

AREA II AREA II / RCRCA

**November 20, 2024 - Board of Directors Meeting
Springfield Area Community Center – Springfield, MN**

AREA II Members Present: Jeff Veerkamp, Larry Anderson, John Maatz, Joe Drietz, Gary Crowley, Luke Johnson, Rick Wakefield and Glen Kack.

RCRCA Members Present: Jeff Veerkamp, Bill Eckstein, Larry Anderson, Clark Lingbeek, Joe Drietz, Gary Crowley, Mark Meulebroeck, Paul Posthuma, Luke Johnson, Rick Wakefield, Brad Kruisselbrink, Ed Carter, and Glen Kack.

Others Present: Kerry Netzke – Executive Director, Joy Bruns – RCRCA Office Manager, Kay Gross – Cottonwood SWCD Administrator, Daryl Tasler – Cottonwood SWCD Supervisor, and Tom Andries – Lyon County Commissioner.

The meeting was called to order at 2:02 PM by RCRCA Chairman Johnson and Area II Chairman Anderson.

ADOPT AGENDA. There were no additions to the agenda. **RCRCA** - Motion by Crowley, seconded by Drietz, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously. **Area II** - Motion by Drietz, seconded by Veerkamp, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

AGENCY AND MEETING REPORTS.

MASWCD – Supervisor Lingbeek reported that the MASWCD Annual Convention is December 2-4.

AMC – Commissioner Johnson reported that the AMC Annual Convention is December 8-11.

APPROVE RCRCA MINUTES of October 2024 Board Meeting. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Carter, to approve the October 2024 Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE AREA II MINUTES of October 2024 Board Meeting. Motion by Johnson, seconded by Wakefield, to approve the October 2024 Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

RCRCA TREASURER’S REPORT – October 2024. Financials were reviewed by the Board. Motion by Posthuma, seconded by Meulebroeck, to file the October 2024 Treasurer’s Report subject to audit and approve payment of the bills. Motion carried unanimously.

AREA II TREASURER’S REPORT – October 2024. Financials were reviewed by the Board. Revenue received: \$6,171.50 Contract Services Income and \$4,887.72 Interest Income. Grant funds have been requested from BWSR/MMB for the three completed projects. Bill for approval: \$9,125.00 Bolton & Menk. Motion by Crowley, seconded by Wakefield, to file the October 2024 Treasurer’s Report subject to audit and to approve payment of the bill. Motion carried unanimously.

Revenue as recorded:

Contract Service Income (RCRCA)	\$ 6,171.50	Projects-MMB General Fund	\$ 0.00
Interest Income	\$ 4,887.72	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	\$ 17,922.88	Office Supplies	\$ 12.12
Bonding Project Funds	\$ 0.00	Other Insurance	\$ 0.00
Capital Outlay	\$ 0.00	Postage	\$ 0.00

Contract Services - RCRCA	\$ 2,163.39	Professional Services	\$ 5,814.00
Directors' Expense	\$ 0.00	Project Expenses Paid	\$ 15,378.14
Directors' Insurance	\$ 0.00	Project Permit Fees	\$ 0.00
Employee Expense	\$ 58.29	Rent	\$ 837.00
Field Supplies	\$ 0.00	Telephone	\$ 120.21
Investigating & Testing	\$ 0.00	Utilities-Web Hosting	\$ 0.00
Maintenance & Repair	\$ 133.44	Vehicle Expense	\$ 66.25
Miscellaneous Expense	\$ 9.78	Continuing Education	\$ 0.00
Insurance	\$ 0.00	Investigation/Testing Exp.	\$ 0.00
Bills for approval:			
Professional Services	\$ 9,125.00	Investigation/Testing Exp.	\$ 0.00
Project Costs	\$ 0.00	Project Permits	\$ 0.00

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

• **ALICE Training** – The Farm Service Agency held an active shooter training, otherwise known as ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter & Evacuate) training, on October 21 and invited Area II and RCRCA staff to participate. The School Resource Officer and a detective from the Marshall Police Department provided the training that was very informative.

AREA II

• **Island Lake 27 Dam Restoration** The Island Lake 27 Dam Restoration in Lyon County (Schrunk Family) may not be completed in 2024. Ground Works (Bill Sterzinger) is finishing a job in Hendricks and then planned to start. If the project does not get started, a payment will be processed for materials on hand.

• **Custer 11 Dam Restoration** Draft Plans for the dam restoration within Garvin Park were reviewed with Lyon County Parks staff to discuss any needed changes. The Plans will be finalized with quotes solicited after the New Year for 2025 construction.

• **Swedes Forest 18 Dam Restoration** The Redwood SWCD allocated up to \$5,000 to assist with local match to the flowage easements and encouraged the property owners to donate the easements since this is an existing project. Staff met with the landowner and explained the local match situation. Flowage easements were provided for him to have discussions with the six other owners of the pond. With harvest and tillage wrapping up, and hunting season approaching, the landowner didn't anticipate meeting with the others until winter sets in.

