

11360 Highway 212 STE 6
Cologne, MN 55322
(952) 466-5230

<https://www.carvercountymn.gov/swcd>

Minutes of the January 18, 2024, Carver SWCD Board Meeting Held in Conference Room 1 at the Public Works Facility in Cologne, MN

Board Members Present:

Chair, Marcus Zbinden
Secretary/Treasurer, Jeffrey Sons
Member, Robert Burandt
Member, Mark Zabel

Board Members Absent:

Vice Chair, Stanley Wendland

Other Attendees:

Public Services Deputy Director, Paul Moline
NRCS Team Lead, Chris Schmidt
NRCS District Conservationist, Katie Mattila
NRCS Soil Conservationist, Cindy Hoffmann

SWCD Staff Present:

District Manager, Mike Wanous
Admin. & Finance Specialist, Felicia Brockoff

1. Call to Order.

District Manager Wanous called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m.

2. Nominations and elect Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary Treasurer for 2024.

Manager Wanous opened the nominations for Chair at this time. Zabel nominated Zbinden as the Chair. With no other nominations or objections, Zbinden is the 2024 Carver SWCD Chair by acclamation.

Zbinden took over the meeting and opened the nominations for Vice Chair. Zbinden nominated Zabel as the Vice Chair. With no other nominations or objections, Zabel is the 2024 Carver SWCD Vice Chair by acclamation.

Zbinden opened the nominations for Secretary/Treasurer. Zbinden nominated Sons as the Secretary/Treasurer. With no other nominations or objections, Sons is the 2024 Carver SWCD Secretary/Treasurer by acclamation.

3. Public Comments – None.

4. Agenda review and adoption.

Resolution 001-2024: Burandt moved, Zabel seconded, to approve the January 18, 2024, board meeting agenda as printed. Roll call vote: Burandt-aye; Sons-aye; Wendland-absent; Zabel-aye; Zbinden-aye. Motion carried.

5. Agency Reports

- a. NRCS report – Katie reviewed her written report with the Board. She also introduced Cindy Hoffmann, who previously used to work in the Waconia field office about 10 years ago. Cindy stated she is excited to be back to work in Carver County

Chris gave an update on personnel issues in his area. Geoff Popken from the Waconia field office will now be in the Jordan office approximately 4 days per week. Rick Berscheid, Chris' supervisor, has taken a new position in the State office. The Farmington District Conservationist has also found a new position.

He also reported that the Faribault NRCS team and Rice County SWCD staff are getting evicted from their building in February. NRCS, FSA, and Rural Development have found another location to rent in Faribault, but it will need some remodeling. The Rice County SWCD will no longer be co-located with them. He reported during the interim, NRCS staff will be disbursed to other field offices until the remodel is complete. Rice SWCD will be renting a building from Rice County, until a more permanent place location is determined.

- b. Carver County – Paul reported on the County Board's organizational meeting. Gayle Degler is the Chair for 2024, and he has announced that this will be his last year as a Commissioner. John Fahey will be the Vice Chair for 2024. He also stated the WMO Advisory Committee has a new board member from Mayer.

Paul's department is currently working on 2024 planning, laying out which projects they'll undertake. He will also be working closely with Mike, to utilize the SWCD staff more for development reviews, inspections, and maximize how the staff can all work together more.

WBIF funding will be another priority in 2024, with just over \$700,000 in funding. There was some discussion on the large slough along Carver Creek, that originally happened over 10 years ago. Paul reported that his office is currently down 2 staff members again.

- c. FSA report – Jennifer King submitted a written report that was reviewed.

