

RCRCA

AREA II / RCRCA

March 7, 2022 Board of Directors Meeting
Lyon County Courthouse, Marshall, MN

(Roll call votes were recorded for all motions as some members joined virtually.)

AREA II Members Present: Larry Anderson, John Maatz, Joe Drietz (Zoom), Gary Crowley, Lori Gunnink (Zoom), Luke Johnson, Rick Wakefield and Glen Kack.

RCRCA Members Present: Mark Wellner (Zoom), Larry Anderson, Joe Drietz (Zoom), Glen Sorensen, Gary Crowley, Mark Meulebroeck, Lori Gunnink (Zoom), Paul Posthuma, Luke Johnson, Ken Christensen, Rick Wakefield, Ed Carter (Zoom) and Glen Kack.

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

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 AM by RCRCA Chairman Johnson and Area II Chairman Maatz. Roll call was taken to determine quorum which was present for both organizations.

ADOPT AGENDA. Chairman Maatz asked for any additions to the Agenda; none were presented.

RCRCA - Motion by Posthuma, seconded by Meulebroeck, to approve the Agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote. **Area II** - Motion by Crowley, seconded by Anderson, to approve the Agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

AGENCY AND MEETING REPORTS.

AMC – Chairman Johnson reported that the Legislative Conference was held last week. A large topic for discussion was the assumption of the 404 permitting process by the State. BWSR is requesting \$740,000 from legislature to finish the final report to legislature, and then a decision will be made on the assumption which is anticipated to be years away. Approximately \$4.8 million is the estimated annual cost of the program that includes a new software program.

AREA V MASWCD – Supervisor Sorensen reported that a request was made to hold the June 16th meeting in Redwood Falls to tour the Lake Redwood dredging project. Netzke stated that due to the RCRCA canoe trips not taking place this year (Cottonwood launch site is closed due to damage; Lake Redwood closed for dredging) which normally conflicts with that date, the Area V meeting is being planned for Redwood Falls.

APPROVE RCRCA MINUTES of February 2022 Board Meeting. Motion by Crowley, seconded by Anderson, to approve the February 2022 Minutes as amended. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

APPROVE AREA II MINUTES of February 2022 Board Meeting. Motion by Johnson, seconded by Wakefield, to approve the February 2022 Minutes as amended. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

APPROVE RCRCA TREASURER'S REPORT – February 2022. Financials were reviewed with the Board. Revenue received: \$1,479.89 Contract Services Income, \$101,652.23 Grant Reimbursements, \$38,240.00 FY22 County Appropriations, \$8.04 Miscellaneous Income, and \$28.22 Interest Income. Expenses were normal for the month. The Pell Creek CWF Grant was invested in a 6-month CD at the State Bank of Taunton earning 0.50% interest. The \$100,000 CD maturing tomorrow will be cashed out and utilized if any Pell Creek projects need to be paid before the Pell Creek CD matures. No bills to approve this month with the

dredging contractor shutdown for winter and no consultant bills for the month. Motion by Posthuma, seconded by Meulebroeck, to file the February 2022 Treasurer’s Report subject to audit. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Revenue from the following sources was recorded:

Canoe/Kayak Rental	\$ 0.00	Contract Services Income	\$ 1,479.89
Interest-Cash Sweep/CD	\$ 25.07	Interest-Checking Acct	\$ 3.14
Grant Funds	\$ 101,652.23	Miscellaneous Income	\$ 8.04
Appropriations	\$ 38,240.00	Investment/MAGIC Interest	\$ 0.01

Paid bills are summarized below:

Operations/Occupancy	\$ 1,203.68	Travel Expenses	\$ 22.81
Monitoring/Evaluation	\$ 255.60	Personnel	\$ 11,038.33
Project Costs	\$ 0.00	Contract Services-Area II	\$ 4,159.59
Capital Outlay (Grant Related)	\$ 0.00	Other Services & Charges	\$ 2.75

Bill for approval:

Professional Fees (Consultants)	\$ 0.00
Project Costs-Lake Redwood	\$ 0.00

APPROVE AREA II TREASURER’S REPORT – February 2022. Financials were reviewed with the Board. Motion by Drietz, seconded by Anderson, to file the February 2022 Treasurer’s Report subject to audit and to authorize payment of the bills. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

RCRCA – COST SHARE APPLICATIONS/AMENDMENTS/CANCELLATIONS/PAY COST SHARE CONTRACTS. None at this time.

AREA II – COST SHARE APPLICATIONS/AMENDMENTS/CANCELLATIONS/PAY COST SHARE CONTRACTS. None at this time.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT.

