Carver County Water Management Organization

Citizen Advisory Committee

1. **Roll call**

2. **Approval of the April 30, 2024, minutes**

3. **Approval of the May 28, 2024, agenda**

4. **Notes from the field**
   a. Expanded lake monitoring

5. **Business items**
   a. Lake Bavaria management plan
   b. 2025 Water levy
   c. Funding feasibility study
   d. Meeting room location

6. **Information items & project updates**
   a. June tour ideas

   b. Greencorps

7. **Next meeting**
   June 25, 2024 tour

8. **Adjournment**

May 28, 2024

Meetings held at the Carver County Government Center, County Board room, 600 East 4th St. Chaska, MN 55318. Virtual option with Microsoft Teams. Contact mseveland@carvercountymn.gov for details.

Committee Mission

Work with CCWMO staff to proactively make recommendations to the County Board on matters relating to water management including;

- **projects and project prioritization**
- **Funding and water levy**
- **Water Plan, Groundwater Plan & Solid Waste Plan**
- **Water quality and TMDL program and projects**
- **Education program and projects**
- **Feasibility studies**

Carver County Water Management Organization

MEETING OF THE
CARVER COUNTY WATER MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday April 30, 2024

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Attending virtually

Jim Boettcher	*Citizen representing Commissioner District 1*
Marcus Zbinden	*SWCD Board Representative alt*

Attending in person

Kayla Pascoe	*Citizen, Carver Creek*
Carroll Aasen	*Citizen, East & West Chaska Creek*
Mike Lynch	*Citizen representing Commissioner District 4*
Michael Wegner	*Citizen, Crow River*
Kevin Zahler	*Citizen representing Commissioner District 2*
Mary Strother	*Citizen, Bevens Creek*

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Stan Wendland	*SWCD Board Representative*
Nathan Lindall	*Citizen representing Commissioner District 3*
Lori Cox	*Citizen representing Commissioner District 5*

STAFF PRESENT

Madeline Seveland	*Carver County Planning & Water Mgmt.*
Paul Moline	*Carver County Planning & Water Mgmt.*
Tim Sundby	*Carver County Planning & Water Mgmt.*
Mike Wanous	*Carver County Soil & Water Conservation District*
Kristen Larson	*Carver County Planning & Water Mgmt.*

Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Aasen.

1) Roll call completed.

2) Approval of the March 26, 2024, meeting minutes.
   Pascoe moved to approve the March 26, 2024, meeting minutes. Lynch seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

3) Approval of April 30, 2024, agenda.
   Boettcher commented that he received a phone call from the vice president of a company in the WMO that was recently fined for a permit issue. Moline stated he was aware of it and that the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency is involved and set the fine for the contractor, but he would be happy to chat with Boettcher later about the permit issue.

Wegner moved to approve the April 30, 2024, agenda. Lynch seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

4) Notes from the field

Kristen Larson presented on the Watertown Wetland restoration.

Larson introduced herself and her role with the Water Management Organization overseeing the Wetland Conservation Act program in the County. She presented an update on the Watertown Wetland restoration project.

Project background

- The project is located in southeast Watertown near Co. Rd. 10 and Co. Rd. 24.
- The restoration included three types of wetlands: shallow marsh, wet meadow, and upland prairie.
- The project was restored through the state's Wetland Conservation Act banking program and thus received wetland credits for future use by Carver County's Public Works to mitigate impacts occurring from road projects.
- The site was previously tiled and farmed for several decades.
- A weir was constructed to restore hydrology to the wetland. It holds back 6"-12" of water on the site.

Results

- The project created 50 acres of restored wetland and 14 acres of restored prairie.
- The site is publicly accessible via trails.
- Larson shared some photos of the project site before and after restoration.
- Annual monitoring is done for hydrology, vegetation, and annual photo documentation of changes. Monitoring helps ensure the required standards for hydrology and other parameters are met.

Strother inquired if the drain tile was taken out. Larson responded that yes drain tile was taken out, but the main ditch stayed to allow for management of things like invasive species.

Strother inquired where the wetland drains too. Larson responded that the water flows under County Road 10 and into a series of wetlands, and then eventually to the Crow River.

