

RCRCA

AREA II / RCRCA

September 3, 2020 Board of Directors Meeting Area II/RCRCA Marshall Office via Zoom

Board consensus to have voice voting. If the vote is not unanimous, a roll call vote will be done.

AREA II Members Present: Jeff Veerkamp, Larry Anderson, John Maatz, Joe Drietz, Gary Crowley, Luke Johnson, and Glen Kack.

RCRCA Members Present: Jeff Veerkamp, Jeff Nielsen, Larry Anderson, Joe Drietz, Glen Sorensen, Gary Crowley, Paul Posthuma, Luke Johnson, Larry Fenicle, Ed Carter, and Glen Kack.

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

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 AM by RCRCA Chairman Johnson and Area II Chairman Maatz.

ADOPT AGENDA. Chairman Johnson asked for any additions to the Agenda. Netzke requested an addition for Lyon – Nordland 6 Project in Other Business. Motion by Drietz, seconded by Nielsen, to approve the Agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

AGENCY AND MEETING REPORTS.

AMC – Commissioner Johnson – AMC will be having general sessions next week and policy meetings virtually.

APPROVE RCRCA MINUTES of August 2020 Board Meeting. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Kack, to approve the August 2020 Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE AREA II MINUTES of August 2020 Board Meeting. Motion by Johnson, seconded by Crowley, to approve the August 2020 Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE RCRCA TREASURER’S REPORT – August 2020. Netzke reviewed the financials with the Board. Revenue received: \$1,196.21 Contract Services Income, \$21,319.59 Grant Reimbursements, \$50.00 Canoe/Kayak Rental Income, \$2,485.61 BCBS Premium Refund, \$75.09 Miscellaneous Income and \$29.67 Interest Income. Bills for approval include: Kinner & Company Ltd. \$5,000.00, Houston Engineering Inc. \$18,986.95, Wenck Associates \$11,698.24, and Mathiowetz Construction Company \$150,431.83*. **Payment will not be mailed until reimbursement is received from the State of MN.* Motion by Veerkamp, seconded by Drietz, to approve the August 2020 Treasurer’s Report and to authorize payment of the bills. Motion carried unanimously.

Revenue from the following sources was recorded:

Canoe/Kayak Rental	\$ 50.00	Contract Services Income	\$ 1,196.21
Interest-Cash Sweep/CD	\$ 2.45	Interest-Checking Acct	\$ 10.90
Grant Funds	\$ 21,319.59	Miscellaneous Income	\$ 2,560.70
Appropriations	\$ 0.00	Investment/MAGIC Interest	\$ 16.32

Paid bills are summarized below:

Operations/Occupancy	\$ 1,020.11	Travel Expenses	\$ 152.69
Promotion/Education	\$ 0.00	Contract Services-Moldestad	\$ 0.00
Monitoring/Evaluation	\$ 996.65	Personnel	\$ 10,075.95
Project Costs	\$150,431.83	Contract Services-Area II	\$ 4,575.20
Capital Outlay (Grant Related)	\$ 0.00	Other Services & Charges	\$ 31,667.14

Capital Outlay Vehicle-Reserves \$ 0.00

Bills for approval:

Professional Fees (Consultants) \$ 35,685.19 Project Costs (Lake Redwood) \$ 150,431.83

Other Services & Charges \$ 0.00

APPROVE AREA II TREASURER’S REPORT – August 2020. Netzke reviewed the financials with the Board. Motion by Drietz, seconded by Anderson, to approve the August 2020 Treasurer’s Report and to authorize payment of the bills. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE AREA II NEW COST SHARE CONTRACT.

Netzke presented a new cost share contract for Island Lake 11 – Lyon County. Area II intends to fund 75% of the grade stabilization from FY’19 Bonding Funds. Motion by Johnson, seconded by Crowley, to approve the Island Lake 11 – Lyon cost share contract. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT.

