



11360 Highway 212 STE 6  
Cologne, MN 55322  
(952) 466-5230

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

## Minutes of the September 19, 2024, Carver SWCD Board Meeting Held in Conference Room 1 at the Public Works Facility in Cologne, MN

### Board Members Present:

Vice Chair, Mark Zabel  
Secretary/Treasurer, Jeffrey Sons  
Member, Robert Burandt  
Member, Stanley Wendland

### Board Members Absent:

Chair, Marcus Zbinden

### Others Present:

NRCS Soil Conservation Technician, Cindy Hoffmann

### SWCD Staff Present:

District Manager, Mike Wanous  
Administrative & Finance Specialist, Felicia Brockoff  
Resource Conservationist, Terry Meiller  
Landscape Restoration Specialist, Seth Ristow (partial meeting)

### 1. Call to Order.

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

### 2. Public Comments – None.

### 3. Agenda Review and Adoption.

*Resolution 047-2024*: Sons moved, Burandt seconded, to approve the September 19, 2024, Revised Board Meeting Agenda as presented. Roll call vote: Burandt-aye; Sons-aye; Wendland-aye; Zabel-aye; Zbinden-absent. Motion carried.

### 4. Agency Reports

- a. Carver County report – Paul was unable to attend today but sent Mike an email of updates. The County Board set the preliminary levy at 8.9% increase, mostly due to an increased demand for salaries and benefit. It passed by a 3-2 vote from the Commissioners. The SWCD's 2025 proposed increase is set for 4.9%.

The Green Corp position has been filled, and the employee will start on September 23. This is an 11-month grant funded position working mostly on education issues. The Land Management department has hired an enforcement person, who will starting on September 30. This position will work on code enforcement and will work with the SWCD staff on WCA issues. Planning and Water Management will also have a vacant position filled in October, permitting assistance will be the main responsibilities of the position.

- b. NRCS report – Cindy reported that 21 EQIP applications have been received in Carver County before the September 6 deadline. CSP contract modifications were due by September 15. After

October 1, they can start issuing certifications and payments. All the CRP offers, status, and establishment reviews have been submitted to FSA. She also reported NRCS staff has attended a couple of cover crop field days, in both Carver and Scott counties. They will also be assisting Scott County with fall education days in the next few weeks.

- c. FSA Report – Olivia Gronholz sent a written report. Producers who incur milk losses due to H5N1 are eligible to apply for the Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP). Producers must certify fall-seeded crops by November 15. Producers who receive Emergency Relief Program (ERP) payments, need to meet ERP insurance requirements by purchasing crop insurance. Producers are also reminded to update their records with FSA, including bank accounts, addresses, phone numbers, entity shareholders, and land changes.

## 5. Consent Agenda Items

Resolution 048-2024: Wendland moved, Sons seconded to approve the following consent agenda items:

- a. Acceptance of the August 15, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes
- b. Approval of the August 2024 Treasurer's Report

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

## 6. Regular Agenda Items

- a. Jennifer Siewert is requesting approval of the multi-species cover crop incentive for the maximum of 50 acres. She established a cover crop mix in late August as preventative plant acres, with the cover crop being terminated in spring of 2025.

Resolution 049-2024: Sons moved, Burandt seconded to approve Jennifer Siewert's cover crop application on 50 acres, with a total incentive payment of \$3,000, funded from the Lake Waconia SWA Implementation WBIF grant (C21-1746). Roll call vote: Burandt-aye; Sons-aye; Wendland-aye; Zabel-aye; Zbinden-absent. Motion carried.

- b. Terry also explained the three additional cover crop contracts that have been received, and added to the Revised Agenda.
  - Jerry Beckrich planned to do 6 acres, but after attending the cover crop workshop on Monday, he's decided to plant 18 acres, having it flown on with a drone. His total incentive payment would be \$1,080.
  - Eichner Farms LLC is planning to seed 80 acres, and is eligible for the maximum payment of \$8,000. They are planning to do the 3-year soil health contract.
  - HyTest Ag LLC is also planning to seed 80 acres, and is eligible for the maximum payment of \$8,000. They too are planning to do the 3-year soil health contract.

Resolution 050-2024: Burandt moved, Sons seconded to approve Beckrich, Eichner Farms LLC, and HyTest Ag LLC applications, totaling \$17,080, funded from the Soil Health Delivery grant (P25-0489). Roll call vote: Burandt-aye; Sons-aye; Wendland-aye; Zabel-aye; Zbinden-absent. Motion carried.

- c. Ed Lind is requesting cost-share assistance to construct 2 WASCB (field terraces) in Young America township, section 2. These WASCB's were identified in the Eagle Lake sub-watershed assessment and would be funded from the Eagle Lake SWA implementation grant. The total cost-estimate is \$51,000 and Ed is eligible to receive 90% cost-share under this grant.

Resolution 051-2024: Sons moved, Wendland seconded to approve Ed Lind's cost-share assistance request to construct 2 WASCB's, total cost estimate of \$51,000, cost-sharing not to exceed \$45,900 (90%), funding to be used from P21-7506 Eagle Lake SWA Implementation. Roll call vote: Burandt-aye; Sons-aye; Wendland-aye; Zabel-aye; Zbinden-absent. Motion carried.

- d. Two landowners have recently completed their native plantings and have requested their cost-share reimbursements. Seth has inspected both projects and is recommending payment approval.
- Whitney Jacobs has replaced 710 square feet of turf grass with a native planting. Her total payment would be the maximum of \$710 (\$1/square foot).
  - Steve Gunther has replaced 475 square feet of turf grass along a shoreline, with a native planting. His total payment would be the program maximum of \$950 (\$2/square foot).

Resolution 052-2024: Wendland moved, Burandt seconded to cost-share reimbursements to Whitney Jacobs (\$710) and Steve Gunther (\$950), funding to be used from FY23 District Capacity grant. Roll call vote: Burandt-aye; Sons-aye; Wendland-aye; Zabel-aye; Zbinden-absent. Motion carried.

- e. Peterson Company Ltd. has issued the final Audit for 2023, there were no issues found. The total cost to conduct the audit was \$4,500.

Resolution 053-2024: Wendland moved, Burandt seconded to approve a payment of \$4,500 to Peterson Company Ltd. for the 2023 Audit. Roll call vote: Burandt-aye; Sons-aye; Wendland-aye; Zabel-aye; Zbinden-absent. Motion carried.

- f. Eric Hoesé's soil health contract was approved at the August 2024 meeting, total of \$3,000 funded from the P25-0489 Soil Health Delivery grant. That grant is already running low on funding, and Eric is in the Lake Waconia SWA area. Mike has contacted Jen Dullum, BWSR Board Conservationist, about changing the funding source for Hoesé's contract. The Board can change the funding source with a motion and majority vote.

Resolution 054-2024: Burandt moved, Sons seconded to reallocate Eric Hoesé's soil health contract for \$3,000 to the Lake Waconia SWA Implementation WBIF grant (C21-1746). Roll call vote: Burandt-aye; Sons-aye; Wendland-aye; Zabel-aye; Zbinden-absent. Motion carried.

- g. Jerome Bergmann has requested an AgBMP loan to purchase a Rubin 12 LEMKEN disc. Mike explained that the disc does mix and mulch the top 5" of the soil, but it does not leave a lot of residue on the surface of the field. The purpose of the AgBMP loan funds is to show a water quality benefit. After more discussion, the Board consensus was that this disc does not meet the SWCD's standards to increase water quality benefits. No action was taken.

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

- a. Personnel Committee (Zabel, Zbinden) – Ben Dattres' 8-year anniversary with the SWCD was August 29, while Tom Genelin's 4-year anniversary was September 14.
- b. Metro Conservation District's (MCD) Committee (Zbinden; Wendland alt.) – Mike reported on the August 28 meeting. The ETA program was discussed, as well as ratifying an application that

was sent to BWSR for grant funding for accelerated implementation dollars. It's a street sweeping enhancement plan for cities that would put together plans, that target certain areas where leaves in the fall should be swept or vacuumed up in a timely manner.

- c. Education & Outreach Committee (Sons, Wendland) – nothing to report.
- d. Budget Committee (Burandt, Sons) – Mike reported the allocation to the SWCD is not set to change at this point, it remains as a 4.9% proposed increase.
- e. WMO Advisory Committee (Wendland; Zbinden alt.) – The next meeting is September 24.
- f. Carver County Leaders (CCL) Committee (Burandt; Sons alt.) – nothing to report.
- g. South Fork Crow River 1W1P (Zabel; Wendland alt.) – nothing to report.
- h. The SWCD staff monthly progress report was presented and discussed. The draft new website was shown to the Board at this time. The home page current features a drone picture of a wetland restoration recently completed in Benton Township. The consensus was that the Board would like a photo that better represents Carver County on the home page.

Mike explained that he has spent a lot of time on the redetermination of benefits for ditches in Carver County this past month, including the public meeting that was attended by over 200 people.

**8. Board of Supervisors Announcements**

- a. Third quarter compensation forms are due.
- b. Upcoming meetings/events:
  - October 17 – SWCD Board meeting
  - November 7 – MASWCD Area 4 meeting
  - November 21 – SWCD Board meeting
  - December 3-4 – MASWCD Convention

**9. Adjourn**

Resolution 055-2024: Burandt moved, Sons seconded to adjourn the meeting at 10:37 a.m. Roll call vote: Burandt-aye; Sons-aye; Wendland-aye; Zabel-aye; Zbinden-absent. Motion carried.

**Next Board Meeting:** Thursday, October 17, 2024, at 8:00 AM  
**Location:** Public Works Headquarters, Conference Room 1  
 11360 Highway 212, Cologne, MN 55322

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Date signed: October 17, 2024  
 Secretary/Treasurer

**Carver Soil & Water Conservation District**  
**Treasurer's Report**  
**As of September 30, 2024**

Date	Num	Name	Memo	Debit	Credit	Balance
<b>1000 Checking-Security Bank</b>						26,193.19
09/03/2024	2024-27	Shift4 Payments CC Fee	Credit Card Terminal Fees		16.50	26,176.69
09/05/2024	3690	NCPERS Group Life Ins.	910300-092024		16.00	26,160.69
09/05/2024	3688	Elan Financial Services	1335		145.58	26,015.11
09/05/2024	3689	HSA Bank	#W561039 August Fees		12.50	26,002.61
09/10/2024			Funds Transfer-435753708	25,000.00		51,002.61
09/12/2024		QuickBooks Payroll Serv...	Created by Payroll Service on 09/04/2024		16,122.75	34,879.86
09/13/2024	DD1016	Brockoff, Felicia L.	Direct Deposit	0.00		34,879.86
09/13/2024	DD1017	Datres, Benjamin R.	Direct Deposit	0.00		34,879.86
09/13/2024	DD1018	Genelin, Thomas M.	Direct Deposit	0.00		34,879.86
09/13/2024	DD1019	Meiller, Terry J.	Direct Deposit	0.00		34,879.86
09/13/2024	DD1020	Polster, Tyler J.	Direct Deposit	0.00		34,879.86
09/13/2024	DD1021	Ristow, Seth E.	Direct Deposit	0.00		34,879.86
09/13/2024	DD1022	Wanous, Richard M.	Direct Deposit	0.00		34,879.86
09/13/2024	EFT-723	HSA Bank	41-1385530		867.00	34,012.86
09/13/2024	EFT-724	Minnesota Revenue	7694248		1,044.00	32,968.86
09/13/2024	EFT-725	MSRS	Employee Elective		750.00	32,218.86
09/13/2024	EFT-726	PERA	9103-00		3,388.13	28,830.73
09/13/2024	EFT-727	US Treasury IRS	41-1385530		5,654.44	23,176.29
09/18/2024			Deposit-RPBCWD & Drill Rental	10,095.00		33,271.29
09/23/2024	3691	Cost-Share Payments	Gunther Shoreline Restoration		950.00	32,321.29
09/23/2024	3692	Cost-Share Payments	Jacobs Pollinator Habitat		710.00	31,611.29
09/23/2024	3693	Peterson Company, Ltd.	2023 Audit Fee		4,500.00	27,111.29
09/23/2024	3694	Freshwater Society	2025 Weatherguide Wall Calendars		74.70	27,036.59
09/24/2024	0924-INS	Carver County	September Insurance	0.00		27,036.59
09/24/2024			Funds Transfer-437608008	35,000.00		62,036.59
09/25/2024		QuickBooks Payroll Serv...	Created by Direct Deposit Service on 09/24/2...		1.75	62,034.84
09/25/2024			Deposit-Drill Rentals	742.00		62,776.84
09/26/2024	EFT-728	Carver County	PW-6897 & September Insurance		10,431.16	52,345.68
09/27/2024		QuickBooks Payroll Serv...	Created by Payroll Service on 09/24/2024		18,207.96	34,137.72
09/30/2024	DD1027	Brockoff, Felicia L.	Direct Deposit	0.00		34,137.72
09/30/2024	DD1028	Datres, Benjamin R.	Direct Deposit	0.00		34,137.72
09/30/2024	DD1029	Genelin, Thomas M.	Direct Deposit	0.00		34,137.72
09/30/2024	DD1030	Meiller, Terry J.	Direct Deposit	0.00		34,137.72
09/30/2024	DD1031	Polster, Tyler J.	Direct Deposit	0.00		34,137.72
09/30/2024	DD1032	Ristow, Seth E.	Direct Deposit	0.00		34,137.72
09/30/2024	DD1033	Wanous, Richard M.	Direct Deposit	0.00		34,137.72
09/30/2024	DD1023	Burandt, Robert L.	Direct Deposit	0.00		34,137.72
09/30/2024	3695	Sons, Jeffrey R.	Q3 Compensation		437.37	33,700.35
09/30/2024	DD1024	Wendland, Stanley P.	Direct Deposit	0.00		33,700.35
09/30/2024	DD1025	Zabel, Mark A.	Direct Deposit	0.00		33,700.35
09/30/2024	DD1026	Zbinden, Marcus R.	Direct Deposit	0.00		33,700.35
09/30/2024	EFT-729	HSA Bank	41-1385530		867.00	32,833.35
09/30/2024	EFT-730	Minnesota Revenue	7694248		1,044.00	31,789.35
09/30/2024	EFT-731	MSRS	Employee Elective		750.00	31,039.35
09/30/2024	EFT-732	PERA	9103-00		3,445.63	27,593.72
09/30/2024	EFT-733	US Treasury IRS	41-1385530		5,896.72	21,697.00
09/30/2024	EFT-734	MN Dept. of Rev. Sales ...	Third Quarter		37.00	21,660.00
09/30/2024			Interest	0.58		21,660.58
Total 1000 Checking-Security Bank				70,837.58	75,370.19	21,660.58
<b>1100 Savings-Security Bank</b>						286,606.63
09/10/2024			Funds Transfer-435753708		25,000.00	261,606.63
09/16/2024			Deposit-Buffer Grant	20,000.00		281,606.63
09/24/2024			Funds Transfer-437608008		35,000.00	246,606.63
09/30/2024			Interest	322.76		246,929.39
Total 1100 Savings-Security Bank				20,322.76	60,000.00	246,929.39
<b>1110 Member Savings-SouthPoint</b>						10.00
Total 1110 Member Savings-SouthPoint						10.00
<b>1150 Savings Citizens NYA</b>						80,901.12
09/30/2024			Interest	123.02		81,024.14
Total 1150 Savings Citizens NYA				123.02	0.00	81,024.14
<b>1200 Investments CD's</b>						624,332.61
12.MCB **766 (5.15%-11/14/24)						103,530.00