Lynch inquired about the response from adjacent property owners regarding drainage. Larson responded that staff have not heard anything from property owners. The wetland was designed with modeling and there is enough topography so that it doesn't limit drainage from the field to the wetland. Wanous added that the field to the east sits 15-20 feet higher than the wetland. That field drains to a stormwater pond which then drains to the wetland basin. There have been no problems with any drainage offsite.

Larson shared the results of the vegetative monitoring for the three types of wetlands.

- Shallow marsh
    - 23 plant species were observed, 21 of which are native. The most common types were river bulrush, nodding bur marigold, and rice cut grass.
- Wet meadow
    - 29 species were observed, 23 of which were native. The most common types were rice cut grass, river bulrush, and panicled aster.
- Upland prairie
    - 45 species were observed, 39 of which are native. The most common types were big bluestem, switchgrass, sideoats grama, Canada rye, wild bergamot, Indian grass, and Canada goldenrod.

Larson added that 4 years after the project's completion everything is looking mature and well established.

Strother inquired who is responsible for maintaining the walking paths. Larson responded the City of Watertown.

Lynch inquired if staff would burn the site in the future. Larson responded yes, but there are complications with being close to the city. To do a burn, conditions must be just right. Wanous added that staff tried to work with contractors to complete a burn for the last two fall seasons, but with the drought the site was too dry. It is something staff can look at this year or next year.

Lynch inquired if it has been burned since it was planted. Wanous responded no. Staff did go in and disced the whole site to get all the trash buried. At the deepest part of the wetland, we did some broadcasting of seed, but most of the plants that sprung up were from seed banks that have been there for decades. Staff have mowed it for several years for weed control.

Lynch inquired if thistles are bad and why staff targeted them as he had some in his CREP seed mix. Wanous responded that invasive thistles like Canada thistle shouldn't be in a seed mix.

Zahler inquired how thistles are treated. Wanous responded that mostly staff try to mow the thistle before it goes to seed. Occasionally they spot spray, but they do not broadcast spray.

Strother inquired about drain tile tracking and records. Larson said often we cannot track drain tile locations and there are very few records on them. Staff can used aerial photos, topography, and some site inspections to determine where drain tile is. Larson added that in our stormwater rules, pipe sizes over 18" that outlet to a creek or wetland must require a permit.

Strother inquired if getting drain tile records was something the WMO could request. Moline responded that staff usually only do that if there is a permit trigger or something happening downstream.

Strother inquired if she could ask for help from the department identifying locations of new tile going in that may affect her property or Bevens Creek. Moline responded yes.

The committee discussed the ability to track locations and impacts of drain tile. Larson shared an aerial photo and demonstrated how staff use these photos to find locations of drain tile.

5) Business items

- **2025 Capital Improvement Projects**

Moline informed the committee that it is budget planning season and there will be many budget related agenda items for the committee starting tonight and through July. Moline reviewed the budget timeline for the WMO levy. Tonight, the committee will get their first look at the proposed capital improvement projects. Then, staff will return to the May meeting for further advisory committee input. If there are changes, staff will revisit with the committee at the July meeting.

Sundby presented on the project funding requests. The County solicits project requests in February. Projects must be submitted in March. In April, staff review and rank project requests, and the committee reviews project proposals at the April WMOAC meeting.

Staff received three project requests from the Cities of Chaska, Norwood Young America, and Watertown. Two guest presenters from cities joined the meeting to present their projects. Joshua Eckstein, from Bolton & Menk, Inc. will present the City of Norwood Young America's project, and Philip Schrupp, from Bolton & Menk, Inc. will present the City of Watertown's project.

Norwood Young America SAFL baffle

Eckstein presented on the City of Norwood Young America's request for a baffle for an area that drains into Young America Lake. Along main street there is a series of storm sewer pipes that collect water and flow east into the lake. The total drainage area is about 6.9 acres. The proposal is to install a sump manhole with a baffle just upstream from the lake to maximize treatment. The new baffle would collect runoff from 4.8 acres of currently untreated area. This would be part of the city's sidewalk and street improvement project in the area.

Zahler inquired how the treatment works. Eckstein responded that the treatment removes suspended solids by slowing the water and allowing it to settle. Then the city would vacuum out the sump as part of their maintenance program. Zahler inquired if this is the only one that drains to the lake. Eckstein responded that there are others, but this one is an easy target.

Sundby shared that the total project costs are $48,062.50. The city is request $24,031.25 in WMO funds.

