

AREA II

AREA II / RCRCA

**April 2, 2026 – Board of Directors Meeting
Zoom Only (Roll Call Votes on all Motions)**

AREA II Members Present: Jeff Veerkamp, Larry Anderson, Stacy Tufto , Joe Drietz, Gary Crowley, Loy Woelber, Luke Johnson and Rick Wakefield.

RCRCA Members Present: Jeff Veerkamp, Bill Eckstein, Larry Anderson, Dave Bucklin, Joe Drietz, Ron Bunjer, Gary Crowley, Allen Deutz, Loy Woelber, Paul Posthuma (9:30), Luke Johnson, Brad Kruisselbrink, Rick Wakefield and Ed Carter.

Others Present: Kerry Netzke – Executive Director, Courtney Williams – RCRCA Watersheds Coordinator, Joy Bruns – RCRCA Office Manager, and Tom Andries – Lyon County Commissioner.

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 Carter, seconded by Kruisselbrink, 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.

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

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

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

Joint Meeting Area II/RCRCA Board of Directors

AREA II TREASURER’S REPORT – March 2026. Financials were reviewed with the board.

Revenue received: \$ 4,941.40 Contract Services Income, \$383,969.00 Water Quality Grant- Alta Vista 27, \$4,662.75 MMB Grant Reimbursement, \$14,881.50 Technical Assistance, \$2,653.57 Interest Income, and \$2,518.00.00 Levy FY26. Bills for approval: \$8,622.50 Bolton & Menk (Florida Creek Project and March bill), \$17,750.00 Keck Tree Service (North Hero 34), \$6,100.00 Scott’s Tree Service (Alta Vista 27), and \$4,026.50 Barr Engineering (LQP Floodway). Motion by Drietz, seconded by Crowley, to approve March 2026 Treasurer’s Report subject to audit and to approve payment of the bills. Motion carried unanimously.

Revenue as recorded:

Contract Service Income (RCRCA)	\$ 4,941.40	Projects-MMB General Fund	\$ 4,662.75
Interest Income	\$ 2,653.57	County Levy	\$ 2,518.00
State of MN-Admin Services	\$ 0.00	Tech Assist/Misc.	\$ 14,881.50
Water Quality & Storage Grants	\$383,969.00	Soil Borings Reimburse	\$ 0.00

Paid bills are summarized below:

Administration	\$ 18,586.41	Office Supplies	\$ 0.00
Bonding Project Funds	\$ 0.00	Other Insurance	\$ 0.00
Capital Outlay	\$ 0.00	Postage	\$ 0.00
Contract Services - RCRCA	\$ 1,723.23	Professional Services	\$ 23,727.60
Directors’ Expense	\$ 0.00	Project Expenses Paid	\$ 0.00
Directors’ Insurance	\$ 0.00	Project Permit Fees	\$ 6,217.00
Employee Expense	\$ 50.76	Rent	\$ 837.00
Field Supplies	\$ 0.00	Telephone	\$ 45.09
Investigating & Testing	\$ 0.00	Utilities-Web Hosting	\$ 46.38
Maintenance & Repair	\$ 1,536.09	Vehicle Expense	\$ 108.01
Miscellaneous Expense	\$ 14.00	Continuing Education	\$ 0.00
Insurance	\$ 0.00	Investigation& Testing	\$ 0.00

Bills for approval:

Professional Services	\$ 12,649.00	Maintenance & Repair	\$ 0.00
Project Costs	\$ 23,850.00	Insurance	\$ 0.00

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

AREA II – APPROVE/AMEND/PAY COMPLETED COST SHARE CONTRACTS. None

Joint Meeting Area II/RCRCA Board of Directors

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

• **Legislative Update** Representative Chris Swedzinski announced on March 21st that he will not seek re-election. With his announcement, Area II and RCRCA will not have any current legislators returning to office.

AREA II

• **Bonding Bill Language** There has been no action on the \$1.5 million request.

