lingbeek reported that MASWCD Legislative Days were 03/04/25 and 03/05/25. MASWCD is seeking guaranteed funding for SWCDs from the general fund. Senator Weber has signed onto the bill in support which he has not done in the past.

AMC. Commissioner Johnson reported on the Legislative Days held 2/27/25 and 2/28/25. The Governor stated that he was not in favor of passing costs onto the counties yet is doing this in his budget. The House and Senate Leaders said that the Governor's budget is not their budget. The new budget forecast is to be released today (March 6).

APPROVE RCRCA MINUTES of February 2025 Board Meeting. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Wakefield, to recommend approval to the full board of the February 2025 Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Joint Meeting Area II/RCRCA Executive Board of Directors – March 6, 2025

APPROVE AREA II MINUTES of February 2025 Board Meeting. Motion by Johnson, seconded by Crowley, to recommend approval to the full board of the February 2025 Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

RCRCA TREASURER’S REPORT – February 2025. Financials were reviewed by the Board. Motion by Posthuma, seconded by Lingbeek, to recommend approval to the full board to file the February 2025 Treasurer’s Report subject to audit and approve payment of the bills. Motion carried unanimously.

AREA II TREASURER’S REPORT – February 2025. Financials were reviewed by the Board. Revenue received: \$ 5,123.78 Contract Services Income, \$16,755.60 County Levy FY2025, and \$4,172.10 Interest Income. Bills for approval: \$5,472.50 Bolton & Menk and \$1,088.00 ESRI (ArcGIS subscription). Motion by Veerkamp, seconded by Crowley, to recommend approval to the full board to file the February 2025 Treasurer’s Report subject to audit and approve payment of the bills. Motion carried unanimously.

Revenue as recorded:

Contract Service Income (RCRCA)	\$ 5,123.78	Projects-MMB General Fund	\$ 0.00
Interest Income	\$ 4,172.10	County Levy	\$ 16,755.60
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	\$ 19,195.51	Office Supplies	\$ 0.00
Bonding Project Funds	\$ 0.00	Other Insurance	\$ 0.00
Capital Outlay	\$ 0.00	Postage	\$ 0.00
Contract Services - RCRCA	\$ 1,707.23	Professional Services	\$ 4,661.00
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	\$ 10.08
Investigating & Testing	\$ 0.00	Utilities-Web Hosting	\$ 0.00
Maintenance & Repair	\$ 1,697.71	Vehicle Expense	\$ 61.63
Miscellaneous Expense	\$ 12.98	Continuing Education	\$ 0.00
Insurance	\$ 0.00	Investigation& Testing	\$ 0.00

Bills for approval:

Professional Services	\$ 5,472.50	Maintenance & Repair	\$ 1,088.00
Project Costs	\$ 0.00	Insurance	\$ 0.00

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

AREA II

- **Florida Creek Restoration Project – Garfield 32/33.** We have permission to proceed.

- **Senator Tina Smith.** Jeanne Poppe, Outreach Specialist, was in Marshall on 2/26/25 and listened to the concerns of Commissioner Crowley, John Biren (SWCD and P&Z), Aurora Heard (Lyon County Auditor) and Netzke. Netzke voiced her frustrations with the Stream Assessment Program implemented by USACE (lack of field visits, need for professionals to do the assessments, extra costs, etc.) Poppe was very attentive and took many notes.

- **Legislative Requests.** Bill introductions.
Administrative Funds. House File 939/Senate File 946. (Both bills referred to Natural Resources Finance). *“\$190,000 in fiscal year 2026 and \$190,000 in fiscal year 2027 are appropriated from the general fund to the Board of Water and Soil Resources for grants to Area II Minnesota River Basin Projects for floodplain management.”*
Capital Investment. House File 1455/Senate File 904. (Both bills referred to Capital Investment). *“\$1,500,000 is appropriated from the bond proceeds fund to the Board of Water and Soil Resources for a grant to Minnesota River Basin Projects for the state’s share of a flood hazard mitigation grant for capital improvements to prevent or alleviate flood damage in Area II of the Minnesota River Basin. This appropriation is not available until the board determines that \$1 has been committed from nonstate sources for every \$3 of state grant.”*

Netzke has not been informed of any pending hearings yet.

- **BWSR Water Quality & Storage Grants.** Netzke intends to submit 2 applications before the April 10 due date:
 - 1) **Lynd 31 Road Retention (Lyon County).** We will update the cost estimate, include a stream mitigation estimate, and resubmit this application which just missed the funding cutoff in 2024.
 - 2) **LQP Floodways (Yellow Medicine County.)** Working in conjunction with DNR, an application for a Feasibility Study/Conceptual Design will be submitted requesting funds to hire professional engineering to complete the hydraulic modeling for this oxbow cutoff. Duane Hansel, PE provided much of the engineering which was turned over to DNR to complete. Due to staffing changes, the model has not been completed. The grant will complete the model and provide a cost estimate for channel cleanout and weir redesign to allow the LQP River to flow through the natural channel and utilize the floodway only in high flow conditions. Currently, the river flows through the floodway with little flow in the natural river channel. Area II would be the grantee as DNR is not allowed to apply for this funding.

RCRCA

- **Cottonwood-Middle MN 1W1P Update.** The Steering Team and Policy Committee met on February 19 and will meet on March 7 for a full day to revise documents needed in preparation of the grant application and for implementation (scoring and ranking policy, cost-share policy, cost-share procedures, etc.).