Zahler inquired what the condition of Young America lake is health wise. Sundby responded that the WMO does not monitor Young America Lake, but Barnes Lake which is just south and east of the city is in good condition.

Zahler inquired if there is a way to measure results. Sundby responded that the SAFL baffles have been tested in labs and have established removal rates. There will be about a 32% reduction in

sediment reaching the lake. Another way to measure results is to request the maintenance logs from the city, so staff could see how much sediment is being collected and removed.

Zahler inquired what prompted the City of Norwood Young America to target this specific area. Eckstein responded three factors made it a high priority: a manhole that is easily accessible, the location being directly upstream from a lake, and that this sump would treat a lot of untreated area.

Lynch inquired if this is a good project for the funding request. Sundby responded that the best way to determine that is by looking at the rankings for each project which he will review towards the end of the presentation.

Watertown SAFL baffles

Phillip Schrupp, with Bolton & Menk, Inc., presented the City of Watertown's request for two baffles. The city is doing overlay and sidewalk improvements along Lewis Ave in Watertown in 2025 to address deteriorating storm sewer infrastructure. The City of Watertown is requesting funds to add two sump manholes and SAFL baffles. The baffles would both be located in downtown areas and would reduce sediment pollution in stormwater that is discharging to the Crow River.

Pascoe inquired if some of the costs included in the estimate are for the overlay itself. Schrupp responded that there will be some crossover, but what is presented is what is needed to construct the sump manholes and baffles. Pascoe stated that some of the line items in the estimate are items that would be covered by the city regardless of adding the sumps and baffles such as traffic control, street sweeping, etc. Schrupp clarified that the mill and overlay is only removing 1.5" of asphalt and to add the sumps and baffles requires removing the full depth, which requires more crews, etc. The cost estimate provided is applicable to what is needed to get the sumps and baffles installed.

Pascoe stated that the other project doesn't have the removal of asphalt. Schrupp commented that the Norwood Young America might be in green space, and that he can't speak to that project. Moline inquired what the total costs of the roadwork would be. Schrupp responded that the project total is around $2 million and that also included brand new streetlights, redoing pavement, mill and overlay, pedestrian bump out, etc. The project scope is still under consideration, so it is hard to put a number of just the roadwork.

Wegner inquired if the sump locations are in the alleyway. Schrupp responded that one baffle is in the center of the city owned parking lot and the other is a southern parking lot. Wegner asked for clarification that these sump additions were part of the street reconstruction since they are located off the main road. Schrupp responded that the construction project will be doing work in these parking lots as well.

Sundby shared that the total project costs are $111,206.25. The city is request $55,603.13 in WMO funds.

Chaska project C2 ravine project

Sundby presented the Chaska C2 ravine project. The City of Chaska has been stabilizing ravines around Chaska, has completed ravine C1, and is now working on C2 and C3. This C2 ravine is 1,200 linear feet long and eroding into Seminary Fen. It contributes 233 tons of sediment and 370 pounds of phosphorous annually to the fen. The project will stabilize the ravine using rock checks and pools.

Sundby shared that the total project costs are $1,008,000. The city is request $80,000 in WMO funds. He added that the city has secured state funding of $600,000, and that their dedicated project funding will increase to $800,000 with the Watershed Based Implementation Funds grant that was recently secured. The rest of the project costs will be covered by city funds.

Pascoe asked if the entirety of the area is city owned land. Sundby responded yes.

Sundby described the project, showed the impact of the sediment plume, and shared how vegetation will be established on slopes, and areas cleared to get sunlight to ground cover.

Project rankings

Sundby next reviewed the ranking process for each project.

- Each application is scored based on a matrix of 18 individually scored criteria.
- Criteria are separated into two main categories, water stewardship and county capital improvement project cost share.
- The goal when creating the scoring sheet was to remove as much subjectivity as possible.
- Chaska C2 ravine project received a score of 62. The Watertown SAFL baffle project received a score of 49. The City of Norwood Young America SAFL baffle project received a score of 38. Of the past 80 submissions, the mean is a 59, the high was an 84, the low was a 21. All these projects are within that range.

Sundby will send the scoring sheets for each project prior to the May meeting. Moline shared that staff will include these project requests as part of the full levy discussion at the May meeting. At that time, staff will include project funding allocation recommendations for each.