• **Springdale 24 Dam (Redwood)** Bolton & Menk had difficulty sending the report and data sheets to Area II due to the large size of the digital file. The files were forwarded to USACE on October 15 with no immediate response. A request was made to discuss the report findings and determine additional measures that can be taken to increase the mitigation effort to level out the impacts and mitigation. Netzke added that a TEAMS meeting between herself, Bolton & Menk, and USACE is scheduled for tomorrow morning. USACE was not satisfied with their report and wishes to discuss.

• **BWSR Water Quality & Storage Grants Update** BWSR applied for federal Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) funds to supplement/match the current State funding. The \$21.4 million request was awarded. The RFP for the next round of funding is not expected until after January 1.

RCRCA

• **Cottonwood-Middle MN CWMP Update.** The final Plan with accompanying resolutions was submitted to BWSR on October 17. The BWSR Southern Region Committee will meet virtually on December 9 to review and recommend Plan approval to the full BWSR Board on January 22, 2025. Attorney Ann Goering is working on the revisions to RCRCA's joint powers for Plan implementation and draft Bylaws. The Policy Committee will meet on November 20 at 12:00 (lunch provided) until 1:30 PM. The Steering Team will meet virtually on November 14. No meetings in December.

• **Redwood CWMP Update.** The Advisory Committee met October 14 to provide comments on the approved sections. The Policy Committee will meet on Monday, November 18 at 2:00 PM. Steering Team will meet virtually on November 13. No meetings in December.

• **Springfield Log Jam Meeting.** The DNR called a meeting on October 23 to discuss the situation and to collectively think outside-the-box for funding opportunities. FEMA will not participate unless the owner of the project is identified. The Brown County Recorder’s Office cannot determine ownership – DNR is not the owner of the Cottonwood River and only has regulatory jurisdiction. Other thoughts involved NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) program which Netzke is looking into, and the State’s \$50 million Disaster Assistance Contingency Account (DACA) which the Brown County Emergency Manager is researching. EWP is not viable as the request has to be made within 60 days of the damaging event.

• **Potential New Monitoring Project.** MPCA is looking to utilize federal 319 funding for ‘effectiveness monitoring’ within the Plum Creek watershed. Approximately \$325,000 is available statewide for monitoring and is already matched 40% with MPCA staff time. In October, MPCA installed equipment on County Road 10, between Lucan and Hwy 14, to begin flow measurements. It is undetermined if grab sampling or an automated sampler will be utilized at this site, however staff is needed to collect those samples. RCRCA indicated that it could serve in this capacity. MPCA decisions are to be made by November 30 with sampling to begin in 2025. Redwood SWCD would hold the grant with RCRCA as a subcontractor.

• **Grant Extensions.** A one-year extension was requested to the Plum Creek and Pell Creek Clean Water Fund grants. Both extensions were approved to extend the deadline for grant expenditures to 12/31/2025. 40% payment for the Plum Creek grant was also requested (\$160,322).

Current balances are:

Plum Creek \$124,773.07 available (plus federal 319 funds from Redwood SWCD at 60%).

Reduction goal of 1470 tons/year of sediment is currently at 1431.20.

Pell Creek \$65,290.99 available. Reduction goal of 300 tons/year of sediment is surpassed at 483.29.

WEX Cafeteria Plan Documents for Area II and RCRCA. Netzke informed the board that WEX requested that both organizations have a written plan for the Cafeteria Plan that both organizations offer to employees. Netzke and Bruns virtually met with WEX personnel to complete their checklist to write the plan documents. A resolution is required to adopt the plan documents. **RCRCA** – Motion by Carter, seconded by Meulebroeck, to approve the resolution adopting the RCRCA Cafeteria Plan and related documents. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously. **Area II** – Motion by Veerkamp, seconded by Crowley, to approve the resolution adopting the Area II Cafeteria Plan and documents. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

AREA II ENGINEER’S REPORT.

