

RCRCA

AREA II / RCRCA

February 5, 2026 – Board of Directors Meeting
Redwood County Learning Center, Redwood Falls, MN
In-Person and Virtual*

**Roll Call Votes on all motions*

AREA II Members Present: Jeff Veerkamp, Larry Anderson, Stacy Tufto, Joe Drietz, Tom Andries, Loy Woelber*, Luke Johnson and Rick Wakefield.

RCRCA Members Present: Jeff Veerkamp, Bill Eckstein, Larry Anderson, Dave Bucklin*, Joe Drietz, Tom Andries, Allen Deutz*, Loy Woelber*, Paul Posthuma, Luke Johnson, Brad Kruisselbrink, Rick Wakefield and Ed Carter.

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

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 AM by RCRCA Chairman Johnson and Area II Chairman Anderson. A quorum was present for both organizations. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Netzke introduced Commissioner Stacy Tufto who is replacing Greg Thole from Lac qui Parle County.

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

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

AGENCY AND MEETING REPORTS.

AMC – The annual Drainage Conference on 1/27/2026 at the Arrowwood in Alexandria was well attended. The Legislative Conference is 3/4-3/5/2026 in St. Paul.

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

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

RCRCA TREASURER'S REPORT – January 2026. The financials were reviewed with the board. Revenue received: \$1,618.16 Contract Services Income, \$45,193.21 Grant Income, \$43,290.00 Appropriations FY26, \$116.23 Miscellaneous Income and \$3,571.48 Interest Income. Project expense includes return of funds to BWSR for Plum Creek CWF \$137,317.83. There were no bills for approval. Motion by Wakefield, seconded by Posthuma, to approve January 2026 Treasurer's Report subject to audit. Motion carried unanimously.

Revenue from the following sources was recorded:

Canoe/Kayak Rental	\$ 0.00	Contract Services Income	\$ 1,618.16
Interest-Cash Sweep/CD	\$ 0.11	Interest-Checking Acct	\$ 21.48
Grant Funds	\$ 45,193.21	Misc Income	\$ 116.23
Appropriations	\$ 43,290.00	Investment/MAGIC Interest	\$ 3,549.89

Paid bills are summarized below:

Operations/Occupancy	\$ 968.15	Travel Expenses	\$ 228.75
Monitoring/Evaluation	\$ 0.00	Personnel	\$ 21,987.66
Project Costs	\$137,317.83	Contract Services - Area II	\$ 4,463.20
Capital Outlay	\$ 0.00	Other Services & Charges	\$ 7,441.02
Promotion/Education	\$ 0.00	Contract Service–Moldestad	\$ 0.00

AREA II TREASURER'S REPORT – January 2026. Financials were reviewed with the board. Motion by Drietz, seconded by Wakefield, to approve January 2026 Treasurer's Report subject to audit and to approve payment of the bills. Motion carried unanimously.

RCRCA ELECTION OF OFFICERS (1-year term, no term limit). Netzke noted that the current officers could remain, except for Vice-Chairman Lingbeek who retired in December. The RCRCA Board requires 3 commissioners and 3 supervisors. The current officers were asked if they would continue in those positions. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Wakefield, to cast unanimous ballot for the current officer slate except for Lingbeek. Motion carried unanimously. Motion by Veerkamp, seconded by Posthuma, to nominate Eckstein for Vice Chair. Motion by Drietz, seconded by Carter, to cease nominations and cast unanimous vote for Eckstein. Motion carried unanimously. **RCRCA Officers:** Chairman Luke Johnson, Vice-Chairman Bill Eckstein, Secretary Paul Posthuma, Treasurer Allen Deutz, Member at Large Joe Drietz, and PR&I Gary Crowley.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST FORMS – The forms will be emailed to the board members that we still need. The forms were available at the meeting.

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

AREA II – APPROVE/AMEND/PAY COMPLETED COST SHARE CONTRACTS.

Gen. Funds Const. Grant-2023-08	Norman 7 – Yellow Medicine	410 Dam Restoration & Cleanout
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Lloyd Schrunk

EST Cost: \$165,683.60

EST Cost Share: \$124,262.70 (75%)

Local Match: \$41,420.90

Landowner \$22,012.03 (13.3%)

LQP-YB WD \$19,399.87 (11.7%)

Partial #1 (15,000 CY sediment removal) – January 2026

ACT Cost: 60,000.00

ACT Cost Share: \$45,000.00 (75%)

Local Match: \$15,000.00

Landowner \$15,000.00

Netzke requested a partial payment for Norman 7 – Yellow Medicine 410 Dam Restoration and Cleanout. The cleanout portion of the project is complete. Motion by Wakefield, seconded by Veerkamp, to approve the partial payment for Norman 7. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

• **Legislative News** Senators Weber and Dahms have announced that they will not seek re-election. Last Friday, Representative Torkelson announced that he will not seek re-election this fall. All of these individuals will be missed for the work that they have done for the organizations. The board suggested that we invite those running to a meeting to learn about our organizations and purposes.

