

RCRCA AREA II / RCRCA

September 5, 2024 - Board of Directors Meeting
Lyon County Government Center - Marshall, MN (hybrid meeting)
Roll Call Votes on all Motions

AREA II Members Present: Larry Anderson, John Maatz*, Gary Crowley, Lori Gunnink*, Luke Johnson, Rick Wakefield*, and Glen Kack.

RCRCA Members Present: Mark Wellner*, Larry Anderson, Ron Bunjer, Gary Crowley, Mark Meulebroeck, Lori Gunnink*, Paul Posthuma, Luke Johnson, Rick Wakefield*, Ed Carter, and Glen Kack.

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

*Members joined the meeting virtually

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM by RCRCA Chairman Johnson and Area II Chairman Anderson.

ADOPT AGENDA. **RCRCA** - Motion by Carter, seconded by Posthuma, to approve the agenda as amended to include the Pledge of Allegiance. Motion carried unanimously. **Area II** - Motion by Crowley, seconded by Kack, to approve the agenda as amended with the Pledge of Allegiance. Motion carried unanimously.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

AGENCY AND MEETING REPORTS.

MASWCD – Supervisor Meulebroeck reported that the Area V MASWCD meeting is 9/19/24 at St. Stephens Lutheran Church in Marshall.

AMC – Commissioner Johnson reported the Fall Policy Committee will meet in Alexandria 9/11/24 - 9/13/24.

DNR – Commissioner Crowley reported on a DNR-promoted storage project on CD17 through a WMA and property owned by Pheasants Forever. The plan is to reroute tile and create holding basins which will improve drainage and create retention. Lyon County, as the ditch authority, approved the DNR’s request.

APPROVE RCRCA MINUTES of August 2024 Board Meeting. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Carter, to approve the August 2024 Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

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

RCRCA TREASURER’S REPORT – August 2024. Financials were reviewed by the Board. Revenue received: \$1,150.70 Contract Services Income, \$73,281.67 Grant Income, \$55.00 Miscellaneous Income (deposit on storage unit), and \$2,528.24 Interest Income. Bills for approval: \$9,282.75 Houston Engineering, Inc. (CW-MM 1W1P and RR 1W1P). The CW-MM 1W1P 40% request was received and placed in the Magic Account. Motion by Meulebroeck, seconded by Posthuma, to file the August 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	\$ 0.00	Contract Services Income	\$ 1,150.70
Interest-Cash Sweep/CD	\$ 1.48	Interest-Checking Acct	\$ 2.52
Grant Funds	\$ 73,281.67	Miscellaneous Income	\$ 55.00
Appropriations	\$ 0.00	Investment/MAGIC Interest	\$ 2,524.24

Paid bills are summarized below:

Operations/Occupancy	\$ 1,271.48	Travel Expenses	\$ 564.90
Monitoring/Evaluation	\$ 285.74	Personnel	\$ 11,293.13
Project Costs	\$ 0.00	Contract Services - Area II	\$ 4,798.53
Capital Outlay	\$ 0.00	Other Services & Charges	\$ 13,873.94
Promotion/Education	\$ 171.08	Contract Services – Moldestad	\$ 720.00

Bills for Approval:

Professional Services	\$ 20,612.34	Vehicle Expense	\$ 0.00
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AREA II TREASURER’S REPORT – August 2024 Financials were reviewed by the Board. Motion by Crowley, seconded by Johnson, to file the August 2024 Treasurer’s Report subject to audit and to approve payment of the bills. Motion carried unanimously.

