

AREA II

AREA II / RCRCA

April 3, 2025 – Board of Directors Meeting
Redwood County Learning Center - Redwood Falls, MN

AREA II Members Present: Jeff Veerkamp, Larry Anderson, Greg Thole, Gary Crowley, Luke Johnson and Glen Kack.

RCRCA Members Present: Jeff Veerkamp, Bill Eckstein, Larry Anderson, Clark Lingbeek, Gary Crowley, Allen Deutz, Paul Posthuma, Luke Johnson, Brad Kruisselbrink, Ed Carter and Glen Kack.

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

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 AM by RCRCA Chairman Johnson and Area II Chairman Anderson. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, introductions were made.

ADOPT AGENDA. Netzke requested an addition for LQP Floodways local match request.

RCRCA – Motion by Lingbeek, seconded by Crowley, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously. **Area II** - Motion by Crowley, seconded by Thole, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

AGENCY AND MEETING REPORTS.

MPCA. Commissioner Johnson reported that Cottonwood and Pipestone County representatives at the Regional Solid Waste meetings made comments that were perceived as unprofessional and unproductive by MPCA staff. A meeting is scheduled for them to discuss the issues to make the meetings more productive.

MASWCD. Supervisor Lingbeek reported that the legislative session is ongoing. The Area V meeting will be held June 26 in Windom and hosted by Cottonwood SWCD. They will tour the new Amo Creamery located west of Windom.

AMC. Commissioner Johnson attended the AMC Leadership Summit. Medicaid cuts were discussed which will affect counties. There is no state funding to help offset the loss of federal funds.

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RATIFY RCRCA MINUTES of February 2025 Board Meeting. Chairman Johnson asked for a motion to approve the February Minutes as recommended by the Executive Board. Motion by Lingbeek, seconded by Posthuma, to ratify the February 2025 Minutes as recommended by the Executive Board. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE RCRCA MINUTES of March 2025 Board Meeting. Motion by Lingbeek, seconded by Carter, to approve the March Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

RATIFY AREA II MINUTES of February 2025 Board Meeting. Chairman Anderson asked for a motion to approve February Minutes as recommended by the Executive Board. Motion by Johnson, seconded by Veerkamp, to ratify the February 2025 Minutes as recommended by the Executive Board. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE AREA II MINUTES of March 2025 Board Meeting. Motion by Johnson, seconded by Kack, to approve March Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

RCRCA TREASURER'S REPORT – Ratify February 2025. Chairman Johnson asked for a motion to ratify the February 2025 Treasurer's Report as recommended by the Executive Board. Motion by Carter, seconded by Lingbeek, to ratify the February Treasurer's Report as recommended by the Executive Board, subject to audit and approve payment of the bills. Motion carried unanimously.

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

AREA II TREASURER'S REPORT – Ratify February 2025. Chairman Anderson asked for a motion to approve the February Treasurer's Report as recommended by the Executive Board. Motion by Johnson, seconded by Crowley, to ratify the February 2025 Treasurer's Report as recommended by the Executive Board, subject to audit and approve payment of the bills. Motion carried unanimously.

AREA II TREASURER'S REPORT – March 2025. Financials were reviewed with the board. Revenue received: \$ 5,143.11 Contract Services Income and \$3,735.18 Interest Income. Bill for approval: \$11,341.50 Bolton & Menk. Motion by Thole, seconded by Veerkamp, to approve the March Treasurer's Report subject to audit and approve payment of the bills. Motion carried unanimously.

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Revenue as recorded:

Contract Service Income (RCRCA)	\$ 5,143.11	Projects-MMB General Fund	\$ 0.00
Interest Income	\$ 3,735.18	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	\$ 19,195.51	Office Supplies	\$ 0.00
Bonding Project Funds	\$ 0.00	Other Insurance	\$ 0.00
Capital Outlay	\$ 0.00	Postage	\$ 0.00
Contract Services - RCRCA	\$ 1,787.57	Professional Services	\$ 5,472.50
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	\$ 50.52
Investigating & Testing	\$ 0.00	Utilities-Web Hosting	\$ 0.00
Maintenance & Repair	\$ 1,219.44	Vehicle Expense	\$ 0.00
Miscellaneous Expense	\$ 0.00	Continuing Education	\$ 0.00
Insurance	\$ 0.00	Investigation & Testing	\$ 0.00

Bills for approval:

Professional Services	\$ 11,431.50	Maintenance & Repair	\$ 0.00
Project Costs	\$ 0.00	Insurance	\$ 0.00

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

AREA II

• **Legislative Testimony**

Capital Investment **House File 1455/Senate File 904**

Netzke testified remotely on March 20 for the House Capital Investment Committee. Two questions were asked: 1) Do we apply for LSOHC funds for the wildlife portions of our projects? and 2) Is the installation of drain tile slowing down? It was explained that the majority of the projects are designed as 'dry dams' without wildlife habitat enhancements, so LSOHC has not been applied for. As for tiling, it seems to be cyclical and goes in when commodity prices have been good and farmers have income to spend, and/or after a wet season where crop loss occurred, and farmers want to prevent further losses.

Administrative Funds **House File 939/Senate File 946**

A hearing for the Senate Environment, Climate & Legacy Committee was held April 1 which Netzke testified remotely due to weather concerns. The bill was laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill.

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- **BWSR Water Quality & Storage Grants** Netzke intends to submit two applications before the April 10 due date.

