

RCRCA

AREA II / RCRCA

May 4, 2023 – Board of Directors Meeting -- Marshall, MN

NOTE: Roll Call Voting on all motions.

**Joined virtually via Zoom.*

AREA II Members Present: Jeff Veerkamp, Larry Anderson, John Maatz*, Gary Crowley, Lori Gunnink*, and Luke Johnson.

RCRCA Members Present: Jeff Veerkamp, Bill Eckstein, Larry Anderson, Clark Lingbeek*, Gary Crowley, Lori Gunnink*, Paul Posthuma*, Ed Carter*, Luke Johnson and Brad Kruisselbrink.

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

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 AM by RCRCA Chairman Johnson and Area II Chairman Anderson.

ADOPT AGENDA. Netzke requested an addition for RCRCA Canoe Trips. **RCRCA** - Motion by Anderson, seconded by Crowley, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously. **Area II** - Motion by Crowley, seconded by Veerkamp, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

AGENCY AND MEETING REPORTS.

MASWCD – Supervisor Lingbeek reported that MASWCD continues to work on securing local government aid for SWCDs. The next Area V meeting will be in Luverne on June 15. The Board asked that meeting information be sent out once it becomes available.

AMC – Chairman Johnson reported that AMC is working on their priority issues at the legislature, but not getting significant traction.

APPROVE – RCRCA MINUTES of April 2023 Board Meeting. Motion by Veerkamp, seconded by Eckstein, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE – AREA II MINUTES of April 2023 Board Meeting. Motion by Johnson, seconded by Crowley, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

RCRCA TREASURER’S REPORT – April 2023. Financials were reviewed by the Board. Revenue received: \$1,623.80 Contract Services Income, \$569.21 Grant Reimbursement, \$8.58 Miscellaneous Income, and \$2,789.25 Interest Income. No bills were presented for approval. Motion by Kruisselbrink, seconded by Veerkamp, to file the April 2023 Treasurer’s Report subject to audit. Motion carried unanimously.

Revenue from the following sources was recorded:

Canoe/Kayak Rental	\$ 0.00	Contract Services Income	\$ 1,623.80
Interest-Cash Sweep/CD	\$ 19.40	Interest-Checking Acct	\$ 12.08
Grant Funds	\$ 569.21	Miscellaneous Income	\$ 8.58
Appropriations	\$ 0.00	Investment/MAGIC Interest	\$ 2,757.77

Paid bills are summarized below:

Operations/Occupancy	\$ 1,464.82	Travel Expenses	\$ 521.32
Monitoring/Evaluation	\$ 1,348.48	Personnel	\$ 10,901.92
Project Costs	\$ 0.00	Contract Services - Area II	\$ 5,251.05
Capital Outlay (Grant Related)	\$ 0.00	Other Services & Charges	\$ 87.43
Promotion/Education	\$ 175.70		

AREA II TREASURER’S REPORT – April 2023. Financials were reviewed by the Board. Motion by Veerkamp, seconded by Johnson, to file the April 2023 Treasurer’s Report subject to audit and to approve payment of the bills. Motion carried unanimously.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURES. Several board members need to complete the form(s). Bruns emailed the forms to those individuals, however none were returned. The forms will be available at meetings.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT.

AREA II

- **BWSR Water Quality & Storage Grant Applications.** Due May 4, Area II will be submitting applications for these projects: Alta Vista 27 Road Retention (Lincoln County) and Redwood Falls 8/9 Dam in conjunction with Redwood Falls 8/14 Terraces (Redwood County). The last 2 projects will be a joint application as they enter the Redwood River close to the same location but from opposite sides of the river. Awards will be announced in June.
- **Legislative Update.** Area II’s administrative funding entered Conference Committee on May 1 as the House bill includes \$140,000/year and the Senate bill has \$190,000/year for FY24 & FY25, but back down to \$140,000 FY26 and beyond.

House Conferees: Hansen, Acomb, Jordan, Kraft.

Senate Conferees: Hawj, Frentz, McEwen, Xiong, Coleman

There has been no word on the Capital Investment bill as they continue to hear testimony.

- **Hansel Vacation.** Duane was on vacation for the last 2 weeks of April, so no report was requested from him. Upon his return, he has decided to retire at the end of the year. Netzke and Bolton & Menk will begin discussions for his replacement. Johnson would like Hansel to be recognized at the annual meeting.
- **Equipment Repair.** The electronic screen on the survey controller went out. Frontier Precision estimated replacement for ~\$1,000; permission to proceed was given. A new controller would cost \$6,000.

RCRCA

- **Lake Redwood Dredging Update** Houston Engineering, JF Brennan, RCRCA and the City of Redwood Falls met virtually April 25 to discuss continued CDF drawdown efforts. Brennan cracked the valve open to ~1000 GPM on April 18. RCRCA collected a sample the next day. It was agreed to crack the valve open further, but not surpass 4000 GPM due to downstream flooding of the Minnesota River. RCRCA will continue to collect weekly samples as long as the CDF has discharge and results are not outside the permitted standards. *Netzke added that the valve was not opened further, and the current water level is down to top of the PVC risers.*
- **Cottonwood-Middle MN 1W1P** The Policy Committee will meet May 17 at 2:00 PM at Springfield Community Center. Executive Committee is Rick Anderson, Chairman; Mark Wellner, Vice Chairman; Larry Anderson, Secretary. Meetings will be held the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 2:00 at Springfield Community Center. The 60-day notice of planning was announced April 24; comments are due June 23. Kickoff meetings have been scheduled for June 1 and June 2. We hope to incorporate Jason Ulrich’s LCCMR research into these meetings to help gather information for his project, as well as inform the stakeholders of this ongoing project. The LCCMR

project was extended to 3 years instead of 2 years due to the legislature's delay in funding the projects, so the LCCMR project overlays nicely with the 1W1P project.

