



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

Minutes of the April 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
Vice Chair, Stanley Wendland
Secretary/Treasurer, Jeffrey Sons
Member, Robert Burandt
Member, Mark Zabel

Other Attendees:

Carver County Public Services Deputy Director, Paul Moline
Farm Service Agency Director, Jennifer King
NRCS Soil Conservationist, Cindy Hoffmann

SWCD Staff Present:

District Manager, Mike Wanous
Admin. & Finance Specialist, Felicia Brockoff
Resource Conservationist, Terry Meiller

1. Call to Order.

Chair Zbinden called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m.

2. Public Comments – None.

3. Agenda Review and Adoption.

Resolution 017-2024: Zabel moved, Burandt seconded, to approve the April 18, 2024, board meeting agenda as printed. Roll call vote: Burandt-aye; Sons-aye; Wendland-aye; Zabel-aye; Zbinden-aye. Motion carried.

4. Agency Reports

- a. Carver County report – Paul reported a meeting has been held to prioritize projects that will be funded with the watershed-based implementation funds (WBIF). He also reported they have started to work on the 2025 budget, and there are three requests for capital improvement projects under the WMO. Second interviews will be conducted today for the open Planner position, whose primary duty will be working on enforcement issues. He also mentioned that a prairie burn will be conducted at the Government Center on Saturday.
- b. NRCS report – Cindy reported they are processing the 2024 EQIP applications, 15 total applications were received in Carver and Scott counties. They have also been processing conservation stewardship program (CSP) applications. The Waconia field office will have a summer intern, who will be assisting throughout the entire NRCS team offices. NRCS staff will also be working on conducting highly erodible land (HEL) compliance reviews, and CRP status reviews. She mentioned that she and Katie are going to start doing some outreach, starting with smaller producers who may not be aware of the programs NRCS offers.
- c. FSA report – Jennifer reported the dairy margin coverage (DMC) program is still open, with a deadline of April 29 to enroll. Her staff is currently working on the third batch of continuous CRP offers, most of those offers have been re-enrollments. CRP participants have been reminded of management activities

- c. (mow or burn) that need to be completed by September 30, 2024. FSA staff is also working on updating all their farm records, with correct owners and operators, including addresses, phone numbers, and direct deposit information.

Mike mentioned that BWSR staff had contacted him about a funding incentive that could be piggybacked on regular CRP rates for producers, for new continuous CRP contracts only. The estimate of funding that could be received was approximately \$20,000. When additional information is received it will be brought to a future board meeting.

5. Consent Agenda Items

Resolution 018-2024: Zabel moved, Wendland seconded to approve the following consent agenda items:

- a. Approval of the March 21, 2024, board meeting minutes
- b. Acceptance of the March 2024 Treasurer's Report

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

6. Regular Agenda Items

- a. Samantha Hancock has requested cost share assistance to repair the two waterways that were installed last fall. Terry explained that both waterways need to be reshaped, and erosion blanket installed the full length, and bio-logs installed. The total estimated cost is \$3,669, with a cost-sharing request of \$2,686.90 (73%). This amount will use the remaining funds in our FY2022 cost-share grant.

Resolution 019-2024: Sons moved, Wendland seconded to approve Samantha Hancock's cost-share request to repair her two waterways, with a total cost of \$3,669, and cost-sharing not to exceed \$2,686.90. Roll call vote: Burandt-aye; Sons-aye; Wendland-aye; Zabel-aye; Zbinden-aye. Motion carried.

- b. A lot of SWCD's have begun to offer online sales for their tree program. Staff have been in contact with Brettworkstech to discuss setting up an online store. During discussions, staff also asked them about rebuilding the SWCD website, separate from the Carver County site. Mike showed the board how our website currently looks, which is Carver County branded. Brettworkstech has estimated \$4,000 in development time to setup an online store, build and design a new website, with a range of up to \$5,000, should additional features be added as the project advances. There are funds in in the FY22 District Capacity grant for equipment/technology, which can be used for this expense.

