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

## **Minutes of the May 16, 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 District Conservationist, Katie Mattila  
NRCS Team Lead, Chris Schmidt

### **SWCD Staff Present:**

District Manager, Mike Wanous  
Admin. & Finance Specialist, Felicia Brockoff  
Landscape Restoration Specialist, Seth Ristow

### **1. Call to Order.**

Chair Zbinden called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m.

### **2. Public Comments – None.**

### **3. Agenda Review and Adoption.**

Resolution 022-2024: Zabel moved, Wendland seconded, to approve the May 16, 2024, revised Board Meeting Agenda. Roll call vote: Burandt-aye; Sons-aye; Wendland-aye; Zabel-aye; Zbinden-aye. Motion carried.

### **4. Agency Reports**

- a. NRCS report – Katie reported they are continuing to process 2024 EQIP applications. Minnesota has received an additional \$23 million in funding, and only 1 high tunnel application has been denied. They are also working on CSP contracts, Carver County has 5 applications that were pre-approved. HEL compliance reviews are being conducted, and CRP status reviews as well as planning documents for the upcoming CRP. Kaite reported an intern will be in the office from May 20-August 23, and that the new NRCS Forester will be starting on May 20.

Chris reported that the intern is coming from the Central Lakes College in Staples. He also mentioned they are excited to have a Forester back in the Waconia Field office. He reviewed other NRCS staff promotions in the area. He also mentioned that Minnesota received two rounds of EQIP funding, \$19 million the first round, and another \$23 million, which was close to the total amount requested.

- b. FSA report – Jennifer reported that two more batching periods have been added for the CRP program. Since its primary nesting season right now, producers are being asked to hold off with any maintenance needed in CRP contracts, except for thistles or noxious weed controls. The

deadline for producers to certify their acres is July 15. The next County Committee meeting will be held on June 4. Zach Ducheneaux, the FSA Administrator was in Minnesota recently, and commented he is confident that a new Farm Bill will be approved in 2024. USDA programs are still running under the 2018 Farm Bill.

- c. Carver County Report – Paul reported on the 2025 budget. To date, he hasn't heard anything about anticipated cuts. He thought the line items for budgets under his division will probably be due in the next 3-4 weeks. He will be asking the WMO committee for a proposed 5% increase in the levy, and explained that salaries and benefits, as well as project requests from the Cities in Carver County are the biggest costs.

Zabel mentioned that BWSR did approve \$20,000 in funding to Carver County for incentives on CRP contracts. Paul reported he will bring it to the WMO committee for discussion. Mike reported that he asked BWSR for clarification on the funding. The funding can only be used in the areas of the Carver WMO, this does not include the South Fork Crow River area as that area is receiving funding through the 1W1P.

## 5. Consent Agenda Items

Resolution 023-2024: Sons moved, Zabel seconded to approve the following consent agenda items:

- a. Approval of the April 18, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes
- b. Acceptance of the April 2024 Treasurer's Report

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

## 6. Regular Agenda Items

- a. Felicia contacted Brettworks and has obtained more information and clarification that was requested at the last board meeting. The monthly hosting fee includes the website hosting, nightly backups of the website and associated files, updates for the websites (plugins and software updates), as well as support. If the board accepts their bid of \$4,000, plus the annual \$300 hosting fees, Brettworks would require a \$1,500 deposit to get started, and will send an agreement to the SWCD. Should any unforeseen issues arrive, where a lot of extra work would be required from Brettworks, their hourly rate would be \$75.

Resolution 024-2024: Sons moved, Burandt seconded to accept the \$4,000 proposal, plus the \$300 annual hosting fee, from Brettworkstech to design and develop a new website for the SWCD, that will include an online store capable of supporting the SWCD tree program. Roll call vote: Burandt-aye; Sons-aye; Wendland-aye; Zabel-aye; Zbinden-aye. Motion carried.

- b. Mike reported that Rinke Noonan, attorneys at law, have sent a sample resolution of what the Carver SWCD board could approve, if they choose to participate in the joint powers collaborative agreement for the South Fork Crow River. Zabel stated he is willing to be on the committee again but didn't feel it was necessary to stay involved from a policy standpoint.