Lynch commented that these are all good projects and inquired if all can be funded. Moline said we will have to look at the full levy and see what projects we can fund and at what rate. Staff will know more and can provide more information at next month's meeting.

Watershed Based Implementation Fund projects for 2025-2027

Sundby next reviewed the projects approved to receive watershed-based implementation funding. He noted the convene group met and selected the 5 following projects.

Big Wood ravine project

- The project design came out of a feasibility study. The project will hard armor the head cut into the ravine, reshape the channel bottom with three grade checks and some slope grading.
- Total project costs are estimated at $85,000. Received $76,500 in grant funding. WMO match is $8,500.
- The project will reduce total phosphorus by 7.6 pounds/year.
- The project will reduce total suspended solids by 19 tons/year.

Carver Creek stream restoration project

- The project design came from a feasibility study. This project will move Carver Creek channel 50 feet south of its current location and build a floodplain at the base of the failed bank bluff to reduce the stress of flowing water at the basin of the bluff. Additional tile lines will be added to intercept ground water flow and keep it from further destabilizing the bank.
- Total project costs are estimated at $165,000. Received $148,500 in grant funding. WMO match is $16,500.
- This project will reduce total phosphorus by 585 pounds/year.
- This project will reduce total suspended solids by 688 tons/year.

Lynch inquired if the farmer is on board with this project. Sundby responded that staff have conversed with the representative of the landowner and yes, they are on board. They understand the severity of the bank erosion and the need to do something.

Zahler asked for clarification for if the farmer was liable because he plowed right up to the edge. Wanous responded that at the top of the ridge, there is a negative slope back toward the field. That means the landowner is required only to have a 16 ft buffer, not a 50 buffer. Staff are not pursuing this as a non-compliant buffer. The gully keeps advancing into the buffer. We need to get the gully under control as it will keep cutting up into the field whether there is a buffer there or not.

Lyman bridge stream naturalization

- The project is part of the 82nd street road construction project. The city is looking at putting a bridge in this location and widening 82nd St. There is a pipe that takes this small stream underground before directing the water into Big Woods Lake. This project will restore a 130-foot section that currently is piped by daylighting the water into a newly constructed restored stream section.
- Total project costs are $200,000. Project received $180,000 in grant funding. The WMO match is $20,000.
- The project will reduce total phosphorus by 1.05 pounds/year.
- This project will reduce total nitrogen by 2.16 pounds/year.

Eagle Lake loading feasibility study

- This project is a feasibility study looking at loading sources to the lake. A 2010 TMDL study estimated the phosphorus loading for Eagle Lake. The internal load represents 70% of all internal loading. Additional loading from land area southeast of the lake known as EI is 29% of the loading.
- Project costs is estimated at $75,000. Received $65,000 is grant funding. The WMO match is $10,000.
- The feasibility study will research the potential of using ALUM, impacts to the lake from removing curly leaf, quantifying soluble phosphorus entering from the wetland complex, and present various options to treat soluble phosphorus.
- To meet state water quality standards, the lake must see an 80% reduction of internal loading, and 95% reduction in external loading.

Goldfish management on Big Woods and Hazeltine Lakes

- Goldfish removal practices are based on a recent 3-year feasibility study. Staff are currently waiting on a draft of the study. This will outline management practices for both Big Woods Lake and Lake Hazeltine.
- Estimated total project costs are $60,000. Received $50,000 in grant funds. WMO match is $10,000.
- The goal is to manage goldfish to improve water quality in both Big Woods and Hazeltine Lakes.

Lynch inquired what is the advantage of daylighting water. Sundby responded that you get a natural stream where smaller fish species can survive. Most fish species don't like long runs of dark pipe, so it is a barrier. This project would return this section of stream back to a wildlife corridor and build a floodplain back in.

Moline shared that staff will come back with a recommendation in May and these details will be included in the levy request.

6) Information items & project updates

Moline informed the committee there was a prairie burn done on the native vegetation around the Courthouse Lake and the Carver County Government Center a couple weekends ago. Staff worked with Prairie Restorations, Inc. Staff created several notifications for neighbors and employees.

Seveland shared that the May meeting will be held in the County Board room. The room received new technology for virtual and hybrid meetings. At that meeting, the committee will determine to keep the EOC as their standard meeting location or move the meeting location to the County Board room.

