

RCRCA

AREA II / RCRCA

July 9, 2024 - Board of Directors Meeting
Lyon County Government Center, Marshall, MN – Hybrid Meeting

NOTE: Roll Call Voting on all motions.

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

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

Others Present: Kerry Netzke – Executive Director, Joy Brunns – RCRCA Office Manager, Michael Peterson – Peterson Company, LTD (Zoom)

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 PM by RCRCA Chairman Johnson and Area II Chairman Anderson with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

RCRCA – FY23 AUDIT REPORT (Peterson Company, LTD.) Michael Peterson with Peterson Company, LTD presented the board with the RCRCA FY23 Audit Report. RCRCA was given a clean opinion with no major concerns. Motion by Anderson, second by Lingbeek, to approve the audit report. Motion carried unanimously.

AGENCY AND MEETING REPORTS.

MASWCD – Supervisor Lingbeek reported that there will be a Governance 101 Meeting in Alexandria on July 16-17 to cover open meeting law, modern management, SWCD essential services, etc. This is typically done every two years. The Area V meeting in Windom on June 14 was well attended and a tour of the Jeffers Petroglyphs followed the morning meeting and meal.

AMC – Chairman Johnson reported that the AMC staff are taking a well-earned break after the last legislative session.

LQ-YB Watershed District – Netzke shared some recent aerial photos of watershed flood retention projects from Trudy Hastad. Photos included Del Clark Lake (R1), upstream impoundments from R1 known as R4 and R6, and the Lazarus Creek Floodwater Control Project.

APPROVE RCRCA MINUTES of June 2024 Board Meeting. Motion by Lingbeek, seconded by Veerkamp, to approve the June 2024 Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

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

RCRCA TREASURER’S REPORT – June 2024. Financials were reviewed by the Board. Revenue received: \$1,735.18 Contract Services Income, \$29,233.01 Grant Income, \$80.00 Kayak/Canoe Rental, \$5,520.00 Appropriation FY24 and \$2,721.85 Interest Income. Bills for approval: \$18,149.75 Houston Engineering, Inc.

(CWMM-1W1P and RR-1W1P Consultant). Motion by Veerkamp, seconded by Posthuma, to file the June 2024 Treasurer’s Report subject to audit and approve payment of the bills. Motion carried unanimously.

Revenue from the following sources was recorded:

Canoe/Kayak Rental	\$ 80.00	Contract Services Income	\$ 1,735.18
Interest-Cash Sweep/CD	\$ 1.47	Interest-Checking Acct	\$ 3.12
Grant Funds	\$ 29,233.01	Miscellaneous Income	\$ 0.00
Appropriations	\$ 5,520.00	Investment/MAGIC Interest	\$ 2,717.26

Paid bills are summarized below:

Operations/Occupancy	\$ 994.90	Travel Expenses	\$ 857.94
Monitoring/Evaluation	\$ 3,563.47	Personnel	\$ 11,347.13
Project Costs	\$ 5,393.88	Contract Services - Area II	\$ 4,460.28
Capital Outlay	\$ 1,452.47	Other Services & Charges	\$ 18,379.94
Promotion/Education	\$ 1,887.40	Contract Services – Moldestad	\$ 0.00

Bills for Approval:

Professional Services	\$ 18,149.75	Vehicle Expense	\$ 0.00
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AREA II TREASURER’S REPORT – June 2024. Financials were reviewed by the Board. Motion by Crowley, seconded by Drietz, to file the June 2024 Treasurer’s Report subject to audit and to approve payment of the bills. Motion carried unanimously.

