

# RCRCA News

Redwood-Cottonwood Rivers Control Area

*We would like to dedicate this issue to*

## Ray Traen



Long time RCRCA Board of Directors delegate from Lyon County S W C D , Raymond (Ray) Traen passed a way on Tuesday, November 29, 2005. A standing room only burial service at Saints Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church in Taunton, Minnesota on

Friday, December 2, 2005, was a testament to his full and rich life. Ray served on the RCRCA Board of Directors since January 1993 and was currently serving as Board Secretary. Ray's service and dedication to RCRCA was always appreciated. His sincerity, heartfelt logic and commitment to stewardship will be sadly missed.

### RCRCA Engineering Technicians Available to Assist You!

Kelly Oliver and William Moldestad, Engineering Technicians for the Cottonwood River watershed are available to assist local landowners, NRCS staff, and SWCD staff. Our current projects are waiting for Army Corps of Engineers approval giving us the ability to help with surveying, design, and construction of conservation practices. If you need help and have a waiting list, contact RCRCA at 507-637-2142, ext 4 for assistance.

December 2005

*RCRCA News*



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For more information on the photo contest, visit the RCRCA website ([www.rcrca.com](http://www.rcrca.com)) or call RCRCA at 507-637-2141 Ext. 4

## Web Site always changing!



There have been many changes and updates to the web site, but there are many more to come. The site is continuously under “construction” as we try to keep up on the latest news and events affecting residents of the Redwood and Cottonwood River Watersheds. Thanks for your patience!

If you have any ideas about what you'd like to see on the web site, call 507-637-2142, Ext. 4.

Suggestions can also be e-mailed to: [shawn.wohnoutka@mn.nacdnet.net](mailto:shawn.wohnoutka@mn.nacdnet.net)

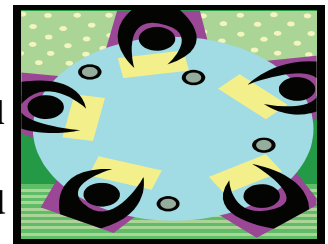
Remember, you can also view the current *RCRCA News* on the web at: [www.rcrca.com](http://www.rcrca.com) and click on “Latest Newsletter” under Events/Activities:

## RCRCA Board Minutes

The RCRCA Board of Directors held their monthly meeting on Monday **October 24, 2005** at the Redwood County Courthouse.

The following is the unofficial version of the minutes:

- September minutes were approved along with October Financial report.
- One Cottonwood cost share contract was cancelled, then approved under the next cost share grant.
- Six new Cottonwood 319 cost share contracts and one amendment were approved.
- Two new Redwood 319 cost share contracts and one amendment was approved.
- Strategic planning meeting was discussed and a two-day session was approved to coincide with the January Board meeting on January 30th and 31st, 2006.
- Employee medical insurance and the purchase of a pickup truck for staff use was discussed.



The RCRCA Board of Directors held their monthly meeting on Monday **November 21, 2005** at the Redwood County Courthouse.

The following is the unofficial version of the minutes:

- October minutes were approved along with November financial report.
- Two Redwood 319 cost share contracts were presented for payment, totaling \$11,873.50.
- One Cottonwood 319 cost share contract was presented for payment, totaling \$25,662.50.
- Three Redwood 319 cost share contracts were presented for approval.
- Five Cottonwood 319 cost share contracts were presented for approval.
- One Redwood 319 cost share contract was approved for amendment.
- Board authorized Doering to apply for beaver damage control grant. SWCD and county environmental offices will be contacted to determine participation interest.
- Area II Legislative Breakfast to be held December 10th.
- Board reviewed the Minnesota River Basin involvement in the Clean Water Legacy as well as other items related to the Minnesota River Basin

## From the Director

### Redwood-Cottonwood Rivers Control Area (RCRCA) To Participate In Strategic Planning By Jim Doering

As we move into 2006 and our 23<sup>rd</sup> year here at RCRCA, it is a time to reflect on where we have been and what we have accomplished. Amidst a constant barrage of semi-annual and annual reports we tend to only focus on the immediate past and up-coming year. Instead of sugar plums dancing in our heads, we see budgets, plans of work, COLAs and meeting agendas. Organizations rarely take the time to look back and see where they have come as a whole and where are they going. Strategic planning is a process to provide direction for day to day activities by examining the organization's goals, current status, working environment and relating those factors to a desired future state in terms of five to ten year time periods. It can also provide a means for an organization to adapt its services and activities to meet changing needs.

