

# RCRCA

## AREA II / RCRCA

**May 1, 2025 – Board of Directors Meeting  
Lyon County Government Center – Marshall, MN**

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

**RCRCA Members Present:** Jeff Veerkamp, Bill Eckstein, Larry Anderson, Clark Lingbeek, Ron Bunjer, Gary Crowley, Loy Woelber, Paul Posthuma, Luke Johnson, Rick Wakefield, Ed Carter and Glen Kack.

**Others Present:** Kerry Netzke – Executive Director, 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. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, introductions were made.

**ADOPT AGENDA.** Netzke requested an addition for Custer 11-Lyon County Resolution for Local Match. **RCRCA** – Motion by Carter, seconded by Posthuma, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously. **Area II** - Motion by Wakefield, seconded by Crowley, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

### **AGENCY AND MEETING REPORTS.**

**MPCA.** Chairman Johnson reported on the meeting with MPCA staff, Cottonwood and Pipestone County representatives. A good discussion was had with a mutual agreement that the permitting process should be shortened.

**MASWCD.** Supervisor Lingbeek reported that the DoubleTree Hotel has been booked for the annual convention in December. This is the same location as AMC Convention. An update to some Cottonwood County projects was given: The Talcott Dam, built in 1936-1937, has a replacement estimate of \$6-8 million. The Cottonwood County Commissioners denied partnering with DNR to be the fiscal host. The String Lake repair is estimated at \$500,000. This estimate seems high as the road has only overtopped a few times in the last 50 years.

**APPROVE RCRCA MINUTES of April 2025 Board Meeting.** Motion by Lingbeek, seconded by Bunjer, to approve the April 2025 Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

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**APPROVE AREA II MINUTES of April 2025 Board Meeting.** Motion by Johnson, seconded by Crowley, to approve April 2025 Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**RCRCA TREASURER’S REPORT – April 2025.** Financials were reviewed. Revenue received: \$1,707.23 Contract Services Income, \$32,093.34 Grant Income and \$2,210.85 Interest. Bills for approval: \$15,049.00 Houston Engineering, Inc. (CW-MM 1W1P) and \$9,707.50 Houston Engineering (RR 1W1P). Motion by Anderson, seconded by Posthuma, to approve the April 2025 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	\$ 1,707.23
Interest-Cash Sweep/CD	\$ 0.10	Interest-Checking Acct	\$ 6.71
Grant Funds	\$ 32,096.34	Miscellaneous Income	\$ 0.00
Appropriations	\$ 0.00	Investment/MAGIC Interest	\$ 2,078.78

**Paid bills are summarized below:**

Operations/Occupancy	\$ 1,053.08	Travel Expenses	\$ 268.33
Monitoring/Evaluation	\$ 814.80	Personnel	\$ 12,409.46
Project Costs	\$ 0.00	Contract Services - Area II	\$ 5,452.47
Capital Outlay	\$ 0.00	Other Services & Charges	\$ 24,847.69
Promotion/Education	\$ 0.00	Contract Service–Moldestad	\$ 0.00

**Bills for Approval:**

Professional Services	\$ 24,756.50
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**AREA II TREASURER’S REPORT – April 2025.** Financials were reviewed with the board. Motion by Crowley, seconded by Veerkamp, to approve the April 2025 Treasurer’s Report subject to audit and approve payment of the bill. Motion carried unanimously.

**RCRCA – Approve/Amend/Pay Completed Cost Share Contracts.**

**NEW CONTRACTS:**

<b>CWF-2021-23</b>	<b>*PLUM CREEK*</b>	
<b>Matt Wahl</b>	<b>Holly 20 - Murray</b>	<b>410 Grade Stabilization</b>
<b>EST Cost: \$126,688.00</b>		<b>EST Cost Share: \$114,019.20 (90%)</b>
		<b><u>CWF C/S: \$ 38,006.40 (30%)</u></b>
		<b>Federal 319: \$ 76,012.80 (60%)</b>

Netzke presented a cost share contract for the Plum Creek Clean Water Fund Grant – Holly 20 – Murray – 410 Grade Stabilization project. Motion by Carter, seconded by Lingbeek, to

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approve the cost share contract for the Holly 20 – Murray project. Motion carried unanimously.