RCRCA – COST SHARE CONTRACTS:

NEW CONTRACTS:

CWF-2021-21	*PLUM CREEK*
David Freeburg	Springdale 34 - Redwood 638 WSCBs
EST Cost: \$23,977.20	EST Cost Share: \$17,982.90 (75%)
	<u>CWF C/S: \$ 3,596.58 (15%)</u>
	Federal 319: \$14,386.32 (60%)

CWF-2021-22	*PLUM CREEK*
David Freeburg	Springdale 34 - Redwood 412 Grassed Waterways
EST Cost: \$39,982.00	EST Cost Share: \$29,986.50 (75%)
	<u>CWF C/S: \$ 5,997.30 (15%)</u>
	Federal 319: \$23,989.20 (60%)

CONTRACTS FOR PAYMENT:

2022 Water Quality & Storage Grant – Redwood Falls 8/9	
Hagert Farms, Inc.	RWF 8/9 - Redwood – Support Tile 412 Terraces
EST Cost: \$10,036.38	EST Cost Share: \$ 7,527.28 (75%)
ACT Cost: \$ 9,200.03	ACT Cost Share: \$ 6,900.02 (75%)
	WQ&S Grant: \$ 6,900.02 (75%)

NOTE: The City of Redwood Falls has approved providing 15% of the local match to the Water Quality and Storage project, using a portion of the remaining City funds from the Lake Redwood Reclamation and Enhancement Project, due to the significant benefit to Lake Redwood. RCRCA should also approve this expenditure as RCRCA will write the check.

<u>City of RWF:</u>	<u>\$1380.01 (15%) revised</u>
Landowner:	\$ 920.00 (10%) revised

Netzke presented two new cost share contracts Plum Creek Grant – Springdale 34 – Redwood 638 WSCBs, Springdale 34 – Redwood 412 Grassed Waterways and a payment for a project partially funded by the City of

Redwood Falls for RWF 8/9 – Redwood – Support Tile: Area II’s 2022 Water Quality & Storage Grant. Motion by Carter, seconded by Gunnink, to approve both cost share contracts and the payment as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

AREA II – COST SHARE CONTRACTS:

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City of RWF:	\$1,380.01 (15%) revised
Landowner:	\$ 920.00 (10%) revised

Netzke presented one cost share contract for payment: 2022 Water Quality & Storage Grant - RWF 8/9 – Redwood – Support Tile. Motion by Veerkamp, seconded by Kack, to approve the payment as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

• **16th MN River Congress** – June 13, 2024. Ted Suss from the Izaak Walton League spoke on behalf of the MN River Collaborative and of their perceived successes (Lyon CD 14, YM CD 9, Limbo Creek, etc.). Area II and Lyon County were given credit several times during the evening for being leaders in water storage. Julie Blackburn of ISG ended the evening with a presentation regarding the challenges to water storage, especially in ditch systems. She shared many photos of damage caused by ditch systems that are improperly sized and result in greater damage than if they are allowed an improvement.

AREA II

• **Yellow Medicine Watershed Pilot Water Storage Project** The last meeting was June 10, 2024. With the identified sites for retention, a 4.7% reduction in flows (cfs) is a realistic watershed goal. In summary: 1) existing storage projects have made a big difference in the hydrograph, 2) it’s important not to lose any of the existing storage, and 3) the existing projects have been located well and have impacted the peaks. A technical work group will meet to learn how to use the model and manipulate the data.

• **Water Quality & Storage Grants:** *North Hero 34 Road Retention (\$867,549.51) and Holly 22 Road Retention (\$555,770.38)* Work Plans have been submitted in eLINK; however, grant agreements have not been received.

• **General Fund Construction Grants** Frustrations continue with the MMB process. Yellow Medicine County has approved two agreements which have been returned to BWSR & MMB for final approval. The Redwood County attorney refused to approve the agreement ‘as is’ due to stipulations that are not relevant to the county as a grantee (such as insurance on private property). The attorney is marking up the agreement which will be forwarded to MMB for review, and most likely Attorney General review. Once she is satisfied with the agreement, she will allow the county to sign. The decision on a revised grant agreement will be made before Area II approaches Lyon County with the 4th project. Flowage easements are being obtained in preparation of the agreements. Three contractors are waiting to start working.

- **2024 Dam Inspections** Netzke and DeSchepper hope to inspect the Sonstegaard Dam (Lyon County) soon. They will revisit some of the other dams following the storm events to ensure proper operation.
- **Springdale 24/Army Corps of Engineers** Netzke contacted Representative Fischbach's office after the last meeting. A return call was received some time later as the June flooding and Rapidan Dam breach took priority of her staff. It has been requested that her office contact USACE and has been given the background information on the projects that are currently hung up in stream mitigation permitting.