**Carver Soil & Water Conservation District  
Treasurer's Report  
As of September 30, 2024**

Date	Num	Name	Memo	Debit	Credit	Balance
		Total 12.MCB **766 (5.15%-11/14/24)				103,530.00
		<b>12.MCB**557 (5.15%-11/28/24)</b>				103,530.00
		Total 12.MCB**557 (5.15%-11/28/24)				103,530.00
		<b>12.SB&amp;T **162 (5.00%-01/13/25)</b>				53,185.11
		Total 12.SB&T **162 (5.00%-01/13/25)				53,185.11
		<b>12.SB&amp;T **187 (5.00%-02/07/25)</b>				153,694.89
		Total 12.SB&T **187 (5.00%-02/07/25)				153,694.89
		<b>12.ONB**918 (4.75%-9/01/24)</b>				103,518.84
09/03/2024	2024-28		Interest Earned on CD *918 (Renewed to *528)	2,852.29		106,371.13
		Total 12.ONB**918 (4.75%-9/01/24)		2,852.29	0.00	106,371.13
		<b>12.SPCU**871 (4.9%-05/22/25)</b>				106,873.77
		Total 12.SPCU**871 (4.9%-05/22/25)				106,873.77
		Total 1200 Investments CD's		2,852.29	0.00	627,184.90
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>94,135.65</b>	<b>135,370.19</b>	<b>976,809.01</b>



11360 Highway 212 STE 6

Cologne, MN 55322

Phone: (952) 466-5230

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

## Treasurer's Monthly Report Program Summary - September 2024

	Cash Balance <u>8/31/2024</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Disbursements</u>	Cash Balance <u>9/30/2024</u>
<b><u>Funds</u></b>				
BWSR CRP Incentive Grant	\$0.00			\$0.00
BWSR Buffer Implementation	\$28,762.80	\$20,000.00		\$48,762.80
BWSR Conservation Delivery	\$0.00			\$0.00
BWSR District Capacity	\$66,210.23		\$1,660.00	\$64,550.23
BWSR Soil Health Cost-Share	\$20,000.00			\$20,000.00
BWSR State Cost Share	\$54,949.30			\$54,949.30
BWSR WBIF (Waconia & Eagle)	\$36,054.05			\$36,054.05
SWCD Operating Funds	\$712,896.17	\$14,135.65	\$73,710.19	\$653,321.63
District Escrow	\$99,171.00			\$99,171.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>\$1,018,043.55</u></b>	<b><u>\$34,135.65</u></b>	<b><u>\$75,370.19</u></b>	<b><u>\$976,809.01</u></b>
<b><u>Use of Cash</u></b>				
1000 Checking Security Bank	\$26,193.19	\$70,837.58	\$75,370.19	\$21,660.58
1100 Savings-Security Bank	\$286,606.63	\$20,322.76	\$60,000.00	\$246,929.39
1110 Savings-South Point CU	\$10.00			\$10.00
1150 Savings-Citizens NYA	\$80,901.12	\$123.02		\$81,024.14
1200 Investments CD's	\$624,332.61	\$2,852.29		\$627,184.90
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>\$1,018,043.55</u></b>	<b><u>\$94,135.65</u></b>	<b><u>\$135,370.19</u></b>	<b><u>\$976,809.01</u></b>

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 Carver SWCD Board Treasurer

10/17/2024

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 Date

## Carver Soil & Water Conservation District Balance Sheet

As of September 30, 2024

	Sep 30, 24
<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>	
<b>Checking/Savings</b>	
1000 Checking-Security Bank	21,660.58
1100 Savings-Security Bank	246,929.39
1110 Member Savings-SouthPoint	10.00
1150 Savings Citizens NYA	81,024.14
1200 Investments CD's	
12.MCB **766 (5.15%-11/14/24)	103,530.00
12.MCB**557 (5.15%-11/28/24)	103,530.00
12.SB&T **162 (5.00%-01/13/25)	53,185.11
12.SB&T **187 (5.00%-02/07/25)	153,694.89
12.ONB**918 (4.75%-9/01/24)	106,371.13
12.SPCU**871 (4.9%-05/22/25)	106,873.77
<b>Total 1200 Investments CD's</b>	<b>627,184.90</b>
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	<b>976,809.01</b>
<b>Accounts Receivable</b>	
1300 Accounts Receivable	180.00
<b>Total Accounts Receivable</b>	<b>180.00</b>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>976,989.01</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>976,989.01</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
<b>Liabilities</b>	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
<b>Other Current Liabilities</b>	
2300 Sales Tax Payable	-0.68
2400 Unearned-Deferred Revenue	
2402 Buffer Implementation	48,762.80
2405 Cost-Share	54,949.30
2406 District Capacity Funds	64,550.23
2407 Soil Health Grants	20,000.00
2408 WBIF Grants	36,054.05
<b>Total 2400 Unearned-Deferred Revenue</b>	<b>224,316.38</b>
<b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>	<b>224,315.70</b>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>224,315.70</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>224,315.70</b>
<b>Equity</b>	
3000 FUND BALANCE	777,922.62
Net Income	-25,249.31
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>752,673.31</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>976,989.01</b>



**Carver Soil & Water Conservation District**  
**Budget vs. Actual**  
January through September 2024

	Jan - Sep 24	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
<b>Income</b>				
<b>4000 Intergovernmental County</b>				
4010 Annual Allocation	410,091.00	546,800.00	-136,709.00	75.0%
4020 CCWMO Projects	0.00	10,000.00	-10,000.00	0.0%
4030 Ditches/Misc. County Rev.	0.00	7,500.00	-7,500.00	0.0%
4040 WCA Services	0.00	10,000.00	-10,000.00	0.0%
<b>Total 4000 Intergovernmental County</b>	410,091.00	574,300.00	-164,209.00	71.4%
<b>4100 Intergovernmental Local</b>				
4110 Cities, WD, LGU Revenue	9,735.00	12,500.00	-2,765.00	77.9%
4120 MCD, MACD Revenue	11,548.03	35,000.00	-23,451.97	33.0%
<b>Total 4100 Intergovernmental Local</b>	21,283.03	47,500.00	-26,216.97	44.8%
<b>4200 Intergovernmental State</b>				
4202 Buffer Implementation	20,653.91			
4204 Conservation Delivery	22,080.82			
4205 Cost-Share	2,857.50			
4206 District Capacity Funds	38,433.90			
4210 RIM Misc. Income	10,150.00			
4212 SWCD Aid	83,190.77			
4200 Intergovernmental State - Other	0.00	369,000.00	-369,000.00	0.0%
<b>Total 4200 Intergovernmental State</b>	177,366.90	369,000.00	-191,633.10	48.1%
<b>4300 Charges for Services</b>				
4320 Great Plains Drill Rental				
4320.1 Tax Exempt Drill Rent	3,306.10			
4320 Great Plains Drill Rental - Other	600.00	6,000.00	-5,400.00	10.0%
<b>Total 4320 Great Plains Drill Rental</b>	3,906.10	6,000.00	-2,093.90	65.1%
4330 Tree & Native Seed Sales	25,714.74	25,000.00	714.74	102.9%
<b>Total 4300 Charges for Services</b>	29,620.84	31,000.00	-1,379.16	95.6%
<b>4400 Interest Earnings</b>	14,477.25	17,500.00	-3,022.75	82.7%
<b>4500 Miscellaneous Revenues</b>	2,273.16	7,500.00	-5,226.84	30.3%
<b>Total Income</b>	655,112.18	1,046,800.00	-391,687.82	62.6%
<b>Expense</b>				
<b>5000 District Operations</b>				
<b>5100 Personnel Services</b>				
5101 Payroll Expenses	452,838.23	591,640.00	-138,801.77	76.5%
5102 Payroll Fees	746.25	550.00	196.25	135.7%
5103 SWCD - FICA/Medicare	32,759.14	45,260.00	-12,500.86	72.4%
5104 SWCD - Insurance Ben.	80,721.45	100,000.00	-19,278.55	80.7%
5105 SWCD - PERA & DCP	32,920.74	43,623.00	-10,702.26	75.5%
<b>Total 5100 Personnel Services</b>	599,985.81	781,073.00	-181,087.19	76.8%
<b>5200 Other Services &amp; Charges</b>				
5201 Dues	8,327.92	9,000.00	-672.08	92.5%
5202 Education & Promotion	474.70	5,000.00	-4,525.30	9.5%
5203 Employee Expense	1,247.40	5,000.00	-3,752.60	24.9%
5204 Equipment Repairs	0.00	1,000.00	-1,000.00	0.0%
5205 MCIT Insurance Coverage	13,900.76	14,000.00	-99.24	99.3%
5206 Mileage	854.65	2,000.00	-1,145.35	42.7%
5207 Office Operations/Misc.	5,014.36	10,000.00	-4,985.64	50.1%
5208 Professional Services	4,500.00	3,750.00	750.00	120.0%
5209 Supervisor Expenses	105.77	2,500.00	-2,394.23	4.2%

## Carver Soil &amp; Water Conservation District

## Budget vs. Actual

January through September 2024

	Jan - Sep 24	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
<b>5220 Vehicle/Equipment Expenses</b>				
1727 [2017 Explorer-Squad]	269.27			
1410 [2015 GMC 1500]	914.23			
1714 [2018 Ford Explorer]	688.89			
2308 [2023 Dodge Ram 3500]	465.12			
4403 [2004 F250 MnDOT]	390.65			
5221 Great Plains Drill	150.56			
5220 Vehicle/Equipment Expenses - Other	0.00	6,000.00	-6,000.00	0.0%
<b>Total 5220 Vehicle/Equipment Expenses</b>	<b>2,878.72</b>	<b>6,000.00</b>	<b>-3,121.28</b>	<b>48.0%</b>
<b>Total 5200 Other Services &amp; Charges</b>	<b>37,304.28</b>	<b>58,250.00</b>	<b>-20,945.72</b>	<b>64.0%</b>
<b>5300 Supplies - Office &amp; Field</b>	<b>157.65</b>	<b>3,500.00</b>	<b>-3,342.35</b>	<b>4.5%</b>
<b>5400 Capital Outlay</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>40,000.00</b>	<b>-40,000.00</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>Total 5000 District Operations</b>	<b>637,447.74</b>	<b>882,823.00</b>	<b>-245,375.26</b>	<b>72.2%</b>
<b>6000 Project Expenses</b>				
<b>6100 District Projects</b>				
6113 ETA/Misc. MCD Reimb.	6,423.50			
6114 Tree Program Expenses	20,836.25			
6100 District Projects - Other	0.00	60,000.00	-60,000.00	0.0%
<b>Total 6100 District Projects</b>	<b>27,259.75</b>	<b>60,000.00</b>	<b>-32,740.25</b>	<b>45.4%</b>
<b>6200 State Projects</b>				
6221 Cost-Share Projects	2,857.50			
<b>6222 District Capacity</b>				
6222.03 Pollinator Program	1,660.00			
6222 District Capacity - Other	11,136.50			
<b>Total 6222 District Capacity</b>	<b>12,796.50</b>			
<b>6200 State Projects - Other</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>103,977.00</b>	<b>-103,977.00</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>Total 6200 State Projects</b>	<b>15,654.00</b>	<b>103,977.00</b>	<b>-88,323.00</b>	<b>15.1%</b>
<b>Total 6000 Project Expenses</b>	<b>42,913.75</b>	<b>163,977.00</b>	<b>-121,063.25</b>	<b>26.2%</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>680,361.49</b>	<b>1,046,800.00</b>	<b>-366,438.51</b>	<b>65.0%</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-25,249.31</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>-25,249.31</b>	<b>100.0%</b>



# REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

## Regular Agenda

Meeting Date: October 17, 2024

Prepared by: Terry Meiller

**PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED:**

Approve cover crop incentive contracts for Wellens Agronomics LLC, and Andy Stuewe.

**SUMMARY:**

The following cover crop contracts have been received and reviewed by staff:

Mike Wellens, Wellens Agronomics LLC, is requesting approval of the single species cover crop and no-till incentive for the 50 acres maximum. The total incentive payment amount will be \$4,500.

Andy Stuewe is requesting approval of the single species cover crop incentive for 18 acres. The total incentive amount will be \$900.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends approval of the cover crop incentive contracts.

