

RCRCA

AREA II / RCRCA

October 7, 2021 Board of Directors Meeting
via Zoom

AREA II Members Present: Jeff Veerkamp, Larry Anderson, Corey Sik, John Maatz, Gary Crowley, Lori Gunnink (joined later), Luke Johnson and Glen Kack.

RCRCA Members Present: Jeff Veerkamp, Mark Wellner, Larry Anderson, Corey Sik, Glen Sorensen, Gary Crowley, Mark Meulebroeck, Lori Gunnink (joined later), Paul Posthuma, Luke Johnson, Larry Fenicle, Ed Carter and Glen Kack.

Others Present: Kerry Netzke – Executive Director, Joy Bruns – RCRCA Office Manager, and Trudy Hastad – LQP-YB Watershed District.

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. Chairman Maatz recommended grouping the financials and minutes to reduce the number of roll call votes. **RCRCA** - Motion by Crowley, seconded by Carter, to approve the Agenda as amended. Roll Call vote was taken; motion carried unanimously. **Area II** - Motion by Crowley, seconded by Veerkamp, to approve the Agenda as amended. Roll Call vote was taken; motion carried unanimously.

AGENCY AND MEETING REPORTS.

LQP-YB Watershed District – Hastad reported that they have been busy. Del Clark Lake sediment ponds look nice and they are working on final payment once the contractor finishes the punch list. A sign has been ordered to post at the site. The 1W1P Kickoff Meeting on September 21 at Dawson had 27 participants. An on-line survey is available for comments regarding watershed issues and priorities. The Advisory Committee is being formed. Several ditch projects are ongoing: 1) CD42 Ditch improvement has had contractor issues for completion; the deadline is November 15, 2) CD54 Ditch improvement has a few things yet to be completed, and 3) CD24 Branch 3 petition hearing is approaching. The watershed district and LQP County will be sharing some duties with a new employee to be added.

APPROVE RCRCA MINUTES of September 2021 Board Meeting. The September 2021 Minutes were presented to the Board.

APPROVE RCRCA TREASURER’S REPORT – September 2021. Financials were reviewed with the Board. Revenue received: \$1,381.68 Contract Services Income, \$27,444.23 Grant Reimbursements, \$1,042.50 Miscellaneous Income, and \$123.69 Interest Income. Bills for approval: Houston Engineering Inc. \$8,590.90 and Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. \$3,046.25. Motion by Meulebroeck, seconded by Anderson, to file the September 2021 Treasurer’s Report subject to audit and to authorize payment of the bills; and to approve the September 2021 Minutes as presented. Roll call vote was taken; motion carried unanimously.

Revenue from the following sources was recorded:

Canoe/Kayak Rental	\$ 0.00	Contract Services Income	\$ 1,381.68
Interest-Cash Sweep/CD	\$ 118.83	Interest-Checking Acct	\$ 4.79
Grant Funds	\$ 27,444.23	Miscellaneous Income	\$ 1,042.50
Appropriations	\$ 0.00	Investment/MAGIC Interest	\$ 0.07

Paid bills are summarized below:

Operations/Occupancy	\$ 1,087.58	Travel Expenses	\$ 566.07
Promotion/Education	\$ 0.00	Contract Services-Moldestad	\$ 765.03
Monitoring/Evaluation	\$ 1,121.24	Personnel	\$ 10,826.12

Project Costs	\$	0.00	Contract Services-Area II	\$	2,213.98
Capital Outlay (Grant Related)	\$	0.00	Other Services & Charges	\$	11,639.90

Bill for approval:

Professional Fees (Consultants) \$ 11,637.15

APPROVE AREA II MINUTES of September 2021 Board Meeting. The September 2021 Minutes were presented to the Board.

APPROVE AREA II TREASURER’S REPORT – September 2021. Financials were reviewed with the Board. Motion by Johnson, seconded by Veerkamp, to file the September 2021 Treasurer’s Report subject to audit and to authorize payment of the bills; and to approve the September 2021 Minutes as presented. Roll call vote was taken; motion carried unanimously.

RCRCA – APPROVE CWF COST SHARE APPLICATIONS/AMENDMENTS/CANCELLATIONS.

NEW CONTRACTS:

CWF-2021-07		
Eric Fultz	Springdale 22 - Redwood	638 WSCB
EST Cost: \$35,716.20		EST Cost Share: \$26,787.15 (75.0%)
		<u>CWF C/S: \$24,698.70 (69.2%)</u>
		319 Funds \$2,088.45 (5.8%)

Netzke presented one new cost share contract for approval: Springdale 22 – Redwood 638 Water and Sediment Control Basin project. Motion by Carter, seconded by Meulebroeck, to approve the cost share contract. Roll call vote was taken; motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT.