- **Redwood 1W1P** To date, Yellow Medicine County and SWCD, and Murray SWCD have opted out of the planning but will support the application. Murray County will participate. The necessary resolution templates will be provided to the members soon as the resolutions must accompany the RFP due June 19.
- **Middle MN-Mankato WRAPS Cycle 2** The State/Local Needs meeting was held April 24 to discuss the additional sites requested for monitoring. RCRCAs requested 3 sites be reassessed due to insufficient findings in Cycle 1: Wabasha Creek, Crow Creek and Spring Creek. MPCA will host another meeting in September announcing the selected sites. Contracting will begin after that for sampling to begin May 2024.
- **Yellow Medicine WRAPS Cycle 2** Monitoring results were shared at a Professional Judgment Group meeting May 3. Water quality has not changed much since Cycle 1, but a few fish IBI impairments are proposed due to lack of fish diversity in the lakes. Perch Lake is close to delisting, and with another year of monitoring, it may happen. Netzke offered RCRCAs assistance and it's boat to collect more data with YMRWD.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION – AREA II. The Environment, Natural Resources, Climate and Energy Conference Committee has been meeting daily since May 1 and has focused on same/similar language so far. Netzke has been attending virtually to monitor progress. Written testimony was emailed to the conferees encouraging them to adopt the Senate proposal (\$190,000/year for FY25 & FY25, but back down to \$140,000 FY26 and beyond). The commissioners added that much of spending for this biennium is “one time” funding which explains the Senate language. Still no word on the possibility of a bonding bill or a cash-only bill.

AREA II – DRAFT FY24 BUDGET OPTIONS. Netzke reviewed the current budget status, projected year end, and FY24 budget options with \$140,000 and \$190,000 State funding scenarios, plus a \$140,000 option with Netzke reducing to 90% time. Once the legislature completes its work in the coming weeks and the amount of State funding known, these options will be refined to approve the FY24 budget at the June Board meeting.

AREA II - DRAFT BIENNIAL PLAN. Netzke reviewed the draft Biennial Plan with the board. The approved FY24 Budget will be inserted into this plan, which will then be sent to BWSR for their approval and for release of administrative funding. Chairman Johnson suggested changing the graphic as it resembles a metro transit train.

RCRCA – JPA RENEWAL. The RCRCAs JPA requires renewal with the new term of agreement from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2025. The agreement is the same as the JPA approved in 2022 with only dates changed. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Crowley, to approve the agreement for renewal and to send it to the counties and SWCDs for their authorization for signatures. Motion carried unanimously. Netzke added that the members may sign/return the signature page individually by June 30, with signature obtained on the original document at a later date.

REDWOOD 1W1P PLANNING GRANT RESOLUTIONS. Netzke reviewed the resolutions with the Boards. *Area II* - Motion by Johnson, seconded by Gunnink, to approve the resolution of support and intent to participate in planning. Motion carried unanimously. *RCRCAs* - Motion by Kruisselbrink, seconded by Anderson, to approve the resolution of support and intent to participate in planning. Motion carried unanimously. The resolutions will accompany the RFP due June 19.

COTTONWOOD-MIDDLE MN 1W1P UPDATE. Netzke added that RFQs for consultants are due back May 5. Houston Engineering and ISG will be submitting; Bolton & Menk did not indicate whether they would submit. A virtual conference for the Executive Policy Committee and Steering Team the week of May 8 will be arranged to make a recommendation to the Policy Committee on May 17. Should the chosen consultant require a signed contract prior to initiating work for the Kickoff meetings on June 1 and 2, a virtual RCRCAs Executive Board meeting to approve the contract with RCRCAs will be scheduled.

RCRCA – LAKE REDWOOD DREDGING. Reports of blowing sand from the CDF have been received. The City has arranged for Schmidt Construction to remove several truckloads of sand and level off the pile to below the

top of embankment. It is hoped to reach sand with higher organic content for better seeding results. Aerial seeding has been arranged by the City as soon as dewatering is satisfactory. JF Brennan has subcontracted with Mathiowetz Construction Company (MCC) to replace silt fence with bioroll, hydroseed, and perform other restoration activities. Brennan will be onsite May 8/9 to manage the CDF outlet structure and potentially remove more PVC pipes.

RCRCA -- 2023 CANOE TRIPS. Staff are starting to plan the annual canoe trips. Due to concerns about the launch site safety (south of Essig) and increased vehicle entry cost into Flandreau State Park, staff suggest two canoe trips on the Redwood River. Staff will investigate the altered launch site and canoe the Cottonwood River to Cottonwood Street in New Ulm as a potential new landing site. Consensus of the Board is to plan a trip on the Redwood River, and depending on the amount of interest, allow for two trips. Netzke inquired about a purchase of a kayak trailer (\$900 prototype, \$1,490 production model) from Teske Mfg in Springfield, using interest income to fund the investment. The Board suggested purchasing a 4th kayak to fill the trailer. After some discussion, the consensus of the board was for staff to investigate the trailer and report back at the June meeting.

ADJOURNMENT. With no other business, the chairmen adjourned the meeting at 10:20 AM. Next meeting will be on June 1, 2023 at the Redwood County Learning Center, Redwood Falls, MN – 9 AM.

UPCOMING MEETINGS.

June Board Meeting	Thursday, June 1, 2023	Redwood County Learning Center
July Board Meeting	Thursday, July 6, 2023	Lyon County Government Center
August Board Meeting	Thursday, August 3, 2023	Redwood County Learning Center

Luke Johnson, RCRCA Chairman

Date