- **Redwood CWMP Update.** The Steering Team met February 10. The Advisory Committee and Steering Team will meet jointly on March 10 to discuss/review the Priority Issues, Measurable Goals Sections and Implementation Tables. The Policy Committee will meet at 1:00 PM following the Advisory Committee/Steering Team meeting.

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 completed, and final plans are nearly complete. Once this is completed, a meeting with all parties involved will be held to discuss any changes as well as borrow areas and flowage easements. 2025 construction is anticipated. Netzke is sending a letter to the township to provide an update for the township annual meeting on March 11. **Alta Vista 27 Road Retention, Lincoln County.** Final plans and a cost estimate have been completed, and the project is progressing towards a meeting with all involved parties to discuss any changes, tree removals, flowage easements, borrow sites, wetland delineation and permitting needs. We have submitted a proposed channel realignment to the DNR regarding stream mitigation for a segment of natural channel that will be impacted by construction. Once the DNR agrees, this alignment will be proposed to USACE. A new wetland delineation will also be needed as the previous delineation is not acceptable to WCA. The Local Government Wetland Replacement Program requirements include designing the roadway to the minimum standards for road safety and justification that the project will prevent road damages. 2025 construction is anticipated. Netzke is sending a letter to the township to provide an update for the township's annual meeting on March 11. **Florida Creek Restoration, LQP County.** Continuation of work on this project has been authorized by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and LQP-YB Watershed District. The DNR proposes restoring approximately 1,000 feet of natural channel on a portion of the ground that the DNR currently owns. Sharing of technical information and additional survey work has been completed. Preliminary design work has begun. **Holly 20 Small Dam, Murray County.** This is a grade control structure that has a working preliminary design that had to be altered to avoid impacts to existing wetlands. A preliminary cost estimate is being finalized based on the new design, and a meeting with the landowner is expected to discuss the alterations. **Norman 34 Small Dam Repair, Yellow Medicine County.** This is a grade control structure repair project that seeks to replace a failing pipe through the structure as well as clean out silt and sedimentation accumulation in the pond. Preliminary review of the contributing watershed has been started. Additionally, a set of repair plans from 1999 have been found and are being utilized in the design process. **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 review by the USACE, the amount of stream removal/disturbance was going to require mitigation. Bolton & Menk was hired to perform the stream assessment and calculate the impacts and required mitigation. Based off these mitigation requirements, the cost of mitigation (a stream restoration project), and the availability of mitigation locations, it was considered to redesign the structure to get under the limit of 200 feet of disturbance to avoid stream mitigation

Joint Meeting Area II/RCRCA Executive Board of Directors – March 6, 2025

requirements. This can be accomplished by removing the permanent pool aspect of the project. Netzke is confirming the 200 feet threshold with USACE that is listed for Tier 4 impacts which includes culverts and dams/impoundments. **Holly 22 Road Retention, Murray County.** This project, also funded by a BWSR Water Quality & Storage Grant, has a preliminary design completed. The downstream channel is facing the same realignment issues as Alta Vista 27, so we wanted to know our limitations in moving the stream channel before starting that redesign on this project. Netzke is sending a letter to the township to provide for the township annual meeting. **Springdale 30 Road Retention (CSAH 20), Redwood County.** A Zoom meeting was held 2/26/25 as the first of three coordination meetings to complete the plans, secure permits and easements (slope, ROW and flowage) and submit the project for federal funding. The WCA Technical Evaluation Panel (TEP) met on 2/24/25 and determined that wetland replacements via Local Government Wetland Replacement Program are allowable. One corner of the plunge pool will impact a downstream wetland, and it was requested that the plunge pool be moved to attempt to avoid wetland impacts. Through our discussion, we believe the plunge pool can be skewed to avoid the wetland and also coincide better with natural land contours. Widseth will make this change, so no more is needed from Area II. Netzke is providing the final HydroCAD model, geotechnical report, and preliminary hazard classification to the DNR Dam Safety as requested. Flowage easements are being drafted and will be shared as soon as they are ready.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Supervisor Lingbeek wanted to mention a few projects in Cottonwood County.

String Lake Project (west of Windom). The road adjacent to the lake is undergoing severe erosion. Letters have been sent to DNR by attorney John Kolb, Rinke Noonan, however the DNR will not respond.

Talcott Lake. The dam structure is scheduled to be replaced as it was damaged in the 2024 flood. Talcott County Park has 60 campsites and there is concern about drawing down the lake to accommodate the dam replacement.

DNR Fee to Cross Ditches. Broadband is coming to Cottonwood County. In order for the fiber optic cable to go under county and judicial ditches, the DNR charges a permit fee of \$500 for each crossing. This makes it difficult for rural Minnesota to make needed progress when faced with this extra cost. Commissioner Johnson noted that this topic was discussed at the AMC conference.

Joint Meeting Area II/RCRCA Executive Board of Directors – March 6, 2025

ADJOURNMENT. Chairman Anderson and Chairman Johnson declared the meeting adjourned at 10:03 AM. The next meeting will be at the Redwood County Learning Center on April 3, 2025 at 9:00 AM.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

April Board Meeting	Thursday, April 3, 2025	Redwood Learning Center 9 AM
May Board Meeting	Thursday, May 1, 2025	Lyon County Government 9 AM

Larry Anderson, Area II Chairman Date