• **Alta Vista 27 Road Retention (Lincoln County)**

- 50% of the Round 2 - Water Quality & Storage Grant was received on March 20 (\$383,969.00).
- DNR provided 2 additional comments which were addressed (deeper core trench & pipe camber).
- The Joint Notification was submitted on March 13. Wetland mitigation is being provided through the Local Government Road Wetland Replacement Program.

• **North Hero 34 Road Retention (Redwood County)**

- DNR Public Waters Permit application was submitted on March 19. The Joint Notification will be in draft form until a brief delineation of the wetlands is conducted by Dale Sterzinger. He anticipates completing this in April when it begins to green up. Local Government Road Wetland Replacement Program will be used for mitigation.
- Tree removal was completed by Keck Tree Service.

• **Holly 22 Road Retention (Murray County)**

- Dale Sterzinger viewed the project for wetland delineation needs. He feels a full delineation is not needed and the county should be able to provide wetland identification and boundary mapping.
- Local Government Road Wetland Replacement Program will be used for mitigation.
- A meeting with the township and landowners will be arranged when Plans are ready.

• **Springdale 30 (CSAH 20) Road Retention (Redwood County)**

- Lyon County flowage easements were secured and are being recorded.
- Preconstruction meeting was held March 26 at Redwood County Hwy. Department. The contractor anticipates starting the project by June 1, 2026. Completion date is October 2, 2026.
- While in Redwood Falls, a meeting was held for the **Paxton 3 Dam Restoration** (Lower Sioux Community) to seek approval of the Plan design and to solicit bids for construction. EQIP funding has been applied for which would fund about 50% of the project. This project would qualify for Redwood WBIF as well.

• **Dam Inspections** With the unusually warm weather, staff are considering conducting annual dam inspections as soon as it starts to green up. Kyle Jarcho, DNR Hydrologist has

Joint Meeting Area II/RCRCA Board of Directors

asked staff to assist him in conducting some DNR dam inspections as the St. Paul office has fallen behind in their 8-year inspection schedule for low hazard dams. Many of the dams were designed and/or rebuilt by Area II who has permission to access the properties.

RCRCA

- **Redwood CWMP Update** The BWSR Board approved the Plan on March 25th. The Policy Committee met on March 9 to discuss the draft WBIF workplan, policy, budget and scoring/ranking sheet. Excellent discussion evolved and the meeting became more of a work session with changes made to all the documents which were recommended for approval by the RCRCA Board. The Policy Committee approved expenditures with remaining planning grant funds and recommended RCRCA to enter into Engineering Services Agreement No. 2 with Houston Engineering to identify flood storage potential in the sub watersheds. \$20,000 from the planning grant is budgeted to begin this analysis with WBIF funding budgeted to complete the analysis. The Policy Committee also recommends RCRCA to request a 6-month extension to the planning grant to allow Houston Engineering to complete the analysis work. And lastly, the Policy Committee recommends RCRCA to approve the Redwood River WBIF Policy Document and Work Plan and submit the Redwood River WBIF Grant Application for \$1,121,292 following BWSR Board approval.
- **Cottonwood-Middle MN CWMP Update** The Technical Committee met virtually on March 24th to discuss moving funds to Ag Practices to cover new applications. The Ag Practices budget is about \$41,000 short. Discussion involved whether to move less than \$50,000 which can be approved by the Board Conservationist, or to move a larger amount that would require another workplan amendment. Given the current list of funded projects that will be constructed in 2026, the Technical Committee recommends moving the exact dollar amount that is needed (\$40,054.92) from Technical/Engineering. When more cost-share applications for ag practices come in, they will be approved pending the availability of slippage funds and held by RCRCA on a first-come, first-served basis.
- **Pell Creek/Plum Creek CWF Grant Reconciliations** We continue to work with BWSR staff on follow-up questions on Plum Creek projects. Information has been requested from Redwood SWCD for these projects.

AREA II ENGINEER'S REPORT.