6. Organizational Meeting Items.

- a. With no proposed changes or corrections, the SWCD Board Operating Rules will remain the same for 2024.
- b. The Supervisors compensation policy will remain the same for 2024.
- c. Resolution 002-2024: Zabel moved, Sons seconded to set the 2024 mileage rate at \$0.67 per mile. Roll call vote: Burandt-aye; Sons-aye; Wendland-absent; Zabel-aye; Zbinden-aye. Motion carried.
- d. Resolution 003-2024: Sons moved, Burandt seconded to designate Security Bank & Trust, MidCountry Bank, Citizens State Bank of NYA, Old National Bank, and Southpoint Financial Credit Union as the Carver SWCD's 2024 depository designations. Roll call vote: Burandt-aye; Sons-aye; Wendland-absent; Zabel-aye; Zbinden-aye. Motion carried.
- e. Chair Zbinden stated that all committee appointments will remain the same:
 - 1. Personnel Committee – Zabel, Zbinden
 - 2. Metro Conservation Districts Committee – Zbinden; Wendland alt.
 - 3. Education & Outreach Committee – Sons, Wendland
 - 4. Budget Committee – Burandt, Sons
 - 5. WMO Advisory Committee – Wendland; Zbinden alt.
 - 6. Carver County Leaders Committee – Burandt; Sons alt.
 - 7. South Fork Crow River 1W1P – Zabel; Wendland alt.

7. Consent Agenda Items

Resolution 004-2024: Zabel moved, Burandt seconded to approve the following consent agenda items:

- a. Approval of the December 21, 2023, Board meeting minutes
- b. Acceptance of the December 2023 Treasurer’s Report
- c. MCIT annual insurance renewal, total cost of \$13,084.

Roll call vote: Burandt-aye; Sons-aye; Wendland-absent; Zabel-aye; Zbinden-aye. Motion carried.

8. Regular Agenda Items

- a. Resolution 005-2024: Zabel moved, Burandt seconded to approve payment of the four organizational dues, totaling \$9,127.92 (MASWCD, \$7,077.92; MASWCD Area, 4 \$350; MCD, \$1,600; NACD, \$100). Roll call vote: Burandt-aye; Sons-aye; Wendland-absent; Zabel-aye; Zbinden-aye. Motion carried.

7. SWCD Board Committee & SWCD Staff Monthly Reports

- a. Personnel Committee (Zabel, Zbinden) – Felicia’s 30-year anniversary with the SWCD was on December 28.
- b. Metro Conservation District’s (MCD) Committee (Zbinden; Wendland alt.) – nothing to report.
- c. Education & Outreach Committee (Sons, Wendland) – nothing to report.
- d. Budget Committee (Burandt, Sons) – nothing to report.
- e. WMO Advisory Committee (Wendland; Zbinden alt.) – nothing to report.
- f. Carver County Leaders (CCL) Committee (Burandt; Sons alt.) – nothing to report.
- g. South Fork Crow River 1W1P (Zabel; Wendland alt.) – nothing to report.
- h. The SWCD staff monthly progress report was presented and discussed.

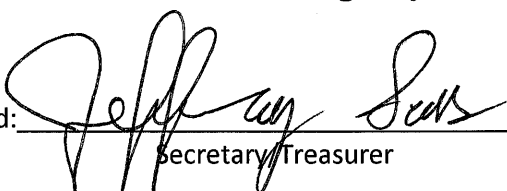
8. Board of Supervisors Announcements

- a. Zabel stated he would like to see the SWCD complete a strategic plan and asked that it be placed on the February Agenda as a discussion item.
- b. Supervisors were reminded that their annual statements of interest for the MN Campaign Finance Board are due January 29.
- c. Upcoming meetings/events:
 - February 15 – SWCD Board meeting, 8:00 AM
 - February 19 – President’s Day observed, SWCD office closed

9. Adjourn

Resolution 006-2024: Burandt moved, Sons seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:28 a.m. Roll call vote: Burandt-aye; Sons-aye; Wendland-absent; Zabel-aye; Zbinden-aye. Motion carried.

Next Board Meeting: Thursday, February 15, 2024, at 8:00 AM
Location: Public Works Headquarters, Conference Room 1
 11360 Highway 212, Cologne, MN 55322

Approved:  _____ Date signed: February 15, 2024
 Secretary/Treasurer