**EXPLANATION OF FISCAL/FTE IMPACT:**

Funding is available from the Soil Health Delivery Grant/SWCD Aid

**Supporting Documents:**

Fact Sheet and maps attached

**Previous Board Action:**

None



# Project Fact Sheet

## Wellens Agronomics, LLC

Dahlgren Township      Cover Crops (340)

### Cooperator and Location

*Name*                      Mike Wellens  
*Address*                  5845 Mt Carmel Road  
*City/Twp.*                Carver, MN 55315  
*Watershed*              Carver Creek

### Project Details

*Practice*                  Cover Crops (340)  
*Quantity*                 50 Acres  
*Project ID*                2024-11  
*Planting Date*          November, 2024

### Funding

*Grant*                      Soil Health Delivery

*Total Incentive*        \$4,500.00  
*Payment*

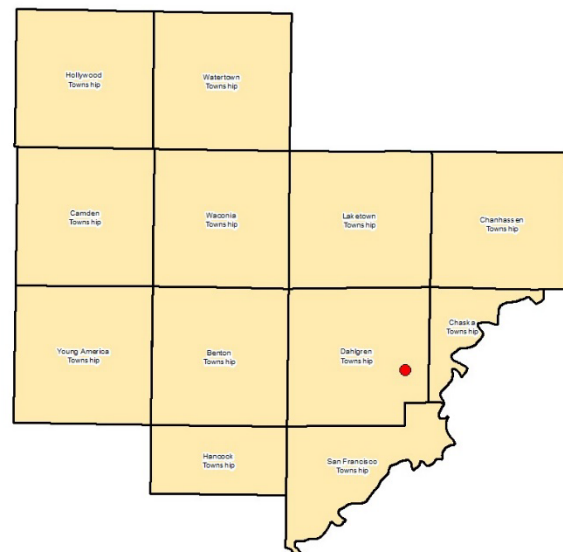
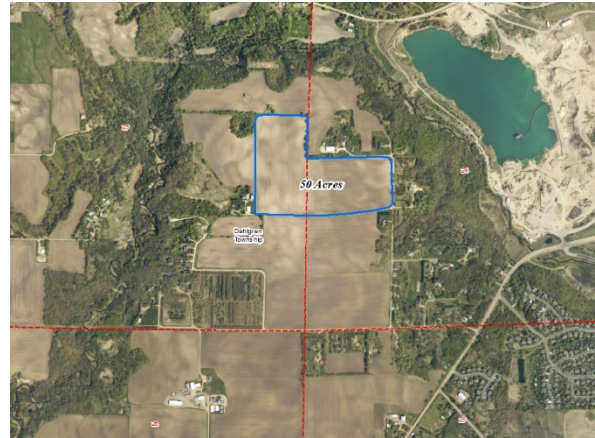
### Project Overview

Mike Wellens is establishing a cover crop mix of Winter cereal rye on 50 acres.

The cover crop mix will be planted in November following corn harvest on 50 acres. The cover crop will not be terminated until spring of 2025, prior to establishing a cash crop of soybeans. Soybeans will be no-till planted.

### Environmental Benefits

Reduce Soil Loss and Erosion  
Improve Water Quality  
Improve Soil Health and Soil Tilth





# Project Fact Sheet

## Andy Stuewe

Young America Township

Cover Crops (340)

### Cooperator and Location

*Name* Andy Stuewe  
*Address* 15335 Martha St  
*City/Twp.* Hamburg, MN 55339  
*Watershed* Bevens Creek

### Project Details

*Practice* Cover Crops (340)  
*Quantity* 18 Acres  
*Project ID* 2024-12  
*Planting Date* November, 2024

### Funding

*Grant* Soil Health/SWCD Aid

*Total Incentive Payment* \$900.00

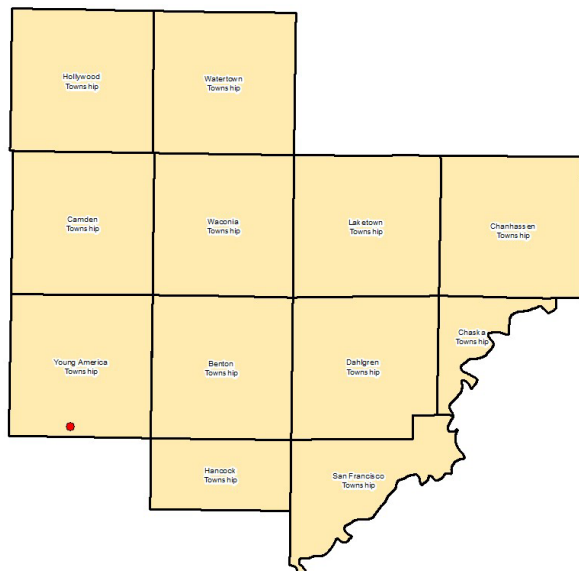
### Project Overview

Andy Stuewe is establishing a cover crop mix of Winter Triticale on 60 acres.

The cover crop mix will be planted on 60 acres after harvesting corn silage. The cover crop will not be terminated until spring of 2025, prior to establishing a cash crop of soybeans.

### Environmental Benefits

- Reduce Soil Loss and Erosion
- Improve Water Quality
- Improve Soil Health and Soil Tilth





## REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

### Regular Agenda

Meeting Date: October 17, 2024

Prepared by: Terry Meiller

#### **PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED:**

Approve cost-share contract with William Dunbar for restoring wetland basins on newly enrolled CRP acres.

#### **SUMMARY:**

William Dunbar is enrolling 48.5 acres into the CRP program and will be restoring several small wetland basins. This project will include construction of earthen embankments, sediment removal, and tile breaks/blocks to restore 5 small basins. This project was identified in the Eagle Lake subwatershed assessment to reduce sediment and phosphorus transport to Eagle Lake.

The project is located in the Eagle Lake watershed and funding for the project would come from the Eagle Lake SWA grant.

#### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends approval of the cost-share request.

#### **EXPLANATION OF FISCAL/FTE IMPACT:**

Funding is available from the Eagle Lake SWA Grant

#### **Supporting Documents:**

Fact Sheet attached

#### **Previous Board Action:**

None



# Project Fact Sheet

## Bill Dunbar

Young America Twp.  
Sec. 03 & 10

Wetland Restorations  
(657)

### Cooperator and Location

*Name* Bill Dunbar  
*Address* 16150 County Road 34  
NYA, MN 55368  
*City/Twp.* Young America – Sec. 03 & 10  
*Watershed* South Fork Crow River

### Project Details

*Practice* Wetland Restoration (657)  
*Quantity* 5 basins in total  
*Project ID* EGL-SWA-02  
*Construction* Fall of 2024

### Funding

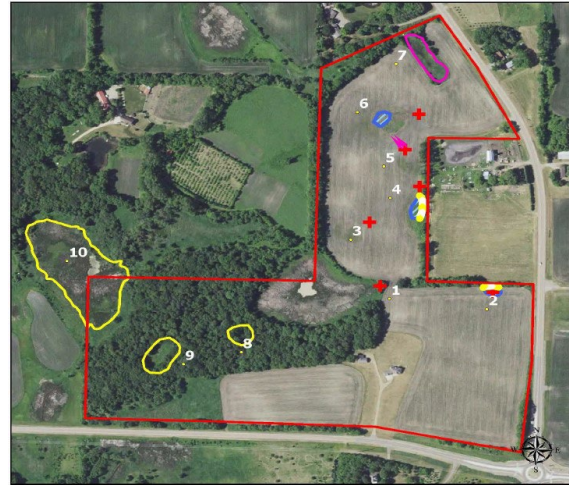
*Grant* Eagle Lake SWA  
*Cost Estimate* **\$15,595.00**  
*Cost-Share* \$14,035.50 (90% of total)  
*Landowner Cost* \$1,559.50

### Project Overview

The purpose of this project is to restore multiple wetland basins which will include the construction of earthen berms, tile breaks/blocks, and sediment removal (scrapes). This project was identified in the Eagle Lake subwatershed assessment to reduce sediment and phosphorus transport from the intermittent ditches, sub-surface tile systems and road culverts. In addition to the wetland restoration, 48.5 acres of cropland will be seeded to native grasses as upland buffer.

### Environmental Benefits

<i>Parameter</i>	<i>Saved</i>
Soil Erosion (tons per year)	<b>9.2</b>
Sediment (tons per year)	<b>9.6</b>
Phosphorus (pounds per year)	<b>8.8</b>





# REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

## Regular Agenda

**Meeting Date:** October 17, 2024

**Prepared by:** Mike Wanous

**PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED:**

Approve the District Manager to sign the Buffer Law Implementation grant agreement with BWSR.

**SUMMARY:**

BWSR has sent the 2025 Buffer Law Implementation grant agreement that needs to be approved and signed. The grant amount is \$20,000 and helps to pay for SWCD staff time to conduct buffer compliance checks and follow up. The grant expiration date is December 31, 2027.

The grant agreement was sent in DocuSign and the recommendation is to authorize the District Manager to sign the grant agreement.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends approval for the signing the grant agreement.

**EXPLANATION OF FISCAL/FTE IMPACT:**

Included in the budget.

**Supporting Documents:**

Grant agreement

**Previous Board Action:**

None





**FY 2025 STATE OF MINNESOTA  
BOARD OF WATER and SOIL RESOURCES  
BUFFER IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS PROGRAM  
GRANT AGREEMENT**

<b>Vendor:</b>	0000192555
<b>PO#:</b>	3000017787

This Grant Agreement is between the State of Minnesota, acting through its Board of Water and Soil Resources (Board) and Carver SWCD, 11360 Highway 212, Suite 6, Cologne MN 55322 (Grantee).

Grant ID	Grant Title	Awarded Amt
P25-0578	2025 - Buffer Law (Carver SWCD)	\$20,000.00

**Total Grant Awarded: \$20,000.00**

**Recitals**

1. The Laws of Minnesota 2023, Regular Session, Chapter 40, Article 2, Section 6(e) appropriated funds to the Board for the FY 2025 Buffer Implementation Grants.
2. The Board adopted Board Order #23-53 to authorize and allocate funds for the FY 2025 Buffer Implementation Grants.
3. The Grantee has submitted a Board approved work plan for this program, referenced in 2.1.
4. The Grantee represents that it is duly qualified and agrees to perform all services described in this Grant Agreement to the satisfaction of the Board.
5. As a condition of the grant, Grantee agrees to minimize administration costs.

**Authorized Representative**

The State’s Authorized Representative is Marcey Westrick, Central Region Manager, BWSR, 520 Lafayette Road North, Saint Paul, MN 55155, (651) 284--4153, or her successor, and has the responsibility to monitor the Grantee’s performance and the authority to accept the services and performance provided under this Grant Agreement.

The Grantee’s Authorized Representative is:

**TITLE** Manager, Carver SWCD  
**ADDRESS** 11360 Hwy 212  
**CITY** Cologne, MN 55322  
**TELEPHONE NUMBER** 952-466-5230

If the Grantee’s Authorized Representative changes at any time during this Grant Agreement, the Grantee must immediately notify the Board.

**Grant Agreement**

1. **Terms of the Grant Agreement.**
  - 1.1. **Effective date:** The date the Board obtains all required signatures under Minn. Stat. § 16B.98, Subd. 5. **The Board will notify the Grantee when this Grant Agreement has been executed. The Grantee must not begin work under this Grant Agreement until it is executed.**
  - 1.2. **Expiration date:** **December 31, 2027** or until all obligations have been satisfactorily fulfilled, whichever comes first.
  - 1.3. **Survival of Terms:** The following clauses survive the expiration date or cancellation of this Grant Agreement: 7. Liability; 8. State Audits; 9. Government Data Practices; 12. Governing Law, Jurisdiction, and Venue; 14. Data Disclosure; and 19. Intellectual Property Rights.

## 2. Grantee's Duties.

The Grantee will comply with required grants management policies and procedures set forth through Minn. Stat. § 16B.97, Subd. 4(a)(1). The Grantee is responsible for the specific duties for the Program as follows:

- 2.1. **Implementation:** The Grantee will implement their Board approved work plan. The work plan will be implemented according to the Program Requirements outlined in Exhibit A, which is attached and incorporated into this Grant Agreement.
- 2.2. **Reporting:** All data and information provided in a Grantee's report shall be considered public.
  - 2.2.1. The Grantee will submit an annual progress report to the Board by February 1 of each year on the status of Program implementation by the Grantee. Information provided must conform to the requirements and formats set by the Board.
  - 2.2.2. All individual grants over \$500,000 require a reporting expenditure by June 30 of each year.
  - 2.2.3. Final Progress Report: The Grantee will submit a final progress report to the Board by February 1, 2028, or within 30 days of fully expending funds, whichever occurs sooner. Information provided must conform to the requirements and formats set by the Board.

## 3. Time.

The Grantee must comply with all the time requirements described in this Grant Agreement. In the performance of this Grant Agreement, time is of the essence.

## 4. Terms of Payment.

- 4.1. All grant funds will be distributed in one installment promptly after the execution of the Grant Agreement.
- 4.2. All costs must be incurred within the grant period. All incurred costs should be calculated or determined before the final report is completed or returning funds.
- 4.3. Unspent grant funds must be returned within 30 days of the expiration date of the Grant Agreement.
- 4.4. Once final reporting has been completed funds may not be re-requested as funds may not be available.
- 4.5. The obligation of the State under this Grant Agreement will not exceed the amount listed above.
- 4.6. This grant is an advance payment. Advance payments allow the Grantee to have adequate operating capital for start-up costs, ensure their financial commitment to landowners and contractors, and to better schedule work into the future.

## 5. Conditions of Payment.

All services provided by the Grantee under this Grant Agreement must be performed to the Board's satisfaction, as set forth in this Grant Agreement. Compliance will be determined at the sole discretion of the Board's Authorized Representative and in accordance with all applicable federal, State, and local laws, policies, ordinances, rules, and regulations. The Grantee will not receive payment, may be required to repay grant funds, or may have future payments withheld if work is found by the Board to be unsatisfactory or performed in violation of federal, State, or local law. Costs charged to the grant must be direct and necessary to produce the outcomes funded by the grant. Charges to the grant must be itemized and documented.

