AREA II
AREA II / RCRCA

September 3, 2026 – Board of Directors Meeting
Lyon County Government Center, Marshall, MN – In-Person & *Virtual

Roll Call votes on all motions.

AREA II Members Present: Jeff Veerkamp, *Larry Anderson, *Joe Drietz, Gary Crowley, Loy Woelber, Luke Johnson and Rick Wakefield.
RCRCA Members Present: Jeff Veerkamp, Bill Eckstein, *Larry Anderson, *Dave Bucklin, *Joe Drietz, Gary Crowley, *Allen Deutz, Loy Woelber, *Paul Posthuma, Luke Johnson, Brad Kruisselbrink and Rick Wakefield.
Others Present: Kerry Netzke – Executive Director, Courtney Williams – RCRCA Watershed Coordinator and Joy Bruns – RCRCA Office Manager.

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

ADOPT AGENDA. There was one addition to the agenda for Area II to select a new delegate for YM Policy Committee. ***RCRCA*** – Motion by Crowley, seconded by Woelber, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously. ***Area II*** - Motion by Woelber, seconded by Wakefield, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

AGENCY AND MEETING REPORTS.

AMC - Commissioner Johnson stated that the Fall Policy Conference will be held September 16-18 at Bemidji, MN.

APPROVE RCRCA MINUTES of August 2026 Board Meeting. Motion by Woelber, seconded by Kruisselbrink, to approve the August 2026 Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

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

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

AREA II TREASURER'S REPORT – August 2026. Financials were reviewed with the board. Revenue received: $ 5,307.90 Contract Services Income, $858.25 Technical Assistance, $4,169.40 MMB Grant - Redwood County, and $3,556.85 Interest. Bills for approval: $6,643.00 Bolton & Menk, $4,960.00 Barr Engineering (LQP Floodway) and $3,881.25 Soil Technologies. Motion by Crowley, seconded by Anderson, to approve August 2026 Treasurer's Report subject to audit and for payment of the bills. Motion carried unanimously.

Revenue as recorded:

Contract Service Income (RCRCA)	$	5,307.90	Projects-MMB General Fund	$	4,169.40
Interest Income	$	3,556.85	County Levy	$	0.00
State of MN-Admin Services	$	0.00	Tech Assist/Misc.	$	858.25
Water Quality & Storage Grants	$	0.00	Soil Borings Reimbursed	$	0.00
Miscellaneous Income	$	0.00			

Paid bills are summarized below:

Administration	$	19,008.48	Office Supplies	$	0.00
Bonding Project Funds	$	0.00	Other Insurance	$	0.00
Capital Outlay	$	0.00	Postage	$	0.00
Contract Services - RCRCA	$	1,744.25	Professional Services	$	15,041.00
Directors' Expense	$	0.00	Project Expenses Paid	$	2,700.00
Directors' Insurance	$	0.00	Project Permit Fees	$	0.00
Employee Expense	$	225.34	Rent	$	837.00
Field Supplies	$	0.00	Telephone	$	172.34
Investigating &Testing	$	0.00	Utilities-Web Hosting	$	203.88
Maintenance & Repair	$	139.74	Vehicle Expense	$	820.10
Miscellaneous Expense	$	9.78	Continuing Education	$	0.00
Insurance	$	0.00	Investigation& Testing	$	5,656.25

Bills for approval:

Professional Services	$	11,603.00	Investigation & Testing	$	3,881.25

RCRCA - APPROVE/AMEND/PAY COMPLETED COST SHARE CONTRACTS. ***None***

AREA II – APPROVE/AMEND/PAY COMPLETED COST SHARE CONTRACTS.

NEW CONTRACTS/AMENDMENTS: ***None***

CONTRACTS FOR PAYMENT:

Netzke presented one completed project for payment for - 410 Grade Stabilization Restoration – Sodus 9 – Lyon. Motion by Wakefield, seconded by Woelber to approve the project payment. Motion carried unanimously.

Gen. Funds Const. Grant-2023-09	**Sodus 9 – Lyon**	**410 Grade Stabilization Restoration**

Greg Deutz

EST Cost**: $120,000.00** **EST** Cost Share**:** $ 90,000.00 (75%)
ACT Cost: **$119,118.86** **ACT** Cost Share: $ 89,339.14 (75%)

Local Match: $29,779.71 (25)
Landowner $11,911.89 (10.0%)
Lyon County $17,867.82 (15.0%)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Warren Formo's obituary was shared with the Board. Formo was the director for the Minnesota Ag Water Research Center and was a strong advocate for agriculture in the realm of water quality. MAWRC partners with MDA for the Discovery Farms research sites.
- Zoom subscription is increasing to $169.90/year. Recommend using Microsoft Teams for future meetings which the board approved by consensus.