AREA II

- **BWSR Water Storage and Treatment Program** – Rita Weaver, BWSR Chief Engineer, contacted Netzke to ask for her participation in a stakeholder group discussion for those in the priority geographic area (MN River watershed). The discussion is to involve program specifics for the \$2M appropriated to BWSR for this new program. The meeting date is October 15 in Marshall.
- **Biennial Plan** – The BWSR Southern Region Water Plan Committee met September 14 and recommended approval to the BWSR Board on September 22. The \$140,000 annual grant agreement was signed by Netzke on October 5; funds should be forthcoming soon.

RCRCA

- **Lake Redwood Dredging** – Work this month included:
 - 1) **Contractor Pre-Construction Meeting:** A pre-construction meeting with JF Brennan was held virtually on October 6. Brennan’s updated 2021 schedule is:
 - Sediment survey via boat and Marshmaster began October 4 and should take most of the week. Spot checks of the survey will be conducted in Spring 2022 just prior to dredging.
 - October 11 – equipment and pipe will begin to arrive. Laydown area will be prepped for usage including a perimeter fence.
 - October 18 – Brennan crew will arrange and begin fusing pipe sections together.
 - October 20 – Subcontractor, Mathiowetz Construction Company (MCC), will work with Brennan to install pipeline in road ditches, driveway crossings and field approaches.

RCRCA will mail out postcards today to impacted landowners of the driveways and field approaches with the tentative start date of the pipeline installation. Door hangers will be printed by RCRCA and placed upon the homes by JF Brennan at least 24 hours prior to digging. MCC will install the outlet control structure at the CDF.

- Early to mid-November 2021 -- Install pipe via jack-and-bore under Highway 19.
- 2) **Permits:** The crossing over Ramsey Creek requires a “License to Cross Public Lands and Waters” from DNR. Houston has been in communication with DNR weekly to inquire upon the progress. Brennan does not intend to place the pipe across the bridge until Spring 2022.
- 3) **CDF Warranty Work:** Netzke and Doering inspected the vegetation at the CDF on September 29. With the more recent rainfall, the vegetation has grown considerably, however there are spots where vegetation is very thin, particularly top of the embankment. The results and photos were shared with Houston Engineering in order to make the arrangements. It is not known if MCC will reseed this fall or wait until spring.

• **Plum Creek CWF Update** – The Redwood SWCD has encumbered all of their current federal 319 funds (\$218,024.97) and it is uncertain when more funding will arrive. They hope to secure unspent funds from some of the other 9 focus watersheds within Minnesota as some watersheds haven’t begun to spend the funding. To date, RCRCA’s CWF encumbrances total \$115,422.33; the total grant is \$400,805. In discussing options with BWSR, RCRCA needs to claim 25% match (\$100,201.25) to the CWF. That match includes both the landowner’s share and the 319 federal funds which are currently \$117,102.77 and \$218,024.97 respectively. BWSR suggested to utilize the funding at a higher cost-share rate of 75%, as long as we can show the 25% match minimum and meet the TSS reduction goals.

AREA II – ENGINEER’S REPORT.

Springdale 19 Dam, Redwood County. We have reviewed submittals from R & G Construction and they are preparing for construction in October or early November. Netzke noted that the wetland credit purchase is delaying the start. Approximate start date of October 18. ***Del Clark Lake Sediment Ponds, Yellow Medicine County.*** We are working on the final payment for this project and have provided the contractor with a punch list of final work to be completed. ***Springdale 13/24 Grade Stabilization, Redwood County.*** L&S Construction has started work on this project. ***Holly 7 Water and Sediment Control Basin, Murray County.*** The landowner for this project would like to proceed to construction. Ryan West is preparing for construction this fall. CWF and 319 contracts have been finalized. ***Perch Lake Outlet, Lincoln County.*** We have completed a report for Lincoln County on the feasibility of extending a tile to this lake to act as an outlet. The option appears feasible and the County is interested in more information. A survey will now be completed and further discussions will occur with the DNR. ***Nordland 20 Small Dam, Lyon County.*** We have completed most of the design work for this small dam. The proposed structure is located just upstream from a larger dam constructed in 2019 and would capture sediment before it enters the larger dam’s reservoir. ***Shaokatan 31 Small Dam Repair, Lincoln County.*** Design work is nearly completed for this dam repair. The pond behind the dam is used primarily for cattle watering and has insufficient capacity to store water. As part of the project, the dam is proposed to be raised and the outlet pipe replaced. ***Island Lake 19 Small Dam, Lyon County.*** We have started design work for this structure which would help to capture sediment. ***Ruthton WMA Flood Analysis.*** At the request of the DNR, we are reviewing a report and models which they have prepared related to flooding east of Ruthton. The flooding is along the Redwood River and nearby landowners feel the Wildlife Management Area is causing the flooding because of lack of flow through the area. The DNF is asking us to add credibility to their analysis as the locals may be more willing to accept our opinion of DNR’s modeling. ***Fortier 24 Small Dam Repair, Yellow Medicine County.*** At the request of the Lac qui Parle Yellow Bank Watershed District, we have prepared a preliminary cost estimate for replacing the corrugated metal pipe on this dam. The District has some remaining funding from the Del Clark Lake CWF project and is interested in completing an additional project in order to extend the grant funds. The cost estimate for the project is around \$50,000. Hastad added that the landowner isn’t able to contribute 25% match. The District recently met and would like to ask the landowner to contribute 10% and the District will pick up the difference. The Yellow Medicine SWCD has been asked to contact the landowner with this new information.