• **Telephone System** – SW MN Health & Human Services (our telephone provider) has experienced escalating costs to the current telephone/internet system and has proposed a switch to a Voyant system which will save SW MN Health & Human Services \$200,000/year. Lyon County’s offices will see a breakeven in costs; some seeing savings and some seeing increases. Unfortunately, Area II & RCRCA will see the increase due to monthly license fees, but no additional charges. New telephones will be purchased in 2020 with the new service to follow in 2021. There may be some trade-in value of the existing Mitel 5330e IP phones as SWMHHS plans to sell the existing system on MNBID; we could sell our phones ourselves if we choose. No installation costs as the phones should be plug-n-play.

• **2021 Health Insurance Premiums** – SW/WC Service Cooperative mailed out a notice, in lieu of the usual annual meeting, with the proposed changes to health insurance policy premiums for 2021. Both Area II and RCRCA are receiving 0% increases for 2021! Increase levels were 0%, 4.8% and 9.8%. RCRCA received a premium refund of \$2,485.64; Area II did not qualify for a refund this year.

• **MNDOT – Adopt-A-Highway** – Area II/RCRCA received a thank you for participating in their 30-year program. There are 3800 active Adopt-A-Highway volunteers. 470 of those organizations have participated for all 30 years.

• **Payroll Tax Deferral (September 1, 2020)** – Area II and RCRCA employees have chosen to decline the deferral and continue to pay the 6.2% tax as normal. The tax would be paid back January 1, 2021 through April 30, 2021.

AREA II

• **Bonding Request** – The Bonding Bill was not taken up during the 3rd Special Session held in August.

• **2021 MCIT Premium/Refund** – The premiums for 2021: \$3,574 property (+\$367), \$1,234 Work Comp (+\$46). A refund of \$479 will be received in November 2020.

• **Springdale 21 Road Retention** – We continue to work closely with Springdale Township for the amendment to the DNR Dam Safety Permit, and to solicit bids for the FEMA-funded improvement/mitigation. Should bids come in higher than the FEMA funding available, Area II may utilize Bonding Funds for completion of the project. Bids are due August 28. An award recommendation will be made to the township for their September 1 meeting. *Supervisor informed the Board that Springdale Township accepted the bid from Ryan West Excavating of \$41,000.00.*

RCRCA

• **BWSR Clean Water Fund Application** – Netzke and Scott Wold, Redwood County Environmental Office, worked jointly to reapply for the Plum Creek Turbidity Reduction Project as the 2019 application only missed funding by 4 points. The request is \$400,804.50 which is 75% of the 11 projects’ estimated cost. The match would be provided by landowners and the already-awarded federal Focus 319 grant to the Redwood SWCD. Announcement of CWF grant awards will be made December 17, 2020 at the BWSR Board Meeting.

- **WRAPS Change Orders** – To move money around within the budget, change orders will be processed to direct remaining funds from completed tasks to other tasks that are still ongoing. The WRAPS documents for both watersheds are 90% complete. The Local Work Group will review work on August 27 for the Cottonwood watershed, and on September 17 for the Redwood watershed.

- **2021 MCIT Premium/Refund** – The premiums for 2021: \$5,525 property (+\$569), \$992 Work Comp (+\$43). A refund of \$722 will be received in November 2020.

AREA II – ENGINEER’S REPORT.

Springdale 19 Dam, Redwood County. The Letter of Permission from the Corps of Engineers is being drafted.

Custer 10 Small Dam, Lyon County. The Letter of Permission from the Corps of Engineers is being drafted and should arrive shortly.

Kurtz Wetland Restoration, Lyon County. We have not received any further word from Mr. Kurtz regarding this project.

Del Clark Lake Sediment Ponds, Yellow Medicine County. The Corps of Engineers has asked for additional information and clarification, which we provided. We are still awaiting their final okay for the project.

Holly 2 Small Dam, Murray County. The Corps has determined no jurisdiction and a DNR Dam Safety Permit is being issued. Murray County WCA has exempted the project with a conservation exemption since partial EQIP funding has been secured. We hope to build yet this fall.

