

RCRCA

AREA II / RCRCA

**September 5, 2019 Board of Directors Meeting
BWSR Conference Room, Marshall, MN**

AREA II Members Present: Jeff Veerkamp, Larry Anderson, John Maatz, Joe Drietz, Rick Anderson, Lori Gunnink, Luke Johnson, Lon Walling and Glen Kack.

RCRCA Members Present: Jeff Veerkamp, Jeff Nielson, Larry Anderson, Clark Lingbeek, Joe Drietz, Glen Sorensen, Rick Anderson, Mark Meulebroeck, Lori Gunnink, Paul Posthuma, Luke Johnson, Larry Fenicle, Lon Walling, Ed Carter and Glen Kack.

Others Present: Kerry Netzke – Executive Director, Joy Bruns – RCRCA Office Manager, Michelle Overholser – YMRWD District Administrator, Mitch Enderson – LQP-YB Watershed District, and Jason Beckler – BWSR Board Conservationist.

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

ADOPT AGENDA. Chairman Johnson asked for any additions to the Agenda. Walling requested an addition for Delhi 5 project after the Executive Director’s Report. Motion by Rick Anderson, seconded by Gunnink, to approve the Agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

AGENCY AND MEETING REPORTS.

MASWCD – Supervisor Clark Lingbeek reported that they are reviewing the 2020 financials in preparation of the State Board meeting next meeting.

AMC – Commissioner Rick Anderson reported that the Legislative Conference is next week at Alexandria.

LQP-YB WD – Enderson reported on various ditch projects in progress: CD 4 (2nd largest) a redetermination of benefits has been ordered with RFP for viewing; CD 54 improvements have begun but were delayed due to a high water table; CD 42 is waiting on the engineering report; and CD 24 is a DNR Public Water and an EAW is being prepared by Houston Engineering. The Drainage Modernization Grant is to be completed by April 2020. LQP WRAPS completion is anticipated June 2020. On August 19, Family Fun Day was held at Del Clark Lake with 25 attendees; many educational and fun activities were available. Canby Creek CWF Grant – engineering will be wrapping up soon with possible construction this fall if weather cooperates. Several WCA issues in LQP County. 10 septic systems have been approved with more coming in. Photo Contest ongoing – 1st Place prize is \$50, 2nd Place prize is \$30, and 3rd Place prize is \$20.

YMRWD – Overholser reported that tiling permits have exploded and are triple from 2018. WRAPS Round 2 discussions are starting; additional monitoring sites have been submitted to MPCA for consideration. The FEMA process has started for 2019 flood damages to Ditch 4 east of St. Leo and the Hauschild Dam’s vegetation kill from prolonged high water. The first YM 1W1P Biennial Summit was held in August; 12 cost share projects are approved, contractors are catching up from 2018, so the progress is slow. RCPP funding (\$373,000 EQIP) was planned to be used by splitting the amount over the 3 years. Other 1W1P pilots cannot spend their funds, so we have encumbered all of the funds in the first year with hopes to utilizing the unspent funds from other pilots.

BWSR – Jason Beckler – The BWSR Board approved Area II’s Biennial Plan and the \$140,000 appropriation. BWSR-St. Paul staff has changed and reimbursements have taken longer to process. CWF RFP Grant Applications close on September 9, 2019 at 4:30 PM. Local Capacity and Conservation Delivery Grants will be coming out soon to the SWCDs. Michelle Overholser will speak at the BWSR Academy about YM 1W1P.

APPROVE RCRCA MINUTES of August 2019 Board Meeting. Motion by Walling, seconded by Posthuma, to approve the August 2019 Minutes as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE AREA II MINUTES of August 2019 Board Meeting. Motion by Johnson, seconded by Drietz, to approve the August 2019 Minutes as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE RCRCA TREASURER’S REPORT – August 2019. Netzke reviewed the financials with the Board. Revenue received: \$2,250.11 Contract Services Income, \$12,944.680 Monitoring Income, \$23,037.07 WRAPS Revenue, \$627.69 Interest Income, \$400.76 Contract Services-Moldestad and \$25.00 Kayak Rental. Bills for the month were routine except for three pay periods. Bills for approval include: Wenck Associates \$10,243.30 for WRAPS consultant work and Houston Engineering \$23,934.35 for Lake Redwood. Motion by Walling, seconded by Lingbeek, to approve the August 2019 Treasurer’s Report and authorize payment of the bills. Motion carried unanimously.