## 6. Assignment, Amendments, Work Plan Revisions, and Waiver.

- 6.1. **Assignment.** The Grantee may neither assign nor transfer any rights or obligations under this Grant Agreement without the prior consent of the Board and a fully executed Assignment Agreement, executed and approved by the same parties who executed and approved this Grant Agreement, or their successors in office.
- 6.2. **Amendments and Work Plan Revisions.** Any amendments to this Grant Agreement must be in writing and will not be effective until approved and executed by the same parties who approved and executed the original Grant Agreement, or their successors in office. Amendments must be executed prior to the expiration of the original Grant Agreement or any amendments thereto. All work plan revisions must be documented. The Board reserves the right to require a work plan revision or grant agreement amendment for changes in the scope of the grant.
  - 6.2.1. Board approval is required of work plan revisions on grants less than \$50,000 if the cumulative budget adjustment is greater than \$5,000; on grants \$50,000 to \$500,000 if the cumulative budget adjustment is greater than 10% of the total grant amount; on grants greater than \$500,000 if the cumulative budget adjustment is greater than \$50,000.
  - 6.2.2. An amendment to the Grant Agreement is required on grants less than \$50,000 if the cumulative budget adjustment is equal to or greater than \$20,000; on grants \$50,000 to \$500,000 if the cumulative budget adjustment is equal to or greater than 40% of the total grant amount; on grants greater than \$500,000 if the cumulative budget adjustment is equal to or greater than \$200,000.
  - 6.2.3. Revisions that do not meet the thresholds identified in 6.2.1. or 6.2.2. are permitted without prior approval from the Board provided that such revision is documented and that the total obligation of the Board for all compensation and reimbursements to the Grantee shall not exceed the total grant award amount.

6.3. **Waiver.** If the Board fails to enforce any provision of this Grant Agreement, that failure does not waive the provision or its right to enforce it.

7. **Liability.**

The Grantee must indemnify, save, and hold the State, its agents, and employees harmless from any claims or causes of action, including attorney's fees incurred by the State, arising from the performance of this Grant Agreement by the Grantee or the Grantee's agents or employees. This clause will not be construed to bar any legal remedies the Grantee may have for the State's failure to fulfill its obligations under this Grant Agreement.

8. **State Audits.**

Under Minn. Stat. § 16B.98, Subd. 8, the Grantee's books, records, documents, and accounting procedures and practices of the Grantee or other party relevant to this Grant Agreement or transaction are subject to examination by the Board and/or the State Auditor or Legislative Auditor, as appropriate, for a minimum of six years from the end of this Grant Agreement, receipt and approval of all final reports, or the required period of time to satisfy all State and program retention requirements, whichever is later.

8.1. The books, records, documents, accounting procedures and practices of the Grantee and its designated local units of government and contractors relevant to this grant, may be examined at any time by the Board or Board's designee and are subject to verification. The Grantee or delegated local unit of government will maintain records relating to the receipt and expenditure of grant funds.

9. **Government Data Practices.**

The Grantee and State must comply with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, Minn. Stat. Ch. 13, as it applies to all data provided by the State under this Grant Agreement, and as it applies to all data created, collected, received, stored, used, maintained, or disseminated by the Grantee under this Grant Agreement. The civil remedies of Minn. Stat. § 13.08 apply to the release of the data referred to in this clause by either the Grantee or the State.

10. **Workers' Compensation.**

The Grantee certifies that it is in compliance with Minn. Stat. § 176.181, Subd. 2, pertaining to workers' compensation insurance coverage. The Grantee's employees and agents will not be considered State employees. Any claims that may arise under the Minnesota Workers' Compensation Act on behalf of these employees and any claims made by any third party as a consequence of any act or omission on the part of these employees are in no way the State's obligation or responsibility.

11. **Publicity and Endorsement.**

11.1. **Publicity.** Any publicity regarding the subject matter of this Grant Agreement must identify the Board as the sponsoring agency. For purposes of this provision, publicity includes notices, informational pamphlets, press releases, research, reports, signs, and similar public notices prepared by or for the Grantee individually or jointly with others, or any subcontractors, with respect to the Program, publications, or services provided resulting from this Grant Agreement.

11.2. **Endorsement.** The Grantee must not claim that the State endorses its products or services.

12. **Governing Law, Jurisdiction, and Venue.**

Minnesota law, without regard to its choice-of-law provisions, governs this Grant Agreement. Venue for all legal proceedings out of this Grant Agreement, or its breach, must be in the appropriate State or federal court with competent jurisdiction in Ramsey County, Minnesota.

13. **Termination.**

13.1. The Board may cancel this Grant Agreement at any time, with or without cause, upon 30 days' written notice to the Grantee. Upon termination, the Grantee will be entitled to payment, determined on a pro rata basis, for services satisfactorily performed.

13.2. The Board may immediately terminate this Grant Agreement if the Board finds that there has been a failure to comply with the provisions of this Grant Agreement, that reasonable progress has not been made or that the purposes for which the funds were granted have not been or will not be fulfilled. The Board may take action to protect the interests of the State of Minnesota, including the refusal to disburse additional funds and requiring the return of all or part of the funds already disbursed.

13.3. The Commissioner of Administration may immediately and unilaterally cancel this grant contract agreement if further performance under the agreement would not serve agency purposes or is not in the best interest of the State.

**14. Data Disclosure.**

Under Minn. Stat. § 270C.65, Subd. 3, and other applicable law, the Grantee consents to disclosure of its social security number, federal employer tax identification number, and/or Minnesota tax identification number, already provided to the State, to federal and State tax agencies and State personnel involved in the payment of State obligations. These identification numbers may be used in the enforcement of federal and State tax laws which could result in action requiring the Grantee to file State tax returns and pay delinquent State tax liabilities, if any.

**15. Prevailing Wage.**

It is the responsibility of the Grantee or contractor to pay prevailing wage for projects that include construction work of \$25,000 or more, prevailing wage rules apply per Minn. Stat. §§ 177.41 through 177.44. All laborers and mechanics employed by grant recipients and subcontractors funded in whole or in part with these State funds shall be paid wages at a rate not less than those prevailing on projects of a character similar in the locality. Bid requests must state the project is subject to prevailing wage.

**16. Municipal Contracting Law.**

Per Minn. Stat. § 471.345, grantees that are municipalities as defined in Subd. 1 of this statute must follow the Uniform Municipal Contracting Law. Supporting documentation of the bidding process utilized to contract services must be included in the Grantee’s financial records, including support documentation justifying a single/sole source bid, if applicable.

**17. Constitutional Compliance.**

It is the responsibility of the Grantee to comply with requirements of the Minnesota Constitution regarding the use of Clean Water Funds to supplement traditional sources of funding.

**18. Signage.**

It is the responsibility of the Grantee to comply with requirements for project signage as provided in Minnesota Laws 2010, Chapter 361, Article 3, Section 5(b) for Clean Water Fund projects.

**19. Intellectual Property Rights.**

The State owns all rights, title, and interest in all of the intellectual property rights, including copyrights, patents, trade secrets, trademarks, and service marks in the Works and Documents *created and paid for under this grant*. Works means all inventions, improvements, discoveries, (whether or not patentable), databases, computer programs, reports, notes, studies, photographs, negatives, designs, drawings, specifications, materials, tapes, and disks conceived, reduced to practice, created or originated by the Grantee, its employees, agents, and subcontractors, either individually or jointly with others in the performance of this grant. Work includes “Documents.” Documents are the originals of any databases, computer programs, reports, notes, studies, photographs, negatives, designs, drawings, specifications, materials, tapes, disks, or other materials, whether in tangible or electronic forms, prepared by the Grantee, its employees, agents or subcontractors, in the performance of this grant. The Documents will be the exclusive property of the State and all such Documents must be immediately returned to the State by the Grantee upon completion or cancellation of this grant at the State’s request. To the extent possible, those Works eligible for copyright protection under the United State Copyright Act will be deemed to be “works made for hire.” The Grantee assigns all right, title, and interest it may have in the Works and the Documents to the State. The Grantee must, at the request of the State, execute all papers and perform all other acts necessary to transfer or record the State’s ownership interest in the Works and Documents.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the parties have caused this Grant Agreement to be duly executed intending to be bound thereby.

Approved:

**Carver SWCD**

**Board of Water and Soil Resources**

Mike wanous

By: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*(signature)*

*(signature)*

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Program Requirements:  
Buffer Implementation Grant Program**

**Eligible Activities**

Eligible activities include assistance to support drainage system mapping and map review, landowner outreach, landowner technical and financial assistance, equipment purchases, and other buffer law implementation activities. Grantee will follow [Minn. Stat. § 103F.48](#)

**Requirements for Implementing Conservation Projects**

1. **Effective Life.** The effective lifespan of projects must be defined by current and acceptable design standards or criteria for no less than 5 years. The beginning date for a practice's effective life is the same date final payment is approved and the project is considered complete.
2. **Project Assurances.** The grantee must provide assurances that installed conservation practices and projects meet the purposes of the grant program, will remain in place for the lifespan expected based on the standard or professionally accepted practice, and will provide quality benefits for which they were designed. Such assurances may include easements, deed recordings, enforceable contracts, performance bonds, letters of credit, and termination or performance penalties. BWSR may allow replacement of a practice or project that does not comply with expected lifespan requirements with a practice or project that provides equivalent benefits.
3. **Operation, Maintenance, and Inspections.** All practice designs must include identification of operation and maintenance activities specific to the installed practices. An [operation and maintenance](#) plan is critical to ongoing performance of installed practices as well as to planning and scheduling those activities and must be prepared by designated technical staff for the life of the practice. An inspection schedule, procedure, and assured access to the practice site shall be included in the project file as a component of maintaining the effectiveness of the practice.
4. **Permitting.** The grantee is responsible for obtaining and complying with all permits necessary to execute the project. If applicable, grantee will be required to provide sufficient documentation prior to work plan approval that the project expects to receive or has received all necessary federal, state, and local permits and meets all water quality rules, including those that apply to the utilization of an existing water body as a water quality treatment device.

**Implementing Contracts with Land Occupiers**

Grantee will follow requirements found within the Fiscal Year 2025 [Grants Administration Manual](#) (GAM) Chapter: Implementing Contracts with Land Occupiers.

**Grant Management and Reporting**

Eligible activities include local grant administration, management, and reporting that are directly related to and necessary for implementing the project or activity associated with the grant. Grantee is required to report on the outcomes, activities, and accomplishments in eLINK. Funding is provided through the Clean Water Fund, making these grants subject to all Clean Water Fund reporting requirements, including use of the Legacy logo where applicable and practicable. If staff time will be used under this grant, grantee will use the Rates and Hours tool in eLINK to enter the estimated Full Time Equivalent (FTE) employees funded through this grant.



# MASWCD

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STAFF  
Executive Director  
LEANN BUCK

Assistant Director  
SHEILA VANNEY

Office Manager  
STEFANIE MARTINEZ

## Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

255 Kellogg Boulevard East, Suite 101, St. Paul, MN 55101 | 651-690-9028 | www.maswcd.org

Date: September 30, 2024  
To: Minnesota Soil and Water Conservation District Employees  
From: MASWCD Staff  
Subject: 2024 Resolutions Packet

The 2024 MASWCD resolutions packet is attached for your review and action.

**PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION CAREFULLY.**

### RESOLUTIONS PACKET:

- This packet is being emailed to SWCD employees. It includes this cover memo, 2024 proposed resolutions, link to the online 2024 ballot, and a sheet tallying votes on the resolutions taken by the MASWCD Resolutions/Policy Committee for informational/advisory purposes.
- MASWCD encourages districts to have an agenda item at your October board meeting to discuss and debate resolutions in advance of supervisors taking votes.

### PRE-CONVENTION VOTING PROCESS:

- The link to the online 2024 ballot is here: <https://forms.office.com/g/yLaURVzAAL>
- SWCD boards should choose whether they want an SWCD staff person to tally their votes and submit online ballots on their behalf, or if they want their five supervisors to individually complete the online ballots.
- Each Supervisor is entitled to submit one ballot. Duplicate ballots will be discarded.
- Contact information from the authoring SWCD is listed on each resolution. Please reach out to those individuals with questions or for more information.
- All ballots must be submitted via the online ballot by **NOVEMBER 1.**

### CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS PROCESS FOR 2024:

**MASWCD is planning a fully in-person convention at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Bloomington for Tuesday, December 3 through Wednesday, December 4.**

1. Resolutions and results of the pre-convention voting will be introduced during the first general session at the convention (Tuesday, December 3).
2. Resolutions will be brought before the membership for action during the second general session of the convention (Wednesday, December 4).
3. An SWCD which has authored and submitted a resolution is responsible for speaking in favor of that resolution during debate at the convention.
4. Emergency resolutions (if necessary) must be submitted to the MASWCD President as soon as possible.
5. NO resolutions will be accepted from the convention floor.

**RESOLUTIONS PRE-CONVENTION VOTING PROCESS:**

If you have questions about a particular resolution, you can obtain more information by contacting the Soil and Water Conservation District that submitted the resolution.

- If 66 percent of all supervisors whose ballots are received vote to APPROVE a resolution, the resolution will be deemed as moved and seconded for adoption at the annual meeting.
- If 66 percent of all supervisors whose ballots are received vote to DISAPPROVE a resolution, it will automatically be rejected, with no further action at the annual meeting.
- If 34% of all supervisors whose ballots are received vote to BRING THE RESOLUTION TO THE CONVENTION FLOOR FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION OR AMENDMENT, it will be brought to the MASWCD annual meeting for further action. This provision overrides the first two, in the event that this condition and one of the above conditions are both met.
- Failure to vote on a resolution is essentially the same as voting to bring it to the convention floor for further discussion or amendment.
- If a resolution does not receive the required number of votes in any category, it will be brought to the MASWCD Annual Meeting for further action.
- Only supervisors from dues-paying member districts are eligible to vote.
- All ballots must be submitted via the online ballot by **NOVEMBER 1**.





