

RCRCA

AREA II / RCRCA

October 6, 2022 Board of Directors Meeting Redwood County Government Center, Redwood Falls MN / In-person & Zoom

Note: Roll call votes were taken for all motions.

AREA II Members Present: Jeff Veerkamp, John Maatz (Zoom), Gary Crowley, Lori Gunnink (Zoom), Luke Johnson, and Rick Wakefield.

RCRCA Members Present: Jeff Veerkamp, Mark Wellner, Clark Lingbeek (Zoom), Glen Sorensen, Gary Crowley, Mark Meulebroeck, Lori Gunnink (Zoom), Paul Posthuma, Luke Johnson, Brad Kruisselbrink, Rick Wakefield, and Ed Carter (Zoom).

Others Present: Kerry Netzke – Executive Director, and Joy Bruns – RCRCA Office Manager, Jeanne Prescott – Redwood SWCD, and David Tisue – Redwood Falls.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM by RCRCA Chairman Johnson and Area II Chairman Maatz. Roll call was taken and quorum confirmed. Introductions were made.

ADOPT AGENDA. Chairman Johnson asked for any additions to the Agenda. Netzke had two additions to Lake Redwood Reclamation project: a) Brennan Fuel Escalation response letter, and b) Brennan Extra Yardage Bid Price. **RCRCA** - Motion by Crowley, seconded by Posthuma, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously. **Area II** - Motion by Crowley, seconded by Gunnink, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

VISITOR. David Tisue, a life-long resident of Redwood Falls wanted to extend his thanks to all involved in the Lake Redwood Reclamation Project. He said that in the 1970's, he was an avid water skier and holds the record for pulling 6 skiers at once on Lake Redwood. They are planning to recreate this feat when the project is completed with 5 of the original skiers. He also requested extra dredging west of Laser Avenue as this was where the skiers usually turned around. Netzke responded that the area is outside the permitted dredging. Additionally, the dredge cannot pass underneath the powerlines that cross the river at Laser Avenue as the dredge spuds are too tall and may cause arcing. Mr. Tisue was thanked for his kind words and for making the request.

AGENCY AND MEETING REPORTS.

MASWCD – Meulebroeck announced the Area V meeting will be November 17 at St. Stephens Church in Marshall. Lingbeek reported that MASWCD continues to work on local government aid and addressing staffing needs. The MASWCD Annual Convention is December 12-14 in Bloomington.

AMC – Chairman Johnson reported that the AMC District Meeting is October 27 at the Wabasso Community Center. December 5-7 is the AMC Annual Conference in Bloomington.

APPROVE RCRCA MINUTES of September 2022 Board Meeting. Motion by Sorensen, seconded by Veerkamp, to approve the September 2022 Minutes as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE AREA II MINUTES of September 2022 Board Meeting. Motion by Johnson, seconded by Gunnink, to approve the September 2022 Minutes as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE RCRCA TREASURER'S REPORT – September 2022. Financials were reviewed with the Board. Revenue received: \$1,266.13 Contract Services Income, \$701,859.10 Grant Reimbursement, \$8.04 Miscellaneous Income, and \$2,775.46 Interest Income. Bills for approval: \$540,501.93 JF Brennan Co., \$7,741.75 Houston Engineering, and \$504.00 SW/WC Service Cooperative. Motion by Meulebroeck, seconded by Wellner, to file the September 2022 Treasurer's Report subject to audit and to approve payment of the bills. Motion carried unanimously.

Revenue from the following sources was recorded:

Canoe/Kayak Rental	\$ 0.00	Contract Services Income	\$ 1,266.13
Interest-Cash Sweep/CD	\$ 2,400.87	Interest-Checking Acct	\$ 80.04
Grant Funds	\$ 701,859.10	Miscellaneous Income	\$ 8.04
Appropriations	\$ 0.00	Investment/MAGIC Interest	\$ 294.55

Paid bills are summarized below:

Operations/Occupancy	\$ 1,248.15	Travel Expenses	\$ 87.50
Monitoring/Evaluation	\$ 356.89	Personnel	\$ 10,542.08
Project Costs	\$ 612,247.16	Contract Services-Area II	\$ 4,847.18
Capital Outlay (Grant Related)	\$ 0.00	Other Services & Charges	\$ 8,255.66
Capital Outlay (Laptops)	\$ 0.00	Promotion/Education	\$ 0.00

Bills for approval:

Professional Fees (Consultants)	\$ 7,741.75	Project Costs	\$ 540,501.93
Fees & Dues	\$ 504.00		

APPROVE AREA II TREASURER’S REPORT – September 2022. Financials were reviewed with the Board. Motion by Veerkamp, seconded by Gunnink, to file the September 2022 Treasurer’s Report subject to audit and to authorize payment of the bills. Motion carried unanimously.