Lynd 31 Road Retention (Lyon County). We are updating the cost estimate, including a stream mitigation estimate, and resubmitting this application which just missed the funding cutoff in 2024.

LQP Floodways (YM County). This application is for Concept & Design Funds to complete the hydrologic model for this project. The 1978-permitted floodway created a bypass channel for high flows across an oxbow of the LQP River. Due to sedimentation at the start of the floodway, nearly all flow goes through the floodway and not the natural river channel.

RCRCA

- **Cottonwood-Middle MN 1W1P Update** The Steering Team met in person on March 7 and virtually on March 18 to revise documents for the \$1.9M WBIF grant application and implementation (scoring and ranking worksheet and cost-share policy). The virtual meeting included demonstrations of the Des Moines Plan's Scoring and Ranking worksheet and the Benefits Estimator and Summary Tool (BEAST). The grant application is due April 30. We are awaiting completion of the BEAST by April 1 in order to accurately determine the number of projects and their estimated reductions to include in the grant application.

- **Redwood CWMP Update** The Advisory Committee/Steering Team met March 10 to discuss the Priority Issues and Measurable Goals sections and see the draft Implementation Tables for the first time. PTMApp is estimating 10-year reductions of 11% sediment, 5% total phosphorus and 5% total nitrogen which are very similar to neighboring watersheds. The Policy Committee met at 1:00 PM. It was decided that Plan Administration will utilize RCRCA's joint powers agreement. The next Policy Committee meeting will be May 12 at 1:00 PM at the Lyon County Government Center. The Steering Team will meet on April 14.

- **FY24 Audit** Peterson Company Ltd has begun the audit. Staff have been supplying information as requested and answering questions regarding procedures and policies that correspond with the audit. A question was asked if the audit looks for fraud. Netzke responded that several questions pertain to suspected fraud and the procedures in place to address fraud if suspected. Supervisor Carter added that auditors can only comment on the financial materials provided to them. While auditors do look for obvious sources of fraud, it is not the intent of their work and subsequent report.

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. The township requested a meeting in April with all parties involved to discuss any changes as well as borrow areas and flowage easements. 2025 construction is anticipated. **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 the parties involved 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. The DNR has agreed, and this new alignment has been proposed to USACE. A new wetland delineation may be needed as the previous delineation may not be acceptable for WCA. 2025 construction is anticipated. **Florida Creek Restoration, LQP County.** Continuation of work on this project has been authorized by the Minnesota DNR and LQP-YB Watershed District. The DNR proposes restoring approximately 1,000 feet of natural channel on a portion of 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.** Final plans and specifications for this grade control structure had to be altered to avoid impacts to existing wetlands at the outlet. After a meeting with the landowner, he is interested in seeking a quote for construction to see if additional local funds may need to be sought. Documents will be going out to contractors for construction cost estimates. **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. Original design documents are also being sought for comparisons 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 review by the USACE, the amount of stream removal/disturbance was going to require stream 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 threshold of 200 feet. This can be accomplished by removing the permanent pool aspect of the project. Kerry is working to confirm the 200-foot 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 the design on this project. A meeting was held onsite with the DNR to discuss options. Ultimately, this project appears feasible with consideration being paid to conservation to total stream length. DeSchepper will be attending a township meeting on April 7 to summarize the current design, schedule, and 10% local match needed from the township and/or local entities. **Springdale 30 Road Retention (CSAH 20), Redwood County.** Widseth has requested that we complete the necessary hydraulic analysis and risk assessment. Kerry has already provided the final HydroCAD model, geotechnical report, and preliminary hazard classifications to DNR Dam Safety as requested. Kerry drafted the flowage easements for the Redwood County Highway Department for legal review and

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processing. Today, an email was received from DNR Dam Safety with a bullet list of questions that will take a team effort (Area II – Widseth – Redwood Co. Hwy Dept) to answer.

RCRCA – Approve Cottonwood-Middle MN WBIF Grant Application for \$1,958,370.

Netzke is applying for the implementation funding that is available for the Cottonwood-Middle Minnesota watershed. Netzke discussed the proposed use of the implementation funds. With RCRCA now being the board responsible for implementation, this will be the board's first official action for the Plan. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Veerkamp, to approve the CW-MM WBIF Grant Application for \$1,958,370. Motion carried unanimously.

RCRCA – Joint Powers Agreement – Signature. Netzke presented the agreement for signature as it has been approved by all members. Annual appropriations were increased to \$90,000 per year starting in 2026. Signatures were obtained from those authorized to sign the agreement. Netzke will seek the remaining signatures throughout the month.

Area II – LQP Floodways Local Match. Netzke described the project to the board. The Water Quality and Storage grant is a 90/10 match. If the modeling cost is \$150,000, the local match will be \$15,000. Yellow Medicine County has committed \$5,000; the LQP-YB Watershed District should approve \$5,000 match at their meeting tomorrow, and Netzke is seeking permission to commit up to \$5,000 from Area II's County Funds to complete the local match needed. Motion by Johnson, seconded by Kack, to approve up to \$5,000 from Area II's County Funds for this purpose. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT. Chairman Anderson and Chairman Johnson declared the meeting adjourned at 10:03 AM. The next meeting will be at the Lyon County Government Center on May 1, 2025 at 9:00 AM.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

May Board Meeting	Thursday, May 1, 2025	Lyon County Government 9 AM
June Board Meeting	Thursday, June 5, 2025	Redwood Learning Center 9 AM

Larry Anderson, Area II Chairman

Date