• **Annual Grant Reporting** Progress Reports were due February 1 even if no funds were spent. RCRCA submitted 4 Progress Reports (WPLMN, CWMM WBIF, RR 1W1P Planning Grant) and 4 Final Reports (Pell Creek CWF, Plum Creek CWF, CWMM 1W1P Planning Grant, and SWAG). Area II submitted 5 Progress Reports (Water Quality & Storage Grants for North Hero 34, Holly 22, LQP Floodway; MMB General Fund Construction Grants; and FY26 Admin Grant.) and 2 Final Reports (FY25 Admin Grant and Alta Vista 27). The final step is to post the final reports to the websites by March 15.

• **Annual Updates** Netzke compiled a handout recapping the 2024 and 2025 highlights of Area II and RCRCA. The Lyon County Commissioners requested an in-person visit on January 20 and were very impressed with the concise handouts and amount of accomplishments by both organizations with the small number of staff.

AREA II

- **Fortier 8 Trash Rack** Netzke requested reimbursement or a 50/50 share of the reinstallation cost from Haala Industries/Afinitas. Haala responded that they replaced the trash rack in 'a good faith' and feel the failure was due to an excessive load of trash/moss that was built up on the rack and not a faulty weld. They declined to offer additional aid.
- **LQP-YB WBIF Biennial Summit** The summit was held January 14 after the Policy Committee meeting. The event was very well attended with a presentation given to recap the projects and expenditures of the first WBIF grant and progress made towards the goals.

RCRCA

- **Redwood CWMP Update** The BWSR Southern Region Committee will meet virtually on February 19th to hear 3 plans seeking approval. Netzke will present the PowerPoint. The BWSR Board will meet March 25th to approve these plans as recommended by the Committee. Netzke and Williams met with John Shea, BWSR Conservationist, to draft the budget and workplan for the WBIF grant. The Steering Team will meet February 9th (10:00 AM) to review/edit these documents that will be presented to the Policy Committee on March 9th (1:00 PM). The WBIF application will be submitted soon after the BWSR approval.
- **Pell and Plum Creek CWF Grant Reconciliations** Both grants were completed December 31, 2025. Julie Krebs Mueller and John Shea from BWSR were at the RCRCA office on February 3 to reconcile the grants. This process should be easier as no admin/billable hours are in the grant – only project funding. Five project files from each grant have been randomly selected to be reviewed/audited. Upon completion, RCRCA will receive \$62,865.40 as final payment for the Pell Creek grant pending any adjustments.

AREA II ENGINEER'S REPORT.

Holly 22 Road Retention, Murray County. This proposed road retention involves downstream channel realignment/mitigation. A preliminary design completed years prior has been updated with the current existing condition survey. We met with the DNR to discuss the design and potential stream mitigation requirements as the updated design appears to impact more existing stream than originally anticipated. Plans are being revised with those changes discussed. A meeting with the township will be forthcoming to review/approve the design prior to initiating permit applications. The project is funded by a BWSR Water Quality and Storage Grant. **Alta Vista 27 Road Retention, Lincoln County.** The original funding for this project had a time stipulation that was not able to be met. However, applications have been submitted for the reacquisition of funding from the State. This project is progressing and in the stages of permit acquisition. DNR Dam Safety has reported back, and we have made plan alterations per their recommendations. BWSR should announce the grant awards for the Water Quality & Storage grants soon. Construction of the structure is to follow summer of 2026. **Florida Creek Restoration, Lac qui Parle County.** This DNR-funded stream restoration project was bid on January 16. Six bids were opened with the low bid being Sitter Excavating out of Ortonville in the amount of \$271,345.00. The engineer's estimate was \$275,360.00. The Lac Quil Parle-

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Yellow Bank Watershed District has awarded the project to Sitter Excavating and contract documents have been sent. ***Springdale 17 Road Retention, Redwood County.*** This potential road retention project is located northeast of Tracy on a failing box culvert/county bridge. Original field survey was obtained for the purpose of a preliminary design. During the preliminary design it was found that additional survey would be required as the extents of the proposed structure were larger than anticipated.

