

RCRCA AREA II / RCRCA

May 7, 2026 – Board of Directors Meeting

Lyon County Government Center – Commissioners Room, Marshall, MN

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

RCRCA Members Present: Jeff Veerkamp, Bill Eckstein, Larry Anderson, Ron Bunjer, Gary Crowley, Loy Woelber, Paul Posthuma, Luke Johnson, Brad Kruisselbrink, Ed Carter and Glen Kack.

Others Present: Kerry Netzke – Executive Director, Courtney Williams – RCRCA Watersheds Coordinator, Joy Bruns – RCRCA Office Manager.

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

ADOPT AGENDA. There were no additions to the agenda. **RCRCA** – Motion by Carter, seconded by Bunjer, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Area II - Motion by Crowley, seconded by Veerkamp, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

AGENCY AND MEETING REPORTS.

AMC – Chairman Johnson reported that the Nuts, Bolts & Boardrooms Conference last week was good. Timely issues were discussed including the bonding bill, HR, and data centers. Electricity capacity, water availability/usage and noise are concerns regarding the data centers. Several members commented on the expenses that are no longer covered by the State are being passed on to the local governments causing tax increases. Johnson spoke of the 2025 changes to the open meeting laws regarding virtual meetings.

LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATES – Commissioner Anderson recommended having a special meeting/event to educate the legislative candidates. All of the Area II/RCRCA current legislators have chosen not to run for re-election. The filing period ends June 2. Discussion followed. Netzke will work on arranging something after the primary election.

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

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

RCRCA TREASURER’S REPORT – April 2026. The financials were reviewed with the board. Revenue received: \$1,786.28 Contract Services Income, \$28,807.54 Grant Income, and \$1,739.89 Interest Income. Bill for approval: \$14,169.25 Houston Engineering (RR-1W1P). Motion by Carter, seconded by Bunjer, to approve April 2026 Treasurer’s Report subject to audit and for payment of bill. Motion carried unanimously.

Revenue as recorded:

Canoe/Kayak Rental	\$ 0.00	Contract Services Income	\$ 1,786.28
Interest-Cash Sweep/CD	\$ 0.10	Interest-Checking Acct	\$ 14.21
Grant Funds	\$ 28,807.54	Misc. Income	\$ 0.00
Appropriations	\$ 0.00	Investment/MAGIC Interest	\$ 1,725.58

Paid bills are summarized below:

Operations/Occupancy	\$ 1,149.57	Travel Expenses	\$ 429.01
Monitoring/Evaluation	\$ 461.90	Personnel	\$ 21,990.09
Project Costs	\$ 0.00	Contract Services - Area II	\$ 4,662.45
Capital Outlay	\$ 0.00	Other Services & Charges	\$ 14,297.47
Promotion/Education	\$ 0.00	Contract Service–Moldestad	\$ 0.00

Bill for Approval:

Professional Services	\$ 14,169.25
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AREA II TREASURER’S REPORT – April 2026. Financials were reviewed with the board. Motion by Crowley, seconded by Veerkamp, to approve April 2026 Treasurer’s Report subject to audit and for payment of the bills. Motion carried unanimously.

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

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

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

• **Website ADA Compatibility.** MCIT sent a notification that Special District government websites must be ADA compliant by April 24, 2028 (extended one year). Guidance for the necessary changes has been difficult to find; private companies are offering their services for \$3,000 to set up the website with costly annual maintenance fees. Joy contacted GoDaddy who provides our website design and hosting for both RCRCA and Area II. We were informed that our current website plans are already ADA compliant. This discussion was printed and filed for documentation.

AREA II

- **Bonding Bill Language.** There has been no action on the \$1.5 million request.
- **Alta Vista 27 Road Retention (Lincoln County).**
 - The Joint Application was submitted March 13th. Wetland mitigation will be provided by the Local Government Road Wetland Replacement Program. A few questions were asked pertaining to the realigned channel which have been responded to.
 - A Section 401 Water Quality Certification is needed. MPCA oversees this and was contacted on April 8. There is a 30-day waiting period before application can be submitted on May 8. All documents are ready for submittal.
- **North Hero 34 Road Retention (Redwood County).**
 - DNR Public Waters Permit application was submitted March 19th.
 - A simplified wetland delineation was completed by Dale Sterzinger. After receiving the report, the Joint Application can be submitted to the Corps of Engineers, and we anticipate a Water Quality Certification being needed as well.
- **LQP Floodway (Yellow Medicine County).**
 - A virtual meeting with Barr Engineering was held April 21st. Barr’s model and the Area II/DNR model are agreeing nicely for flow predictions. Additional survey will be conducted May 11-12 by Barr. Coordination with the DNR Floodplain Unit will be the next step as the river was never mapped as part of the Flood Insurance Study and will require a Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) to include it in the floodplain maps. An in-person meeting will be scheduled for August which will include the landowners. This meeting should present options for improving the weir inlet, restoration of the river channel, correctly sized culverts, and how the current flooding should be improved with the design. A letter was mailed to the landowners explaining the grant and the intention of restoring the function of the floodway as it was designed. No additional concerns have been voiced by the landowners since receipt of the letter.