Resolution 025-2024: Wendland moved, Burandt seconded the following:

- i. That the Board approve and adopt the Joint Powers Collaborative Agreement for formation of the South Fork Crow River Watershed Collaborative; and
- ii. That the Board acknowledge the purpose of adopting the Joint Powers Collaboration Agreement creating the South Fork Crow River Watershed Collaborative to facilitate implementation of Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (One Watershed, One

Plan) for the South Fork of the Crow River (One Watershed One Plan Planning Area 13) Watershed; and

- iii. That consistent with its prior resolution, the Board adopts and authorizes implementation of the Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan within those portions of its jurisdiction lying within Watershed Planning Area 13; and
- iv. That the Board authorizes its Chairperson to execute the JPCS on behalf of the Board and directs its attorney to review the JPCA for form and execution. Failure of the attorney to review and sign the JPCA shall not invalidate the JPCA.

After discussion, the Board Chairperson called the question. Said motion passed by a vote of 4-1. Roll call vote: Burandt-aye; Sons-nay; Wendland-aye; Zabel-aye; Zbinden-aye. Motion carried.

- c. MASWCD has sent out the call for resolutions. Any resolutions the SWCD may have will need to be approved at the June 20 Board meeting.
- d. Three pollinator project applications have been received, all will replace current turf and provide habitat for pollinators. Seth explained each of the sites to the Board.

Resolution 026-2024: Zabel moved, Wendland seconded to approve the following pollinator contracts:

- i. Baardseth – 302 square feet, \$900 total cost estimate, cost-sharing not to exceed \$302
- ii. Jacobs – 720 square feet, \$1,295.10 total cost estimate, cost-sharing not to exceed \$720
- iii. Schulars – 2,000 square feet, \$2,102 total cost estimate, cost-sharing not to exceed \$1,58.75

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

- e. Mike presented a request, on behalf of the Minnesota River Congress, asking for a letter of support and endorsement from the Carver SWCD. Zabel stated that the Minnesota River Congress is a citizen-led group, not an official organized group. After discussion, no action was taken.

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

- a. Personnel Committee (Zabel, Zbinden) – Mike’s 25-year anniversary with the SWCD was on April 26. Tyler’s 2-year anniversary was on May 11.
- b. Metro Conservation District’s (MCD) Committee (Zbinden; Wendland alt.) – the next Board meeting will be in August.
- c. Education & Outreach Committee (Sons, Wendland) – Sons would like to see something sent out to landowners within the County, about noxious weeds, specifically Wild Parsnip. Mike will discuss with Jacob McLain, Carver County’s weed inspector, and Madeline Seveland, Education Coordinator, to see if there is something that can be distributed in Carver County.
- d. Budget Committee (Burandt, Sons) – Mike will keep the committee informed on an upcoming meeting, as more details are received from Carver County on the 2025 budget projections.
- e. WMO Advisory Committee (Wendland; Zbinden alt.) – The Watertown wetland banking site was discussed at the April 30 meeting. Mike explained that the site has been monitored, to determine hydrology and vegetation standards. He explained that the recording of the

conservation easement is still the issue. The County Board will be approving an updated plat in June, and Public Works staff will be working with BWSR after that to get the 34.5 wetland credits released.

- 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.

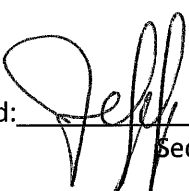

**8. Board of Supervisors Announcements**

- a. Felicia has been typing up the old handwritten Minutes dating back to the 1940's. She found that on May 14, 1959 (65 years ago) the name was changed from "Carver County Soil Conservation District" to "Carver Soil and Water Conservation District."
- b. Upcoming meetings/events:
  - May 21-June 4 – filing period for SWCD supervisor, Districts 2 (Zbinden) & 4 (Burandt)
  - June 19 – Juneteenth Holiday observed (SWCD office closed)
  - June 20 – SWCD Board meeting, followed by the NRCS Local Work Group meeting
  - June 27 – MASWCD Area IV meeting and tour held in Dakota County

**9. Adjourn**

Resolution 027-2024: 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, June 20, 2024, at 8:00 AM**  
**Location: Public Works Headquarters, Conference Room 1**  
**11360 Highway 212, Cologne, MN 55322**

Approved:   \_\_\_\_\_ Date signed: June 20, 2024  
Secretary/Treasurer