

RCRCA

AREA II / RCRCA

December 5, 2024 - Board of Directors Meeting
Redwood County Learning Center – Redwood Falls, MN/Hybrid
Roll Call Votes on all motions – *attended via Zoom

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

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

Others Present: Kerry Netzke – Executive Director, Joy Bruns – RCRCA Office Manager, Samantha Hoskins* – Peterson Company Ltd.

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 AM by RCRCA Chairman Johnson and Area II Chairman Anderson.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

AREA II – DRAFT AUDIT REPORT FY24. Samantha Hoskins from Peterson Company Ltd reviewed the audit report and findings with the board of directors. A clean audit was given with no problems, no red flags, and no findings of concern. A positive Net Position has developed due to the Water Quality & Storage Grants and \$50,000 increase to the annual administrative grant. The auditors have suggested increasing the capital asset threshold to \$2,500 or \$5,000 from the current \$1,000 value. Netzke indicated that this will be added to January’s Agenda. Motion by Johnson, seconded by Crowley, to approve the FY24 audit as presented. Motion carried unanimously. Hoskins was thanked for her time and work on the audit.

AGENCY AND MEETING REPORTS.

MASWCD – Supervisor Lingbeek reported that the MASWCD Annual Convention was December 2-4. Les Johnson donated land to Pheasants Forever and received the Habitat Stewardship Award. The DNR Eco Appreciation Award was given to Pipestone SWCD. Field Staff of the Year Award recipient was Kay Gross, Cottonwood SWCD Manager (36 years of service). Ian Cunningham, Pipestone SWCD, was recognized for 26 years of service including serving on the national association. Johnson added that Cunningham “practices what he preaches” in terms of conservation and has been an effective advocate for SWCDs.

AMC – Commissioner Johnson reported that the AMC Annual Convention is December 8-11. Johnson is running for the Secretary/Treasurer position along with several others as the current AMC Secretary/Treasurer did not win re-election.

Before starting the business issues, Netzke took a moment to recognize Lori Gunnink for 8 years of service to Area II and RCRC. An engraved key ring was gifted to Gunnink on behalf of the Boards.

APPROVE RCRC MINUTES of November 2024 Board Meeting. Motion by Veerkamp, seconded by Eckstein, to approve the November 2024 Minutes as corrected. Motion carried unanimously.

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

RCRC TREASURER’S REPORT – November 2024. Financials were reviewed by the Board. Revenue received: \$2,221.86 Contract Services Income, \$13,790.17 Grant Income, \$2,451.57 Interest Income, and \$222.00 Miscellaneous Income (MCIT Dividend). Plum Creek CWF 40% payment of \$160,322 has been requested and should arrive soon. Bills for approval: \$5,976.25 Houston Engineering, Inc. (CW-MM 1W1P and RR 1W1P) and \$770.00 Ratwik, Roszak and Malony, PA (JPA revisions). Motion by Anderson, seconded by Meulebroeck, to file the November 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	\$ 2,221.86
Interest-Cash Sweep/CD	\$ 0.77	Interest-Checking Acct	\$ 2.81
Grant Funds	\$ 13,790.17	Miscellaneous Income	\$ 222.00
Appropriations	\$ 0.00	Investment/MAGIC Interest	\$ 2,447.99

Paid bills are summarized below:

Operations/Occupancy	\$ 975.18	Travel Expenses	\$ 378.85
Monitoring/Evaluation	\$ 304.00	Personnel	\$ 16,999.17
Project Costs	\$ 0.00	Contract Services - Area II	\$ 5,986.71
Capital Outlay	\$ 0.00	Other Services & Charges	\$ 5,979.00
Promotion/Education	\$ 399.15	Contract Services – Moldestad	\$ 0.00

Bills for Approval:

Professional Services	\$ 6,746.25	Vehicle Expense	\$ 0.00
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AREA II TREASURER’S REPORT – November 2024. Financials were reviewed by the Board. Motion by Veerkamp, seconded by Gunnink, to file the November 2024 Treasurer’s Report subject to audit and to approve payment of the bill. Motion carried unanimously.

RCRC – COST SHARE CONTRACTS – PAYMENTS

CWF-2022-12	*PELL CREEK*	
Mark Warner Basin	Ann 20 - Cottonwood	638 Water & Sediment Control
EST Cost: \$71,974.00		EST Cost Share: \$53,980.50 (75%)
ACT Cost: \$71,974.00		ACT Cost Share: \$53,980.50 (75%)
		<u>CWF C/S: \$53,980.50 (75%)</u>
		Landowner: \$17,993.50 (25%)

Netzke presented one cost share contract for payment: Pell Creek Grant – Ann 20 – Cottonwood 638 Water & Sediment Control Basins. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Meulebroeck, to approve the Ann 20 – Cottonwood Cost Share Contract for payment. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

- **Xcel Energy Transmission Line.** An Open House and Public Hearing was held on November 7 concerning the modified blue line route that is preferred by Xcel Energy. Xcel did make several changes based on comments received. The number of times that the line crosses the Redwood River and Cottonwood River has been reduced and some conservation easement lands avoided. These were comments provided by RCRCA.
- **Retirement Celebration for Mark Meulebroeck.** Lyon SWCD is hosting a retirement celebration for Mark Meulebroeck (20 years) and Steve Prairie (26 years). The open house will be held Wednesday, December 11 from 2:00 – 3:30 PM at the Lyon SWCD office. All are invited to attend.
- **Senator Dahms – (R)** The Minnesota Senate elected Gary Dahms to the Assistant Minority Leader position.
- **Representative Torkelson – (R)** The Minnesota House of Representatives elected Paul Torkelson as the Republican Chair of the House Ways & Means Committee. This is the committee that sets the state budget biennially.

