



11360 Highway 212 STE 6  
Cologne, MN 55322  
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<https://www.carvercountymn.gov/swcd>

## Minutes of the March 21, 2024, Carver SWCD Board Meeting Held in Conference Room 1 at the Public Works Facility in Cologne, MN

### Board Members Present:

Chair, Marcus Zbinden  
Vice Chair, Stanley Wendland  
Member, Robert Burandt

### Board Members Absent:

Secretary/Treasurer, Jeffrey Sons  
Member, Mark Zabel

### SWCD Staff Present:

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

### Other Attendees:

Carver County Commissioner, John Fahey  
Carver Co. Public Services Deputy Director, Paul Moline  
NRCS District Conservationist, Katie Mattila  
Farm Service Agency, Rachel Hendrickson  
Farm Service Agency, Nicole Lieske

### 1. Call to Order.

Chair Zbinden called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m. Since Supervisor Sons will be absent from this meeting, Chair Zbinden appointed Supervisor Burandt as the Secretary/Treasurer.

### 2. Public Comments – None.

### 3. Agenda review and adoption.

Resolution 011-2024: Burandt moved, Wendland seconded, to approve the March 21, 2024, board meeting agenda as printed. Roll call vote: Burandt-aye; Sons-absent; Wendland-aye; Zabel-absent; Zbinden-aye. Motion carried.

### 4. Agency Reports

a. NRCS report – Katie reported they are processing the 2024 EQIP applications, Carver County had 8 total that were preapproved. They are also working on CSP applications, Carver County had 5 that were approved. FSA has announced that the general CRP signup period will be from March 4-29, 2024. The local work group meetings need to be conducted by July 21.

She also reported that due to an adverse court decision, NRCS wetland determinations between 1990 and July 2, 1996, are not considered certified. All determinations made during that time will need to be redetermined.

b. Carver County report – Paul reported he submitted the Green Corps application last week and will hopefully have an employee from September of 2024 through August of 2025. The convene group meetings have started to assemble, the group will discuss how to spend the \$700,000 in Watershed Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) received from BWSR. He mentioned a few potential projects including a gully stabilization near the Seminary Fen, the Carver Creek blowout project, and possibly the 82<sup>nd</sup> Street and Lyman Boulevard construction project. He also reported there is a new BWSR Board Conservationist for Carver County.

Nick Koktavy is working on a master plan for the Public Works facility, that would include identifying the native vegetation on the property as the County expands this campus. There will be a new driveway coming into the property, included with the new highway 212 reconstruction. Chair Zbinden mentioned he would like to see an electric charging station at this facility for electric vehicles. Paul gave a brief update on staffing, there is a Planner position, and a Water Resource Technician that needs to be filled in his area, as well as a Planner/Enforcement position in the Land Management department.

- c. FSA report – Rachel Hendrickson and Nicole Lieske reported that the dairy margin coverage (DMC) enrollment is open through April 29. There is a \$100 administrative fee that is needed prior to coverage approval. CRP general signup 62 is now open through March 29. They also reported that the next McLeod/Carver County Committee Meeting is scheduled for March 26.

## 5. Consent Agenda Items

Resolution 012-2024: Burandt moved, Wendland seconded to approve the following consent agenda items:

- a. Approval of the February 15, 2024, Board meeting minutes
- b. Acceptance of the February 2024 Treasurer's Report

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

## 6. Regular Agenda Items

- a. Chair Zbinden reported the MCD dues reduction of \$800 was passed at the February 28 meeting. MCD has a 3-year workplan and budget, that was approved in 2022, when interest rates were rather low. The group is hoping with the reduction in dues, SWCD's will consider contributing \$400 towards the Metro Area Envirothon.

Resolution 013-2024: Wendland moved, Burandt seconded to approve sending \$400 to Sherburne SWCD to support the 2024 Metro Area Envirothon. Roll call vote: Burandt-aye; Sons-absent; Wendland-aye; Zabel-absent; Zbinden-aye. Motion carried.

