

RCRCA News

Redwood-Cottonwood Rivers Control Area

RCRCA Board of Directors ———

Approve personnel committee's recommendation to hire two employees

Two positions were open for applications during the month of June. After combining the GIS and Education positions, due to budgetary constraints, and staff turnover with the Water Quality Watershed Technician, RCRCA found itself short two FTE's in the Cottonwood River Restoration Project. There were 11 applicants for the Watershed GIS/Outreach position and 15 applicants for vacated Watershed Technician position. The field of applicants were narrowed to 7 for second interviews. The personnel committee recommended the GIS/Outreach position be offered to Shawn Wohnoutka and the Water Quality Technician position be offered to Douglas Goodrich. The Board of Directors approved their recommendations to offer the positions at the standard Grade 4 level and at Step 1.

September 2003

RCRCA News



The New Faces at RCRCA

Shawn Wohnoutka has accepted the position for GIS/Outreach with a start date of September 2, 2003. Shawn lives in Morgan, MN and brings an understanding of GIS, GPS, specialized computer skills as well as experience in presentations, informational talks and one on one meetings. We are excited and expect great things from Shawn!

Douglas Goodrich has accepted the Water Quality position with a start date of September 2, 2003 and will be moving to the Redwood area from Waldorf-Pemberton area. Douglas brings computer and database creation experience and other skills and application for this position. We at RCRCA are ready for his ability and creativity!!

We are excited to see what these new employees will bring to RCRCA. You will be hearing from them in the September *RCRCA News*, they will be doing a bio for our readers.



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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.

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.

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

RCRCA Board Minutes

RCRCA Board of Directors held their monthly meeting on Monday, August 18, 2003 at the Redwood County Courthouse.

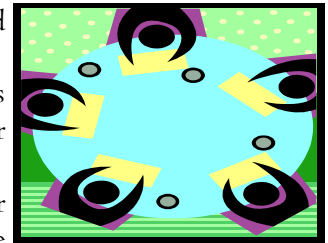
Following is the unofficial version of the minutes:

Board approved entering in a grant agreement with MPCA to extend the Redwood River/Lincoln County low interest loan agreement Amendment #1.

Boering presented a Power Point presentation on a “Board of Directors Progress Report”. Emphasis on new grants received in 2003, low interest septic loans for counties, projects in 2004 that will require applications.

Board approved the resolution to enter into grant agreement for Redwood River Watershed Low Interest Loan in the amount of \$600,000 for the six counties in the Redwood River watershed.

Next regular RCRCA Board meeting will be September 15, 2003, 7:30 p.m. at Redwood County courthouse in county commissioners meeting room.



Septic Loan Program

Redwood County as of July 31, 2003 has \$36,368.66 left in septic system loan program dollars for the **Cottonwood Watershed**. Contact Redwood County Environmental Office or RCRCA if you are interested and in the Cottonwood Watershed.



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RCRCA APPLIES FOR \$290,000 GRANT

FOR CONSERVATION PRACTICES

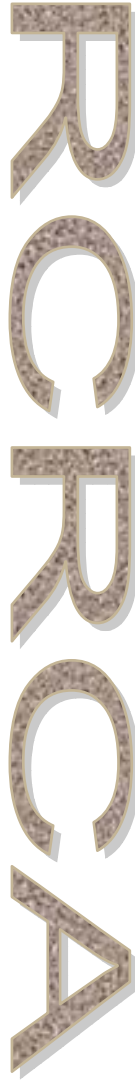
RCRCA could possibly have available a \$290,000 grant to implement conservation practices. \$200,000 would be for cost-share and the remaining \$90,000 would be for technical assistance. The funding would be available in Spring 2004 and the engineering technicians are looking for practices to install. If you or someone you know is looking to install grassed waterways, water and sediment control basins, terraces, or other conservation practices, give RCRCA a call for assistance..