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

#### AREA II

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- **Legislative Update**

- Capital Investment **House File 1455/Senate File 904**

- The committee is still hearing bills and taking testimony. No omnibus bill developed yet.

- Administrative Funds **House File 939/Senate File 946**

- Both omnibus bills, hf2439 and sf2077, have Area II budgeted for \$140,000 per year for 2026 and 2027. Our local legislators feel it is unlikely that this amount will change during conference committee as both houses have the same amount. Funding to many organizations was cut entirely.

- **BWSR Water Quality & Storage Grants** Netzke only submitted one application for the LQP Floodways (YM County), requesting \$150,000 grant with \$15,000 of local match (LQP YB WD, YM County, Area II). With all the frustration that the Corps' Stream Mitigation is causing, it was decided not to reapply for the Lynd 31 Road Retention (Lyon County) as that impact is large (over 300 lineal feet) and credits to purchase for mitigation will likely be needed.

- **BWSR Academy** Netzke has been asked to be a presenter with Rita Weaver, BWSR Engineer. Rita will speak about the Water Quality & Storage grant program, and Netzke will present a success story (or stories). The academy is October 21-23 with the registration fee waived for presenters.

- **BWSR Board Tour** On August 27, the BWSR Board will be touring in SW MN starting from Jackpot Junction. They would like to include some of Area II's projects, especially the Water Quality & Storage grant projects, on their way through Redwood County.

- **Swedes Forest 19 (Redwood County)** This project involves 7 different property owners for the existing pond that has no agreements or recorded easements. Initially, Area II was told that each parcel must be covered by an easement to secure the public interest in the funding. Upon further questioning of BWSR/MMB, the only easement necessary for an existing project is for the property where the work is to be done. The other pond easements are not necessary. The landowner will be notified of this change.

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- **Cottonwood-Middle MN 1W1P Update** The Steering Team met virtually on April 8 and April 16 to revise the cost-share policy, budget, and grant application language due April 30. Netzke entered the application into eLINK on April 28. BWSR approved the implementation grant of

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\$1,958,370 on April 30. An eLINK work plan will be entered before the funds become available.

- **Redwood CWMP Update** The Steering Team met virtually on April 14 to review three draft sections of the Plan – Targeted Implementation, Implementation Programs, and Plan Administration and Coordination. A draft timeline for the rest of 2025 was proposed showing when internal and formal reviews will take place, as well as the public hearing. The biggest question is which month the BWSR Board would like to approve the Plan and arrange the Southern Region Committee review prior to that. The Steering Team will meet on the morning of May 12 with the Policy Committee meeting at 1:00 PM.
- **RCRCA Joint Powers Agreement** The remaining signatures were obtained in April. Copies of the executed agreement have been provided to all the member counties and SWCDs, and board members.
- **Canoe Trips** Calls are starting to come in regarding the annual canoe trips. With the log jam upstream of Springfield being unsolved, and the Essig landing not accommodating for the wide range of ages, Wohnoutka will look for an alternative route starting at the Hwy 4 bridge east of Springfield.