Revenue as recorded:

Contract Service Income (RCRCA)	\$ 4,798.53	Projects-GF Construx Grants	\$ 0.00
Interest Income	\$ 1,821.13	County Levy	\$ 0.00
State of MN-Administrative	\$ 190,000.00	SWCD Tech Assistance	\$ 0.00
Water Quality & Storage Grants	\$ 711,660.00	Miscellaneous Income	\$ 0.00

Paid bills are summarized below:

Administration	\$ 17,616.62	Office Supplies	\$ 0.00
Bonding Project Funds	\$ 0.00	Other Insurance	\$ 0.00
Capital Outlay	\$ 0.00	Postage	\$ 0.00
Contract Services - RCRCA	\$ 1,150.70	Professional Services	\$ 10,100.00
Directors’ Expense	\$ 0.00	Project Expenses Paid	\$ 57,688.90
Directors’ Insurance	\$ 0.00	Project Permit Fees	\$ 0.00
Employee Expense	\$ 72.36	Rent	\$ 837.00
Field Supplies	\$ 0.00	Telephone	\$ 89.76
Investigating & Testing	\$ 0.00	Utilities-Web Hosting	\$ 155.88
Maintenance & Repair	\$ 282.16	Vehicle Expense	\$ 277.02
Miscellaneous Expense	\$ 12.00	Continuing Education	\$ 0.00
Insurance	\$ 0.00		

Bills for approval:

Professional Services	\$ 4,788.00	Investigation/Testing Exp.	\$ 11,240.00
Project Costs	\$ 0.00	Project Permits	\$ 0.00

RCRCA – COST SHARE CONTRACTS: None

AREA II – COST SHARE CONTRACTS:

CONTRACT AMENDMENT:

Construction Cost increased by \$797.00 for 3 hours of additional Shovel and 8 lbs seed mixture. No change to the overall cost-share as the Professional Engineering will be reduced by this amount. Area II’s match is reduced by the amount of the landowner’s increase.

GFCG-2023-02	Florida 15 – Yellow Medicine	410 Dam Restoration
Nathan Thorpe		
EST Cost: \$57,829.02		EST Cost Share: \$43,371.76 (75%)
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		<u>Local Match: \$14,457.26 (25%)</u>
		<i>LQP-YB WD \$6,551.88</i>
		<i>Area II \$1,154.26 \$1,353.50</i>
		<i>Landowner \$6,751.12 \$6,551.88</i>

CONTRACTS FOR PAYMENT:

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		<u>Local Match: \$14,457.26 (25%)</u>
		<i>LQP-YB WD</i> \$6,551.88
		<i>Area II</i> \$1,154.26
		<i>Landowner</i> \$6,751.12

Netzke presented one cost share contract for amendment: Florida 15 – Yellow Medicine – 410 Dam Restoration and subsequent payment. Motion by Kack, seconded by Crowley, to approve the cost share amendment and the payment for Florida 15 – Yellow Medicine in the amount of \$43,371.76. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

- **Health Insurance Premiums** – Area II and RCRCAs received the lowest level of increases at 3.5%.

AREA II

• **General Fund Construction Grants** Netzke met with the Redwood County Commissioners on August 6 to discuss how to move forward with the **Johnsonville 29 Dam Restoration** as MMB refuses to make changes to their grant agreement. The county is willing to sign the MMB agreement if an additional Use Agreement is drafted between Redwood County and Area II to spell out roles/responsibilities/ expectations. Area II is awaiting the attorneys to draft this agreement for Area II approval, and then secure all the signatures and recording of documents. Netzke met with the commissioners again on September 3 and obtained signatures on the grant documents. The documents are now being recorded.

A second project in Redwood County will be evolving soon – **Swedes Forest 18 Dam Restoration**. This is a large project with an 80-acre flood pool (top of dam elevation) involving seven properties; six are in Redwood County and one in Yellow Medicine.

For the **Island Lake 27 Dam Restoration**, Area II is waiting on completion of the Flowage Easement and will then request Lyon County to be the grant recipient. If the Lyon County Attorney has issues with the grant agreement like Redwood County, it is hoped that a similar Use Agreement can be used to allow the project to proceed.

• **Springdale 24 Stream Mitigation** Just like low-quality wetlands, low-quality streams must also have impacts mitigated. Since there is not an existing bank for credits, undertaking a stream restoration project is the only way to mitigate impacts at this time. In order to determine those impacts, the Corps has developed a Stream Quality Tool and Debit Calculator. However, unless you are a stream biologist and have had the 3-day training, using these tools is extremely difficult. Even trained professionals do not find the system easy. In order to move forward, Bolton & Menk was contacted for a quote to perform these tasks on the impacted site as well as the identified streambank to be restored. Bolton & Menk quoted \$9,500 to perform these services and up to \$10,700 if additional meetings with the Corps are necessary. The Executive Board was asked to approve the quote with work to begin after Labor Day. The Board will be asked to ratify the Executive Board’s approval.