RCRCA – COST SHARE APPLICATIONS/AMENDMENTS/CANCELLATIONS/PAYMENTS.

NEW CONTRACTS:

CWF-2022-08	PELL CREEK	
Lamberton Township	Lamberton 18 - Redwood	580 Streambank Stabilization
EST Cost: \$9,445.00		EST Cost Share: \$7,083.75 (75%)
		<u>CWF C/S: \$7083.75 (75%)</u>

Netzke presented one new project for Pell Creek CWF Grant – Lamberton 18 – Redwood 580 Streambank Stabilization project. Motion by Crowley, seconded by Posthuma, to approve the new cost-share contract as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT.

- **Office Space** – Netzke and Lyon SWCD met again with building owner, James Carr, regarding a potential move of the offices to share the former U of M Extension office across the hallway. Carr’s proposal was \$14.50/SF; Area II/RCRCA currently pay \$13.50/SF. With the increased footage of the U of M space, rents for all parties would have increased \$5,000 - \$7,000 per year. With tight budgets already, we collectively decided to pass on the move at this time and keep the existing arrangement.

AREA II

- **Water Quality and Storage Pilot Program Update** – The landowner has accepted the low bid from D&G Excavating but has asked that they revise their bid as he will remove the trees over the winter months to prevent the May-October construction restriction for the Northern Long-Eared Bat. The concrete pipe cannot be supplied until 2023. Area II has drafted a flowage easement and is awaiting the revised bid from D&G to draft a contract between the owner and the contractor. In anticipation of the 2nd RFP for these grant funds, we’re preparing the Island Lake 3 Road Retention as the next submittal.
- **LQP-YB 1W1P** – The Policy Committee met on September 21 and approved the final plan. The 60-day notice was sent September 22, with comments to be received by November 23. A public hearing will be scheduled mid-December. Plan partners have approved the Joint Powers Collaboration agreement for signature by the parties.
- **Hansel Vacation** – Duane will be on vacation the first week of October.

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

- 1) **Brennan Work Schedule:** Brennan continues to work 24/7. October 19 completion date is projected.
- 2) **Fourth Month Progress:** As of September 21, Brennan reported 578,129 cubic yards removed; 87% towards the contract quantity of 657,329 CY. A map of completed dredge area to date is attached that illustrates the current elevations. As of today, the project is now at 95% completion.
- 3) **Tours:** No tours this month.
- 4) **Presentation:** Yellow Medicine County Commissioners on September 13.
- 5) **Low Flow Levels:** We continue to watch the Redwood River closely. If flows reach 2.9 cfs for 5 consecutive days, the project may be suspended due to the drought conditions. It is likely that a conditional use would be approved by the State with the dredging project so near completion.
- 6) **Post-Dredging Plans:** The City of Redwood Falls scheduled a virtual meeting on October 5 to discuss post-dredging items: removable fishing pier, fish stocking, Lake Management Plan, wake zone, speed limit, etc. Several DNR representatives participated in the conversation as well as Netzke and Redwood County Sheriff's Department. No speed limits or wake zone restrictions will be placed as current state statutes are in place. This may be revisited next summer once the lake usage increases. DNR staff will visit the lake soon to review the proposed location for an ADA accessible fishing pier. If acceptable, a cooperative agreement between DNR and the City is possible where DNR would provide the removable fishing pier if the City agrees to provide the handicap accessible path from the parking area to the pier and accept responsibility for the maintenance. The lake was electro-fished in 2018 and 2020 with walleye, pike, blue gill, crappie, and channel catfish species found. No lake sampling will be conducted immediately following dredging as the fish will have headed for deeper water with the cooler temperatures. For Spring 2023, the DNR intends to stock the lake with 28,000 walleye fry. The river/lake is expected to maintain the other fish populations. Signage will be needed for swimmers and AIS awareness. Netzke suggested that the City contact Scott Wold at Redwood County as the county receives grant funds for AIS-related purposes. The current one-lane boat ramp will be maintained. Should lake usage be greater than anticipated, consideration of increasing the ramp to two lanes may be considered. Parking for pickups/trailers needs to be designated to prevent a crowded parking area in the park. More discussion will follow when DNR staff can visit the lake.

