

RCRCA News

Redwood-Cottonwood Rivers Control Area

2003 Annual meeting coming up in March!

The RCRCA 2003 annual meeting will be held Monday, March 22 at the Springfield Community Center. Speakers include Steve Becker, NRCS Area Engineer, to discuss streambank erosion and zoning issues associated with that topic. Larry Gunderson is the MPCA Minnesota River Basin coordinator, and will cover the new septic system program for counties. Mr. Gunderson will also be reviewing the draft total maximum daily load (TMDL) for the Minnesota River. Our last speaker is Greg Eggers, with the Army Corps of Engineers, who will tell us about the Corps' new model on surface and sub-surface flow in hydrologic systems. Minnesota Judicial Ditch 31, within the Redwood River Watershed, is used as an example in this presentation. This last topic is sure to stimulate both minds and discussion.

Following the presentations lunch will be served, this should be around noon, and will be catered by Joni's Catering out of New Ulm. There will be a choice between roast turkey and roast pork loin, along with garlic mashed potatoes, corn, ham and cheese macaroni salad. A variety of desserts and drinks will be available.

This year we are offering entertaining and enlightening speakers to provide members of the joint powers organization (RCRCA) with the background to make best informed decisions possible.

The meeting will start at 9 am and will run through noon, after which lunch will be served. The RCRCA monthly meeting will follow lunch.

SEALED BIDS FOR OFFICE COMPUTER

Gateway GP7-650 PC computer for sale. System includes: Pentium III Processor 650MHz; 128MB 100MHz SDRAM expandable to 384MB; 21" monitor; 32MB video card; 20GB 7200RPM hard drive; 3.5" floppy drive; CD ROM 17X min./40X max. and Phillips CD-RW 8x/4x/32x; speakers; 56K fax/modem; keyboard; mouse; operating system is Microsoft Windows NT Workstation 4.0 with Microsoft Office 2000 Professional; and IOMEGA 100MB Internal Zip Drive.

RCRCA will be accepting sealed bids from **February 23, 2004 to March 12, 2004**. If you are interested you may call if you have any questions or send a sealed bid to:
RCRCA Attn: Computer Bids
1241 East Bridge Street; Redwood Falls, MN 56283. GOOD LUCK!!!!

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.

February 2004

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Inside This Issue:

<i>2003 Annual meeting</i>	1
<i>Computer for Sale</i>	1
<i>Engineering Technicians</i>	1
<i>Web Site</i>	2
<i>Board Minutes</i>	2
<i>View of Executive Director</i>	3
<i>Calendar of Events</i>	4
<i>Board & Staff Members</i>	4

New Look for Web Site!



The web site will be under “construction” over the next couple of months. The information will remain the same, however the layout and overall “look” will be different. 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.usda.gov

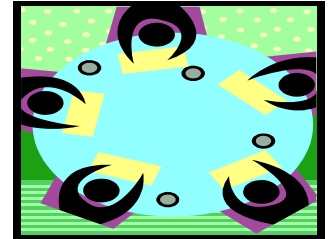
Remember, you will be able view *RCRCA News* through the web site at: www.rcrca.com and click on “RCRCA News.”

RCRCA Board Minutes

The RCRCA Board of Directors held their monthly meeting on Monday, **January 12, 2004** at the Redwood County Courthouse.

The following is the unofficial version of the minutes:

- Yearly elections were held with officers remaining the same:
- Chairperson: Clark Lingbeek
- Vice Chairperson: Don Wellner
- Secretary: Ray Traen
- PR & I: Glen Sorensen
- Member At Large: Phil Nelson
- Board approved Doering to assist/complete an LCMR application for LIFE group on Lake Benton.
- One Cottonwood 319 cost share contract was presented for payment. Three Cottonwood 319 cost share contracts were presented for approval.
- Kerry Netzke informed Board on a preliminary assessment done on a dam project by Seaforth, with the results showing the project to be not feasible.
- Board approved Doering to send a letter to Area NRCS office requesting job approval authority for Bill Modestad.
- Board approved Doering to submit workplan for Redwood River fecal TMDL.
- RCRCA Annual Meeting will take place in Springfield on March 22, 2004 at 9:00 a.m.
- Executive Board meeting held February 2, 2004 in Sanborn.



The RCRCA Board of Directors held their monthly meeting on Monday, **February 9, 2004** at the Redwood County Courthouse.

