

RCRCA

AREA II / RCRCA

**September 4, 2025 – Board of Directors Meeting
Lyon County Government Center – Marshall, MN**

AREA II Members Present: Jeff Veerkamp, Larry Anderson, Greg Thole, Joe Drietz, Gary Crowley, Loy Wolber, Luke Johnson, Rick Wakefield and Glen Kack.

RCRCA Members Present: Jeff Veerkamp, Bill Eckstein, Larry Anderson, Clark Lingbeek, Joe Drietz, Gary Crowley, Allen Deutz, Loy Woelber, Luke Johnson, Rick Wakefield, Ed Carter and Glen Kack.

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

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM by RCRCA Chairman Johnson and Area II Chairman Anderson. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Introductions were made.

ADOPT AGENDA. RCRCA – Motion by Drietz, seconded by Veerkamp, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously. ***Area II*** - Motion by Crowley, seconded by Thole, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

AGENCY AND MEETING REPORTS.

AMC – Commissioner Johnson reported that the Policy Committee meets next week in Alexandria, September 10 to September 12.

MASWCD – Supervisor Lingbeek reported that the Area V meeting will be in Marshall on September 18.

MCEA – Commissioner Crowley reported on MCEA, representing nine environmental groups, petitioning for state action on overlooked water pollution caused by agricultural drainage. Discussion followed on the article provided by Netzke.

APPROVE RCRCA MINUTES of August 2025 Board Meeting. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Carter, to approve the August 2025 Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

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APPROVE AREA II MINUTES of August 2025 Board Meeting. Motion by Johnson, seconded by Wakefield, to approve the August 2025 Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

RCRCA TREASURER'S REPORT – August 2025. Financials were reviewed. Revenue received: \$1,646.97 Contract Services Income, \$47,413.98 Grant Income, \$23,938.54 Plum Creek Reimbursement from 319 Funds and \$5,642.36 Interest Income. No bills for approval. Motion by Posthuma, seconded by Deutz, to approve the August 2025 Treasurer's Report subject to audit. Motion carried unanimously.

Revenue from the following sources was recorded:

Canoe/Kayak Rental	\$ 0.00	Contract Services Income	\$ 1,646.97
Interest-Cash Sweep/CD	\$ 0.09	Interest-Checking Acct	\$ 5.53
Grant Funds	\$ 71,352.52	Miscellaneous Income	\$ 0.00
Appropriations	\$ 0.00	Investment/MAGIC Interest	\$ 5,636.63

Paid bills are summarized below:

Operations/Occupancy	\$ 2,509.75	Travel Expenses	\$ 1,789.47
Monitoring/Evaluation	\$ 2,558.20	Personnel	\$ 16,451.95
Project Costs	\$ 39,566.40	Contract Services - Area II	\$ 5,897.18
Capital Outlay	\$ 0.00	Other Services & Charges	\$ 138.18
Promotion/Education	\$ 0.00	Contract Service–Moldestad	\$ 0.00

Bills for Approval:

Professional Services	\$ 0.00	Print Materials	\$ 0.00
Office Supplies	\$ 0.00		

AREA II TREASURER'S REPORT – August 2025. Financials were reviewed with the board. Motion by Veerkamp, seconded by Crowley, to approve the August 2025 Treasurer's Report subject to audit and to approve payment of the bills. Motion carried unanimously.

RCRCA – Approve/Amend/Pay Completed Cost Share Contracts. None.

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AREA II – Approve/Amend/Pay Completed Cost Share Contracts.

CONTRACTS FOR PAYMENT:

Gen. Funds Const. Grant-2023	Island Lake 27 – Lyon	410 Dam Restoration
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Susan Krenz, Etal.