AREA II

- **Alta Vista 27 Road Retention (Lincoln County)**
  - The Section 401 Water Quality Certification was received August 10, followed by the Corps permit on August 24. DNR has been notified and should finalize their permit soon. Wetland credit withdrawal from the Roadside Wetland Replacement program is ongoing. The formal bidding process will take 30 days, and concrete pipe/ manhole riser production takes 4-5 weeks, which would be early-mid November for the start of construction. The risk of having the intersection incomplete over the winter is a big gamble with snowmelt and Spring rainfall. Tyler Conley, PE is on vacation this week, and as soon as we discuss the situation with him, it's very likely that we will recommend bidding over the early winter months for spring/summer 2027 construction. The township plans to close the intersection after harvest if the project is not completed this year.

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

- The informational meeting on August 25 was well attended (20) including 8 landowners. Flood maps illustrating existing conditions and the two considered alternatives were shared and did not appear to surprise anyone. Barr Engineering commented that this project is challenging as there are no obvious solutions to direct more water into the river channel without banks overtopping and flooding. The group consensus is that the entire 4.5-mile stretch of river needs to be cleaned out as part of the solution.

• **Project Status** ***Springdale 30 Road Retention (Redwood County)*** This project will be completed this week by Noomen Excavating. ***Sodus 9 Dam Restoration (Lyon County)*** Ryan West Excavating will complete the project this week. ***Paxton 3 Dam Restoration (Redwood County)*** Preconstruction meeting was held August 26 with construction to begin after Labor Day by Dusty's Repair & Service. ***Alta Vista 34 Dam Restoration (Lincoln County)*** Construction will start August 31 by Ryan West Excavating. ***Shelburne 18 (JD12 Lincoln-Lyon) Grade Stabilization (Lyon County)*** Ground Works (Bill Sterzinger) plans to begin mid-September after the appeal period ends.

RCRCA

• **Redwood CWMP Planning Grant** The last policy committee meeting was held virtually on August 31 to approve the minutes from August 10, and the final financial report. Final report is due to BWSR by September 30.

• **CWMM 2.0 Grant** RCRCA signed the grant agreement on August 26 for $1,971,082. As soon as BWSR executes the agreement, we can begin to encumber expenses and approve projects for cost-share.

• **Pell Creek & Plum Creek CWF Grant Reconciliation** The Pell Creek reconciliation is close to completion, and a reimbursement of $36,186.59 to RCRCA will be made. This amount is the 10% less the repayment amount.

Murray SWCD assisted RCRCA with $14,171.01 and Redwood SWCD will assist with $14,732.83 as they have a repayment of their own to BWSR.

AREA II ENGINEER'S REPORT.

Shelburne 18 Grade Stabilization (JD 12 Lincoln-Lyon), Lyon County. A virtual hearing was held by the Joint Ditch Authority of JD12 Lincoln/Lyon on August 19 where the repair and impoundment contract was awarded to Ground Works for $93,682.26. The engineer's estimate of probable costs was $128,235.80. BWSR Water Quality & Storage grant funds will be utilized for this project and will reimburse professional engineering expenses. Construction is anticipated to begin in mid-September after the appeal period expires. ***Paxton 3 Dam Repair, Redwood County.*** A preconstruction meeting was held August 26,