### **AREA II ENGINEER'S REPORT.**

**North Hero 34 Road Retention, Redwood County.** This project, funded by a BWSR Water Quality & Storage Grant, has a final design completed, and final plans are nearly complete. The township requested a meeting after planting with all parties involved to discuss any changes as well as borrow areas and flowage easements. Late 2025 construction is anticipated pending permits. **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 the parties involved to discuss any changes, tree removals, flowage easements, borrow sites, wetland delineation and permitting needs. We have submitted a proposed channel realignment to the DNR regarding stream mitigation for a segment of natural channel that will be impacted by construction. The DNR has agreed, and this new alignment has been proposed to USACE. The WCA TEP will meet onsite to determine if a new wetland delineation is necessary. 2025 construction is anticipated pending permits. **Florida Creek Restoration, LQP County.** Continuation of work on this project has been authorized by the Minnesota DNR and LQP-YB Watershed District. The DNR proposes restoring about 1,000 feet of natural channel on DNR-owned property. Sharing technical information and additional survey work has been completed, and preliminary design work has begun. A progress meeting was held on April 11, and 30%-completed plans are anticipated in June. **Holly 20 Small Dam, Murray County.** Final plans and specifications for this grade control structure had to be altered to avoid impacts to existing wetlands at the outlet. After a meeting with the landowner, he asked for a construction quote to see if additional local funds may be needed. The bids were returned in April 23 with Ryan West Excavating's bid at \$126,688.00. Engineer's Estimate was \$181,720.55 with 10% contingency. This project is in the Plum Creek watershed and will utilize Clean Water Fund and federal 319 cost-share funding. No permits are required. **Norman 34 Small Dam Repair, Yellow Medicine County.** This is a grade control structure repair project that seeks to replace

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a failing pipe through the structure as well as clean out silt and sedimentation accumulation in the pond. Preliminary review of the contributing watershed has been started. A set of repair plans from 1999 have been found and are being utilized in the design process. Original design documents are also being sought for comparison as preliminary calculations are showing larger than anticipated water volumes. **Springdale 24 Grade Control Structure, Redwood County.** This is a proposed grade control structure that originally had a permanent pool to help capture sediment and reduce flows from the City of Walnut Grove's storm sewer system. After a review by the USACE, the amount of stream impact was going to require stream mitigation. Bolton & Menk was hired to perform the stream assessment and calculate the impacts and required mitigation. Based off these results, the cost of mitigation (no bank or credits are available yet), and the availability of mitigation locations, it was recommended to redesign the structure to get under the threshold of 200 feet of disturbance (Tier 4) to avoid stream mitigation requirements. This can be accomplished by removing the permanent pool aspect of the project. Upon review, the Corps considering this project a Tier 5 impact with a threshold of 150 feet. Kerry is working to understand the Corps determination of Tier 4 (impoundments) versus Tier 5 (culverts) impacts and to negotiate a Tier 4 classification for this project. A Tier 5 threshold may not be possible to achieve. **Holly 22 Road Retention, Murray County.** This project, also funded by a BWSR Water Quality & Storage Grant, has a preliminary design completed. The downstream channel is facing similar realignment issues as Alta Vista 27, so we wanted to know our limitations in moving the stream channel before starting the design on this project. A meeting was held onsite with the DNR to discuss options. Ultimately, this project appears feasible with consideration being paid to conservation to total stream length. DeSchepper attended a township meeting on April 7 to summarize the current design, schedule, and 10% local match needed from the township and/or local entities. **Springdale 30 Road Retention (CSAH 20), Redwood County.** Area II has completed the hydraulic analysis and risk assessment for state review as requested by Widseth. Kerry has already provided the final HydroCAD model, geotechnical report, and preliminary hazard classification to DNR Dam Safety as requested. DNR Dam Safety provided a bullet list of questions which the vast majority will need to be answered by Widseth as it concerns road design. Kerry drafted and provided flowage easements to Redwood County Highway Department for legal review and processing. **Custer 11 Dam Repair, Lyon County.** This is an existing small dam in Garvin Park in need of pipe replacement. Bids were received on April 16. Ryan West Excavating was the lowest bidder at \$31,692.40; Engineer's Estimate was \$32,698.00. The MMB Construction Grant agreement will be drafted to provide 75% cost-share to Lyon SWCD who will provide the local match. The Lyon SWCD will meet May 14. **Stanley 24 Grade Control Structure, Lyon County.** There is landowner interest in a potential grade control structure for reduction of scouring being caused by stormwater flows from a private tile system and its outlet. A site visit was performed on April 9 to review the area and discuss options with the property owners. A quick preliminary design review is being conducted to determine viability.