AREA II

- **2022 Bonding Request** – Area II’s bonding request of \$1.5 million has been introduced in both houses as SF 2789 and HF 3059. No hearings have been scheduled as of yet.
- **Hansel on Vacation** – Duane Hansel, PE has been off the majority of the month enjoying Texas.
- **Cottonwood Lake (City of Cottonwood)** – Cottonwood Lake struggles with poor water quality and sedimentation stemming from the primary input source (CD 69). Area II was asked to collaborate with several other groups to help identify upstream practices that would benefit the lake. Dr. Jeff Strock from SWROC presented his research using in-channel storage to reduce nitrogen and phosphorus. The partners were asked to submit Letters of Support as Dr. Strock applies for an intra-university MN Futures grant which would utilize Cottonwood Lake as a pilot research project. Netzke drafted this support letter on behalf of the Board. Commissioner Crowley noted that the meeting was well attended. The City of Cottonwood is working on educating homeowners on phosphorus-free fertilizers and other steps they can take to help improve the water quality of Cottonwood Lake.
- **Water Quality and Storage Pilot Program** – HF 3459 has been introduced asking for \$5 million in bonding to expand the BWSR pilot program. Testimony has stated that these projects differ from flood control projects in that they focus on retaining water for smaller, more frequent storm events that are responsible for changing our rivers’ geomorphology while flood control projects focus on the larger storm events.

• **John Boulton** – (12/9/1930 – 2/19/2022) John passed away at the age of 91. He had been appointed to the Area II Board of Directors from its inception in 1978 until 1996 when appointees were required to be county commissioners. John leaves behind a long legacy of conservation and floodwater retention projects as he served on the Lincoln SWCD Board and YMRWD Board for decades. A plant was sent to his memorial service on behalf of Area II.

RCRCA

• **Lake Redwood Dredging** – Work this month included:

- 1) **Request to DNR Fisheries:** RCRCA drafted a request letter to DNR Fisheries – Hutchinson Area Office formally requesting an early start to dredging of ice-out, or April 1, whichever comes first. The permitted start date is May 15, which was changed from June 15. JF Brennan had requested an early start, and with Houston Engineering’s agreement, the letter was submitted on February 23. Netzke added that DNR has received the request and responded that due to the high profile nature of the request, the commissioners’ office has been provided a copy of the request.
- 2) **CDF Outlet Structure:** JF Brennan submitted more details on the structure, its design, and operation and maintenance requirements. DNR Dam Safety contacted RCRCA and the City of Redwood Falls to gauge our concerns with O&M, which there were none.
- 3) **June Tour Request:** After providing a project update at the MASWCD Area V meeting on February 17, MASWCD asked for a project tour for their June 16th meeting. In years past, this meeting conflicted with RCRCA’s canoe trips, however no canoe trips scheduled for 2022.
- 4) **Brennan Conference Call:** A call was held on February 25 to cover several topics and Brennan’s schedule to return in March (weather dependent). Netzke asked about a “kick-off” celebration when the dredge is placed onto the water. Brennan asked that the celebration be the “First Day of Dredging” as the day when the dredge is placed on the water is one of the most critical safety days of the entire project. A crane will be used to lift the dredge from Perk’s Park over the bank and onto the water.
- 5) **Time Lapse Cameras:** RCRCA is working to install two cameras to capture the dredging progress. One will be atop the picnic shelter at Perk’s Park, and the other will be on Jim Tersteeg’s property at the south end of the lake where the river curves to the west. RCRCA currently has one camera from MDA, and if a second camera cannot be borrowed, then RCRCA will purchase one.

• **1W1P Planning for Cottonwood and Redwood** – Netzke met with BWSR staff on January 28 to discuss the transition from WRAPS/TMDL assessments to One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P) planning. Both watersheds were done concurrently for the assessments, and the question is if 1W1P planning could also be done concurrently, or separated by a year to allow county/SWCD staff adequate time to fully participate. The RFP is anticipated in late March. A ZOOM meeting on February 25 with the Local Work Group and BWSR staff will help determine the direction to be taken.

• **2021 Audit** – RCRCA was contacted by Peterson Company that they are ready to start the audit, which normally doesn’t start until after April 15. Staff have prepared the files to transfer to the auditor.

AREA II – ENGINEER’S REPORT.

Perch Lake Outlet, Lincoln County. This project has been placed on hold until funding can be secured. Yellow Medicine 1W1P is not a viable funding source as hoped. **Springdale 24 Small Dam, Redwood County.** We have completed the preliminary design for this dam just northwest of Walnut Grove. This site is just off of Plum Creek and offers good flood reduction for the drainage area which includes a portion of the City. The cost estimate is about \$180,000 and the landowner wishes to proceed. The City is searching for infrastructure grant funding for the local share of the project. Soil borings will be needed. **Island Lake 3 Road Retention, Lyon County.** We recently met with the landowners and the township regarding this project. All parties are willing to proceed once cost-share funding is secured. **Alta Vista 27 Road Retention, Lincoln County.** We are in the early design stages for this road retention project. We have developed a preliminary plan and cost estimate so that information can be presented to the township to determine if they want to proceed further. **Holly 9 Sediment Pond, Murray County.** We met with the landowner regarding this project. He would like us to redesign the project to move the berm further downstream. The structure is located just upstream of an existing larger dam and the intent is to create a small ponding area to remove sediment before it flows into the larger pond. We are in the process of completing some additional survey work and redesign. This project will qualify for the Plum Creek funds. **Holly 9 Small Dam Repair, Murray County.** Design work is completed for this small basin which qualifies for funding through the