RCRCA

• **Lake Redwood Update** A virtual meeting on August 21 was held with Senator Dahms, Representative Torkelson, Netzke, Jim Doering and Keith Muetzel from the City of Redwood Falls, and Senate Counsel Stephanie James. Senate Counsel was puzzled by MMB’s response concerning income generation from the property especially when placed in a designated fund for the project. She was given permission to speak with MMB to

uncover their concerns and propose some options that would at least allow haying/grazing of the CDF property. From her discussion with MMB, State law allows income generation if the receiving entity was a watershed district, but not for other LGUs. The group will meet again to determine the next step.

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. The landowner would like to see some existing tile routed to the pond and incorporated into the final design. ***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 federal road replacement project. Soil Technologies, Inc. submitted their report on July 9 which indicates that some underlying soil will need to be replaced during construction. This is being implemented into the final design. ***Storden 10 Dam Repair (Anderson), Cottonwood County.*** We have not been able to connect with the cooperator for his authorization to proceed. Bids have been received with the low bid from Ryan West Excavating at \$120,142.94; Engineer's Estimate was \$158,299.90. ***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. Now that the grant agreement is executed, we will update the plans and call a meeting with all parties involved to discuss any changes as well as borrow areas and flowage easements. 2025 construction is anticipated. ***North Hero 34 Retention, Redwood County.*** This project, also funded by a BWSR Water Quality & Storage Grant, has a working preliminary design completed. Southwest Prairie Technical Service Area (TSA) has utilized their new survey drone to fly this large watershed to establish the survey elevations to the county's coordinate system. Drone survey data has been received and is being used to finalize Plans. Once this is completed, a meeting with all parties involved will be held to discuss any changes as well as borrow areas and flowage easements. 2025 construction is planned. ***Swedes Forest 18 Dam Repair, Redwood County.*** This is a dam restoration project where the existing NRCS dam structure, constructed in 1986, is showing signs of deterioration. The outlet structure has been disjointed and the storage face of the existing berm is sloughing and eroding. A preliminary design has been completed that evaluated the necessary design changes to be implemented in the repair since the original construction. A meeting with the landowners was held on July 24 where approval of the design was received. Final Plans and Specifications are being processed. DNR Dam Safety has been notified that an amendment to the existing Dam Safety permit will be requested. Seven flowage easements are necessary to cover the 80 acres of flood pool; six are in Redwood County and one is in Yellow Medicine County. ***Florida 15 Grade Stabilization Repair, Yellow Medicine County.*** Construction began August 19 and was completed before Labor Day. A pay request has been received; the amendment and payment request were approved at this meeting. ***Island Lake 27 Grade Stabilization Repair, Lyon County.*** Once the easement is completed and returned to our office, the Lyon County Commissioners will be approached with the MMB grant agreement for approval. ***Monroe 17 WSCB, Lyon County.*** This constructed system (2023) implements two WSCB and a new run of tile. The project design was not reviewed by NRCS prior to construction, however post-construction funding is available that requires NRCS approval. The NRCS Area Engineer has agreed to the proposed post construction changes for this project to be eligible for funding. A quote from the contractor has been received, and we are waiting for the landowner's acceptance. Fall construction is planned after the crops are harvested. ***Alta Vista 27 Road Retention, Lincoln County.*** The soils report recommendations are being implemented into the final plans as the project progresses towards a meeting with all involved parties to discuss any changes, flowage easements, borrow sites, wetland delineation and permitting needs. 2025 construction is anticipated. ***Norman 35 Pond Sediment Removal, Yellow Medicine County.*** This is a sediment removal project. The grade stabilization, previously restored by Area II when the pond was owned by a different landowner, is due for sediment removal maintenance due to significant pattern tiling on neighboring fields. Yellow Medicine WBIF has been secured for cost share funding. Final plans and specifications have been prepared for quotes to perform the work. This work will require a long-reach excavator to insure a minimum amount of disturbance to the existing side-slopes and structure. Quotes are due back September 11 as the work will not start until after the corn crop is harvested.

