



Carver County Water Management Organization Citizen Advisory Committee

- 1. Roll call**
- 2. Approval of the May 28, 2024, minutes**
- 3. Approval of the July 30, 2024, agenda**
- 4. Notes from the field**
 - a. No-wake ordinance
- 5. Business items**
 - a. WMO 2025 budget & levy recommendation
- 6. Information items & project updates**
 - a. Education program update
- 7. Next meeting**

September 24, 2024
- 8. Adjournment**

July 30, 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 ¹

MEETING OF THE
CARVER COUNTY WATER MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday May 28, 2024

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Attending virtually

<i>Jim Boettcher</i>	<i>Citizen representing Commissioner District 1</i>
<i>Nathan Lindall</i>	<i>Citizen representing Commissioner District 3</i>
<i>Mary Strother</i>	<i>Citizen, Bevans Creek</i>

Attending in person

<i>Carroll Aasen</i>	<i>Citizen, East & West Chaska Creek</i>
<i>Mike Lynch</i>	<i>Citizen representing Commissioner District 4</i>
<i>Michael Wegner</i>	<i>Citizen, Crow River</i>
<i>Kevin Zahler</i>	<i>Citizen representing Commissioner District 2</i>
<i>Stan Wendland</i>	<i>SWCD Board Representative</i>

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

<i>Lori Cox</i>	<i>Citizen representing Commissioner District 5</i>
<i>Marcus Zbinden</i>	<i>SWCD Board Representative alt</i>
<i>Kayla Pascoe</i>	<i>Citizen, Carver Creek</i>

STAFF PRESENT

<i>Madeline Seveland</i>	<i>Carver County Planning & Water Mgmt.</i>
<i>Paul Moline</i>	<i>Carver County Planning & Water Mgmt.</i>
<i>Tim Sundby</i>	<i>Carver County Planning & Water Mgmt.</i>
<i>Mike Wanous</i>	<i>Carver County Soil & Water Conservation District</i>
<i>Andy Edgcumbe</i>	<i>Carver County Planning & Water Mgmt.</i>

Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. by Chair Aasen.

- 1) Roll call completed.
- 2) Approval of the April 30, 2024, meeting minutes.
Lynch moved to approve the April 30, 2024, meeting minutes. Boettcher seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- 3) Approval of May 28, 2024, agenda.
Lynch moved to approve the April 30, 2024, agenda. Wegner seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- 4) Notes from the field

Andy Edgcumbe presented on expanded lake monitoring.

- Edgcumbe reviewed the parameters traditionally monitored in lakes including total phosphorus, chlorophyll-a, chloride, water transparency, temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, specific conductance, and water level.

Goals and process

- The expanded monitoring will study the impacts of nitrate on lake ecosystem. This is relatively new as not a lot of organizations are monitoring nitrates.
- Staff will monitor how nitrate compounds transition seasonally and annually over 2-3 years.
- The study will help staff characterize correlations between phytoplankton and zooplankton using both the existing data and new data collected.
- The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency will be assisting staff with interpreting results.
- Expanded monitoring will include the following parameters: nitrate and nitrite, dissolved organic carbon, phytoplankton communities, and zooplankton communities.
- Expanded monitoring will take place on the following lakes: Waconia, Bavaria, Hydes, Eagle, and Benton.
- Funding for expanded monitoring comes from a Monsanto settlement with Carver County.

Zahler inquired how zooplankton are measured. Edgcumbe responded staff use a Wisconsin net and a process similar to monitoring for zebra mussel larva or spiny water flea. Staff are looking at the different types of zooplankton and numbers compared to volume of water.

5) Business items

- **Lake Bavaria management plan**

Sundby reviewed the process and status of development of the Lake Bavaria Management Plan.

Lake management plan.

- A lake management plan sets goals, objectives, and actions to preserve a lake. The process encourages partnerships and a key portion of the process includes concerns identified by lakeshore residents.
- The plan is similar to developing a Total Maximum Daily Load report where staff must gather information on land use, aquatic vegetation, fish populations, and water quality data.
- Modeling of the lake is done to identify loading and hotspots (areas contributing more pollutants).
- The lake management plan is a living document and includes an implementation portion with action steps to meet goals.

Timing is right for development a lake management plan.

- There have been large changes in land use around the lake.

- Historical trends of phosphorus levels have been increasing.
- The lake became impaired for fish index of biological integrity. Threats to the lake affecting the low fish index of biological integrity score include riparian lakeshore development, excess nutrient impacts, and aquatic plant removal.
- Lake Bavaria is a priority lake and a regional asset for Carver County.

Stakeholder group process.

- Fall of 2023, the County conducted outreach inviting residents on and around Lake Bavaria to participate in a stakeholder group to develop the lake management plan.
- Seven citizens responded and participated in four meetings at which they identified concerns for the lake, a vision for the plan, 11 goals, 30 strategies for lake health and improvement, and 92 actions within those strategies.

Zahler inquired if there was a lake association on Lake Bavaria. Sundby responded there is and the stakeholder group is going to re-energize the lake association. Staff expect to partner with them on actions and education.