Springdale 17 Road Retention, Redwood County. This potential road retention project is located northeast of Tracy, sections 8 & 17 of Springdale Township, on a failing box culvert/township bridge. A preliminary design, cost estimate, and preliminary plans have been completed for this project. We are progressing towards a meeting with the township for consideration. **Paxton 3 Dam Repair, Redwood County.** This is a proposed grade stabilization repair project. A preliminary design has been completed with any updated hydraulic model that includes upstream water quality structures that have been constructed since the original construction. A meeting with the owners (Lower Sioux Community) to discuss the plans and cost estimate is scheduled for March 26, 2026.

Joint Meeting Area II/RCRCA Board of Directors

Shelburne 18 Grade Stabilization, Lyon County. Engineering was requested for this grade stabilization along JD12 that would double as a field access crossing. A preliminary design and cost estimate was prepared and a meeting with the owners and ditch authority took place March 4th. BWSR Water Quality & Storage grant funds will be utilized for this project and will reimburse professional engineering expenses. **County Road 8 Bridge Replacement (Springdale 16/17), Redwood County.** A small dam was investigated upstream of the bridge several years ago. It was determined that the storage volume was too small for the contributing watershed. With the installation of the dam upstream of the Tracy Golf Course which is just upstream of this site, and the bridge is now due for replacement, we were asked to investigate the project as a road retention on County Road 8. Unfortunately, it was found that the new retention area is still too small and we cannot raise the road enough to gain adequate storage. Additionally, there is a residential property septic system that limits the high-water elevation. Redwood County was advised to replace the bridge.

RCRCA – Redwood River 1W1P:

- a) **Engineering Services Agreement Amendment #2.** The Policy Committee recommends RCRCA to enter into Amendment #2 with Houston Engineering Inc. to begin developing a hydrologic and hydraulic model for the Redwood River Watershed. The cost estimate is \$35,000.00. Up to \$20,000.00 in fees and services will be part of this amendment; the remainder will be completed with implementation funds (Planning and Assessment). Motion by Bucklin, seconded by Deutz, to approve the Houston Engineering Inc. Agreement Amendment #2 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
- b) **Request 6-month Extension for Redwood River 1W1P – Grant P24-0721.** The Policy Committee recommends RCRCA to request a 6-month extension to the planning grant to allow Houston Engineering to develop the hydrologic and hydraulic model. Motion by Deutz, seconded by Crowley, to request a 6-month extension for RR-1W1P Grant P24-0721 from BWSR. Motion carried unanimously.
- c) **Approve Redwood River WBIF Policy Document and Work Plan.** Netzke presented the Redwood River WBIF Policy Document and proposed Work Plan. Netzke, Williams and the technical committee have been working on this document and work plan. Discussion followed. Deutz asked if there is a program available for streambank stabilization that would utilize tree planting rather than riprap. Supervisor Bucklin added that CP22 Riparian Buffer was used extensively in Cottonwood County during his time there, but he was uncertain whether that program was still utilized. Netzke will look into this option. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Carter, to approve the proposed policy document and work plan as presented pending any recommended changes from John Shea, BWSR Board Conservationist. Motion carried unanimously.
- d) **Approve Redwood River WBIF Grant Application for \$1,121,292.** Netzke requested authorization to apply for the implementation funds for the Redwood River. Motion by Woelber, seconded by Bucklin, to authorize submission of the grant application. Motion carried unanimously. The work plan will be entered into eLINK the week of April 6th.

Joint Meeting Area II/RCRCA Board of Directors

RCRCA – Authorization to Plan 2026 Canoe Trips. Netzke has been working with Wohnoutka on setting dates for the canoe trips. We are currently looking at June 16 for the Cottonwood River, and June 18 for the Redwood River. The Redwood River route will be the same. Netzke and Wohnoutka are looking for a safer/better route for the Cottonwood River. Discussion followed regarding the log jam by Springfield and possible solutions. Motion by Wakefield, seconded by Bucklin, to authorize the planning for both canoe trips for the selected dates. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT. With no other business, Chairman Anderson and Chairman Johnson declared the meeting adjourned at 10:05 AM.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

May Board Meeting	Thursday, May 7, 2026	Lyon County Government Center
June Board Meeting	Thursday, June 4, 2026	Redwood County Learning Center

Larry Anderson, Area II Chairman Date