• **Cottonwood-Middle MN One Watershed, One Plan** – Work this month included:

- 1) 9/15/22 – Virtual meeting with Julie Westerlund and John Shea of BWSR to review draft work plan, timeline, and budget. These items, in addition to the signed Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), are required to be entered into eLINK to generate the grant agreement with a 50/40/10 disbursement schedule.
- 2) 10/3/22 – Orientation meeting (in-person) with the Steering Team consisting of Brown County & SWCD, Cottonwood County & SWCD, Lyon County & SWCD, Murray County & SWCD, Redwood County & SWCD, Area II and RCRCA. Redwood County and SWCD are new to One Watershed, One Plan. Julie Westerlund facilitated the meeting to educate Redwood County/SWCD while refreshing the rest of any new changes to the program. Blue Earth County has opted out of the planning as they have 6 watersheds in their county, and they would like to receive updates as progress is made.
- 3) A letter was mailed to all the city governments within the plan boundary. A separate letter will be sent to the Lower Sioux Tribal Nation. BWSR requires that the cities and tribal nation be invited to join the planning process. They may choose to be part of the MOA (with the required counties and SWCDs), be part of the policy or advisory committees, or simply be updated as the plan takes shape. Their responses are due by 10/21/22.
- 4) A draft MOA has been prepared. Until we know the participation level of the cities and Lower Sioux, it will remain in draft format but will be sent to the partners for review and consideration.
- 5) Another orientation meeting will be planned for elected officials after the November elections. Some member counties will have new commissioners and SWCD supervisors who will need to be introduced to One Watershed, One Plan before delegates and alternates are appointed by the respective boards.

AREA II – ENGINEER’S REPORT.

Springdale 24 Small Dam, Redwood County. Funding has been secured for this project through the Plum Creek CWF grant and 319 funds. Soil borings have been completed and we await the geotechnical report. The wetland delineation has been completed and wetland limits plotted on the plans. A potential conflict with Northern Natural Gas line crossing has been identified and we are working with the company to explore a resolution. ***Island Lake 3 Road Retention, Lyon County.*** The landowners and the Township are willing to proceed with this project once cost-share funding is secured. The geotechnical report will be completed in the next few weeks. We are considering submitting this project for the next RFP for Water Quality and Storage Grants through BWSR. ***Monroe 17 and 22 Water & Sediment Control Basins, Lyon County.*** The Monroe 17 and 22 projects are set for construction by Ryan West Excavating as soon as the crops are removed. ***Holly 10 Small Dam, Murray County.*** Design work is nearly complete on this dam located adjacent to Plum Creek. The site appears to have good storage capacity. Funding has been secured with Plum Creek CWF. Soil borings have been completed and the report is expected soon. The wetland delineation has been completed, and we are plotting the results. ***Island Lake 27 Dam Repair, Lyon County.*** Plans have been prepared for this repair project. The repair will be quite extensive and includes both the replacement of the pipe and grading of a new emergency spillway. Funding is pending. ***Holly 11 Small Dam, Murray County.*** Design is nearly complete for this dam project. Funding has been secured through the Plum Creek CWF and 319 funds. Soil borings have been completed, and we have just received the geotechnical report. This project does not impact wetlands nor involve permitting so it can proceed more quickly. ***Holly 21 Dam Repair, Murray County.*** This design incorporates two water and sediment control basins which were designed by the SWCD. We will meet with the landowner soon to determine if he wants to proceed. Funding would be through the Plum Creek CWF Grant. ***North Hero 26 Small Dam Repair, Redwood County.*** Preliminary design is completed for this project. The old berm at the site location is washed out, and the redesign would create both a storage and a sediment pond. We met with the landowner, and he is deciding if he wants to proceed. Funding is available through the Plum Creek CWF Grant. ***Germantown 8 Streambank Stabilization, Cottonwood County.*** Design work for this project along Dry Creek is complete. The Creek is encroaching on a township road, and the intent of the riprap project is to reshape the stream bank and protect the road. A DNR permit application has been submitted and is out for internal DNR comment. The plans and cost estimate have been provided to the Cottonwood SWCD. ***Amiret 31 Streambank Stabilization, Lyon County.*** Design work on this project to protect a small area along the Cottonwood River is completed, and a DNR permit application has been submitted. The riprapped curve of the river would protect an adjacent field. The project would be funded entirely by the landowner. ***Lake Marshall 28 Small Dam Repair, Lyon County.*** This project, which was designed several years ago, has been re-activated. The dam restoration will help alleviate flooding in a downstream ditch system. Funding will be through the SWCD, Lyon County and the landowner. Bids were recently received with the low bidder being Ground Works at \$43,467.68. The second low bidder was Ryan West Excavating at \$47,032.50, while the engineer’s estimate was \$43,285.11. Bids have been trending upwards due to higher material and fuel prices. ***Lynd 31 Streambank Stabilization, Lyon County.*** We met with the landowner along the Redwood River interested in protecting a private pond adjacent to the river. Streambank erosion is threatening to drain the private pond, and he would like to riprap the shore. Survey work has been completed. ***Nordland 8 Small Dam Repair, Lyon County.*** Plans are nearly complete for this project. The existing small dike has reportedly been leaking and causing draw-down of the pond. The project would excavate a core trench under the embankment and install a clay barrier to try and stop the seepage, as well as install a new outlet pipe. ***Custer 10 Grade Stabilization, Lyon County.*** The landowner has accepted the low bid of D & G Excavating, but he has asked for a revised cost as he will remove the trees himself over the winter. We are awaiting the revised cost. The project will not be constructed until next year because of the unavailability of concrete pipe.