RCRCA – Policy Changes. Netzke reviewed the policy changes with the board: 1) today's date for approved changes; 2) not requiring pay history when hiring; 3) adding Contract Services to job classifications; 4) work breaks redefined by the State; 5) meal breaks redefined by the State; 6) amend ESST requiring documentation for more than a 2-day sick leave; 7) amend Family Medical Leave as it does not apply to RCRCA with less than 50 employees; 8) adding Minnesota Paid Leave per State language; 9) Parental Leave renamed Minnesota Pregnancy and Parenting Leave with language defined by the State; 10) adding Nursing Mothers, Lactating Employees and Pregnancy Accommodations as defined by the State; 11) amend Funeral Leave as provided separately and in addition to ESST; 12) amend Voluntary Leave Without Pay not to be used in conjunction with MN Paid Leave or MN Pregnancy & Parenting Leave; 13) amend Health Insurance paid 100% by the organization for family or single coverage; 14) define controlled substances and tobacco use; and, 15) adding auto liability insurance requirement for personal vehicles used for work purposes. Netzke noted that the policy language was provided by Cottonwood SWCD who utilize Ratwik, Roszak & Maloney. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Drietz, to approve the proposed changes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Area II – Policy Changes. Netzke reviewed the policy changes with the board: 1) Adding the corporate dissolution (to qualify for MCIT insurance) of May 4, 2016; 2) removing the Water Quality Monitoring section as the equipment is no longer owned; 3) today's date for approved changes; 4) not requiring pay history when hiring; 5) add Contract Services to the job classifications; 6) work breaks redefined by the State; 7) meal breaks redefined by the State; 8) ESST requiring documentation for a more than 2-day sick leave; 9) amend Family Medical Leave as it does not apply to Area II with less than 50 employees; 10) add Minnesota Paid Leave per State language; 9) Parental Leave renamed Minnesota Pregnancy and Parenting Leave with language defined by the State; 11) add Nursing Mothers, Lactating Employees and Pregnancy Accommodations as defined by the State; 12) amend Funeral Leave as provided separately and in addition to ESST; 12) amend Voluntary Leave Without Pay not to be used in conjunction with MN Paid Leave or MN Pregnancy & Parenting Leave; 13) add auto liability insurance requirement for personal vehicles used for work purposes; and 14) define controlled substances and tobacco use. Netzke noted that

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the policy language was provided by Cottonwood SWCD who utilize Ratwik, Roszak & Maloney. Motion by Drietz, seconded by Johnson, to approve the proposed changes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

RCRCA – Appoint Delegate & Alternate to Redwood 1W1P Policy Committee. Currently, Deutz and Anderson serve on this committee. Motion by Wakefield, seconded by Carter, to reappoint Deutz as Delegate with Anderson as Alternate. Motion carried unanimously.
2nd Monday of the month at 1:00 PM at Lyon County Govt Center – Commissioners Room.
Committee will sunset Summer 2026.

AREA II – Appoint Delegate & Alternate to Redwood 1W1P Policy Committee. Currently, Crowley and Veerkamp represent Area II. Motion by Wakefield, seconded by Drietz, to reappoint Crowley as Delegate with Veerkamp as Alternate. *2nd Monday of the month at 1:00 PM at Lyon County Govt Center – Commissioners Room. Committee will sunset Summer 2026.*

AREA II – Appoint Delegate & Alternate to YM 1W1P Policy Committee. The policy has been to appoint the Chairman (Anderson) and Vice-Chairman (Veerkamp). Motion by Johnson, seconded by Drietz, to continue with Anderson as Delegate with Veerkamp as Alternate. *1st Monday of February, April, August & November at 9:00 AM at YMRWD Office in Minneota. Area II will not be part of the MOA for the next 10-year Plan which expires 12/31/2026.*

AREA II – Appoint Delegate & Alternate to LQP-YB 1W1P Policy Committee. Currently, Thole and Kack serve on this committee. Discussion followed. Tufto has replaced Thole for Area II, however, Tufto chairs this committee. Motion by Veerkamp, seconded by Wakefield, to appoint Kack as Delegate with Drietz as Alternate. Motion carried unanimously.
2nd Wednesday of January, April, July & October at 9:00 AM at Canby City Hall.

ADJOURNMENT. With no other business, Chairman Anderson and Chairman Johnson declared the meeting adjourned at 10:22 AM.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

March Board Meeting	<u>Friday, March 6, 2026</u>	Lyon County Government Center
April Board Meeting	Thursday, April 2, 2026	Redwood County Learning Center

Luke Johnson, RCRCA Chairman

Date