Zahler inquired how often fish surveys are done. Sundby responded that the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources does the intensive fish surveys every 10 years.

Sundby shared the next steps.

- Staff plan to complete a draft of the plan and bring it to the committee at the July 30 meeting.
- Once a plan is approved, staff will work to advance in-the-ground projects and work with the stakeholder group through various annual meetings, get togethers, and workshops.
- Data will be collected and reviewed to track the impact of actions.

Zahler inquired if there are aquatic invasive species present in Lake Bavaria. Sundby said the lake does not have zebra mussels but does have small populations of curlyleaf pondweed and Eurasian watermilfoil.

Boettcher inquired about the change in 2006-2007 when there was a large spike in phosphorus levels, and asked what could have caused the change if the lake didn't have any homeowners on it during that time. Sundby responded that it is tough to pinpoint why that happened. Looking at the land use, it could be a number of reasons including grading, agriculture, heavy rains washing sediment in, etc. After the spike, the concentrations did level back off. The changes in phosphorus levels from year to year is the reason that staff use the 10-year average trends to determine if a lake is impaired.

- **2025 Water levy**

Paul Moline presented on the 2025 WMO levy. He shared that tonight he is looking for a preliminary levy recommendation from the committee.

- The 2024 levy for the WMO was set at \$953,429 which was an increase of \$59,365 from 2023 and equaled a 6.64% levy increase and 4.2% tax impact on the average value home.

- Moline reviewed the boundaries of the WMO which includes most, but not all of Carver County. Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District, Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, Buffalo Watershed District, and Lower Minnesota River Watershed District all have boundaries within Carver County and set their own levies.

Factors influencing project costs in the water levy.

Moline reviewed the following factors that will impact the final project budget within the levy.

- City and other cost share request (3 projects)
- CCWMO project needs
- Subsurface sewage treatment system program funding
- Grant match requirements

Sundby reviewed the city cost share, WMO projects, and grant match requirements affecting the project budget.

City cost share requests

1. Chaska Seminary Fen C2 ravine.
 - Total project costs are \$1,008,000. The City of Chaska requested \$80,000 in WMO funds and is receiving \$600,000 in state grant funding.
 - WMO allocated \$50,000 to the project. The WMO plans to provide another \$50,000 in 2026.
2. Watertown SAFL baffles
 - Total project costs are \$111,206. The City of Watertown requested \$55,603.13 in WMO funds.
 - WMO allocated \$25,000 to the project. This amount was decided upon based on 50% of the direct costs of installing new sump pumps and baffles.
3. Norwood Young America SALF baffle
 - Total project costs \$48,062.50. The City of Norwood Young America request \$24,031.25 in WMO funds.
 - WMO allocated \$0 because the project has been pushed out to 2026. Additionally, there are two previous funded projects in the city that are not moving forward. When this project takes places, those funds can be reallocated toward it.

Funding the Chaska and Watertown projects requires a total of \$75,000 of WMO funds.

Next, Sundby reviewed the WMO projects.

1. Continuous Conservation Reserve Match state incentive grants.
 - This is a voluntary, federally funded, conservation program targeting environmentally sensitive land. The state is setting aside additional funding to help with this program.
 - Contracts are for 10-15 years.
 - WMO funds will be used to help supplement funds to get more projects in the ground.

2. Lake Bavaria sub-watershed assessment.

- This study was completed in 2022 and identified 29 projects within the lakeshed that could help improve the lake. Projects were ranked on cost per pound of phosphorus removed and ecological benefit.
- Funds would be used to move one of the projects identified forward while working with landowners and the stakeholder group.

Sundby reviewed the Watershed Based Implementation Funding projects.

Sundby briefly reviewed the five projects proposed to receive funding from the Watershed Based Implementation Funding grants. These projects were presented to the committee in full detail at the April meeting. The WMO's responsibility for these projects is \$65,000 in total. This total will be split, with \$35,000 going towards the projects in 2025, and the remaining \$30,000 going towards projects in 2026.

Sundby summarized that the total project funding budget request for 2025 is \$220,000. This total includes all present presented this evening, and also other grant matches, repair and maintenance line item, and the landowner cost share program funds for 2025.

Factors influencing operational costs in the water levy.

Moline presented on following factors influencing the operational cost portion of the WMO levy.

- County Board direction (tax household impact, staffing, salary and benefit projections). Current placeholder of 5%.
- County growth in the WMO (tax value).
- Other revenue sources (fees and cost recoveries, annual grants, local partner agreements, city match for projects).
- Soil & Water Conservation District allocation.
- Engineering expenses.

The proposed operation cost changes for fiscal year 2025 includes the following.

- An increase to staff costs, the WMO portion, of \$20,470.
- An increase to Soil & Water Conservation District allocation, the WMO portion, of \$9,055.
- Increase to the aquatic invasive species program of \$3,554.
- Increase engineering expenses budget of \$10,000.

Total operation costs changes are \$43,079.

Moline wrapped up the presentation re-stating that there was no increase to the 2025 water levy's project's budget, but an increase of \$43,079 to the levy's operations budget.