RCRCA

- **Cottonwood-Middle MN 1W1P** Netzke emailed links to the full plan and appendices on July 1 announcing the Formal Review. Comments will be received through August 30. The Steering Committee will meet August 21, and the Public Hearing will be held on September 18. The BWSR Southern Region Committee will meet this Fall to review the Plan, with BWSR Board review/approval scheduled for their December meeting.

The majority of the partners wish to utilize RCRCA's existing JPA for implementation. Partners were asked to discuss this once more with their respective boards before the Policy Committee takes formal action upon this. The JPA will need revision to include the "orphan" areas outside of the Redwood and Cottonwood watersheds.

- **Redwood 1W1P** Public Information Kick-off meetings were held on June 25 at Lake Benton, and June 26 in Marshall and Redwood Falls. Attendances were 24, 24 and 13 respectively. Good discussion and comments were made at each meeting.

The Steering Committee and Policy Committee will meet July 8 to review the comments received, identify issues, and review/edit the draft Land and Water Resources Narrative for the Plan. A revised logo will be presented.

- **Lake Redwood Update** No news on the meeting with MMB to resolve the CDF property transfer to the City. Netzke will reach out to Senator Dahms to initiate this meeting. The CDF was aerially sprayed for weeds/trees.

- **2024 Canoe Trips** Both trips had to be cancelled due to the flood events which occurred.

Netzke continues to work with DNR on the large debris jam on the Cottonwood River by the Springfield Golf Course. Drone footage of the jam was provided by Keith Olson of Mathiowetz Construction in hopes of being able to partially clear the jam from the shoreline to allow canoe/kayak passage. Olson commented that one tree is 4-feet in diameter and appears to be the culprit and will be a challenge to remove. Once the floodwaters subside, Olson will provide another drone video to see if the jam improved or worsened with the high flows.

- **2024-2026 WPLMN Grant** The recent flood events have caused another problem – expenditure of grant funds quicker than expected. It was anticipated that the grant would last until August, instead, nearly all funds have been expended by the end of June. Netzke has provided a work plan and grant proposal to MPCA as of today. Even though the Contracts Division will be given this as a priority, it may be a few weeks until the new grant is executed and RCRCA can begin work again. In the meantime, MPCA staff will cover RCRCA's 7 sites for monitoring. RCRCA will continue to monitor the MDA Pesticide sites, Middle Minnesota SWAG, and Discovery Farms.

AREA II ENGINEER'S REPORT.

North Hero 26 Dam, Redwood County. This is a grade stabilization structure that is in the process of preliminary design. A meeting was held with the landowner for consideration. The landowner would like to see the proposed structure flagged in his field to visualize its extent before deciding to proceed. ***Holly 9 Dam and WSCB, Murray County.*** Holly 9 is a proposed grade stabilization structure that would replace a smaller dam with a larger structure downstream and an upstream WSCB that would act as a sediment trap. After reviewing the preliminary design, it was determined that it was not feasible to implement a larger structure and a WASC on the landscape. A meeting was held with the landowner regarding the preliminary design. There was no interest in replacing the smaller grade stabilization structure with a larger one at this time as his intent was to capture sediment entering the current structure. ***Springdale 30, CSAH 20 Road Retentions – Site #3, Redwood County.*** This is a road retention project that is being proposed in a series of retention structures associated with a road replacement project. A preliminary design was completed years ago. A current field survey has been conducted to determine the topographic changes since the completion of the preliminary design. A request for a geotechnical report has been submitted with a proposed profile of the road. The desired soil boring locations have been determined by Soil Technologies; Inc. based on the proposed road profile. Borings were planned for the week of June 17; however, the abundant rainfall has delayed this. ***Storden 10 Dam Repair (Anderson), Cottonwood County.*** This is a grade stabilization repair