Next meeting is May 28, 2024.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Water Management Organization Advisory Committee

May 28, 2024, Meeting

Business Item
Lake Bavaria Management Plan
Water Management Plan Related Goal
1. To provide those living, working, and recreating in the CCWMO with the knowledge, skills, and motivation needed to make positive behavior changes that protect surface.

Summary:
In 2023, CCWMO Staff started an effort to write a Lake Management Plan for Lake Bavaria that includes historical water quality data, current water quality data, land use, and lake response to phosphorous inputs. Required within this plan is a stakeholder process that produces a vision for the lake and actionable tasks to help protect the lake. This presentation will review what has been happening and the goals of the process.

Discussion Points:

- Why we are authoring a management plan.
- What has happened so far.
- Future steps.

Recommended WMO Advisory Committee Action:

- None, informational only.

Attachments:

- None.

Water Management Organization Advisory Committee

May 28, 2024, Meeting

Business Item
CCWMO 2025 Draft Budget & Levy Recommendation
Water Management Plan Related Goal
1. Effectively and efficiently manage public capital expenditures needed to correct flooding and water quality problems.

Summary:
The CCWMO 2025 budget process is underway. Every year staff presents a budget and CCWMO levy recommendation to the County Board for operations and implementation of the CCWMO. The CCWMO budget process is incorporated into the County's General Tax Levy Budgeting process. As part of this process, staff seeks the recommendation of the advisory committee. The Board sets a preliminary levy for the WMO considering this recommendation in September, and subsequently sets the final levy in December. Staff is seeking a preliminary recommendation from the committee at this time. Adjustments may be made and will be presented to the committee in July if needed.

Discussion Points:

- Proposed changes to the 2025 WMO levy from the 2024 amounts.
- Incorporation of proposed 2025 WMO project funding.

Recommended WMO Advisory Committee Action:

- Preliminary recommendation on the proposed 2025 WMO budget and discussion.

Attachments:

- Project summaries from April meeting.
- PowerPoint slides with 2025 budget information to be sent separately.

Water Management Organization Advisory Committee

May 28, 2024, Meeting

Business Item
Use of Existing Project Funding
Water Management Plan Related Goal
1. Effectively and efficiently manage public capital expenditures needed to correct flooding and water quality problems.

Summary:
In the fall of 2023, WMO staff and CCWMO staff met with Mr. and Mrs. Coleman regarding an eroding ravine located on their property. This ravine flows into Bevens Creek and has been unstable for a number of years, starting at the wooden culvert under Maplewood Road. To fully understand the rate of erosion, risk of continuing erosion, and strategies to stabilize the ravine, a feasibility study is warranted. CCWMO staff will work with the landowners and Soil & Water Conservation District staff to initiate the study, with potential supplemental funding coming from a Soil & Water Conservation District grant.

Discussion Points:

- Coleman Ravine and Feasibility Study
- Available 2024 CCWMO funds

Recommended WMO Advisory Committee Action:

- Recommend using unallocated CCWMO project funds in 2024 to fund a feasibility study.

Attachments:

- None

Water Management Organization Advisory Committee

May 28, 2024, Meeting

Business Item
Meeting room location
Water Management Plan Related Goal

Summary:
The Water Management Organization Advisory Committee will be holding its May 28, 2024, meeting in the County Board Room at the Carver County Government Center. This meeting room recently had audio and video equipment upgrades to enhance virtual meeting experience.

Committee members will test out the room and its equipment during the May 28 meeting and determine whether to adopt the County Board room as the official meeting location for future meetings or continue using the EOC conference.

Discussion Points:

- Room amenities (audio, video, seating, accessibility, etc.)

Recommended WMO Advisory Committee Action:

- Select official meeting room location that best meets the committee's needs.

Attachments:

- None

Carver County Water Management Organization Advisory Committee

Upcoming Meetings

Date	Meeting Type	Business Items
6/25/2024	Tour	TBD
7/30/2024	Regular	Updated CCWMO levy request Lake Bavaria Management Plan
8/27/2024	Regular	TBD
9/24/2024	Regular	TBD

Upcoming Events

5/30/2024 **6/1/2024** **6/8/2024**	Discover Bugs	Partnership with the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum to host a family program providing education. Discover Waterbugs of Spring Peeper Meadow (Ages 5-Adult) | Minnesota Landscape Arboretum (umn.edu)