Revenue from the following sources was recorded:

Canoe/Kayak Rental	\$ 25.00	Contract Services Income	\$ 2,250.11
Interest-Cash Sweep/CD	\$ 10.22	Interest-Checking Acct	\$ 6.27
Grant Funds	\$ 35,981.75	Miscellaneous Income	\$ 400.76
Appropriations	\$ 0.00	Investment/MAGIC Interest	\$ 611.20

Paid bills are summarized below:

Operations/Occupancy	\$ 1,236.70	Travel Expenses	\$ 585.37
Promotion/Education	\$ 0.00	Contract Services-Moldestad	\$ 582.88
Monitoring/Evaluation	\$ 1,553.50	Personnel	\$ 13,754.58
Project Costs	\$ 0.00	Contract Services-Area II	\$ 2,926.70
Capital Outlay (Grant Related)	\$ 0.00	Other Services & Charges	\$ 3,454.88

Bills for approval:

Professional Fees (Consultants) \$ 34,177.65

APPROVE AREA II TREASURER’S REPORT – August 2019. Netzke reviewed the financials with the Board. Motion by Rick Anderson, seconded by Veerkamp, to approve the August 2019 Treasurer’s Report and authorize payment of the bills. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE AREA II NEW COST SHARE CONTRACT. Netzke presented two new cost share contracts: Murray – Holly 16 and Lincoln – Royal 36, both are Grade Stabilization Repair projects. Motion by Drietz, seconded by Gunnink to approve the new cost share contracts. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE AREA II COST SHARE CONTRACT PAYMENT. Netzke presented partial payment #2 for the Lyon – Nordland 20 Grade Stabilization project in the amount of \$24,595.13 (75%). Motion by Drietz, seconded by Gunnink, to approve the partial payment. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT.

- **MPCA Commissioner Visit** – The new commissioner, Laura Bishop, visited the Marshall regional office on August 6. Netzke had the opportunity to meet and inform her of Area II’s and RCRCA’s missions/history. She was fascinated with the topography of SW Minnesota, the Coteau and the history of the Marshall Flood Control Project.
- **MN River Congress Action Board Meeting** – 8/15/2019 – A summary of the August meeting was provided with the Agenda packet. MRC is promoting temporary and permanent water storage, drafting legislation and collecting potential authors/sponsors in both houses.

AREA II

- **FY20 & FY21 Biennial Plan** – The BWSR Southern Region Water Plan Committee approved Area II’s Biennial Plan via teleconference on August 2. The BWSR Board approved the Plan on August 28.
- **Dead Coon Lake Outlet** – A meeting will be scheduled in September for the 3 counties to meet and discuss any further actions on the outlet.

- **FY19 Audit** – Peterson Company Ltd. has been in contact regarding the upcoming audit. A list of information needs will be forthcoming soon.
- **Browner Lake Update** – DNR is working on the plans to repair the dam. Area II offered engineering assistance when the dam failed; however, an RFP for engineering services was necessary for the State.

RCRCA

• **Lake Redwood** – August 5 – Houston Engineering, Inc. (HEI), Netzke and Jim Doering from the City of Redwood Falls visited Fountain Lake at Albert Lea and Lake Zumbrota where active dredging operations are ongoing by JF Brennan. The tour was extremely informative and is helping to shape the RFP for the confined disposal facility (CDF) and the dredging effort.

A pre-permitting meeting with BWSR and DNR was held on August 28 in Redwood Falls. The intent of the meeting was to refresh the agencies about the project, present any changes from the 2008 Plan, and gather the additional information needs the agencies may have.

A meeting was also held on August 28 with the owner and renter of the CDF property. We discussed the need for additional soil borings, negotiated a payment for corn crop disturbance, and began discussion for purchase of the property for the CDF to be owned by the City of Redwood Falls.

HEI and Netzke met with DNR Dam Safety State Engineer, Jason Boyle PE, on August 29 in St. Paul to also review the previous permit and refresh him on the project details/potential changes from 2008.

• **CBF Applications** – Netzke is compiling grant applications for Upper Three Mile Creek (Redwood River) and Plum Creek (Cottonwood River) as recommended by the WRAPS Local Work Groups. Application deadline is September 9.

AREA II – Delhi 5 Grade Stabilization. Walling wished to revisit the decision from the August 2019 meeting for the \$11,000 payment. He spoke to Bolton & Menk, who admitted to the tile alignment error, and Walling feels they should compensate the landowner instead of Area II. Netzke and Hansel spoke and a 50/50 share was agreed upon. Discussion followed. Board consensus was that the error lies with Bolton and Menk and full repayment to Area II is warranted. Netzke will contact Bolton & Menk to make this request and that compensation be in form of a check, rather than invoice credit, to make it a clean transaction for audit purposes.

2020 HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUMS FOR RCRCA and AREA II. The Board was provided the current and new 2020 rates from SW/WC Cooperative. Netzke recommends renewal for the current plans. SW/WC may be changing the formula which would impact Area II and RCRCA negatively. This change, if it happens, will not be known until next year at this time. Discussion followed. **RCRCA** – Motion by Lingbeek, seconded by Nielson, to approve the SW/WC renewal rates for BCBS health insurance coverages. Motion carried unanimously. **Area II** – Motion by Johnson, seconded by Drietz, to approve the SW/WC renewal rates for BCBS health insurance coverages. Motion carried unanimously.