project. The existing structure has been compromised, and the corrugated metal pipe that serves as the outlet pipe has rusted through. Bids have been received for the repairs. The low bid was received from Ryan West Excavating with a bid of \$120,142.94. The engineer's estimate was \$158,299.90. Once the flowage easement and funding agreement is in place, we will authorize the contractor to begin work. ***Holly 22 Road Retention Project, Murray County.*** This road retention project, awarded funding with BWSR Water Quality & Storage Grant, has most of the preliminary design completed. Final plans and specifications, and permit applications, will be completed to progress this project towards a bid letting. ***North Hero 34 Retention, Redwood County.*** This road retention project, also funded by a BWSR Water Quality & Storage Grant, has a working preliminary design completed. Once the grant agreement is executed, a wetland delineation, permit applications, and final plans and specifications will be completed to progress this project towards a bid letting. Before final design, the Southwest Prairie Technical Service Area (TSA) will be utilizing their new survey drone to fly this large watershed to establish the survey elevations to the county's coordinate system. ***Rock Lake 2 Small Dam (Walters), Lyon County.*** This is a grade stabilization project which has a field survey completed. A preliminary design and cost estimate are being processed, and a meeting with the landowner will follow. ***Swedes Forest 18 Dam Repair, Redwood County.*** This is a dam repair project. An existing dam structure is beginning to show signs of deterioration. The outlet structure has been disjointed, and the storage face of the existing berm is sloughing and eroding. A partial field survey has been completed as well as a site visit to determine the potential of utilizing LiDAR for the project as the area is and heavily treed. Preliminary design is being processed to evaluate any necessary design changes to implement in the repair since the original construction. ***Florida 15 Grade Stabilization Repair, Yellow Medicine County.*** Ground Works is set to begin work on this project shortly after the flowage easement and funding agreement is executed. Shop drawings for the pipe and outlet structure have been received, reviewed and returned without issue. Construction should be able to begin the week of July 8. ***Fortier 8 Grade Stabilization Repair, Yellow Medicine County.*** Ryan West Excavating is set to begin work on this project shortly after the flowage easement and funding agreement is executed. Shop drawings for the pipe and outlet structure have been received, reviewed, and returned without issue. Construction should be able to begin the week of July 8. ***Island Lake 27 Grade Stabilization Repair, Lyon County.*** Similarly to Florida 15, Ground Works is set to begin work on this project shortly, after flowage easement and funding is set up. Shop drawings for the pipe and outlet structure have been received, reviewed, and returned without issue. The easement will take a little time as one of the signers works overseas. ***Monroe 17 WSCB, Lyon County.*** This constructed system (2023) implements two WSCBs and a new run of tile. The project design was not reviewed by NRCS prior to construction, however there is post-construction funding available. That funding requires the NRCS approval and compliance with their design standards. We are working with the NRCS Area Engineer to determine cost effective solutions to bring the project into compliance.

AREA II – Audit Proposal FY24. Netzke presented the board with a proposal from Peterson Company, LTD to perform the FY24 Audit. Motion by Crowley, seconded by Johnson, to approve contracting with Peterson Company, LTD to perform the FY24 audit. Motion carried unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS. With the recent Rapidan Dam failure, Lingbeek questioned liability insurance for dams. Netzke explained that Area II's dams are all insured either by MCIT or Minnesota League of Cities which insures watershed districts. Area II unincorporated in order to qualify for MCIT coverage when Western National's rates escalated to a point where it was no longer affordable.

Several members have asked to move to in-person meetings without virtual connections as the discussion is much better. The consensus of both boards was to start in-person meetings only unless there is inclement weather or another circumstance that would justify a hybrid meeting other than convenience.

Netzke noted that the Area II Executive Board will meet 20 minutes prior to the August meeting for her performance review. Chairman Anderson will reach out to board members prior to the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT.

Chairmen Johnson and Anderson adjourned the meeting at 3:22 PM.

UPCOMING MEETINGS.

August Board Meeting	Thursday, August 1, 2024	Redwood County Government Center – Commissioners Room
September Board Meeting	Thursday, September 5, 2024	Lyon County Government Center
October Board Meeting	Thursday, October 3, 2024	Redwood County Government Center – Commissioners Room

Luke Johnson, RCRC A Chairman

Date