After reviewing the proposal from Brettworkstech, the board consensus was that they are in favor of developing a new website, but would like staff to get more clarification on actual costs, should problems arise. Information will be brought back to the board at the May 16 meeting.

- c. Mike presented the joint powers collaborative agreement for the South Fork Crow River at this time. He explained that the Carver SWCD is not required to be a part of this agreement, and discussed some pros and cons. After the final South Fork Crow River 1W1P development meeting, Zabel informed the group that the Carver SWCD would most likely not be participating, and expressed that there isn't a benefit for Carver SWCD to sign the agreement. Chair Zbinden and Supervisor Wendland felt the SWCD should stay involved, while Supervisor Sons spoke against being involved. The board tabled the decision to participate until the May 16 board meeting.
- d. The Highland Shores homeowner's association has completed the seeding of their pollinator planting and are requesting their cost-share reimbursement. The project removed a massive amount of buckthorn and seeded native vegetation near upper Grace Lake and Lake Jonathan. The frost seeding was completed in March of 2024. The total invoices for the seeding were \$3,750, with cost-sharing not to exceed \$2,812.50.

Resolution 020-2024: Zabel moved, Sons seconded to approve reimbursement of \$2,812.50 to Highland Shores HOA for their native seeding completion, funded from FY21 District Capacity. Roll call vote: Burandt-aye; Sons-aye; Wendland-aye; Zabel-aye; Zbinden-aye. Motion carried.

- e. MASWCD has sent out the call for resolutions. Any resolutions the SWCD may have could be brought to the May or June Board meetings for approval.

7. SWCD Board Committee & SWCD Staff Monthly Reports

- a. Personnel Committee (Zabel, Zbinden) – nothing to report.
- 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.) – Supervisor Wendland reported on the March 26 meeting. A native prairie seeding project was approved, there was discussion on chloride amounts in the local lakes, and an education updated from Madeline. Wendland will not be able to attend the April meeting, Chair Zbinden will attend as the alternate.
- f. Carver County Leaders (CCL) Committee (Burandt; Sons alt.) – nothing to report.
- g. South Fork Crow River 1W1P (Zabel; Wendland alt.) – nothing further to report.
- h. The SWCD staff monthly progress report was presented and discussed.

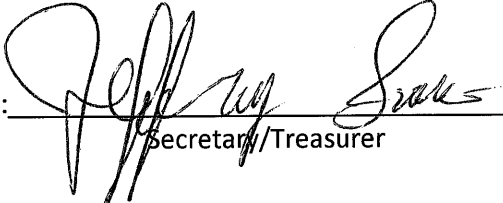
8. Board of Supervisors Announcements

- a. Supervisor Sons was recently down by Rapids Lake and noticed that the outlet structure may need some maintenance. Terry and Cindy both remembered that WRP project was completed some years back. Terry will contact Mike Malling about getting it repaired.
- b. Supervisors Sons also noticed there is quite a gap between the root wads along the Crow River on 84th street, and suggested staff look at the project before it becomes an issue.
- c. Upcoming meetings/events:
 - April 26 – Area 4 meeting
 - May 16 – SWCD board meeting, 8:00 a.m.
 - May 21-June 4 – filing period for SWCD supervisor, Districts 2 (Zbinden) & 4 (Burandt)

9. Adjourn

Resolution 021-2024: Zabel moved, Sons seconded to adjourn the meeting at 10:21 a.m. Roll call vote: Burandt-aye; Sons-aye; Wendland-aye; Zabel-aye; Zbinden-aye. Motion carried.

Next Board Meeting: Thursday, May 16, 2024, at 8:00 AM
Location: Public Works Headquarters, Conference Room 1
11360 Highway 212, Cologne, MN 55322

Approved:  _____ Date signed: May 16, 2024
Secretary/Treasurer