Area II - LQP-YB 1W1P JOINT POWERS COLLABORATION. Netzke reviewed the agreement with the board. Motion by Johnson, seconded by Wakefield, to approve the agreement and authorize Chairman Maatz and the Executive Director to sign the agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

AREA II - ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW – DESCHEPPER. Netzke reported a very favorable performance review for Deschepper, starting his 30th year with Area II. A 2% COLA took effect on July 1, 2022 at the start of the fiscal year. A 1% merit raise is recommended as budgeted. Motion by Crowley, seconded by Gunnink, to approve the recommended 1% merit raise for DeSchepper effective October 12, 2022. Netzke was

asked to extend the Board's appreciation of DeSchepper's work and his 29 years with Area II and to thank him for his continued good work. Motion carried unanimously.

ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE GATHERING – November 3, 2022. The regular meeting will be at 2:30 PM at the Painted Prairie Vineyard near Currie, MN. Registration for the Annual Legislative Gathering will start at 3:30 PM. Dennis McAlpine, PE from Houston Engineering will have a summary presentation of the Lake Redwood Reclamation project which will be completed late-October. A meal will be provided at 5:30 PM at the conclusion of the meeting. Any adult beverages will need to be purchased by the individuals. RSVPs are needed; please remind your respective boards about responding to the RSVPs.

AREA II ADJOURNMENT – With no other business for Area II, Chairman Maatz adjourned the Area II portion of the meeting at 10:02 AM.

RCRCA – LAKE REDWOOD DREDGING UPDATE.

- a) **JF Brennan Request to Consider Fuel Escalation Payment Update.** After three months of consideration of Brennan's request, Netzke drafted a response letter which was reviewed and approved by Chairman Johnson that declines the fuel escalation payment request. The draft letter was made available for the board members to review. Motion by Meulebroeck, seconded by Kruisselbrink, to authorize Chairman Johnson to sign the letter to JF Brennan Company. Motion carried unanimously.
- b) **JF Brennan Extra Yardage Bid Price.** Netzke had requested a bid price from JF Brennan to remove extra yardage when the contracted cubic yardage was complete. JF Brennan provided a cost of \$17.50/cubic yard above the contracted amount of 657,329 CY. Discussion followed. With this additional dredging, the overall cost is still less than the 2nd low bidder. Motion by Posthuma, seconded by Kruisselbrink, to approve up to 17,000 extra cubic yards to be removed from Lake Redwood. Discussion followed. Motion by Posthuma, seconded by Kruisselbrink, to amend the motion to approve up to 25,000 extra cubic yards to be removed from Lake Redwood. Chairman Johnson called for a vote on the amendment. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Johnson called for a vote on the original motion. Motion carried unanimously.
- c) **Downstream Culvert Replacement Agreement Update.** RCRCA made a full faith effort to resolve the situation with the signed agreement and written check, but it was declined by the landowner. The landowner was asked to provide an alternate agreement for consideration, but to date, nothing has been received. Netzke has filed the agreement and the voided check.

RCRCA – ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW - BRUNS. Netzke reported a very favorable performance review for Bruns, starting her 13th year with RCRCA. A 2% COLA was applied January 1, 2022 at the beginning of the fiscal year. A 1% merit raise was recommended as budgeted. Motion by Meulebroeck, seconded by Sorensen, to approve a 1% merit raise effective October 10, 2022. Motion carried unanimously. The Board extended its appreciation of Bruns' work and her 12 years of good work with RCRCA.

RCRCA ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Johnson adjourned the RCRCA portion of the meeting at 10:31 AM.

The next meeting will be on November 3 at the Painted Prairie Vineyard, Currie, MN.

UPCOMING MEETINGS.

November Board Meeting	Thursday, November 3, 2022	2:30 PM - Painted Prairie Vineyard, Currie
December, Board Meeting	Thursday, December 1, 2022	Redwood County Learning Center

Luke Johnson, RCRCA Chairman

Date