View of Executive Director

James Doering, RCRCA Executive Director

DESPITE BUDGET WOES, RCRCA WATERSHED PROJECTS BODE WELL

This year has been topsy-tervy to say the least when it comes to budgets. With the un-allotment and large state deficits, RCRCA took a frugal position in spending. One FTE was eliminated to prepare for the expected cuts. Despite the uncertainties, the watershed projects did very well in receiving grants to help accelerate conservation adoption. The Redwood River Watershed in 2003 has been awarded a \$290,000 grant for installation of best management practices that reduce phosphorus and provide the technical assistance to implement them. Along with the grant, the Redwood River Watershed was also awarded \$600,000 in low interest loan dollars to be applied to non-compliant septic systems in the watershed. The Cottonwood River Watershed will be able to finish the six year implementation plan due to the successful continuation grant award of \$500,000. This will carry out the long term monitoring, watershed education and technical assistance needed to meet implementation goals and objectives over the next three years 04-06. Along with the grant, the Cottonwood River also received a low interest loan continuation of \$1.4 million dollars to be distributed to the participating Cottonwood River JPO member Counties. For a County by County break down, please call the RCRCA office.



RCRCA SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH SMBSC TO RECEIVE \$10,000 IN SURFACE TILE INLET REPLACEMENT COST SHARE DOLLARS

On July 28, 2003 the RCRCA Board of Directors signed an agreement that will allow Southern Minnesota Beet Sugar Cooperative to grant \$10,000 dollars for surface tile inlet replacement in the Cottonwood and Redwood River Watersheds. In turn the pollutant reductions of these inlets will be calculated and used to meet pollutant trading reduction requirements placed on SMBSC through their MPCA permit. SMBSC will have to give the finalization to the grant.

RCRCA amends the Joint Powers Agreement Appropriation Amount

On July 28, 2003 the RCRCA Board of Directors unanimously voted to reduce the appropriation amount from the Counties by 10%. In order to allow member Counties to fairly distribute budget cuts, Executive Director, Jim Doering suggested that an amendment to the Joint Powers Agreement approved at the June Board meeting would be prudent. As it stood, the appropriation amount for 2004-2005 was \$60,000 each year. Several County Commissioners requested that a reduction be considered even though project goals and objectives were being met and in most cases exceeded. The Board of Directors unanimously voted to reduce the appropriations by 10% resulting in a reduction of \$12,000 over the next two years. The 2004-2005 appropriation amount as amended, is \$54,000 each year.

“When you put your hand in a flowing stream, you touch the last that has gone before and the first of what is still to come.”



—LEONARDO DA VINCI



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AUGUST 2003

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August

- 7th Pipestone SWCD meeting
- 14th Redwood SWCD meeting; Murray SWCD meeting
- 18th RCRCA Board Meeting—Redwood Falls courthouse
- 21st Lincoln SWCD meeting
- 26th Lyon SWCD meeting
- 28th Cottonwood SWCD meeting; Yellow Medicine SWCD 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 Nelsen, Member at Large

RCRCA Full Board of Directors

- | <u>County Commissioners</u> | <u>SWCD Board Members</u> |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Donald Wellner, Brown Co . | Jack Vogel, Brown |
| Norman Holmen, Cottonwood Co . | Clark Lingbeek, Cottonwood |
| David Norgaard, Lincoln Co . | Glen Sorensen, Lincoln |
| Phil Nelson, Lyon Co . | Ray Traen, Lyon |
| Steve Johnson, Murray Co. | Paul Posthuma, Murray |
| Jamie Dubbelde, Pipestone Co. | LeRoy Stensgaard, Pipestone |
| John Schueller, Redwood Co. | Tom Daub, Redwood |
| Jane Remiger, Yellow Medicine Co | Burton Kuehn, Yellow Medicine |

RCRCA Staff

- James Doering, Executive Director
- Kelly Oliver, Engineering Technician
- William Moldestad, Engineering Technician
- Sharon Voeks, Administrative Officer