Springdale 30, CSAH 20 Road Retentions – Site #3, Redwood County. This road retention project is being proposed in a series of retention structures associated with a federal road replacement project. Information regarding the structure size as well as the recommended soil removal layer has now been provided to Widseth (formerly Widseth, Smith & Nolting) for inclusion on the final plans. ***Storden 10 Dam Repair (Anderson), Cottonwood County.*** We have not been able to connect with the cooperator for his authorization to proceed. Bids received the low bid from Ryan West Excavating at \$120,142.94; Engineer’s Estimate was \$158,299.90. The property owner (Bruce Swenson) resides in a nursing home and some complications regarding his ability to sign the flowage easement have delayed the project. ***North Hero 34 Road Retention, Redwood County.*** This project, funded 90/10 by a BWSR Water Quality & Storage Grant, has a working preliminary design completed. The TSA utilized their new survey drone to fly this large watershed to correlate the previous survey elevations to the county’s coordinate system. Drone survey data has been received, processed and used to finalize Plans. Once this is completed, a meeting with all parties involved will be held to discuss any changes as well as borrow areas, ROW needs, flowage easements and permitting. 2025 construction is anticipated. ***Swedes Forest 18 Dam Repair, Redwood County.*** This is a dam restoration project where the existing NRCS dam structure, constructed in 1986, is showing signs of deterioration. A bid opening was held September 19 with the low bid from Ryan West Excavating at \$59,092.00; Engineer’s Estimate was \$63,723.00. DNR Dam Safety has been notified that an amendment to the existing Dam Safety permit will be requested. Seven flowage easements are necessary to cover the 80 acres of flood pool; six are in Redwood County and one is in Yellow Medicine County. Staff met with the landowner to deliver the easements which he will acquire from all the parties involved. 2025 construction is anticipated. ***Alta***

Vista 27 Road Retention, Lincoln County. The soils report recommendations are being implemented into the final plans as the project progresses towards a meeting with all parties involved to discuss any changes, flowage easements, ROW needs, borrow sites, wetland delineation, stream mitigation and permitting. 2025 construction is anticipated. **Limestone 25 WSCBs, Lincoln County.** This project is a series of Water and Sediment Control Basins with a proposed subsurface tile outlet system. A final design has been submitted, reviewed, revised, and accepted by the NRCS. The Contractor will begin construction the first week of November as the preconstruction meeting is scheduled for November 1. **Rock Lake 2 Grade Control Structure, Lyon County.** This is a proposed grade control structure. A preliminary design and cost estimate have been completed. The landowner investigated different funding mechanisms for 2025 construction. **Amiret 20 Dam Repair, Lyon County.** This is a small dam repair on a grade control structure at the edge of a field. The majority of a preliminary design has been completed. A meeting with the landowner will be held to discuss the Plan and to see if revisions are necessary. **Custer 11 Dam Repair, Lyon County.** This is an existing small dam within Garvin Park. A meeting was held with the parks department to refine the preliminary design. A cultural resources site review was conducted in September, and the work sites have been cleared for artifacts. Preliminarily, sand and seeding were to be provided and performed by County forces. After a second meeting to review the final plan, all work for the project will be contracted. **Island Lake 27 Dam Repair, Lyon County.** Construction for this dam repair will likely begin the first week of November. A preconstruction meeting is being scheduled, and all materials are on hand for the job.

Area II – GPS Trade-in and Data Collector Update Software. Netzke reported that the R8 GPS equipment that we have been using is now obsolete and parts can no longer be obtained. A quote for a used R10-2 Receiver, Firmware maintenance, Loyalty Program and 2 hours of training for a total of \$16,345.00 was proposed from Frontier Precision. Discussion followed. The Board requested that we check if any warranty is included. Motion by Veerkamp, seconded by Wakefield, to approve the purchase of the used R10-2 Receiver per the quote provided for \$16,345.00. Motion carried unanimously.

RCRCA – Draft FY25 Budget. Netzke presented the board with a draft of the FY25 Budget. The budget includes the Executive Board’s recommendation for wage adjustments and COLA. Discussion followed concerning the need to increase the county’s appropriation by \$5,000 (from \$80,000 to \$85,000). Netzke will revise the budget with approval planned for December.

Area II – RCRCA Annual Legislative Gathering. Following this meeting, registration will begin for the Annual Legislative Gathering. Recognition of three board members that are retiring will be made for their years of service: **Area II** - John Maatz, Lac qui Parle County Commissioner, 9 years (money clip), **Area II/RCRCA** - Lori Gunnink, Murray County Commissioner, 8 years (key chain); and **RCRCA** – Mark Meulebroeck, Lyon SWCD Supervisor, 20 years (money clip). Thank you for your service to both organizations. Carrie Jennings with Freshwater Society to speak on “Minnesota River Valley History and Opportunities for Floodwater Retention”.

ADJOURNMENT. Chairman Anderson and Chairman Johnson declared the meeting adjourned at 3:03 PM. The next meeting will be at the Redwood County Learning Center on December 5, 2024 at 9:00 AM.

UPCOMING MEETINGS.

December Board Meeting	Thursday, Dec. 5, 2024	Redwood County Learning Center, Redwood Falls – 9:00 AM
January Board Meeting	Thursday, January 2, 2025	Lyon County Government Center
February Board Meeting	Thursday, February 6, 2025	Redwood County Learning Center, Redwood Falls – 9:00 AM

Larry Anderson, Area II Chairman

Date