and this grade stabilization project for the Lower Sioux Community is set to begin next Tuesday, September 8. A Change Order will need to be issued as the original construction completion date was August 28. ***Springdale 17 Road Retention, Redwood County.*** This road retention project is located northeast of Tracy, sections 8 and 17 of Springdale Township, on a failing box culvert/township bridge. MNDOT funding is available to cover the construction cost and will be removed from the bridge inventory. This additional state aid funding will require State Aid plan sheet compliance. The plan sheets have been reviewed and are being altered accordingly. The soils report from Team Services has arrived and will be reviewed to ensure adequate construction materials exist onsite. ***North Hero 34 Road Retention, Redwood County.*** This project, funded by a BWSR Water Quality & Storage Grant, has final plans that are complete and have been submitted to DNR Dam Safety. We have worked with DNR over their concerns with the flat-topped trash rack. The updated trash rack design is being implemented in the final plans and specifications for final DNR approval and for submittal to the Army Corps of Engineers. ***Alta Vista 34 Grade Stabilization Repair Project, Lincoln County.*** This is a grade stabilization repair project that proposes reestablishing the berm elevation and reconstruction of the failing outlet structure. Ryan West Excavating had a preconstruction meeting on August 31, and the work is anticipated to start in early September. This project is eligible for 90% cost-sharing through the Yellow Medicine 1W1P. ***Springdale 30 Road Retention (CSAH 20), Redwood County.*** This road retention began construction on July 20. Construction has progressed nicely and field adjustments to the pipe structures were successful. Kim Stoecker, PE, our geotechnical engineer from Mobridge, SD has been onsite twice to inspect the native clay material and gather 2' drill holes to rule out the presence of sand under the clay. Density tests have all passed on the compacted clay soils. Grading has been completed and paving is planned to start the week of August 31. ***Island Lake 19 Grade Stabilization, Lyon County.*** This is a proposed grade stabilization project that would replace an existing aging pond structure with a larger dry structure. A preliminary design is complete, and the project is progressing towards final plans and specifications. ***Custer 11 Upper Grade Control Structures, Lyon County.*** This is a proposed system of three grade stabilization structures that enter into Garvin Park from the west. These structures would be used to reduce peak flows and redirect water and debris from a recreational area. The preliminary design is showing considerable promise.

Health Insurance Premiums for 2027 & Budget Implications. Netzke stated that Area II's premium increased by 8.52%, resulting family coverage will cost $2,451.20 monthly for both employees. When Netzke had prepared the FY'27 budget for Area II, an estimated 7% increase was used. RCRCA received a 29.94% increase. Single coverage will be $1,597.36 (+$386.06), family coverage will be $2,941.16 (+$677.68). Bruns had suggested the possibility of her going on Medicare (estimated $187.50/month) with a supplement policy ($330.87), and prescription coverage. The new prescription rates are not available until October. The downside is that this health insurance stipend would be taxable income for Bruns. Medica is requesting a renewal decision by October 15. Discussion followed. Consensus of the board is to investigate Medicare and get firm numbers for the

Medicare/Supplement/Drug coverage. The next board meeting is October 1 at which time a decision will need to be made.

2026 Annual Meeting/Legislative Gathering. Netzke stated that we were looking for a date after the elections, potentially the same day as the board meeting on December 3. This meeting should take place before the start of the legislative session on January 12. Netzke will check into any orientation or other commitments that the new politicians may have scheduled. Netzke said that a presentation on Springdale 30 is available, as several drone videos were filmed during construction. Location is to be determined with more ideas and discussion next month.

RCRCA – Watershed Technician Performance Review. Netzke conducted an informal review with Wohnoutka who is starting his 24th year with RCRCA. Absolutely no complaints on performance or productivity, and he is very diligent with the sampling programs. Even with the increase in medical insurance, a small wage increase is recommended by Netzke. Discussion followed. The Board feels that good employees should be rewarded and need to be for retention. Motion by Crowley, seconded by Wakefield, to accept the performance review and approve a 3% merit raise on this anniversary date, with a 3% COLA in January. Motion carried unanimously.

Other Business – Area II New Delegate for YM Policy Committee. Anderson is requesting a replacement as he is not part of the Yellow Medicine watershed and feels that someone closer to Minneota should be on the policy committee. The committee meets 4 times a year in February, April, August and November. Area II intends to not join the MOU to be signed in late 2027/early 2028 as the counties already represent Area II. Woelber agreed to take the position as he can schedule his work to accommodate the meetings.

ADJOURNMENT. With no other business, Chairman Anderson and Chairman Johnson declared the meeting adjourned at 10:16 AM.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Oct Board Meeting	Thursday, Oct 1, 2026	Redwood County Govt Center – Commissioners Room
Nov Board Meeting	Thursday, Nov. 5, 2026	Lyon County Government Center – Commissioners Room
CWMM Policy Committee	Immediately following the Area II/RCRCA Meeting	
RRW Policy Committee	Immediately following the CWMM Policy Committee	

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Larry Anderson, Area II Chairman Date