The following is the unofficial version of the minutes:

- Voeks presented information concerning GASB 34 for inventory depreciation that will be implemented by June 2004.
- RCRCA has received a Cottonwood CWP 319 grant for \$161,942. Board approved using portion for technical assistance and the rest for cost share.
- Board approved a new three tier pay scale to be implemented as of January 1, 2004.
- Boonestro is doing an LCMR grant concerning Lake Redwood in which RCRCA will be involved.
- Board approved one Cottonwood CWP 319 cost share contract.
- Kerry Netzke informed the Board on application for an LCMR grant and the bonding bill for Area II and attending the legislative breakfast held February 17-18.

View of Executive Director

James Doering, RCRCA Executive Director

De-listing TMDLs Takes a Watershed Approach

On January 12, 2004, the RCRCA Board of Directors authorized the submittal of a three phase TMDL work plan covering the Redwood River. Currently the Redwood River has non-compliant listings in different reaches for fecal coliform bacteria, turbidity and supporting biotic integrity.

The Redwood-Cottonwood Rivers Control Area is in the unique position to address the current impairments and any new listings. Due to the organizational structure of RCRCA (JPO of Counties and SWCDs), we will be able efficiently determine a Total Maximum Daily Limit and create the implementation plan without the Pollution Control Agency subcontracting both steps with outside consulting firms.

Creating a TMDL for an impairment is patterned after the Clean Water Partnership process. A limit or load needs to be established. This number will represent the maximum concentration or amount of a pollutant, that if exceeded will adversely affect the designated use of that body of water (i.e. stress fish or prevent swimming). This will be done using collected data from the RCRCA continuous monitoring program, minor geographic information system (GIS) research, public comment sessions and finally processing the information into a report form. The current Redwood River Technical Advisory Committee will be instrumental during this process. Once a draft TMDL is established, a series of public informational meetings will be conducted for peer review of the limit and load allocation matrix, which

(identifies where the pollutants are coming from and in what percent of the total load). Next, the limit and allocation matrix is submitted to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency for adoption, it is then forwarded on to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for their approval.

Once the daily limit has been approved, watershed planning will take a turn and focus on writing a plan to implement conservation practices that will address the identified pollutant contributing sources. Again the Redwood River Technical Committee will formulate the implementation plan with public comment and review sessions. From that point, the Implementation Plan is submitted through the approval process.

Once the Implementation Plan is approved, grants will be sought to achieve its goals and objectives. Key organizations to carry out the implementation phase will be County Water Planning and County Soil and Water Conservation Districts. RCRCA will provide continued water quality monitoring to gauge success and any additional technical support.

RCRCA is taking immediate action in completing this planning task to coincide with preset start and finish dates for each TMDL impairment. A set 2004 start date for establishing a TMDL for fecal coliform on two impaired reaches will be the first impairment to be addressed.

If there are any additional questions or clarifications to the TMDL process in the Redwood and Cottonwood Rivers, please contact Jim Doering, Executive Director at 507-637-2142 ext. 124 or jim.doering@mn.usda.gov.



1241 East Bridge Street
Redwood Falls, MN 56283

Phone: 507-637-2142, 4
Fax: 507-637-2134
Email: rcrca@rconnect.com



USDA Soil and Conservation Service

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



*The activist is not the man who says
the river is dirty. The activist is the
man who cleans up the river!*

—H. ROSS PEROT

March 2004

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

March 2004

- 5th** Grant Writing and Rural Marketing Seminar
(Contact Marcia Heiling 507-637-2427 Ext. 3)
- 17th** St. Patricks Day
- 20th** 1st Day of Spring :)
- 22nd** RCRCA Annual Meeting at Springfield Community Center
- 22nd** RCRCA Board Meeting to follow Annual Meeting

RCRCA Executive Board of Directors

- Clark Lingbeek, Chairman
- Donald Wellner, Vice Chairman
- Ray Traen, Secretary
- Steve Johnson, Treasurer
- Glen Sorenson, Public Relations & Information
- Phil Nelson, Member at Large

RCRCA Full Board of Directors

County Commissioners

- Donald Wellner, Brown Co .
- Norman Holmen, Cottonwood Co .
- David Norgaard, Lincoln Co .
- Phil Nelson, Lyon Co .
- Steve Johnson, Murray Co.
- Jamie Dubbelde, 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
- Kelly Oliver, Engineering Technician
- William Moldestad, Engineering Technician
- Shawn Wahnoutka, GIS/Outreach Technician
- Douglas A. Goodrich, Water Quality Technician
- Sharon Voeks, Administrative Officer