**AREA II – FY26 Draft Budget Options.** Netzke reported that the legislature has proposed a substantial cut to the administration funding, from \$190,000 to \$140,000 annually, for the next 2 years. Budget options provided were: 1) current wage rates, no COLA or merit increase; 2)

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Kerry at 90% time with benefits; and 3) Kerry at 80% time with benefits. She is looking for other cost-cutting options and income-generating opportunities. Professional Engineering may need to be reduced; Investigation and Testing expense has been zero funded. Discussion followed. Refinements will be made for approval at the June meeting.

**RESOLUTION – Area II – Custer 11 Dam Repair, Lyon County.** Netzke requested a resolution for local match as required to accompany the grant agreement. Lyon SWCD will approve their resolution on May 14 with authorization to sign the grant agreement upon its approval by MMB. Motion by Johnson, seconded by Thole, to approve the resolution for Custer 11 Dam Repair project committing \$536.50 to match professional engineering and the recording fee. A roll call vote was taken, motion carried unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT.** Chairman Anderson and Chairman Johnson declared the meeting adjourned at 10:15 AM. The next meeting will be at the Redwood Learning Center in Redwood Falls on June 5, 2025 at 9:00 AM.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS:**

June Board Meeting	Thursday, June 5, 2025	Redwood Learning Center 9 AM
July Board Meeting	Thursday, July 3, 2025	Lyon County Government 9 AM

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Luke Johnson, RCRCA Chairman      Date

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### **COTTONWOOD – MIDDLE MINNESOTA CWMP – POLICY COMMITTEE (RCRCA).**

Chairman Johnson called the meeting to order at 10:15 AM.

Netzke explained that the Cottonwood-Middle Minnesota Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (CWMP) will be part of the RCRCA's agenda from this point forward as RCRCA serves as the Policy Committee to oversee plan management and for approval of implementation projects and expenditures.

**Wage Range for Coordinator.** Netzke reported that BWSR has approved the Implementation Funding Grant as of April 30. She presented a wage range appropriate for a watershed coordinator that will eventually serve the Cottonwood-Middle Minnesota and the Redwood River. Based on experience, a wage of \$30-\$40 per hour with RCRCA's benefit package is proposed. Discussion followed as the health insurance cost is incorrect as the formula did not calculate the annual cost, only the monthly cost. Netzke will correct the formula and add \$20,000 to the Administration/Coordination budget line item.

**Position Job Description.** Netzke is gathering information to draft a job description that will fit our needs. She has received one job description from Pope SWCD and is waiting for a couple more.

**Advertising, Interview, Hire Schedule, Hiring Committee.** Netzke started a discussion on the anticipated timeline: advertise the position by mid-May, interview by late May and hire early to mid- to late June. Volunteers for the hiring committee are Luke Johnson, Gary Crowley and Larry Anderson. Netzke will connect with the committee to find a suitable meeting date.

**WBIF Grant Policy and Budget.** Netzke provided the grant policy and implementation budget that the Steering Team/Technical Committee has established. This information is used to enter the work plan into eLINK. Once the work plan is approved, the grant agreement will be signed with funds disbursed in 50/40/10 increments. The funds should become available by late May/early June. It is hoped that we will be ready to approve projects in July with several completed by the end of the year.

**Designate Intent for Interest Earnings.** Netzke sought ideas of how the interest from the WBIF funds would best be utilized. Consensus of the board is to track the interest earnings and set aside in a reserve account. Use of any funds from this reserve account would require approval of the Policy Committee. A separate Magic Account will be established to invest the WBIF and track the interest earnings.

**Adjournment.** With no other business to address, Chairman Johnson adjourned the meeting at 10:49 AM.

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Luke Johnson, RCRCA Chairman      Date