The preliminary WMO levy for 2025 is \$996,508. This is a 4.5% increase from the 2024 levy. Moline shared that he is looking for a recommendation from the committee on this preliminary levy. Moline

reviewed the budget review timeline for the rest of the year with the final levy being adopted in December.

Zahler inquired if the department feels understaffed or is struggling to fill positions. Moline said there has been some difficulty in filling positions, but that is more of an internal process issue. There are some permanent staff vacancies, but we are in the process of filling those and have good candidates. Zahler asked for clarification on key staff positions that had left this year. Moline responded two staff left in January. Staff are in the process of hiring for those positions. Zahler shared he is concerned with losing staff resources and wanting to make sure funding for staff is adequate. Moline responded that the WMO pays for part of staff salaries, but the other part is paid for by the Carver County general levy as set by the County Board. The WMO has to take input and direction from the Board into account when looking at staff salaries and increases.

Wegner inquired what the increase was last year for staff. Moline responded he wasn't sure without having the number in front of him. He thinks it was about 5% for staff salaries but can find the exact number for the committee.

Wendland moved to recommend the draft preliminary WMO levy of \$996,508 for the 2025 Carver County Water Management Organization. Strother seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Funding feasibility study**

Tim Sundby introduced the 2024 unallocated projects funds.

- This project fund exists to address urgent and unidentified projects and provide flexibility.
- The funds come from rollover from completed projects and non-starter projects. Non-starter projects are those that funds get set aside for but are not used.
- In 2023, there was a balance of \$43,140 in the funds that rolled into 2024. Additionally, two projects were finished that had rollover funds, and there were some staff vacancy funds which added \$28,505 to the fund.
- Total funds available - \$77,645.

Staff are proposing to use these funds for the Maplewood Road ravine feasibility study.

- A landowner from Maplewood Road approached staff last year about a ravine that goes through their property.
- The ravine is unstable and there is erosion that flows into Bevens Creek. The portion of Bevens Creek is a priority reach and has an approved Total Maximum Daily Load for turbidity.
- A ravine stabilization project would reduce sediment going into the creek and protect Maplewood Road.
- The feasibility study would cost \$25,000.

Wendland inquired if the bank above the ravine on the south and east side is unstable as well. Sundby responded potentially and showed the latest aerial photo. The area is pretty wooded with sandy soils which leads to unstable slopes and there some bare spots. Sundby showed the elevations of the area and what changes would need to happen on the land to stabilize the area.

Wendland inquired if staff looked at the project site in the field yet. Sundby said yes, WMO staff met with the Soil & Water Conservation District staff October 2023 and could see the active ravine and erosion.

Strother moved to approve funding the feasibility study. Lindall seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

- **Meeting room location**

Seveland informed the committee that updates to audio and video capabilities in the County Board now make the room an option for WMO Advisory Committee meetings. The committee previously met in this room, but switched to the EOC conference room when hybrid meetings were necessary as it was the only room set up with technology at that time.

She inquired if the committee preferred to use this room for future meetings or return to the EOC conference room. The committee discussed pros and cons of the holding WMO Advisory Committee meetings at the County Board Room or the EOC.

Wendland moved to make the County Board Room the official meeting room location for WMO Advisory Committee meetings. Lynch seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

6) Information items & project updates

Seveland asked the committee for tour stop ideas for the upcoming annual tour on June 25, 2024. The committee listed the following ideas.

- Lyman Blvd project
- Seminary Fen
- Landowner cost share projects
- Projects that recently received funding
- Ravine improvements around Chaska

Seveland informed the committee that Carver County was accepted as a host site for two GreenCorps member starting in September 2024. GreenCorps is a program of AmeriCorps that is managed by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and focuses on environmental focused service projects. One GreenCorps member will be working with the Environmental Services Department on composting programs, fix-it clinics and more. The other will be working with the Planning and Water Management Department on chloride education, native plant education, and stormwater best management practice inventorying.

Next meeting is the annual tour on June 25, 2024.

Meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.



Water Management Organization Advisory Committee

July 30, 2024 Meeting

Business Item

WMO 2025 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 WMO 2025 budget process is moving along. The WMO 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. The committee heard a draft recommendation for a 2025 WMO Levy in May. Staff is seeking an updated recommendation at this time.

Discussion Points:

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

Recommended WMO Advisory Committee Action:

- Recommendation on the proposed 2025 WMO budget and discussion.

Attachments:

- PowerPoint slides with updated 2025 budget information to be sent separately.



Carver County Water Management Organization Advisory Committee

Upcoming Meetings

Date	Meeting Type	Business Items
8/27/2024	Cancelled	n/a
9/24/2024	Regular	TBD
10/29/2024	Regular	TBD
11/26/2024	Regular	TBD

Upcoming Events

August 7-11	Carver County Fair	CCWMO will partner with Environmental Services to host a booth at the Carver County Fair. 2024 WMO booth themes focus on how lawn and landscaping practices can protect or pollute waters.
August 10	Starry Trek	Volunteers are needed on to search for starry stonewort, an aquatic invasive alga that can spread easily and form dense mats in lakes. Carver County is hosting a local event site at Waconia Regional Park. https://maisrc.umn.edu/starrytrek