Mark your calendars for January 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> of 2006. The RCRCA Board of Directors has contracted with U of M Extension leaders Katie Rasmussen and Mike Liepold to facilitate this two day event. Invitations will be sent out on January 6, 2006 to RCRCA stakeholders to attend and contribute to this important venture. The location is currently being hammered out so stay tuned. The first day (Session 1) will consist of a six hour facilitated session. This session will lead board members, staff, invited partners and stakeholders through a process to explore the current environment, identify the upcoming decisions and circumstances which need an aligned, visionary response from RCRCA, and begin to create a common ground and openness for a new vision.

The second day (Session 2) will consist of a facilitated four hour planning session with board members and staff designed to prioritize opportunities and necessary actions identified in Session 1.

This will be an exciting opportunity to celebrate our successes, identify areas where more work is needed and plan for the future beyond 2007. This will be a work session where your participation is crucial. Everyone's time and contributions will be valued.

RCRCA has determined the prizes for the Photo Contest running from November 1, 2005 to February 15, 2006. The grand prize, which will be the best overall photo from all 4 divisions, will be a new Kodak Easy Share Z7590 digital camera.

The contest is divided into 4 groups or divisions based on the age of the photographer. These divisions are; those under the age of 13 years old, 13 to 19 years old, adults 20 to 50 years old and those aged 51 and over.

Each of the 4 age divisions will award: 1st place will receive a framed copy of their photo from Photography by David (up to 11X14) and a calendar created from the top 3 photos in each category, 2nd place will be a photo album and the calendar and 3rd place will receive the calendar featuring their photograph along with the other selected winning photos.

Remember to read and follow all the rules noted on the website and registration form. You may submit photos taken in previous years, as long as it follows the rules of the contest as far as location and subject matter.

[www.rcrca.com](http://www.rcrca.com) or 507-637-2142 Ext.4



Redwood-Cottonwood Rivers Control Area

1241 East Bridge Street  
Redwood Falls, MN 56283

Phone: 507-637-2142 Ext.4  
Fax: 507-637-2134

Email: rcrca2day@yahoo.com

**We're on the web!**  
**www.rcrca.com**



*There has been only one Christmas - the rest are anniversaries.*  
~W.J. Cameron

**December 2005**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

***December 2005***

- 19<sup>th</sup> RCRCA Board Meeting
- 21<sup>st</sup> Winter Solstice
- 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve
- 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day
- 31<sup>st</sup> New Year's Eve

*Merry Christmas*



*Happy New Year!*

***January 2006***

- 1<sup>st</sup> New Years Day!
- 16<sup>th</sup> Martin Luther King's Birthday-Observed(Holiday)
- 30<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> RCRCA Strategic Planning Meeting & Board meeting

**RCRCA Executive Board of Directors**

- Clark Lingbeek, Chairman
- Donald Wellner, Vice Chairman
- Ray Traen, Secretary
- John Schueller, Treasurer
- Glen Sorensen, Public Relations & Information
- Phil Nelson, Member at Large

**RCRCA Full Board of Directors**

**County Commissioners**

- Donald Wellner, Brown Co .
- Norman Holmen, Cottonwood Co .
- James Johansen, Lincoln Co .
- Phil Nelson, Lyon Co .
- Kevin Vickerman, Murray Co.
- Luke Johnson, Pipestone Co.
- John Schueller, Redwood Co.
- Jane Remiger, Yellow Medicine Co

**SWCD Board Members**

- Jack Vogel, Brown
- Clark Lingbeek, Cottonwood
- Glen Sorensen, Lincoln
- Ray Traen, Lyon
- Paul Posthuma, Murray
- LeRoy Stensgaard, Pipestone
- Tom Daub, Redwood
- Burton Kuehn, Yellow Medicine

**RCRCA Staff**

- James Doering, Executive Director
- Douglas A. Goodrich, Water Quality Technician
- William Moldestad, Engineering Technician
- Kelly Oliver, Engineering Technician
- Sharon Voeks, Administrative Officer
- Shawn Wohnoutka, GIS/Outreach Technician