Information Request: The Board inquired upon the status of the LQP River Diversion project and the Cottonwood River LCCMR results. Area II is waiting for more information from DNR in order to proceed further. No word has been received regarding LCCMR project awards following the meeting in September.

LAKE REDWOOD RECLAMATION PROJECT UPDATE.

Engineering: Houston Engineering, Inc.'s (HEI) report for the August 8, 2021 to September 4, 2021 period was provided to the Board.

SPRINGDALE 19 GRADE STABILIZATION – Request to Encumber Area II County Project Funds.

Netzke stated that the wetland credit purchase has been riddled with issues from the credits being sold after verbal agreement and the price of the remaining credits increased after the sale to BWSR. She was able to obtain a donation of \$30,000 from Lyon County to purchase the more expensive wetland credits from the Upper Minnesota River Watershed District. Up to \$10,000 additional from Redwood County was committed to help offset the local match required by the higher-priced credits. Despite this additional funding, there is still a shortfall of \$4,000-\$7,500 depending on which wetland bank is used with USACE concurrence. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Veerkamp, to approve up to \$7,500 of Area II County Project Funds for the Springdale 19 purchase of wetland credits. Roll call vote was taken; motion carried unanimously.

AREA II/RCRCA 2021 ANNUAL MEETING. November 4 will be the date of the annual meeting at August Schell Brewery, Bier Halle, New Ulm, MN. The afternoon will consist of the board of directors meeting at 2:00, Annual Meeting registration from 3:00 to 3:30, tours at 3:30 and 4:00 (with alternating group in the tap room), and a meal will be served at 5:00 (catered by Searles Bar & Grill). Netzke will have a 2-page handout on both organizations recapping the 2020 and 2021 years (no PowerPoint presentation). A request was made to invite Mr. Lee Bakken, a recent project cooperater, to the meeting. Discussion followed with board consensus to invite Mr. Bakken. Netzke asked board members to encourage their respective boards to RSVP for the event. Commissioner Gunnink joined the meeting.

ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW – AREA II - Deschepper. Netzke stated that Deschepper has been with Area II for 28 years. He receives good comments from both contractors and landowners on the ease to work with him. Netzke gave him a very favorable review with no areas of improvement noted. A merit increase was not budgeted this fiscal year, only a 2% COLA that was received July 1, 2021. Motion by Johnson, seconded by Crowley, to accept the performance review as provided. Roll call vote was taken; motion carried unanimously.

ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REVIEWS – RCRCA – Bruns & Wohnoutka. Netzke stated that Bruns has been with RCRCA for 11 years and that she received a favorable review. She recommended a 1% increase (Step 4R to 4T) in addition to the 1% COLA received January 1, 2021. Netzke stated that Wohnoutka has been with RCRCA for 17 years and recommends a 1% increase (Step 5V to 5X) in addition to the 1% COLA received January 1, 2021. Motion by Carter, seconded by Gunnink, to accept the performance reviews and recommendations. Roll call vote was taken; motion carried unanimously. Netzke noted that it says a lot about the Area II and RCRCA organizations to be able to retain employees for this length of time.

ADJOURNMENT. With no other business, RCRCA Chairman Johnson and Area II Chairman Maatz adjourned the meeting at 10:05 AM. The next meeting will be November 4, 2021 in New Ulm at the August Schell Brewery at 2:00 PM, prior to the Annual Meeting.

UPCOMING MEETINGS.

November Board Meeting/Annual Meeting

Thursday, Nov. 4, 2021 August Schell Brewery, New Ulm, MN

December Board Meeting

Thursday, Dec. 2, 2021 Redwood Learning Center, Redwood Falls, MN

Luke Johnson, RCRCA Chairman

Date