- b. The next MASWCD Area 4 meeting will be held Tuesday, March 26. Supervisors Burandt and Zbinden plan to attend. Mike will contact Supervisor Zabel about carpooling.
- c. Mike explained that NRCS is asking the SWCD for input for their Local Work Group process. Typically, the LWG meets after a regular board meeting with NRCS staff to discuss local issues. The consensus of the Board was that the Local Work Group meeting will be held immediately following the June 20 SWCD board meeting.
- d. Patricia Stai has signed up for cost-share assistance to construct a 280' grassed waterway in a farm field. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$3,810, with \$2,857.50 in cost-sharing assistance (75% of the total), using funds from the FY2022 State cost-share grant.

Resolution 014-2024: Wendland moved, Burandt seconded to approve Patricia Stai's cost-share request to construct a grassed waterway, total cost of \$3,810, cost-sharing not to exceed \$2,857.50, FY 2022 State cost-share grant. Roll call vote: Burandt-aye; Sons-absent; Wendland-aye; Zabel-absent; Zbinden-aye. Motion carried.

- e. The SWCD needs to replace the 2004 Ford F250 truck. The mechanics have inspected the vehicle, and informed Mike that the drive shaft in the truck is about to break. We have gone through Carver County's contract with the State of Minnesota for cooperative purchasing at reduced rates. Mike is suggesting the SWCD enters its own agreement with the State of Minnesota, to purchase vehicles under the State contract. There is no cost, but a formal agreement is needed.

Resolution 015-2024: Wendland moved, Burandt seconded to approve the cooperative purchasing agreement with the Minnesota Department of Administration State Procurement and authorize the District Manager to sign the agreement on behalf of the Carver SWCD. Roll call vote: Burandt-aye; Sons-absent; Wendland-aye; Zabel-absent; Zbinden-aye. Motion carried.

**7. SWCD Board Committee & SWCD Staff Monthly Reports**

- a. Personnel Committee (Zabel, Zbinden) – Seth’s 8-year anniversary with the SWCD was on February 29.
- b. Metro Conservation District’s (MCD) Committee (Zbinden; Wendland alt.) – The MCD committee met on February 28. The dues discussion was held earlier. Mike reported that the next round of BWSR ETA funding was approved, and the MN State Fair contract for the Children’s Water Festival was also approved.
- c. Education & Outreach Committee (Sons, Wendland) – nothing to report.
- d. Budget Committee (Burandt, Sons) – nothing to report.
- e. WMO Advisory Committee (Wendland; Zbinden alt.) – Supervisor Wendland reported on the March 5 meeting. There were two presentations that evening, one from the Riley-Purgatory-Bluff Creek Watershed District, and one from the Carver WMO. He highlighted the information that was presented.
- f. Carver County Leaders (CCL) Committee (Burandt; Sons alt.) – Supervisor Burandt reported on the February 27 meeting. The main topic of discussion was the legalization of marijuana, and how Carver County will regulate it. The group discussed meeting at Paradise Commons for the next meeting to try and get more members to attend.
- g. South Fork Crow River 1W1P (Zabel; Wendland alt.) – Mike reported Supervisor Zabel attended the March 8 meeting. The 1W1P for the South Fork Crow River is on BWSR’s Agenda for approval at the end of March. Mike reported that Renville SWCD will be the host and taking the lead for the funds and approved projects in the South Fork Crow River.
- h. The SWCD staff monthly progress report was presented and discussed.

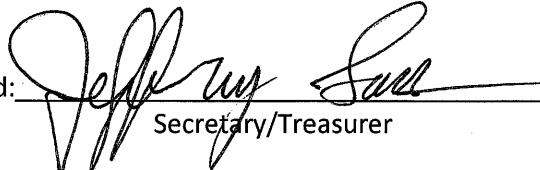
**8. Board of Supervisors Announcements**

- a. Upcoming meetings/events:
  - March 26 – MASWCD Area 4 meeting
  - April 18 – SWCD Board meeting, 8:00 a.m.

**9. Adjourn**

Resolution 016-2024: Burandt moved, Wendland seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 a.m. Roll call vote: Burandt-aye; Sons-absent; Wendland-aye; Zabel-absent; Zbinden-aye. Motion carried.

**Next Board Meeting:** Thursday, April 18, 2024, at 8:00 AM  
**Location:** Public Works Headquarters, Conference Room 1  
11360 Highway 212, Cologne, MN 55322

Approved:  \_\_\_\_\_ Date signed: April 18, 2024  
Secretary/Treasurer