EST Cost: \$81,092.12

EST Cost Share: \$60,819.09 (75%)

ACT Cost: \$81,092.12

ACT Cost Share: \$60,819.09 (75%)

Local Match: \$20,273.03

Partial #1 (materials on hand paid to Ground Works by Area II) – December 2024

ACT Cost: \$29,670.00

75%: \$22,252.50

Local Match: \$7,417.50

Area II paid \$7,417.50

(Landowners to reimburse Area II)

Partial #2

ACT Cost: \$51,422.12

75%: \$38,566.59

Local Match: \$12,855.53

Landowners \$ 691.71

Lyon County \$12,163.82

Netzke presented one project for final/partial payment – MMB General Funds Construction Grant – Island Lake 27 – Lyon 410 Dam Restoration. A partial payment was made last fall for materials on hand, as the contractor was unable to work due to weather conditions. The project is now complete. Motion by Drietz, seconded by Thole, to approve payment of \$38,566.59 for Island Lake 27 – Lyon project. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

• **MCEA Petitions MPCA to permit Public Agricultural Drainage Systems** A news article was received August 28th announcing that MCEA, on behalf of nine environmental organizations, has filed a petition with MPCA asking for regulation of certain agricultural drainage systems.

AREA II

• **BWSR Board Tour & Administrative Grant Approval** Netzke attended the BWSR Tour on August 27 to present some projects engineered and completed by Area II: Birch Cooley 17 Dam Restoration (Renville), and Sherman 8 Dam Restoration (Redwood County). The tour highlighted very interesting projects including the Lower Sioux’s Hemp Processing Facility and new Veterans Cemetery. Area II’s Administrative Services Grant (\$140,000) was to be approved by the BWSR Board at their August 28 meeting at Jackpot Junction.

• **Fall 2025 Bonding Committee Tour** Netzke was contacted by Rita Weaver, BWSR Engineer to recommend water retention sites that are accessible by motor coach or can be viewed from the roadway. With October being the timeframe for the tour, this makes site selection even more difficult. Several sites were suggested in the Tracy and Redwood Falls

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areas, plus one near Ivanhoe and one near Balaton. The tour route is selected after the project sites are chosen.

- **BWSR Water Quality & Storage Grants** The Grant Agreement for the LQP Floodway was signed on August 14. 50% funding (\$75,000) was received August 28. Netzke will draft the RFP for engineering services and meet with DNR and LQP-YB WD for concurrence.

- **Swedes Forest 18 (Redwood County)** The Redwood County Commissioners approved the grant agreement on August 19 and signed all seven easements. The Records Office should be calling soon for the easements to be picked up, and then the documents will be emailed to BWSR for signature. The DNR Dam Safety permit amendment has been entered into MPARS and is awaiting payment which will be provided as soon as the BWSR signature is secured. It is anticipated that the permit amendment will arrive in September when the contractor (Ryan West Excavating) will be ready to begin the work.

- **Hauschild Dam** Due to continued frequent rains and sustained higher pool level, the attempt to move the sediment from in front of the riser structure has not been attempted.

RCRCA

- **Cottonwood-Middle MN 1W1P Update** The final Policy Committee meeting was held on August 20 to approve the final expenditures and close out the planning grant. Netzke submitted the final report in eLINK and requested reimbursement of \$25,300 (10% grant). BWSR requested information to reconcile the grant expenditures, and upon completion of this, the reimbursement will be made to RCRCA.

- **Redwood CWMP Update** Formal Review (August 1 – September 30) is ongoing. The Steering Team and Policy Committee will meet on October 13 to address comments and to plan the public hearing on November 10. The funding available for RR-WBIF will be \$1,121,292 when the Plan is approved.

- **Lake Redwood**

Use Agreement The MMB Assistant Commissioner made a few edits to the agreement striking the word “agricultural” and any reference to it. If the edits are agreeable to RCRCA and the City, she will sign off on the agreement upon her return from New York where she is meeting with ratings agencies. The City agreed to the edits with a question why the word needed to be stricken. Netzke also agreed to the edits and replied that the word was intentional as haying/grazing is an acceptable agricultural practice needed to satisfy the farmed wetland exemption for the Wetland Conservation Act. If the property was not returned to agricultural use, then the impacted wetlands would have to be mitigated, and credits purchased. Once the MMB approval is given, signatures from RCRCA and the City may be obtained, and the remaining local funds returned to the City.

Legal Files Netzke retrieved the project files from the Redwood Valley Law office as the business closed as of August 15 due to the unexpected death of partner Frank Munshower.