Plum Creek CWF grant. Bids were received recently with the low bidder being Ryan West Excavating at \$18,487.20. The second low bidder was Noomen Excavating at \$24,542.16. The Engineer's Estimate was \$16,926.00. The landowner has given his approval to proceed. **Stanley 19 Small Dam, Lyon County.** We have also started work on the design for this dam northeast of Marshall. A wetland delineation has been completed indicating about an acre of wetlands potentially impacted. Design work will proceed over the next month. **Monroe 17 Water & Sediment Control Basins, Lyon County.** Bids were received late February coming in 6%-16% below the Engineer's Estimate of \$58,498.83. Ryan West Excavating was low bidder at \$49,180.00; the second low bidder was Brey Tiling & Excavating at \$53,138.00. The landowner would like to proceed with 75% funding being provided by the SWCD. **Monroe 22 Water & Sediment Control Basin, Lyon County.** Bids were received late February with the bids coming in below the Engineer's Estimate of \$47,654.75. Ryan West Excavating was low bidder at \$36,219.80, the second low bidder was Brey Tiling & Excavating at \$44,150.00. The landowner would like to proceed with 75% funding being provided by the SWCD. **Holly 10 Small Dam, Murray County.** Design work is underway on this dam located just off of Plum Creek which appears to have good storage capacity. We met with the landowner and he is willing to proceed. Funding will likely be available through the Plum Creek CWF Grant. **Amiret 36 Streambank Stabilization, Lyon County.** Design work is almost completed for this small repair project. The eroded streambank is in a pasture area and is threatening a crop field. The landowner will provide funding for the project. **Request for Soil Borings.** After receiving one proposal for soil borings which was prohibitively high priced, we have been soliciting other firms. Braun Intertec from Mankato has indicated they are interested in the work and we are awaiting a proposal from them.

AREA II SOIL BORING RFP UPDATE. Tabled from last month, Netzke reported that Area II had received a proposal from American Engineering Testing (AET) for \$35,000 per project; a total of \$105,000. This amount far exceeds the budgeted amount of \$4,500-\$5,000 per project, for 3 projects. The AET engineer that we normally work with out of the Sioux Falls office retired in December 2021. The engineer replacing him is using more stringent standards for the scope of work, drilling depths, and the analyses to be performed. We explained the nature of our projects and requested that he lessen his scope of work, and he refused. GeoTek from Sioux Falls declined to bid as they do not have an all-terrain drilling rig and their schedule is full. Braun Intertec of Mankato submitted a proposal of \$71,064 for the three sites. Some other options that are being looked into include: NRCS, using CWF as long as borings are required for permitting and the project provides water quality benefits, a college program to do the analyses, or contact the retired engineer for interest to work on a contract services basis. More investigation will be done over the next month and brought back to the board in April.

AREA II – QUOTE ON PICKUP TIRES. Several quotes were received to replace the 10-ply heavy duty truck tires, ranging from \$877.80 to \$1,248.00 for 4 tires installed (no tax). The recommended quote was Heggstad's Repair of Slayton at \$877.80. Deschepper has the same tires on his personal vehicles, and they have worked very well. Motion by Gunnink, seconded by Crowley, to accept the quote from Heggstad's Repair of Slayton at \$877.80. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

RCRCA – REDWOOD & COTTONWOOD 1W1Ps. Both watersheds are completing the WRAPS/TMDL reports which will hopefully be public noticed yet this month. The Cottonwood watershed partners have indicated that they would like to start 1W1P planning in 2022, and it is questioned whether the Redwood watershed could be done at the same time like the WRAPS/TMDL projects. After discussing this with BWSR staff, Netzke contacted three consultants to inquire on their staff availability, interest, and if cost savings would be realized by doing both watersheds at the same time. The consultants had divided responses and would prefer to do them separately to give each watershed their full attention. Netzke called a meeting of the watershed partners to discuss this same topic. After considerable discussion, the partners agree that the Cottonwood watershed should apply for the planning grant in 2022, and next year for the Redwood watershed. Last month, the board agreed to RCRCA administrating the planning grant. Netzke suggested a new motion to include fiscal agent as these duties can be separable. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Drietz, for RCRCA to serve as the administrator and fiscal agent for the Cottonwood 1W1P Planning Grant. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote. RCRCA's existing joint powers agreement between the partner counties and SWCDs may be utilized for this purpose. Netzke will review the JPA along with MCIT to ensure that the necessary language is in the agreement. Agreements from other 1W1Ps have been received as example agreements.

ADJOURNMENT. With no other business, RCRC A Chairman Johnson and Area II Chairman Maatz adjourned the meeting at 10:00 AM. With Covid-19 infection rates on the decline and mask mandates being lifted, the boards felt that in-person meetings may resume without virtual connections. The next meeting will be April 7, 2022 in Redwood Falls – in-person only.

UPCOMING MEETINGS.

April Board Meeting	Thursday, April 7, 2022	Redwood County Learning Center – In-person
May Board Meeting	Thursday, May 5, 2022	Lyon County Courthouse – Marshall
June Board Meeting	Thursday, June 2, 2022	Redwood County Learning Center

Luke Johnson, RCRC A Chairman

Date