## 2024 RESOLUTION/POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

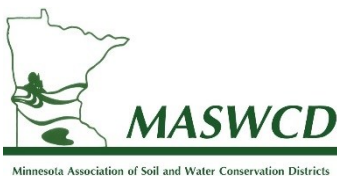
MASWCD Resolutions/Policy Committee members voted on the proposed resolutions at their meeting on September 20, 2024. The spreadsheet below outlines their votes, as well as comments shared during discussion. All committee members attended.

#	Resolution Title	Authoring SWCD	Committee Comments	Cmte Vote
1	Conservation Easement Legal Land Surveys	Grant and Stearns	Question as to whether this is looking at new enrollments or those and the entire current inventory. General support for the issue of needing accurate surveys at time of enrollment. Cost is not insignificant and will reduce the number of total easements able to be enrolled.	5-3
2	Conservation Easement Consideration for Property Tax Valuation	Anoka	Discussion included the history and of the statutory provision on this, how local markets set the valuations in general, that RIM easements are generally considered an exception under the statutory language but if this is talking about conservation easements in general this is a bigger and broader issue outside the scope of SWCD work.	0-8
3	Maintain Collaboration of NRCS and SWCD Staff By Encouraging Co-Located Field Offices	Stearns and Rice	NRCS staff in attendance provided background on the leasing process, the role of U.S. General Services Administration (GSA), and how much of the process is outside the control of local and state NRCS or FSA staff. Committee members shared support for the intent and goals of the resolutions.	8-0
4	DNR Public Water Map Revision Process	East Polk	DNR staff in attendance provided background on the upcoming Public Water Inventory Update process. Though not a requirement, DNR does notify impacted landowners of changes. Questions were raised as to whether official public hearings were necessary, or if public notice was sufficient.	1-7
5	Exempt Clean Water Fund Projects from DNR Permit Fees	Red Lake	DNR staff in attendance spoke to how permit fees go into the water management account and are used for regulatory area hydro staff to do permit reviews. Costs for permit fees are an allowable expense for Clean Water Funded projects, though they are sometimes difficult to anticipate. DNR will share the range of permit fees with MASWCD staff.	1-7
6	Unified Cost Share Rates for Forest Stewardship Planning	Aitkin	General support for consistency in fees for writing forest stewardship plans or other similar management plans. Some question about whether cost-share was the correct terminology, as well as whether MASWCD involvement needed.	6-2
7	Expedited MPCA 401 Certification for Conservation Projects	Anoka	MPCA staff in attendance shared information on this federal required certification process, and that even conservation practices need review for impacts on water bodies. Suggestion was offered to meet with MPCA staff at the start of each year to talk about planned projects and timelines to help with streamlining workload.	3-5
8	Climate Change Inclusion in MASWCD Policy Document Guiding Principles	Lake	Support for developing guiding principles around how changes in weather impact our conservation work, and comments that it will take time and thought to put together.	7-1

# MASWCD Resolution Process

## 2024 RESOLUTION PACKET

*proposed resolutions for action by the membership*



Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts  
[www.maswcd.org](http://www.maswcd.org)

## Things to consider during debate on resolutions

### Relevance

- Is the proposed policy relevant to the mission, goals, and objectives of the organization?
- Does the policy address a real need?
- Is the policy consistent with the stated values of the board or program?
- Does it comply with administrative/legal requirements?

### Effectiveness

- Will the proposed policy address the problem or need?
- Is this the best approach?
- Are there alternative policies?
- What are the costs/benefits of each alternative?

### Capability

- Can the Association and/or members implement the activities suggested by the proposed policy?
- Will additional expertise be needed?

### Costs/Resources

- How much will it cost to implement?
- Can funds be found to support it?
- Will the policy require reallocation of funds?
- What are the opportunity costs of this policy?

### Ramifications

- What might be the unanticipated consequences of this policy? What might be the consequences of that choice for others? The side effects?
- How would the policy impact staff? Constituents? Funding?
- Is there community support?

### Other?

- Supposing you can't have everything, what would you choose?
- Does anyone have a different view?
- What seems to be the key point here?

**How would we know if we were successful in implementing it/what does success look like and is that vision of success articulated in the resolution?**

**CONSERVATION EASEMENT LEGAL LAND SURVEYS**

**WHEREAS**, Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) are local government units that promote and implement conservation easements; and

**WHEREAS**, The Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) partners with SWCDs to promote and enroll private lands into conservation easements; and

**WHEREAS**, since 1986 BWSR has been administrating the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) program and has enrolled thousands of easements with the help from the Local SWCDs; and

**WHEREAS**, there have been many issues with easement boundaries over the years either with current ownership or when the land changes hands; and

**WHEREAS**, a legal land survey showing the legal description of the easement would help maintain easement boundaries for perpetuity and give a clear description of the land in the easement; and

**WHEREAS**, a legal land survey would be a small cost in maintaining easement boundaries for perpetuity; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that MASWCD work with BWSR to require and pay for legal land surveys on all Perpetual RIM Easements.

**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:** Medium workload. Estimated cost to MASWCD is \$1,500.00.

**Submitted by:** Grant SWCD  
Stearns SWCD

**Area Association:** NW Area 1; WC Area 2  
**Date adopted:** June 18, 2024, June 12, 2024

**Reviewed by MASWCD Board of Directors**  
**Date:** September 24, 2024

**MASWCD Annual Convention**  
**Date:**  
**Action:**

**For further information contact:**

Brent Gulbrandson, Grant SWCD, 218-685-5395, [brent.gulbrandson@mn.nacdnet.net](mailto:brent.gulbrandson@mn.nacdnet.net)

Paul Gronenberg, Grant SWCD Supervisor, 320-760-7941, [pgroneb@runestone.net](mailto:pgroneb@runestone.net)

Dennis Fuchs, Stearns SWCD administrator, 320-251-7800 ext. 3, [dennis.fuchs@mn.nacdnet.net](mailto:dennis.fuchs@mn.nacdnet.net)

Matt Bruyette, Stearns SWCD Supervisor, 320-251-7800 ext. 3, [area4.stearnscountyswcd@gmail.com](mailto:area4.stearnscountyswcd@gmail.com)

**Background:**

Due to the nature of land changing hands, there are questions as to the boundaries of the RIM easements. At times there is encroachment, other times there may be buildings build on an easement due to not knowing the legal bounds of the easement. It is very hard to support and defend an easement description that does not have a legal land survey. With a legal land survey, there is a more defined boundary that is legally able to defend when there may be disputes on the easement boundaries.

**CONSERVATION EASEMENT CONSIDERATION FOR PROPERTY TAX VALUATION**

**WHEREAS**, land protection through conservation easements is a valuable tool for SWCDs to achieve conservation goals and objectives, and

**WHEREAS**, a common inquiry on the part of a landowner agreeing to sell or donate a conservation easement or restriction is whether or not they will benefit from lower property taxes, and

**WHEREAS**, MN Stat. 273.117 Conservation Property Tax Valuation prohibits assessors from reducing the value of real property subject to conservation restrictions or easement with a few exceptions, and

**WHEREAS**, conservation easements directly impact the value of properties by eliminating or greatly reducing future development potential, as evidenced by countless appraisals conducted with the specific intent of determining the value of conservation easements, and

**WHEREAS**, based on appraisal valuation historically, the MN RIM program compensates landowners a percentage of the taxable market value, further documenting the reduced market value that results from conservation easements, and

**WHEREAS**, the statute has changed its impact on local assessor autonomy to determine valuation from “shall be reduced” to “may be reduced” to its current form of “shall not be reduced” indicating that various interests over the years have sought statewide legislative mandates to address local circumstances instead of having the fortitude to implement local policies, and

**WHEREAS**, many organizations and entities have a direct interest in modifications to MN Stat. 273.117.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the MASWCD will convene interested parties and moderate discussion to develop legislative solutions to allow consideration of conservation easements when determining property tax valuations.

**Fiscal Impact Statement:** High workload, 80 hours staff time @ \$75/hour = \$6,000

**Submitted by:** Anoka SWCD

**Area Association:** Metro Area 4

**Date adopted:** June 27, 2024

**Reviewed by MASWCD Board of Directors**

**MASWCD Annual Convention**

**Date:** September 24, 2024

**Date:**

**Action:**

**For further information, contact:** Chris Lord, District Manager, 763-434-2030 x130 [Chris.Lord@AnokaSWCD.org](mailto:Chris.Lord@AnokaSWCD.org)

**Background:**

Recent efforts by Hennepin County to modify this statute made significant progress. Upon conclusion of the 2023 legislative session, where the initiative ultimately failed, many parties on both sides of the issue concurred that well-structured discussions could lead to a compromise solution that could be supported by counties, cities, conservation agencies and non-governmental conservation organizations. To facilitate discussions, what is needed is an entity that is well respected by all parties, has statewide jurisdiction, and is able to engage in legislative advocacy. MASWCD is an ideal fit for this task.

**MAINTAIN COLLABORATION OF NRCS AND SWCD STAFF BY ENCOURAGING CO-LOCATED FIELD OFFICES**

**WHEREAS**, Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) are local government units that promote and implement conservation programs; and

**WHEREAS**, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) partners with SWCDs to promote and enroll private landowners into conservation programs; and

**WHEREAS**, SWCDs and NRCS staff have been co-located within the same office since their inceptions; and

**WHEREAS**, NRCS is currently reorganizing field offices and relocating NRCS staff away from SWCD office space and into Farm Service Agency (FSA) office space; and

**WHEREAS**, upon renegotiation of field office lease agreements, NRCS will no longer be co-located with SWCD staff, but instead be co-located; and

**WHEREAS**, several field offices across the state of Minnesota have already gone through a relocation of NRCS staff within offices; and

**WHEREAS**, if NRCS staff are moved from SWCD offices, collaboration and coordination of conservation programs amongst the two agencies will be hindered and thus inhibit assistance provided to landowners; and

**WHEREAS**, a co-located office reduces barriers to voluntary conservation implementation by minimizing cooperators’ difficulties or confusion in navigating varying programs, acronyms, and systems across levels of government, and can be a single point of contact to access local, state, and federal programs; and

**WHEREAS**, the NRCS leasing requirements do not permit the SWCD and NRCS to proactively plan for and seek sufficient space for a co-located office set-up when a new location is required.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that (MASWCD) work with NRCS, NACD and Congress to continue to allow the current collocated office arrangements for better collaboration and service delivery for those field offices that so choose; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that MASWCD work with NRCS, NACD and Congress to adapt the federal procurement requirements for new field office leases to include space requirements of SWCDs as part of the solicitation to ensure that facilities are adequate to maintain a co-mingled co-located arrangement.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** High Workload \$3000

**Submitted by:** Stearns SWCD  
Rice SWCD

**Area Association:** WC Area 2; SE Area 7  
**Date Adopted:** June 12, 2024; June 17, 2024

**Reviewed by MASWCD Board of Directors:**  
**Date:** September 24, 2024

**MASWCD Annual Convention**  
**Date:**  
**Action:**

**For further information contact:** Dennis Fuchs, Stearns SWCD, 320-345-6477, [dennis.fuchs@mn.nacdnet.net](mailto:dennis.fuchs@mn.nacdnet.net)  
Matt Bruyette, Stearns SWCD Supervisor, 320-249-9809, [area4.stearnscountyswcd@gmail.com](mailto:area4.stearnscountyswcd@gmail.com)  
Steven Pahs, Rice SWCD Manager, 507-332-5408, [steven.pahs@riceswcd.org](mailto:steven.pahs@riceswcd.org)

Background: Historically, staff from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) have shared office space, fostering close collaboration on conservation initiatives. However, recent years have seen a shift, with NRCS offices relocating to co-locate with the Farm Service Agency (FSA) instead. This move has left SWCDs uninformed about lease negotiations, hindering their ability to plan for their own future office needs. This also reduces the effective team approach that both agencies have been striving to achieve.

**DNR PUBLIC WATER MAP REVISION PROCESS**

**WHEREAS**, the 2024 Regular Legislative Session updated language for Minnesota Statute 103G.201 Public Waters Inventory to change the language that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) commissioner must revise the map of public waters and provided funding for this update.

**WHEREAS**, Minnesota Statute 103G.201 (c) states: The commissioner must provide notice of the reclassification to the local government unit, the county board, the watershed district, if one exists for the area, and the soil and water conservation district. Within 60 days of receiving notice from the commissioner, a party required to receive the notice may provide a resolution stating objections to the reclassification. If the commissioner receives an objection from a party required to receive the notice, the reclassification is not effective. If the commissioner does not receive an objection from a party required to receive the notice, the reclassification of a wetland under paragraph (b) is effective 60 days after the notice is received by all of the parties.

**WHEREAS**, the notification process for reclassification excludes any required notification to landowners whose property may be impacted by revisions to the Public Waters.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that MASWCD work with the MN State Legislature to get 103G.201 to include language that requires the DNR Commissioner to hold public hearings for landowners and require that the Public Waters be included on the abstracts.

**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:** Medium workload – estimated cost to MASWCD is \$2000.

**Submitted by:** East Polk SWCD

**Area Association:** NW Area 1

**Date adopted:** June 18/2024

**Reviewed by** MASWCD Board of Directors

**Date:** September 24, 2024

**MASWCD Annual Convention**

**Date:**

**Action:**

**For more information contact:**

Scott Balstad, East Polk SWCD Supervisor, 218-556-9315, [mjb@gvtel.com](mailto:mjb@gvtel.com)

Rachel Klein, East Polk SWCD Manager, 218-563-2777, [klein.eastpolk@gmail.com](mailto:klein.eastpolk@gmail.com)

### EXEMPT CLEAN WATER FUND PROJECTS FROM DNR PERMIT FEES

**WHEREAS**, on November 4, 2008, Minnesota voters approved the Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment to the constitution:

- to protect drinking water sources;
- protect, enhance, and restore wetlands, prairies, forests, and fish, game, and wildlife habitat;
- preserve arts and cultural heritage;
- support parks and trails;
- and protect, enhance, and restore lakes, rivers, streams, and groundwater.