AREA II – Ratify Bolton & Menk Stream Assessment Quote. Netzke had contacted the Area II Executive Board seeking approval of the quote for stream assessment for the Springdale 24 Grade Stabilization Project as discussed in the Administrator's Report. Motion by Johnson, seconded by Gunnink, to ratify the Executive Board's

decision to accept the quote from Bolton & Menk for \$9,500, and up to \$10,700 if extra meetings are required. Motion carried unanimously.

2024 Annual Legislative Gathering Discussion. Netzke has confirmed Carrie Jennings, Freshwater Society, as the speaker at the meeting scheduled for November 7. Netzke contacted our legislators/representatives for their availability to attend this meeting. They requested not the week of, or week after the election due to possible leadership changes. Weekdays work best for their schedules. Discussion followed. Wednesday, November 20 was the date selected. The Area II/RCRCA November Board meeting will be early afternoon with the Legislative Gathering to follow at 4:00 and conclude with a meal around 5:30. Discussion on location followed. The board would like the event at the Springfield Area Community Center and to be catered by Tommy’s Steakhouse. Netzke will make the arrangements.

2025 Health Insurance Premiums – Approval. Netzke presented the board with health insurance premiums for both organizations. A 3.5% increase was received from the previous year for the same Medica plans. Discussion followed. **RCRCA** – Motion by Carter, seconded by Wellner, to approve the health insurance renewal for 2025. Motion carried unanimously. **Area II** – Motion by Crowley, seconded by Kack, to approve the health insurance renewal for 2025. Motion carried unanimously.

RCRCA – Cottonwood-Middle MN 1W1P Update. Netzke reported that the Public Hearing has been scheduled for 9/18/24 at 10:00 at the Springfield Area Community Center. Each county is required to Public Notice the meeting; all partners are posting the information on their websites and social media. A short Policy Committee meeting will follow to accept the comments received. All partners will be asked to pass resolutions in late September/early October to submit the Plan to BWSR for approval, and for adoption of the Plan once approved by BWSR.

The Policy Committee voted to utilize RCRCA’s Joint Powers Agreement for the future implementation of the plan. Netzke requested that Ann Goering be contracted for JPA revisions to include the orphan areas of the CW-MM 1W1P and to draft bylaws. Goering did this work for GBERBA and is a well-known attorney for public entities. Motion by Kack, seconded by Crowley, to contract with Ann Goering to revise RCRCA’s JPA as required for plan implementation of the Cottonwood-Middle MN Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan as well as the Redwood River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan that is being drafted. Motion carried unanimously.

RCRCA – Performance Review of Wohnoutka. Netzke stated that Wohnoutka has completed 21 years and received a very satisfactory review, a recommendation of a 1% merit raise with a 3% COLA on January 1, 2025. Wohnoutka provided a list of position openings with wage ranges. Many starting wages are the same as his current wage with 20 years of experience. Netzke added that Area II did a wage adjustment 10 years ago, so both organizations are due for review. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Crowley, to approve the 1% merit increase for Wohnoutka, with any wage adjustment retroactive to his anniversary date of September 2. Motion carried unanimously. Netzke will conduct a doodle poll to find a date for both executive boards to meet in Marshall to discuss wage adjustments for both organizations.

ADJOURNMENT. Chairman Anderson and Chairman Johnson adjourned the meeting at 10:10 AM. The next meeting will be at the Redwood County Government Center, Commissioner’s Room on October 3.

UPCOMING MEETINGS.

October Board Meeting	Thursday, October 3, 2024	Redwood County Government Center – Commissioners Room
November Board Meeting	Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2024	Springfield Community Center - 2:00 PM
Annual Legislative Gathering	Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2024	Save the Date/Invitations will be mailed

Luke Johnson, RCRCA Chairman

Date