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AREA II/RCRCA – Health Insurance Renewal Rates. Netzke presented the board with SW/WC Service Cooperative Health Insurance Rates for 2026. Area II's rates increased by 6.53%; RCRCA's rates increased by 12.24%. Netzke added that Area II is eligible for a \$6,835.06 settlement upon renewal, however RCRCA did not earn a settlement. Discussion followed. A decision will be made next month after Netzke receives answers regarding whether Area II and RCRCA can join together as a group for better rates, and if the two plans can be identical for better comparison of rates. The commissioners added that despite the rate increases, both plans are very good for the premiums paid.

AREA II ENGINEER'S REPORT.

North Hero 34 Road Retention, Redwood County. This project is funded by a BWSR Water Quality & Storage Grant. The design was formally approved at the township's July meeting with Kerry requesting \$25,000 from Redwood County to assist the township with their local match. The final plans and specifications are being submitted for permits. On August 15, an unforecasted storm event washed out the gravel from the existing culvert locations as 7-8" of rainfall was received. Water was approximately 4 feet above the existing road. This section of the roadway will now be closed until this project can be constructed in 2026. **Alta Vista 27 Road Retention, Lincoln County.** Final plans and a cost estimate have been prepared, and the project is progressing towards a meeting with all involved parties in September to discuss any changes, tree removals, flowage easements, borrow sites, mitigation and permitting (stream realignment) needs. Permits will be submitted as soon as the group meeting is held. **Florida Creek Restoration, LQP County.** Work continues on this project to restore 1,000 feet of natural channel on DNR property. The 90%-completed plans were reviewed in a meeting on August 15. Bidding documents will be prepared by Bolton & Menk. Work is intended to be done over the winter months to prevent damage to the DNR property. **Springdale 30 Road Retention (CSAH 20), Redwood County.** Redwood County provided an updated schedule: Bid Letting: 9-30-2025 at 10 AM; Award: 10-7-2025; and Construction: 5-4-2026 to 10-2-2026. **Island Lake 27 Grade Stabilization Repair, Lyon County.** A preconstruction meeting was held on July 31 with the contractor, Ground Works (Bill Sterzinger); and the property owners. The pond was drawn down last fall leaving pipe replacement and embankment rebuilding to be finished. Work is progressing as weather permits with anticipated completion by August 29.

AREA II – 2026 Capital Budget Resolution. Netzke was contacted by Senator Dahms office regarding our bonding needs. A resolution is required to accompany the request for \$1.5 million in bonding funds and to certify the local funds serving as match. The resolution includes that Area II will return any remaining funds from the General Fund Construction Grant appropriation if bonding funds are appropriated to Area II. Motion by Veerkamp, seconded by Drietz, to approve Resolution 2025-2 as presented. Motion carried unanimously, after a voice vote was taken.

AREA II – Letter of Support for Cottonwood Lake EPA Grant Application. Netzke presented a draft letter of support for the Cottonwood Lake EPA Grant Application being

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submitted by the U of M Southwest Research and Outreach Center at Lamberton. This application is very similar to a previous project proposal where research projects will be conducted within the CD69 ditch to improve the quality of the water entering the lake. Motion by Crowley, seconded by Thole, to approve the letter of support as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

AREA II – Lower Minnesota River Watershed District River Cruise Summary. Chairman Anderson attended the river cruise on August 14th. The District has a lot of interest in collaboration with Area II; however, collaboration equalled money coming their way.

AREA II – Performance Review of Executive Director. Chairman Anderson thanked the board members who provided their input for the performance review. The Executive Board met with Netzke and presented a very satisfactory review. Due to budget cuts this fiscal year, no merit raises were budgeted for this year. Netzke thanked the board for the confidence they place in her.

ADJOURNMENT. Chairman Anderson and Chairman Johnson declared the meeting adjourned at 10:05 AM.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

October Board Meeting	Thursday, Oct. 2, 2025	Redwood County Learning Center
November Board Meeting	Thursday, Nov. 6, 2025	Lyon County Government Center

Luke Johnson, RCRCA Chairman

Date