The Amendment increases the sales and use tax rate by three-eighths of one percent on taxable sales, starting July 1, 2009, continuing through 2034. Those dollars are dedicated to four funds: Outdoor Heritage Fund, Clean Water Fund, Parks and Trails Fund, and Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund; and

**WHEREAS**, streambank and shoreline protection projects are identified as a priority in many Comprehensive Watershed Management Plans developed under the One Watershed, One Plan program in order to protect, enhance, and restore lakes, rivers, and streams; protect drinking water sources, and protect, enhance, and restore aquatic habitats; and

**WHEREAS**, under Minnesota Statutes 103G.245, Subdivision 1 (except as provided in Subdivisions 2, 11, and 12), the state, a political subdivision of the state, a public or private corporation, or a person, must have a DNR Public Waters Work Permit (application forms) to:

- construct, reconstruct, remove, abandon, transfer ownership of, or make any change in a reservoir, dam, or waterway obstruction on public waters; or
- change or diminish the course, current, or cross section of public waters, entirely or partially within the state, by any means, including filling, excavating, or placing of materials in or on the beds of public waters; and

**WHEREAS**, under Minnesota Statutes 103G.301, Subdivision 2 the MN DNR Public Waters Work Permit Fees must be at least \$1,200, but not more than \$12,000 per permit with fee parameters established in Minnesota Rules 6115.0060, Subpart 2 ([Water Permit Application Fee Fact Sheet \(state.mn.us\)](https://www.water.mn.us)); and

**WHEREAS**, Minnesota Statutes 103G.301, Subdivision 5 exempts the State of Minnesota and U.S. federal agencies from application fees; and

**WHEREAS**, currently the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR) charges a Public Waters Work Permit Fee for streambank and shoreline protection practices located within the streambank and shoreline area that are funded with all Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Funding through the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (MN BWSR); and

**WHEREAS**, this adds an additional financial burden to the implementation of best management practices that are consistent with the purposes of the Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment and supported by State agencies through the Comprehensive Watershed Management Planning process.

**WHEREAS**, the MN DNR has consistently received funding from the Clean Water Fund for “technical assistance to support local implementation of nonpoint source restoration and protection activities”.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that MASWCD work with the MN DNR to **exempt or refund** the Public Waters Work Permit Fee (not the permit only the fee) for all Clean Water, Land, and Legacy projects located within the



streambank and shoreline protection areas of a lake, river, or stream that are funded primarily with MN Clean Water, Land, and Legacy funding.

**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:** This resolution would require legislative change. High Workload: Approximately 40 hours of time at \$75.00 per hour = \$3,000.00.

**Submitted by:** Red Lake County SWCD

**Area Association:** NW Area 1

**Date adopted:** June 18, 2024

**Reviewed by MASWCD Board of Directors:**

**Date:** September 24, 2024

**MASWCD Annual Convention**

**Date:**

**Action:**

**For more information contact:** Tanya Waldo, Red Lake SWCD Manager, 218-253-2593,  
[Tanya.Hanson@redlake.mnswcd.org](mailto:Tanya.Hanson@redlake.mnswcd.org)

**Background:**

Red Lake County SWCD currently has five Streambank and Shoreland Protection Projects that will need to have a DNR Public Water Permit. Red Lake County SWCD is not opposed to the Permit Application Process; the concern comes with the fee associated with each DNR Public Water Permit. If DNR is working to:

- to protect drinking water sources;
- protect, enhance, and restore wetlands, prairies, forests, and fish, game, and wildlife habitat;
- preserve arts and cultural heritage;
- support parks and trails; and
- protect, enhance, and restore lakes, rivers, streams, and groundwater

then, DNR should be willing to exempt the Public Water Permit fee so we can get more of these practices on the ground and implemented without an additional financial burden.

**UNIFIED COST SHARE RATES FOR FOREST STEWARDSHIP PLANNING**

**WHEREAS**, The One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P) initiative has enabled Districts to offer cost-sharing for writing Forest Stewardship Plans; and

**WHEREAS**, Many Districts encompass multiple watersheds; and

**WHEREAS**, Varying cost-sharing rates across different watersheds cause confusion among SWCD foresters, landowners, DNR Foresters, and Consulting Foresters.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that MASWCD strongly recommend that all watersheds (1W1Ps) offering cost-sharing to landowners for writing Forest Stewardship Plans (or other forest management plans) adopt a unified, consistent rate. These rates will be determined through discussions at SWCD Forestry Association meetings, which will provide rate recommendations to the Districts.

**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:** Medium-Low Workload: Approximately 10 hours of time at \$75\* per hour = \$750

**Submitted by:** Aitkin County SWCD

**Area Association:** NE Area 3

**Date adopted:** June 7, 2024

**Reviewed by MASWCD Board of Directors**

**Date:** September 24, 2024

**MASWCD Annual Convention**

**Date:**

**Action:**

**For further information, contact:**

Tom Fasteland, Aitkin SWCD Supervisor, (218) 259-4904, [thomasfasteland@centurytel.net](mailto:thomasfasteland@centurytel.net)

Janet Smude, Aitkin SWCD Manager, (218) 927-7284, [smude.aitkinswcd@gmail.com](mailto:smude.aitkinswcd@gmail.com)

**Background:**

In Aitkin County we have portions of seven different watersheds. Each forest stewardship plan requires staff time to locate where the property falls, and which cost share rate we are able to offer the landowner.

### EXPEDITED MPCA 401 CERTIFICATION FOR CONSERVATION PROJECTS

**WHEREAS** state agencies and local conservation entities have a shared interest in implementing projects and practices that improve water quality and habitat in the most cost-effective manner possible, and

**WHEREAS** the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) subjects projects to the same review procedures regardless of the applicant or sponsoring entity, the purpose of the project, or anticipated project outcome, which can lead to costly delays and oversight redundancy, and

**WHEREAS** MPCA has Clean Water Act Section 401 water quality certification authority over projects under the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Regional General Permit (RGP) for Bank Stabilization and Habitat Improvement, and

**WHEREAS** MPCA has the latitude to be more restrictive than the USACE standards detailed in the RGP and exercises that authority by excluding projects for automatic blanket 401 certification on several categories of high quality waters or that exceed 300 linear feet, presumably to ensure a higher level of scrutiny than provided under the RGP, and

**WHEREAS** USACE, under category 3 of the RGP, recognizes that projects that are federal or state resource agency sponsored (designed, funded, and/or approved by a government resource agency) undergo a higher level of scrutiny due to the involvement of the agencies in the project, and by extension applies standards with greater latitude, and

**WHEREAS** processing of individual water quality certification by MPCA generally requires 75 to 120 days after receipt of final project plans with no positive consideration for projects sponsored by natural resource management agencies or conservation projects with demonstrated water quality and/or habitat benefits, and

**WHEREAS** with short grant timelines and construction seasons, especially on rivers where low water levels are required, this review process can jeopardize projects, and

**WHEREAS** regardless of the 401 Water Quality Certification process, protections for water quality exist within mandatory anti-degradation standards, outstanding resource value waters protections, MN DNR water work permit review, and USACE permit requirements.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the MASWCD work with MPCA to expedite the water quality certification process for federal and state agency sponsored bank stabilization and habitat improvement projects.

**Fiscal Impact Statement:** High workload, 60 hours staff time @ \$75/hour = \$4,500

**Submitted by:** Anoka SWCD

**Area Association:** Metro Area 4

**Date adopted:** June 27, 2024

**Reviewed by:** MASWCD Board of Directors

**MASWCD Annual Convention**

**Date:** September 24, 2024

**Action:**

**Date:**

**For further information, contact:** Chris Lord, District Manager, 763-434-2030 x130 [Chris.Lord@AnokaSWCD.org](mailto:Chris.Lord@AnokaSWCD.org)

**Background:** This resolution is consistent with MN Antidegradation Standards and MPCA's intent of protecting water quality. The current water quality certification process treats federal or state resource agency sponsored conservation projects similarly to projects proposed by individuals, businesses, or developers. The review can take 75-120 days, which begins after a project has been fully engineered and designed. For projects that are federal or state resource agency sponsored and vetted, this process is duplicative and detrimental to program outcomes. By delaying conservation project installation, the water quality certification process ironically extends the duration of active discharge and degradation of priority waters.

### CLIMATE CHANGE INCLUSION IN MASWCD POLICY DOCUMENT GUIDING PRINCIPLES

**WHEREAS**, SWCDs are called on to help mitigate damages resulting from climate change impacts and the corresponding worsening floods, droughts, storms, and wildfires; and

**WHEREAS**, Climate change severity and its impacts are increasing faster than we are adapting to them and cost more than we are investing in them, we have an increasing need to consider, address, and mitigate causes of climate change.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the MASWCD State Board include climate change considerations in its guiding principles within the MASWCD Policy document.

**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT.** Direct cost to MASWCD expected to be small or negligible. Very low workload to incorporate it into the MASWCD Policy Document Guiding Principles at approximately 3 hours of time x \$75 per hour = \$225.00. Costs and benefits within the State for all stakeholders are determined by the climate change mitigation practices undertaken.

**Submitted by:** Lake SWCD

**Area Association:** NE Area 3

**Date adopted:** June 7, 2024

**Reviewed by MASWCD Board of Directors**

**Date:** September 24, 2024

**MASWCD Annual Convention**

**Date:**

**Action:**

**For further information contact:**

Doug Lande, Lake SWCD Supervisor, 218-410-4660, douglasslande@gmail.com



# MASWCD

## Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

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Date: October 8, 2024

To: Minnesota Soil and Water Conservation Districts

From: MASWCD Board of Directors

Subject: Annual Business Meeting Items

Attached are items that will be acted upon at the 2024 MASWCD Business Meeting during the Annual Convention (December 3-4, 2024) being held at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel - Bloomington Minneapolis South. **Please forward this information to your SWCD Supervisors.**

Items will be introduced on Tuesday, December 3, and voting will take place on Wednesday, December 4.

### Attachments include:

- **Proposed Bylaws Change.** Information about the proposed bylaws change and 2024 elections was shared with SWCDs in July and is attached.
- **Profiles for candidates seeking election to the offices of MASWCD President or MASWCD Vice President.** The call for nominations was announced in a July 23 email message with a link to the candidate prospectus. The nominations period was open from July 23 to September 13. The following candidates responded to the call for nominations. The information was provided to the nominations committee, and the committee recommended to the board of directors that these names be on the ballot, contingent on the proposed bylaws change being adopted that would enable Chuck Rau to serve a second two-year term as President. Candidate profiles are attached.
  - **For MASWCD President:**
    - Chuck Rau, Benton SWCD Supervisor
  - **For MASWCD Vice President:**
    - Randy Schellack, Clay SWCD Supervisor
    - Randy Smith, Mower SWCD Supervisor

In the event the bylaws change is not adopted, nominations for both offices will be taken from the convention floor.
- **Draft 2023 MASWCD annual meeting minutes**

*The proposed MASWCD 2024 budget will be shared with the members after the November 12 MASWCD Board of Directors meeting.*

Thank you for your consideration. We hope to see you at the Annual Convention.



# MASWCD

## Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

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chuck.rau@maswcd.org

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SW AREA 5 DIRECTOR  
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clark.lingbeek@maswcd.org

SECRETARY/TREASURER &  
SC AREA 6 DIRECTOR  
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(507) 438-4570  
randy.smith@maswcd.org

NC AREA 8 DIRECTOR  
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ken.laporte@maswcd.org

IMMEDIATE PAST  
PRESIDENT  
PAUL KRABbenhOFT  
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paul.krabbenhof@maswcd.org

### STAFF

Executive Director  
LEANN BUCK

Assistant Director  
SHEILA VANNEY

Conference & Events Manager  
MICHELE ASMUSSEN

Office Manager  
STEFANIE MARTINEZ

July 23, 2024

Soil and Water Conservation Districts:

2024 is an election year for the offices of MASWCD President and Vice President. Any supervisor of a member district is eligible to run for these offices.

[Feel free to check-out this link to the 2024 Candidate Prospectus.](#) The document provides basic information about the roles of MASWCD President and MASWCD Vice President.

**Supervisors interested in running for one of these offices should send a letter of interest to [info@maswcd.org](mailto:info@maswcd.org) by September 13.** The letter should state motivations for seeking MASWCD office and a brief synopsis of background and experience. Profiles of all candidates will be compiled and later distributed to SWCDs. Elections will be conducted during the business meeting at the MASWCD Annual Convention on December 4, 2024.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** The 2024 elections process will occur simultaneously with a **proposed bylaws change** to be considered and acted on by the members at the convention. **The proposal is to remove term limits for President and Vice President.** After receiving guidance from an attorney specializing in parliamentary procedure, the MASWCD board voted unanimously at their June meeting to propose this change. Comments shared during that discussion included:

- ⇒ With the growing number and complexity of issues facing SWCDs, MASWCD will benefit from having the opportunity for strong and interested individuals to serve more than two years in these key leadership roles.
- ⇒ The limit of one 2-year term for these important positions often means as soon as someone is getting acclimated to the issues and being a strong spokesperson for the Association, it's already time to step down.
- ⇒ Removal of term limits would not remove the elections process for MASWCD President and Vice President, which would continue every two years and still provide the voting supervisors a voice in who leads the organization.

The **proposed bylaws change** consists of striking-out language as highlighted below:

6.3) QUALIFICATIONS AND TERMS OF OFFICE - The officers of the Board of Directors shall serve as the officers of the Association. Each officer shall serve until the adjournment of the next annual meeting of the State Association, subject to the provisions of paragraph 2.2 of Article 2. **The President or Vice President shall not serve more than one two year term.**

Because the proposed bylaws change will be up for vote by the members at the same business meeting as the elections, the nominating committee will be tasked with developing two different slates of candidates for MASWCD President and Vice President:

- option A: a slate of candidates that is contingent on the bylaws change being approved, offering the opportunity for current office holders to seek another term if interested; and
- option B: a slate of interested candidates who are eligible to seek office in the event the bylaws change is not approved and term limits are still in effect.