Springdale 21 Road Retention, Redwood County. The DNR has issued their amendment to the Dam Safety Permit, allowing this project to proceed. Quotes for the work will be received on August 28. The township board meets on September 1 to consider bids for fall construction. FEMA funds expire June 9, 2021.

Gales 36 Grade Stabilization, Redwood County. Thompson Excavating was the low bidder on this project with a bid of \$22,327.30. Second low bid was Ryan West Excavating at \$31,286.44 and the Engineer’s Estimate was \$31,559.50. Thompson expects to start work shortly.

Lac qui Parle River Flow Restoration, Yellow Medicine County. Cross sections for the river study have been extracted from field survey and Lidar data. We are starting to develop a flow model in order to assess possible restoration designs.

Sandnes 10 Riprap Protection, Yellow Medicine County. A preliminary plan and cost estimate have been developed for this project and provided to the DNR for comment before sharing with the landowner. We will wait for further direction since funding for the project is a major hurdle.

Redwood Falls 8/9 Small Dam Redwood County. We will meet with this landowner shortly and determine if they want to proceed with construction.

Stony Run 32 Dam Repair, Yellow Medicine County. We met recently with this landowner and will be proceeding to request bids. Since there is an existing Dam Safety Permit for the site, an amendment will be needed from the DNR.

North Hero 27 Dam Repair, Redwood County. Ryan West Excavating will be starting work on this project soon.

North Hero 32 Dam Repair, Redwood County. We have started design work on this project. The project is, like most SCS dams, in need of pipe replacement and minor grading work.

Delhi 30 Dam Repair, Redwood County. This project is somewhat unique in that it involves a small dam which protects a nearby township road. The project would restore the old dam in order to reduce flows which then follow the township road ditch down a grade towards the Minnesota River Valley.

RCRCA - LAKE REDWOOD RECLAMATION PROJECT UPDATE.

Engineering: Netzke reviewed Houston Engineering, Inc.’s (HEI) report for the past month with the Board.

Construction Meeting Highlights. Netzke presented the highlights of the two weekly meetings and progress made on the project since it began on August 17, 2020. Soils have been a wide variety of sands and clays and not easy to work with due to a high moisture content. The contractor has had to “farm” most of the soils to reduce the moisture, place the material and meet compaction standards. Two additional drain tile have been discovered and rerouted. Most recently, an Arvig fiber optic line was discovered away from the Right-of-Way line and will require relocation. Arvig’s easement is somewhat vague as it is a “blanket” easement for the full partial of land. If the line weren’t relocated, the CDF embankment would need to be skewed and a loss of approximately 12,000 cubic yards of storage volume would be lost. The cost of relocation, which was deemed reasonable by HEI and Mathiowetz Construction Company, will be an extra cost and billed directly to RCRCA for payment. A 4-minute drone video from August 28 was shared with the Board. Video will not be posted on the RCRCA website as it is the property of HEI.

Press Release #2. The *Redwood Gazette* requested an update and potential schedule of actual dredging. The article was published August 25, 2020. The press release and recent photo with exposed sediment near the dock has provided good publicity about the project.

HEI Request for Change in Services. HEI had documented \$56,969.25 in additional services provided for CDF Acquisition Support, which HEI felt was not part of the original Scope of Services. Discussion followed regarding whether these services are outside of the contract or truly more work than HEI envisioned. The Board acknowledges the work performed and would rather address change orders nearer to the end of the contract when the overage/underage is known. Motion by Drietz, seconded by Posthuma, to table this until the October meeting.

Mathiowetz Construction Company – At the pre-construction meeting, all parties agreed to monthly payment requests with a cutoff date of approximately the 25th of the month. Partial Payment Request #1 has been certified at \$150,431.83 (\$158,349.30 less 5% retainage of \$7,917.47). Motion by Crowley, seconded by Drietz, to approve the partial payment request in the amount of \$150,431.83. Motion carried unanimously.

