



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

Minutes of the June 20, 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, Mark Zabel
Secretary/Treasurer, Jeffrey Sons
Member, Robert Burandt
Member, Stanley Wendland

Other Attendees:

Carver County Public Services Deputy Director, Paul Moline
Farm Service Agency Director, Jennifer King
NRCS District Conservationist, Katie Mattila
NRCS Forester, Isabella Wendland
NRCS Soil Conservationist, Cindy Hoffmann

SWCD Staff Present:

District Manager, Mike Wanous
Resource Conservationist, Terry Meiller

1. Call to Order.

Chair Zbinden called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m.

2. Public Comments – None.

3. Agenda Review and Adoption.

Resolution 028-2024: Zabel moved, Burandt seconded, to approve the June 20, 2024, revised Board Meeting Agenda. Roll call vote: Burandt-aye; Sons-aye; Wendland-absent; Zabel-aye; Zbinden-aye. Motion carried.

4. Agency Reports

- a. Carver County report – Paul Moline reported that the recent heavy rains have triggered no-wake ordinances for several of the local lakes. He reported on the 2025 budget process and that a placeholder of 4.9% increase in the allocation to the SWCD is penciled in right now, but things could change as the budget process moves forward. Paul invited the SWCD supervisors to the WMO tour that will be held on June 25.
- b. FSA report – Jennifer King reported that she has started some of the paperwork and documentation for a potential secretarial disaster due to the recent heavy rains. A 30% production loss on any crop is needed to qualify for the disaster declaration. July 12 is the last day to submit all paperwork for the CCRP program to be funded this fiscal year. Acreage certification is currently around 40% reported. The FSA County Committee nomination period closes on August 15.

NRCS Report – Katie Mattila reported that they are processing EQIP applications and CSP applications. The Local Work Group (LWG) meeting will be held after this meeting at approximately 10:00 a.m. She introduced Isabella Wendland as the new Forester in the Waconia field office and mentioned that Kristen Koerth is the NRCS summer intern. Highly erodible land

(HEL) compliance reviews are almost complete, and CRP status reviews are just getting started. Discussion occurred on the topic of fields that have not been planted yet that may go into the prevent plant crop insurance program.

5. Consent Agenda Items

Resolution 029-2024: Zabel moved, Sons seconded to approve the following consent agenda items:

- a. Approval of the May 16, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes
- b. Acceptance of the May 2024 Treasurer's Report

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

6. Regular Agenda Items

- a. Mike presented a request to extend the service agreement with Riley-Purgatory-Bluff Creek Watershed District (RPBCWD). The SWCD provides technical assistance to the RPBCWD for helping them run their cost-share and native vegetation restoration programs. Zabel questioned if the hourly rate is high enough and suggested switching to the BWSR billable rate for the next extension of the agreement.

Resolution 030-2024: Burandt moved, Wendland seconded to approve the service agreement between the Riley-Purgatory-Bluff Creek Watershed District and the Carver Soil and Water Conservation District. Roll call vote: Burandt-aye; Sons-aye; Wendland-aye; Zabel-aye; Zbinden-aye. Motion carried.

- b. Terry reviewed the Patricia Stai grassed waterway cost-share project. The project has been completed and has held up during the recent heavy rains. Terry presented the fact sheet and photos from the project.

Resolution 031-2024: Wendland moved, Zabel seconded to approve a cost-share payment of \$2,857.50 to Patricia Stai for installing a 280' grassed waterway in Dahlgren Township, funding to be used from FY2022 State cost-share grant. Roll call vote: Burandt-aye; Sons-aye; Wendland-aye; Zabel-aye; Zbinden-aye. Motion carried.

- c. The MASWCD Area IV meeting will be held on Thursday, June 27. Zabel and Burandt plan to attend.

- d. MASWCD is offering another leadership institute for 2024-2025. The cost to register is \$5,950, registration is due July 12.

- e. MASWCD is hosting a governance 101 workshop in Alexandria, July 16-17.

- f. Mike presented prices for a truck to replace the 2004 Ford F-250. Discussion occurred on the type of vehicle needed, and if it will need to tow anything heavy. The vehicle will be used primarily to visit active construction sites, so having 4-wheel drive and high clearance is important. Zbinden suggested looking into the used County vehicles that are being replaced, and possibly get an SUV instead of a truck. No action was taken, the board directed staff to come back with more options.

- g. Mike described that the SWCD will be developing policy and work plans for two new grants from BWSR. The grants include a soil health grant and a CRP incentive grant. The group discussed different options for developing the policy and work plans, and agreed the best approach was to develop a sub-committee to draft policy and bring it back to the full board for review and approval. Chair Zbinden appointed Zabel and Wendland to serve on the sub-committee.

7. SWCD Board Committee & SWCD Staff Monthly Reports

- a. Personnel Committee (Zabel, Zbinden) – Mike will conduct informal reviews with the staff soon.
- b. Metro Conservation District’s (MCD) Committee (Zbinden; Wendland alt.) – the next Board meeting will be in August.
- c. Education & Outreach Committee (Sons, Wendland) – Felicia made a post on the SWCD’s Facebook page, about the noxious weed Wild Parsnip. Zbinden asked about the new website and stated he’d like to review it before it goes live.
- d. Budget Committee (Burandt, Sons) – Staff will be working on a draft 2025 budget now that we have some preliminary numbers from the County. Mike will contact the Budget Committee to review when a draft is ready. The budget hearing is scheduled for July 25.
- e. WMO Advisory Committee (Wendland; Zbinden alt.) – Wendland reported on the May 28 meeting. The topics included expanded lake monitoring, Lake Bavaria Management Plan, 2025 levy and budget, feasibility study on a gully near Bevens Creek, and future meeting room location for the committee. The WMO tour will be held on June 25 starting at 5:30 p.m.
- f. Carver County Leaders (CCL) Committee (Burandt; Sons alt.) – The next meeting will be held on June 25 at the Lake Waconia Regional Park. Burandt is not able to attend so Sons will plan to attend on behalf of the SWCD.
- g. South Fork Crow River 1W1P (Zabel; Wendland alt.) – Zabel gave the June 14 meeting report. The by-laws, policy, and work plan were all approved. Renville SWCD will be the fiscal agent and will handle all the financial contracts. Projects will be approved by local boards and then be passed on to Renville SWCD for payments. The next meeting will likely be next year sometime.
- h. The SWCD staff monthly progress report was presented and discussed.

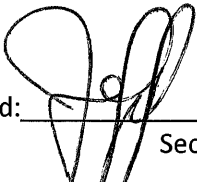
8. Board of Supervisors Announcements

- a. Second quarter compensation forms are due to Felicia no later than Monday, June 24.
- b. Upcoming meetings/events:
 - 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
 - July 4 – Independence Day, SWCD office closed
 - July 18 – SWCD Board meeting

9. Adjourn

Resolution 032-2024: Burandt moved, Sons seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:51 a.m. Roll call vote: Burandt-aye; Sons-aye; Wendland-aye; Zabel-aye; Zbinden-aye. Motion carried.

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

Approved:  _____ Date signed: July 18, 2024
 Secretary/Treasurer