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact MASWCD with questions.

## 2024 MASWCD Elections & Proposed Bylaws Change



## CANDIDATE FOR MASWCD President: Chuck Rau

### **NAME & ADDRESS:**

Chuck Rau  
Benton SWCD Supervisor  
11275 West Lake Rd, Rice MN 56367

### **YEARS SERVING AS LOCAL SUPERVISOR:**

Over 14 years as Benton SWCD Supervisor

### **POSITIONS HELD WITH MASWCD:**

- MASWCD President
- MASWCD Vice President
- MASWCD West Central Area 2 Director
- Finance Committee Member
- Legislative Committee Chair
- SWCD Capacity Funding Workgroup Member



### **DESCRIBE YOUR CONSERVATION EXPERIENCE:**

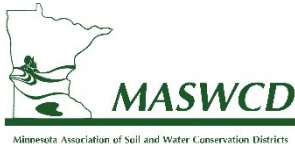
- Rice Area Sportsman's Club
- Pheasants Forever – Benton/Mille Lacs Chapter
- Little Rock Lake Association

### **DESCRIBE YOUR LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE:**

- Volunteer in leadership roles in several church and community groups
- 40 years of experience in all levels of business management, primarily in the areas of accounting, marketing, and manufacturing, with experience in strategic planning

### **WHAT ISSUES WOULD YOU LIKE TO ADDRESS DURING YOUR TERM OF OFFICE?**

Over my two years in office, we have been able to make significant gains in stabilizing our operational funding by getting the SWCD Aid concept passed into law. I would like to leverage the relationships that I have developed to continue to the work to solidify and grow our funding, as well as continue to move ahead with other priorities of MASWCD. There are many challenges, opportunities and adjustments that will come our way in the next several years, in particular, establishing ourselves as the on-the-ground organization in the environmental focus areas of water retention, soil health and carbon sequestration. I welcome the chance to help guide the organization's efforts.



## **CANDIDATE FOR MASWCD Vice President: Randy Schellack**

***NAME & ADDRESS:***

Randy Schellack  
240 1st Street S  
Sabin, MN 56580

***YEARS SERVING AS LOCAL SUPERVISOR:***

11 years

***POSITIONS HELD WITH MASWCD:***

Northwest Area 1 Director  
Legislative Committee



***DESCRIBE YOUR CONSERVATION EXPERIENCE:***

Conservation has been instilled in me and implemented in my farming experience from an early age, by my father. He was a local supervisor for 35 years and served on the State Board. I farmed with my father and brother for over 25 years. Our farming conservation practices that included minimum till and strip till.

***DESCRIBE YOUR LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE:***

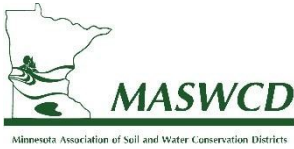
I have served on the Clay SWCD Board as Supervisor for 11 years and currently hold the Area 1 Director position. I have been a MASWCD Director for the last 4 years. In addition to soil conservation roles, I served on the Clay County Planning Commission. I am also currently participating in the MASWCD Leadership Institute throughout the next year.

My leadership experience also extends into my personal life where I have served our church on multiple boards including the Board of Elders and currently serving as the Chairman. Throughout my service, I have enjoyed organizing and leading numerous fundraising events.

***WHAT ISSUES WOULD YOU LIKE TO ADDRESS DURING YOUR TERM OF OFFICE?***

I would like to work with the MASWCD board and staff as well as our Minnesota legislators to secure adequate and dependable funding for our organization and the projects we support throughout the state. I would also like to increase awareness to State Legislators as well as the general public of the great work our organization does each year.

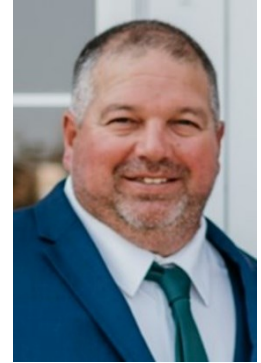




**CANDIDATE FOR MASWCD Vice President – Randy Smith**

***NAME & ADDRESS:***

Randy Smith  
62458 110th St  
Adams MN 55909



***YEARS SERVING AS LOCAL SUPERVISOR:***

10 years

***POSITIONS HELD WITH MASWCD:***

Southeast Area 7 Director since 2020  
NACD delegate for MN, 2024

***DESCRIBE YOUR CONSERVATION EXPERIENCE:***

Pushed our farm from conventional tillage to reduced tillage and working on transitioning to strip till. Multiple waterways. We did one of Minnesota’s first 2-stage ditch projects on our drainage ditch.

***DESCRIBE YOUR LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE:***

Board chair for 8 years. Chair, Cedar River 1W1P. President of our local drainage ditch. Cemetery trustee for my church for 31 years. Completed MASWCD Leadership training.

***WHAT ISSUES WOULD YOU LIKE TO ADDRESS DURING YOUR TERM OF OFFICE?***

Continue to work on stable funding for SWCDs.  
Address local SWCD needs.  
Cover crop programs, more data and success results.

**Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts**  
**87th Annual Meeting**  
**DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, Bloomington, Minnesota**

**Tuesday, December 12th, 2023 - Business Meeting**

President Chuck Rau (Benton SWCD Supervisor) called the meeting of the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) to order at 8:30 a.m. and led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

He welcomed everyone to the organization's 87th annual meeting.

President Rau introduced the SWCD Supervisors serving on the MASWCD Board of Directors:

- Clark Lingbeek, Vice President, and Southwest Area 5 Director (Cottonwood SWCD)
- Mark Schnobrich, Secretary Treasurer and Southcentral Area 6 Director (McLeod SWCD)
- Randy Schellack, Northwest Area 1 Director (Clay SWCD)
- Tom Gregory, West Central Area 2 Director (Stearns SWCD)
- Kurt Beckstrom, Northeast Area 3 Director (Mille Lacs SWCD)
- Laura Zanmiller, Metro Area 4 Director (Dakota SWCD)
- Randy Smith, Southeast Area 7 Director (Mower SWCD)
- Ken LaPorte, North Central Area 8 Director (Cass SWCD)

President Rau stated that the MASWCD Board members are the ambassadors of the Association, and he welcomed all to approach the board members with questions or comments throughout this event. President Rau recognized the Association's staff – Executive Director LeAnn Buck, Assistant Director Sheila Vanney, and Office Manager Stefanie Martinez – and thanked them for their commitment to the organization.

He noted that today there will be reports only, and that all voting will take place tomorrow during the second day of the business meeting.

President Rue provided the MASWCD annual report. President Rau reported that the Association was successful in obtaining a standing, statutory general fund SWCD appropriation through the Minnesota Department of Revenue. The SWCD Aid is established in state statute at \$15 million per year for aids payable in 2023 and 2024, and \$12 million per year for aids payable in 2025 and thereafter. He acknowledged that the passage of this legislation represents a major milestone for SWCDs and conservation delivery efforts throughout Minnesota.

President Rau also reported on additional MASWCD activities. In 2023, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) and the MASWCD capitalized on leveraging local, state, and federal resources to advance locally led conservation. This included unprecedented opportunities including additional funding resources from the federal Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) for climate smart practices. The Association continued to advocate for local watershed program funding that provides the implementation of water quality actions in a predictable and non-competitive way. Through the collective work with partners, the Clean Water Fund - Watershed Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) appropriations included \$79 million dollars for the current biennium. The WBIF funding trajectory represents another milestone for addressing solutions based on local watershed priorities.

President Rau reinforced the message that the Association's collective work starts with local SWCD grassroots policy. Through the MASWCD resolution process, members provide a forum for district policy creation and deliberation. President Rau reported that MASWCD supports policy for locally led conservation through our

work with the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD), Congressional members and the federal administration to support conservation, water quality and forestry programs. President Rau extended a thank you to Pipestone SWCD Supervisor Ian Cunningham and Mille Lacs SWCD Supervisor Kurt Beckstrom for representing Minnesota on the NACD Board of Directors.

The Association continues to enhance local district capacity by providing support for SWCD members in the areas of leadership, management, and technical training. In 2023, the association provided additional strategic investments in management resources for district managers through professional training sessions and access to online curriculum throughout the year.

President Rau recognized MASWCD Committee Chairs. The Association establishes standing committees plus various work groups, task force meetings, and subcommittees. In any given year, there are approximately fifty individuals from across the state providing input to the operation of this Association directly through the committee process. Rau introduced the committee chairs: Finance Committee – Mark Schnobrich, McLeod SWCD Supervisor and Southcentral Area 6 Director; Legislative Committee – Darren Newville, East Otter Tail/Wadena SWCD Manager, Awards Committee - Eldon Voigt, Koochiching Supervisor; and Resolutions/Policy Committee – Ken LaPorte, Cass SWCD Supervisor and MASWCD North Central Area 8 Director. President Rau thanked all the committee members and committee chairs. He asked everyone to refer to the back of the convention program booklet for a listing of all committee members.

President Rau introduced Finance Committee Chair Mark Schnobrich to report on the budget. Mr. Schnobrich stated that the finance committee developed the proposed budget with input from MASWCD areas representatives. MASWCD mailed the proposed budget to SWCD offices prior to the annual meeting and additional copies of the budget are also available during this meeting. The members will act on the budget during tomorrow's business meeting. Mr. Schnobrich thanked finance committee members and MASWCD staff for their work developing the proposed budget.

President Rau introduced MASWCD North Central Area 8 Director Ken LaPorte for a report on resolutions. Mr. LaPorte noted that the committee included representative from all eight areas as well as partner organizations providing advice and guidance as needed. Mr. LaPorte announced that a copy of the pre-convention balloting results which will be acted on by the members during tomorrow's business meeting is available for delegates. Nineteen resolutions were acted on by the membership through the pre-convention balloting process, with eight resolutions receiving sufficient number of votes to be considered as moved and seconded for approval, including those numbered resolutions 1, 5, 6, 8, 16, 17, 18, and 19. Two resolutions numbered 13 and 15 received sufficient votes of disapproval that they are automatically rejected with no further action. The remaining resolutions that received pre-convention balloting votes to be discussed on the floor of the convention will also be acted on tomorrow, including those numbered 2, 3, 4, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 14. President Rau thanked Mr. LaPorte for his report.

President Rau thanked the members and partners for their leadership and their dedication to private lands conservation.

President Rau introduced MASWCD Executive Director LeAnn Buck for a report on the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Advancing Soil Health in Minnesota Agriculture Project. Ms. Buck reported that on November 1, 2023, U.S. President Biden visited a farm in Northfield, Minnesota and announced a \$1.1 billion investment across eighty-one projects through the U.S. Department of Agriculture – NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program. The Minnesota BWSR was one of the eighty-one award recipients and will receive \$25 million for the RCPP-Advancing Soil Health in Minnesota Agriculture project. This project will offer financial incentives to producers for implementing soil health best management practices and systems. Minnesota SWCDs will help implement practices supported by the RCPP funding and working in partnership

with local producers. A partnership agreement will be entered into between the NRCS and the Minnesota BWSR to outline the roles and responsibilities for on-the-ground soil health management practices and systems. The RCPP is a voluntary conservation program that provides authority for NRCS and eligible partners to collaborate on a project to expand the reach of conservation efforts and climate-smart agriculture through public and private partnerships. Buck invited NRCS State Conservationist Troy Daniell, BWSR Executive Director John Jaschke and MASWCD President Chuck Rau to announce the public inauguration for the RCPP-Advancing Soil Health in Minnesota Agriculture project.

President Rau informed voting delegates that for tomorrow's business meeting, those wearing delegate nametag ribbons will be able to pick up a voting card at the entrance of the meeting room.

President Rau recessed the meeting at 9:00 a.m. and announced that tomorrow's business meeting will reconvene at 8:30 a.m. Wednesday, December 13th, 2023.

DRAFT

**Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts**  
**87th Annual Meeting**  
**DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, Bloomington, Minnesota**

**Wednesday, December 13th, 2023 - Business Meeting**

President Rau resumed the Business Meeting at 8:30 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. He noted that voting members should make sure to pick up a voting card from the tellers.

President Rau introduced Kevin Dahlman as the parliamentary consultant for the business meeting. Rau introduced Dakota SWCD Supervisor Laura Zanmiller, Mower SWCD Supervisor Randy Smith, Pine SWCD Supervisor Jake Janski, and Stearns SWCD Supervisor Tom Gregory as the as the voting tellers and Sergeants at Arms. Jeff Berg serves as the timekeeper.

President Rau recognized the SWCD representatives to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR). They include Dakota SWCD Supervisor Jayne Hager Dee, Carver SWCD Supervisor Mark Zabel and Mille Lacs SWCD Supervisor Kurt Beckstrom. He thanked them for their ongoing service with representing districts on the BWSR board.

President Rau asked for a motion for approval of the standing rules. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the standing rules. He then asked for a motion to accept the draft minutes from the 86<sup>th</sup> Annual MASWCD annual meeting. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the 2022 annual meeting minutes.

President Rau introduced MASWCD Finance Committee Chair Mark Schnobrich. Mr. Schnobrich provided an overview of the proposed budget to the members. A motion by Mr. Schnobrich to accept the proposed FY 2024 budget was made, seconded, and carried.

President Rau stated the next item of business is resolution voting. He announced that Justin Hanson (Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources) and Jeff Berg (Minnesota Department of Agriculture) will serve in an advisory capacity and are available to answer any clarifying questions on resolutions from the members. President Rau asked for a motion to dispense with the readings of the "Whereases" and allow just the readings of the "Therefore be it Resolves." The motion was made, seconded, and carried.

President Rau introduced MASWCD North Central Area 8 Director Ken LaPorte for the introduction of resolutions. Mr. LaPorte stated that member SWCDs submitted nineteen resolutions through the pre-convention balloting process. The following SWCDs introduced the resolutions for the membership's consideration: Aitkin, Anoka, Becker, Beltrami, Hubbard, Isanti Mower, Pennington, North St Louis, Stevens, Wabasha, Wadena, Washington, and Yellow Medicine. The pre-convention resolution ballot process is a means to limit debate on the floor of the convention on resolutions for which the membership has a strong agreement for or against.