RCRCA – LAKE REDWOOD DREDGING UPDATE. Netzke, Doering and Houston Engineering traveled to meet with the JF Brennan Company to visit an in-progress dredging project at Fountain Lake at Albert Lea on August 5. The company provided invaluable insights in what to expect, what to prepare for, and how to work through those challenges in the upcoming project. Brennan has found that consultants routinely undersize the confined disposal area (CDF) and fail to seek out advice from contractors as dredging projects are complex. Tentative schedule is: 2019 – land acquisition, acquire permits, and RFP for CDF contractor; 2020 – construct CDF, RFP for dredge contractor, prepare laydown area and disposal pipeline; and 2021-2022 active dredging operations. A pre-permitting meeting with BWSR and DNR was held on August 28 in Redwood Falls to refresh the agencies about the project, anticipated changes from the 2008 Plan, and to gather what additional information needs the agencies may have. A meeting was also held on August 28 with the CDF property owner and renter regarding additional soil borings, payment for corn crop disturbance, and began discussion for purchase of the property. HEI and Netzke met with DNR Dam Safety State Engineer, Jason Boyle PE, on August 29 in St. Paul to also review the previous permit and refresh him on the project details/potential changes from 2008.

Netzke presented the board with a proposal from a firm to handle the land acquisition for the dewatering pond. This is the same firm that the City of Redwood Falls used for the airport expansion. After some discussion, the consensus of the board was to contact some more local professionals who have handled land acquisitions.

AREA II ENGINEER'S REPORT (August). Netzke reviewed the Engineer's Report with the Board.

Projects Under Construction: *Delhi 5 Grade Stabilization* – The Redwood SWCD is seeking funds to repair damage done in the downstream area outside of the construction limits by the June 2019 flooding. *Charlestown 34 Small Dam* – Ryan West Excavating has completed all the work on this structure. *Holly 7 Grade Stabilization* – Thompson Excavating has completed the project. *Nordland 20 Small Dam* – Ground Works has started work on this project.

Projects Being Designed: *Springdale 19 Dams, Redwood County.* Plans for this project are completed and permit applications have been submitted to DNR and Corps of Engineers. We have responded to a number of questions from the DNR regarding this dam. A dam breach model was developed and the results submitted which show that a possible dam failure would not result in overtopping of TH 14. *Custer 10 Small Dam, Lyon County.* The plans for this project are completed and permit applications have been submitted to DNR and Corps of Engineers. Again, we have responded to a number of questions from the DNR about this structure. A Notice of Decision from WCA has been received which identifies additional wetlands to be mitigated for a potential impact area of 0.73 acres. SHPO has determined that a Phase I archaeological survey is necessary. Since the landowner is applying for federal funds, NRCS will be able to perform this survey. *Kurtz Wetland Restoration, Lyon County.* The draft project plans are complete and have been submitted to BWSR for review/comments. Comments have recently been received. We are reviewing the questions raised so that we can respond. *Sodus 2 Small Dam, Lyon County.* Construction work on this project should start as soon as conditions allow. *Dead Coon Lake Outlet Recommendations, Lincoln County.* Hansel reported that he had not been updated on the discussion with the adjacent landowner. Netzke added that the landowner was not expecting any extravagant changes beyond what has already been done following the 2019 flooding. Netzke was asked to put a Doodle Poll together for the three counties (Lincoln, Lyon and Redwood) to recap the landowner discussion and decide upon further repair. *Royal 36 Small Dam Repair, Lincoln County.* This is a typical small dam with a deteriorated metal outlet pipe in need of repair. The plans have been reviewed with the landowner and only one bid was received. *Del Clark Lake Sediment Ponds.* After receiving grant funding, the LQP-YB Watershed District is proceeding with design and construction of three sediment ponds on tributary streams adjacent to Del Clark Lake. The survey for these ponds has been completed and design is underway. Netzke added that the District was asked to have the wetlands reviewed for possible delineation needs. *Holly 16 Grade Stabilization Repair, Murray County.* Murray NRCS is requesting EQIP funding for the repair of this dam from an upcoming round of funding. The plans were approved by the NRCS, but they also identified the dam as meeting the criteria for placement on their national dam inventory. For this placement, we have submitted several forms and the results of a recent soil investigation. The dam also has an existing DNR dam safety permit which will need to be amended for the repair.

AREA II - ROCK LAKE 15 PROJECT – Discussion/Decision. Netzke reported that Lee Carlson had contacted Area II regarding this project which was previously considered several years ago by Area II. Carlson had chosen to do the work himself, which has since washed out and the embankment failed. Netzke recapped what the project involves as it is located upon the Cottonwood River just north of Balaton. Discussion followed. Consensus of the Board was to meet with the landowner to discuss his vision to repair the project and to determine the floodwater storage benefits that the project may have.

RCRCA – ADJOURNMENT. The RCRCA portion of the meeting has concluded. Chairman Johnson declared the RCRCA meeting adjourned at 10:38 AM. All non-Area II board members left the meeting.

UPCOMING MEETINGS.

October Board Meeting	Thursday, October 3, 2019	Redwood Falls – Redwood County Learning Center – 9 AM
November Board Meeting	Thursday, November 7, 2019	Belview, MN – Grandview Winery – 2 PM
Annual Board Meeting	Thursday, November 7, 2019	Belview, MN – Grandview Winery – Invitations to be mailed
December Board Meeting	Thursday, December 5, 2019	Redwood Falls – Redwood County Learning Center – 9 AM