AREA II

- **Island Lake 27 Dam Restoration.** Ground Works (Bill Sterzinger) had committed to projects with funding expiring 12/31/2024 which took priority. Payment for materials on hand will be processed as the concrete pipe, riprap and other materials have been delivered to the project site. Spring construction is expected.
- **Springdale 24 Dam (Redwood).** Bolton & Menk completed their assessment without using the Debit Calculator (USACE spreadsheet). A TEAMS meeting was held November 21 with Bolton & Menk staff and USACE. The field data is good, but the impacts (or ‘functional feet’) were incorrectly calculated. Bolton & Menk agreed to recompute using the spreadsheet which increased the functional feet of loss from 89 to 150.5. More discussion with USACE will be scheduled to discuss mitigation options.

RCRCA

- **Cottonwood-Middle MN CWMP Update.** The BWSR Southern Region Committee will meet virtually on December 9 to review and recommend Plan approval to the full BWSR Board in January 2025. Netzke will be doing the presenting with others online to help answer questions as they arise. Attorney Ann Goering is working on the revisions to RCRCA’s joint powers for Plan implementation and draft Bylaws. These documents are expected by the end of December. The Policy Committee will meet on Wednesday, February 19 at 1:00 PM. No meetings scheduled for December. Netzke attended the GBERBA Policy/Technical meeting in Mankato on November 15 to see how GBERBA incorporates the Watonwan 1W1P into their Board meetings.
- **Redwood CWMP Update.** The Policy Committee will meet Monday, January 13 at 1:00 PM. No meetings scheduled for December.

AREA II – Nominating Committee for Executive Board. The policy for executive board members is a 2-year term, with a 2 consecutive term (4 years) limit in any one position. Larry Anderson and Jeff Veerkamp have only served one term; however, Gary Crowley is on his 2nd term and would need replacement. Another option is to change the operating policy which does not need to be done at an annual meeting. Discussion followed. Motion by Johnson, seconded by Gunnink, to eliminate the term limits for the Executive Board. Motion carried unanimously.

AREA II ENGINEER'S REPORT.

North Hero 34 Road Retention, Redwood County. Drone survey data from Southwest Prairie Technical Service Area (TSA) 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. Permitting will follow with 2025 construction anticipated. ***Alta Vista 27 Road Retention, Lincoln County.*** Final plans and a cost estimate have been completed, and the project is progressing towards a meeting with all parties involved to discuss any changes, flowage easements, borrow sites, wetland delineation and permitting needs. 2025 construction is anticipated. Netzke added that the new road embankment will fill part of the existing stream. A proposal to relocate and re-meander the stream has been provided to DNR and USACE for "off the record" comments to help determine the direction that is needed to progress forward. ***Limestone 25 WASCBS, Lincoln County.*** This project is a series of WSCBs with a subsurface tile outlet system. A revised final design has been accepted by the NRCS. The Contractor has begun work on construction with the tiling work nearly complete. ***Norman 35 Pond Sediment Removal, Yellow Medicine County.*** This grade stabilization, previously restored by Area II when it 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. The Contractor has begun work on the sediment removal. ***Garfield 33/Florida Creek Restoration, Lac qui Parle County.*** The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has secured a grant to restore approximately 1,000 feet of natural channel on DNR property. The initial project was much larger in scale, however many of the property owners did not support the project. The DNR has asked the Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank Watershed District to collaborate and sponsor the project. The Watershed District has asked if Area II would be interested in supplying the engineering for the restoration project with the understanding that all the engineering would be reimbursed by the DNR grant. After discussions with the DNR and with careful consideration, this is an effort that we are willing to pursue in order to gain knowledge of stream restoration efforts. We will be compiling an engineering cost estimate to present to the Watershed District for their consideration. A TEAMS meeting on December 18th is scheduled to discuss the project in more detail. Netzke added that a cost proposal of \$101,334 was submitted to the Watershed District yesterday for their review and consideration. Negotiation is welcome if the intended Scope of Services is incorrect.

RCRCA – FY25 BUDGET. The budget includes the purchase of a laptop for a new employee which will be funded by the Cottonwood-Middle MN WBIF grant. The Board asked to remove this expenditure as it belongs with the WBIF grant. Discussion followed concerning the need to increase the county appropriation amount by \$5,000 - \$10,000 (from \$80,000 to \$90,000). Netzke provided county levy amounts for \$80,000, \$85,000 and \$90,000 for members to see the differences. Crowley stressed that any increase would not take effect until 2026 as the 2025 county budgets have all been set. Any changes would need to be made by June 2025 to be included in the counties' 2026 budgets. The newly revised Joint Powers Agreement will require signature by all RCRCA members and would be the ideal time to establish the county appropriation level. Motion by Bunjer, seconded by Gunnink, to approve the FY25 Budget with deletion of the laptop computer and leaving the county appropriation income at \$80,000. Motion carried unanimously.

JANUARY 2025 BOARD MEETING. Netzke suggested that we have our January board meeting a week later so that the counties will have made their appointments for the various boards. Discussion followed. Board consensus was to leave the board meeting on January 2, 2025 and hold Executive Board elections at the February board meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS: The board requested a project tour to be scheduled in 2025.

ADJOURNMENT. Chairman Anderson and Chairman Johnson declared the meeting adjourned at 10:19 AM. The next meeting will be at the Lyon County Government Center on January 2, 2025 at 9:00 AM.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

January Board Meeting	Thursday, January 2, 2025	Lyon County Government Center
February Board Meeting	Thursday, February 6, 2025	Redwood County Learning Center
March Board Meeting	Thursday, March 6, 2025	Lyon County Government Center

Luke Johnson, RCRCRA Chairman _____
Date