Mr. LaPorte announced that eight of the nineteen resolutions received sufficient votes of approval that an automatic motion and second for approval are now before us today. They are resolutions numbered 1, 5, 6, 8, 16, 17, 18, and 19. Mr. LaPorte stated that because of the membership's strong agreement in favor of these resolutions, they are moved and seconded for approval. President Rau asked for any discussion. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to amend the original motion and have resolution number 16, entitled: *Advocating for Federal Funding for Forestland Protection* be removed for adoption and brought to the floor for further deliberation. Motion carried to approve, as amended, resolutions numbered 1, 5, 6, 8, 17, 18, and 19.

Mr. LaPorte announced that two resolutions received sufficient votes of disapproval that they are automatically rejected with no further action. They are resolutions numbered 13 and 15.

The remaining resolutions received pre-convention balloting votes in favor of discussion on the floor of the convention: those numbered 2, 3, 4, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 14. Resolution 16 entitled *Advocating for Federal Funding for Forestland Protection* was also considered for discussion on the floor of the convention.

Mr. LaPorte went through each of these resolutions one by one and action by the members was taken as follows:

	<b>Resolution Number and Title</b>	<b>Votes to Approve</b>	<b>Votes to Disapprove</b>	<b>Votes to Discuss</b>	<b>Pre-Convention Balloting Results</b>	<b>Convention Action</b>
1	Establishing a Shared Value Position Statement for Local SWCD Funding	89.5%	5.4%	5.1%	moved & seconded to approve	<b>Approved</b>
2	SWCD Authority to Incur Debt	60%	24.4%	15.6%	discuss	<b>Approved</b>
3	Statutory Funding Authority for SWCDs	22.4%	62.8%	14.8%	discuss	Disapproved
4	1W1P Implementation Support	31.3%	47.2%	21.5%	discuss	<b>Approved</b>
5	Groundwater Conservation Policy and Funding	67.4%	15.3%	17.3%	moved & seconded to approve	<b>Approved</b>
6	DNR Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Staff Limit Variance	76.4%	7.4%	16.2%	moved & seconded to approve	<b>Approved</b>
7	DNR Shoreline Protection Task Force	62.2%	23%	14.8%	discuss	<b>Approved</b>
8	Ag BMP Loan Program	76.1%	9.7%	14.2%	moved & seconded to approve	<b>Approved</b>
9	LGU Collaboration for BWSR Policies	21.3%	58.5%	20.2%	discuss	Disapproved
10	Additional Funding to Support Cooperative Weed Management Areas	35.5%	43.2%	21.3%	discuss	Disapproved
11	Change Technical Service Area Funds Matching Requirement	40.6%	24.4%	35%	discuss	<b>Approved</b>
12	Prescribed Burns for Habitat, Liability	35.5%	47.5%	17%	discuss	<b>Approved</b>
13	Recreational Harvest Limits & Spawning Protection for Native Rough Fish	17.6%	67.9%	14.5%	voted down pre-ballot, no further action	NA
14	Outdoor School for All Grant Program	40.9%	37.2%	21.9%	discuss	<b>Approved</b>
15	EQIP – Funding to Field Office/Team for Local and Timely Decision Making	18.5%	67%	14.5%	voted down pre-ballot, no further action	NA
16	Advocating Federal Funding for Forestland	77.6%	8.8%	13.6%	moved & seconded to approve	<b>Approved as amended</b>
17	Human Resources Exploration for SWCDs	77.6%	13.6%	8.8%	moved & seconded to approve	<b>Approved</b>
18	Production of Video Explaining SWCD Supervisor Roles & Responsibilities	84.6%	11.1%	4.3%	moved & seconded to approve	<b>Approved</b>
19	Support for Minnesota State Envirothon	78.7%	8.2%	13.1%	moved & seconded to approve	<b>Approved</b>

President Rau acknowledged and thanked the members of the Resolution/Policy Committee.

President Rau introduced Legislative Committee Chair Darren Newville for a MASWCD Legislative Committee Report. Mr. Newville highlighted the Association's work with the passage of the SWCD Aid legislative initiative to address state funding resources for SWCDs to execute and implement district statutory obligations and private lands conservation. Mr. Newville reported that the Association advocated for Clean Water Fund (CWF) FY24-25 funding recommendations. The CWF uses one-third of the sales tax revenue increase approved by Minnesota voters in 2008 through the Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment (CWLLA) to the State Constitution. He reported that the MASWCD is developing the Association's legislative platform in preparation for the 2024 legislative session.

President Rau introduced John Jaschke, Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) Executive Director, for his report to the members including an overview of 2023 SWCD technical and financial program delivery. BWSR implements state soil and water programs and wetland policies through statewide partnerships, including SWCDs.

President Rau introduced Troy Daniell, United State Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) State Conservationist, for his annual report and highlights of farm bill conservation programs. Mr. Daniell reported on the Environmental Quality Incentive Program and the Conservation Stewardship Program obligations with Minnesota landowners for the federal fiscal year. He also shared the local working group resource concern priorities.

President Rau introduced Kurt Beckstrom, Northeast Area Director and MASWCD Delegate to the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) for his report. NACD represents America's 3,000 conservation districts and the 17,000 individuals who serve on their governing board. Mr. Beckstrom provided an overview of NACDs services and policy work, including support for federal farm bill conservation programs.

President Rau introduced Sarah Strommen, Minnesota DNR Commissioner for an overview of DNR activities. The DNR collaborates with Minnesotans to conserve and manage the state's natural resources and provides outdoor recreation opportunities.

President Rau introduced Glenn Skuta, Watershed Division Director for Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Mr. Skuta provided an overview of the agency's work with SWCDs and updates on Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPs).

President Rau called for any unfinished business from the floor. No unfinished business was submitted by the membership.

President Rau recognized retiring MASWCD Northeast Area 3 Director Kurt Beckstrom for his work representing the SWCDs and his contributions to the state association. President Rau also thanked him for his continued support for conservation programs through his policy and advocacy role at the state and national levels.

President Rau thanked this year's convention sponsors including Minnesota NRCS, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture Ag Water Quality Certification Program, The Nature Conservancy, Houston Engineering and HR Green, Inc. for their support of the Association. President Rau thanked Francine Larson and Miranda Wagner with Sherburne SWCD for their assistance with the convention registration.

A call for a motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded and motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 11:55 am.

# Carver SWCD Monthly Report

October 2024

## **Mike Wanous – District Manager**

- Redetermination of Benefit (ROB) for public ditches – answered more questions and assisted landowners with submitting tile maps to viewers that impact the benefitted areas of the public ditch system.
- Site visits and follow up on 2 public waters violations; 1 on Rice Lake in Benton Township, 1 on a public water wetland in Laketown Township.
- Ditch maintenance requests on County Ditch 4, County Ditch 5, and Joint Ditch 3 (all Young America Township), review potential clean out process with DNR staff.
- Site visit for an older WCA violation, fill in wetland has now been removed
- Watertown wetland bank – follow up with County staff on easement acquisition and recording process, final steps
- County board meetings for viewer appointments and setting dates for public hearings for the ROB's
- Other meetings – WMO CAC mtg, WMO TAC mtg, Metro manager mtg

## **Felicia Brockoff – Administrative & Finance Specialist**

- Accounting: Verified and paid regular monthly expenses. Completed September Treasurer's Report, semi-monthly payroll and made liability payments. Prepare and imported payroll ledgers to OnBase. Completed all quarter end payroll forms for IRS, MnDOR, and MNUI.
- Administrative: Completed minutes from the September meeting and updated the 2024 resolutions document. Put together October meeting packets, posted on website and mailed to Supervisors. Record retention items (deleting older obsolete NPDES inspection files).
- Education: updating our newsletter mailing address list, verifying addresses with GIS and USPS. Prepared 2025 rain gauge readers packets, and mailed them out with our "thank you" gifts (Weatherguide calendars).
- Trees: Schumacher's verified our 2025 tree order and prices. Set up pricing for the 2025 tree and native seed sales.

## **Terry Meiller – Resource Conservationist**

- State Cost-share/EQIP: Follow up/conservation planning with Alex Young/ Eng Tech re: project status, neighbor involvement, etc. Landowner meeting with Ron Olson to discuss waterway issues/repair efforts. GIS work for contributing watershed, upstream treatment, etc. Site visit with Engineer Tech for future design needs (Meuwissen, Zellman)
- Soil Health: Tech Assistance/landowner meetings for Oct cover crop funding requests (Wellens, Stuewe). Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> Cover crop field day/workshop @ Peterson Farm Holding field. Briefly attended Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> Cover crop field day @ Scott County.
- Eagle SWA: Field visit with Engineer Tech: Stakeout of Ed Lind terraces, re-surveyed for new alignment and subsequent design changes. Landowner/contractor follow re Ed Lind WASCB (terrace) project. Design review for Bill Dunbar wetland restoration plans. Construction packets prepared and sent to contractors. Bid received and awarded. Cost-share contract, factsheet and RBA prepared for Dunbar project funding.
- Watertown Wetland Bank: 2024 field visit/project assessment with BWSR, DNR and Corps of Engineer staff. Mowed burn breaks around perimeter for future prescribed burn.
- WMO Assistance: Survey work on CD9 and Carver Creek streambank failure site visit with WMO staff.



- Misc: SWCD Board Meeting. Great Plains Drill deliveries (Silseth, Co Parks Reserve, Thaumert). WRP site visit to inspect failing outlet structure (Hartung site). CRP tech assistance/field visits.

### **Seth Ristow – Resource Conservation Technician**

- Created flyer for pollinator conservation workshop
- Conducted project closeout for WMO Good Samaritan
- Created pollinator conservation workshop PowerPoint presentation
- Conducted RPBCWD Stewardship Grant site visits and project closeouts
- Compiled closeout factsheets and vouchers
- Inspected solar sites that are required to meet BWSR Pollinator Habitat Standards (9 sites)
- Filled out solar site inspection score cards
- Conducted site visits for WMO and SWCD cost share programs (5 visits)
- Went over green corps member tasks with Madeline and Tim
- Gave presentation at environmental center about our pollinator conservation program
- Met with Tom, new green corps member
- Began Wetland Conservation Act training in Arden Hills

### **Tom Genelin – Senior District Technician**

- Meetings/Plan Review:
  - Victoria Ridge (Laketown Twp/Victoria) preconstruction meeting
  - Creekside Park (Carver) plan review
  - 212 Borrow Site (Benton Twp.) plan review
  - Carver Oaks (Carver) plan review
  - Nordic Waste (NYA) plan review
  - Ashery Lane (Hollywood Twp.) plan review
  - The Cove (Watertown) plan review
- Site inspections:
  - Various CCWMO final approval site inspections
  - Winkler's Crossing (Cologne) site inspection for ESC BMPs and topsoil resread
  - Hazeltine (Chaska) site inspections for ESC BMP conditions
  - The Preserve (Carver) site inspection for ESC BMP conditions and topsoil resread
  - Sandy Shores (Waconia) site inspection for ESC BMPs
  - Living Rock Church (NYA) site inspection for site conditions and stabilization
  - Marsh Hollow (Victoria) site inspection ESC BMP conditions and stabilization
  - Oak Creek Development (Chaska) site inspection for ESC BMP conditions and topsoil resread
  - Waterford (Waconia) inspection for ESC BMP conditions
  - Orchard Park (Waconia) inspection for ESC BMP conditions and topsoil resread
  - The Fields (Waconia) inspection for ESC BMP conditions and topsoil resread
  - Woodland Creek 5<sup>th</sup> (Waconia) inspection for ESC BMP conditions and topsoil resread

### **Ben Datres – Farm Bill Technician**

- CREP/RIM:
  - Hart- Ditch re-seeding complete.
  - Zellmann- Met several times reviewing RIM program options and proposals. Staked potential RIM boundary for an application.
  - RIM site inspections- phone calls, site visits and evaluation forms

- WAHIBO Marsh – Assisting landowners with outlet replacement- private project.
- Buffers: Updating buffcat with parcel changes.
- Misc:
  - WRP program- USFWS site visit checking failed wetland structures
  - CRP- Daryl Schmidt reviewing alternative wetland repair options due to costs.
  - Great Plains Drill- Delivered and calibrated for 3 re-seedings/cover upgrades.
  - Soil Health- Local field day in San Francisco TWP. Scott County cover crop workshop
  - Ditches- survey shots on CD5 for future clean out.

### **Tyler Polster – District Technician**

- WCA:
  - WMO: Attended TEP meetings to discuss Watertown Wetland Bank vegetative monitoring report; new housing development outside Watertown; delineation approval for parcels to receive fill from 212 project. Visited new mining site with Tom to look at work that was started before any approval. Attended virtual TEP meeting to discuss new mine site outside of Mayer. In field TEP visit will also take place on October 17<sup>th</sup>.
  - Plan reviews/delineations completed:
    - Large parcel in Carver off Hwy 212.
    - Industrial parcel next to Mills Fleet Farm.
    - Parcel for housing of CR 10 in Chaska.
    - Parcel for housing off of Hwy 284 south of Waconia.
    - Delineation approval for parcel on CR 43 in Chaska.
  - Chanhassen: Continued to work with RPBCWD to keep restoration orders moving forward. Landowners having trouble completing their permitting and maintenance requests.
  - DNR: Attended two separate Public Waters (PW) violations with Mike. Violations were both found by CO Birdsall. We went along to ensure any requests for restoration by the DNR also fulfilled restoration requirements for WCA restoration. Both landowners were disappointed, but respected the laws involved and will voluntarily complete restoration.
  - Minnehaha Creek Watershed District: Attended TEP meeting to again discuss plans for CR11/TH5 Round-about, as well as CR11 re-construction.
  - Assisted Ben to take survey shots on CD5 near Fredericks Lake to aid in planning for ditch cleanout proposals.