2020 CDF Property Tax (2021 Payable). An exemption application was filed and accepted by Redwood County.

TELEPHONE/INTERNET UPGRADE. Netzke was informed that Lyon County/SWMHHS would be upgrading the telephone/internet system and Area II/RCRCA would see an increase in cost. New phones will be purchased before the end of the year with service to start in 2021. Netzke presented the board with two options for the purchase: Option 1 - \$882.00 (Area 2/RCRCA - \$441 each) or Option 2 - \$564.00 (Area 2/RCRCA - \$282 each). Netzke is recommending Option 2 as many of the features on Option 1 would not be utilized by our organizations. Both options would have the same monthly license fees of \$97.00 (Area II/RCRCA \$48.50 each). There may be some trade-in value for the existing phones as the phone system will be sold on MnBID. Commissioner Crowley added that the new phones have higher security for working from home. Discussion followed. **Area II** – Motion by Anderson, seconded by Drietz, to approve Option 2 telephone/internet upgrade. Motion carried unanimously. **RCRCA** – Motion by Anderson, seconded by Drietz, to approve Option 2 telephone/internet upgrade. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE BCBS HEALTH INSURANCE PLANS FOR 2021. Netzke informed the board that we had received the 2021 Health Insurance renewal rates and that there was no rate change from 2020. She asked for authorization to approve the plans for 2021. **Area II** – Motion by Crowley, seconded by Kack, to approve the proposed health insurance renewal for 2021. Motion carried unanimously. **RCRCA** – Motion by Drietz, seconded by Posthuma, to approve the proposed insurance renewal for 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

AREA II - LQP/YB 1W1P PLANNING GRANT. The LQP/YB 1W1P Planning Grant was awarded by the BWSR Board in August 2020. Area II has been asked to serve as the Alternate Fiscal Agent in the event LQP/YB WD cannot fulfill the duties. Motion by Johnson, seconded by Drietz, to approve Area II to serve as the Alternate Fiscal Agent if needed. Motion carried unanimously.

AREA II - LAKE BENTON OUTLET ENGINEERING REQUEST FROM LINCOLN COUNTY. Netzke presented a request from Lincoln County to perform engineering services on the Lake Benton Outlet. Photos of the current state of the outlet structure were shared with the Board that were taken on September 2. This is the lowest water level that the lake has been at in many years which allowed for the inspection by Hansel, DeSchepper and Netzke. Robert Olson and Pete Doysner of the Lincoln County Environmental Office provided the access by boat to the outlet. Hansel provided a redesign of the Lake Stay outlet some years ago for Lincoln County and a similar design would be considered for Lake Benton. Although the low lake level would be advantageous for construction, review by state and federal agencies will be necessary before construction may begin. Motion by Drietz, seconded by Crowley, to approve the engineering request. Motion carried unanimously.

AREA II - NORDLAND 6 ROAD RETENTION PROJECT (Lyon County). Netzke stated that just over a year from the end of project completion, and release of the contractor for the one-year warranty, a semi-tractor and trailer got stuck on the soft shoulder causing some damage to the project in an area that had required extra attention due to the newness of the project and freeze/thaw of the soils. Nordland Township requested financial assistance for the extra rock, gravel and grading needed to repair the project. Netzke proposed to fund the project from county funds in the amount of \$1,709.53 (75% of the \$2,279.37 cost). Motion by Anderson, seconded by Johnson, to approve the Nordland 6 Road Retention repair in the amount of \$1,709.53 from county project funds. Motion carried unanimously.

NEXT MEETING. The next meeting on October 1, 2020 will be held via Zoom.

ADJOURNMENT. Motion by Drietz, seconded by Kack, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. RCRCRA Chairman Johnson & Area II Chairman Maatz declared the joint meeting adjourned at 10:45 AM.

UPCOMING MEETINGS.

October Board Meeting	Thursday, October 1, 2020	via Zoom
November Board Meeting	Thursday, November 5, 2020	via Zoom
December Board Meeting	Thursday, December 3, 2020	via Zoom

Luke Johnson, RCRCRA Chairman

Date