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- **Dam Inspections.** Staff intend to conduct the annual O&M inspections in May. Staff spent April 10th with DNR Hydrologist Kyle Jarcho inspecting dams with Dam Safety permits which were overdue for the 8-year inspection. Many of them were projects restored by Area II and it was nice to revisit the projects after many years.

RCRCA

- **Redwood CWMP Update.** The Redwood River WBIF Workplan for \$1,121,292 was submitted April 13th. The final plan was received from Houston Engineering and printing estimates are being obtained.

- **Cottonwood-Middle MN CWMP Update.** The 2nd WBIF grant can be applied for after June 1st. Staff intend to wait until Fall 2026 to show expenditures and progress on the 1st WBIF grant prior to requesting additional funds.

- **Springfield Log Jam.** A Clean Water Legacy Partners grant opportunity arose offering a 90% cost-share for projects requesting less than \$250,000. Non-government nonprofit organizations, tribal governments, and others are eligible to apply. Netzke intended to apply as the City of Springfield would provide the local match. However, since RCRCA is not registered as a nonprofit and in good standing with the MN Secretary of State's office, RCRCA was not eligible to apply. RCRCA is recognized as a 501(c)(3) by the IRS.

Contact was made to the **Conservation Legacy Partners Grant** staff, (part of the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council), to inquire if this project would be eligible. The DNR oversees these grants. The grant program manager stated that they have funded log jam removals in the past, and to focus on the habitat and fish passage benefits. Our DNR hydrologist will be involved as he is required to sign a form regarding the project in public waters, his involvement, and permit requirements. The next RFP comes out August 1st which will give us plenty of time to coordinate with project partners.

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. MNDOT funding is available to cover the construction cost and will remove the bridge from inventory. **Paxton 3 Dam Repair, Redwood County.** This is a grade stabilization repair project on the Lower Sioux Community. After meeting with the Lower Sioux on March 26th, authorization was given to proceed. Bids will be opened May 13th. **Amiret 6 Grade Stabilization, Lyon County.** This is a proposed grade stabilization project that was originally a potential road retention project. Due to a wetland disturbance concern, the location was moved upstream beyond the existing wetlands. However, due to this relocation and the large upstream contributing watershed, there is not enough storage to be an effective project. **Custer 9 Grade Stabilization, Lyon County.** This is a proposed

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grade stabilization project utilizing an abandoned road right-of-way. A preliminary design and cost estimate have been completed that shows very promising flow reductions. Staff met with the landowner who would also like to see an option with a permanent pond at 8' depth. **Monroe 22 Grade Stabilization, Lyon County.** This is a proposed grade stabilization project and stormwater detention basin to alleviate stormwater impacts across County Road 14 and the railroad tracks. It was determined that there is not enough storage area and the topography creates an insufficient outlet to construct the proposed structure. Kerry will reach out to the County Engineer as it was determined that the railroad should be contacted regarding clearing their right-of-way of trees and debris that are blocking the current storm flow drainage path.

Area II Biennial Plan FY'27 Update. Netzke reviewed the updates to the biennial plan, primarily projects that have been completed or are in progress and the corresponding financial information. A few corrections were noted by the board. The final update will be approved at the June 4th meeting. The FY'27 budget will need to be approved and included in the plan update as well.

Area II Draft FY'27 Budget. Netzke presented the board with a draft budget for FY'27. She noted that last year Area II did not have a merit raise or a COLA increase due to budget uncertainty with the reduced administration grant from \$190,000 to \$140,000. For FY'27 Netzke intends to keep her hours at 72 hours/2 weeks along with the other changes made for FY'26 relating to the reduced grant funding. COLA options of 1%, 2% and 3% were provided for discussion. Chairman Anderson recommended a 3% COLA. Netzke will refine the budget for the end of May and bring it back to the board for approval next month.

ADJOURNMENT. With no other business, Chairman Anderson and Chairman Johnson declared the meeting adjourned at 10:03 AM.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

June Board Meeting	Thursday, June 4, 2026	Redwood County Learning Center
July Board Meeting	Thursday, July 2, 2026	Lyon County Government Center

Luke Johnson, RCRCA Chairman Date