

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

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

Minutes of the August 15, 2024, Carver SWCD Board Meeting Held in Conference Room 1 at the Public Works Facility in Cologne, MN

Board Members Present:

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

Other Attendees:

Carver County Public Services Deputy Director, Paul Moline
FSA Program Analyst, Olivia Gronholz
FSA Program Analyst, Rachel Hendrickson
NRCS District Conservationist, Katie Mattila
NRCS Summer Intern, Kirsten Koerth
NRCS Team Lead, Chris Schmidt

SWCD Staff Present:

District Manager, Mike Wanous
Administrative & Finance Specialist, Felicia Brockoff
Resource Conservationist, Terry Meiller
District Technician, Tyler Polster

1. Call to Order.

Chair Zbinden called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

2. Public Comments – None.

3. Agenda Review and Adoption.

Resolution 039-2024: Zabel moved, Wendland seconded, to approve the August 15, 2024, Board Meeting Agenda as presented. Roll call vote: Burandt-absent; Sons-absent; Wendland-aye; Zabel-aye; Zbinden-aye. Motion carried.

4. Agency Reports

- a. NRCS report – Katie reported the batching period deadline for EQIP applications is September 6, 12 applications have been received from Carver County. Staff is continuing to work on CRP status reviews, with one remaining in Carver County. She introduced Kirsten, NRCS summer intern, who assisted the Waconia Field office this summer. Kirsten is a student at the U of M, working towards her master's degree in agriculture education. Katie also reported that an NRCS Agronomist will be starting on August 26.

Chris reported on personnel updates, he thanked Kirsten for her assistance getting a lot of the status reviews conducted over the summer. A new Soil Conservationist started in the Faribault field office on July 15. Interviews have also been conducted for the vacant Soil Conservationist position for the Farmington field office. He also reported there are vacant positions in the LeCenter and Waconia field offices. The Faribault staff could be moving back into their office at the end of September, if the building updates are not delayed.

- b. Carver County report – Paul reported he will be talking to the County Board on August 27, about the proposed levies for the WMO and the County Levy. The County Board will set the preliminary levy on September 3. Currently, the request for the SWCD includes a \$26,000 increase. He also reported that the Water Plan projects list is currently being updated, which happens about every two years. He explained if projects are not listed in the Water Plan, that excludes the projects from any potential BWSR funding.

Paul also reported there are a lot of wetland enforcement issues going on in the County, which takes a lot of staff time. Just this week, he has conducted the third round of interviews for the new enforcement position. He stated there will be two openings on the WMO Advisory Committee, as both persons have served their full 9 years.

- c. FSA Report – Olivia and Rachel reported that all dairy margin coverage (SMC) producers were mailed reminder letters for premiums balances due September 1. Producers who incur milk losses due to H5N1, can apply for assistance through the emergency livestock assistance program (ELAP). Producers enrolled in the agriculture risk coverage (ARC) or price loss coverage (PLC) programs through FSA, must protect their cropland and noncropland acres on their farms from wind and water erosion, and noxious weeds. Failure to do so, will result in corrective maintenance, and the FSA County Committee's (COC) may elected to terminate the ARC/PLC contracts for the program year. They also reported that FSA has youth loans for up to \$5,000, that young adults can use to operate an agriculture income producing project, in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA, and other agricultural groups. The next McLeod-Carver County Committee meeting will be October 1 at 9:00 AM

5. Consent Agenda Items

Resolution 040-2024: Wendland moved, Burandt seconded to approve the following consent agenda items:

- a. Acceptance of the July 2024 Treasurer's Report
- b. Approval of the July 18, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes
- c. Approve Peterson Company Ltd. annual management representation letter, authorizing the Chair and Manager to sign

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

6. Regular Agenda Items

- a. Mike reported that we've received grant agreements for FY2025 CRP state incentives program for \$20,000 and FY2025 soil health delivery for \$40,000. He also reported that the Carver WMO is putting an additional \$10,000 towards the CRP grant.

Resolution 041-2024: Zabel moved, Burandt seconded to approve the BWSR Grant agreements P25-0452 CRP State Incentives Program and P25-0489 Soil Health Delivery, authorizing the District Manager to sign on behalf of the Carver SWCD through DocuSign. Roll call vote: Burandt-aye; Sons-aye; Wendland-aye; Zabel-aye; Zbinden-aye. Motion carried.

- b. Mike reported he and Terry have met with Supervisors Wendland and Zabel to develop cost-share policies for the two BWSR grants listed in item a., P25-0452 CRP State Incentives Program and P25-0489 Soil Health Delivery. Mike went over the draft policy that has been developed, mentioning that in cases where requests for funding exceed the available grant funds, priority will be given to projects located in watersheds draining to priority waterbodies, as identified in

the Carver County WMO comprehensive water management plan.

Resolution 042-2024: Sons moved, Burandt seconded to approve the Carver SWCD Cost-Share policies for grants P25-0452 CRP State Incentives Program and P25-0489 Soil Health Delivery as presented. Roll call vote: Burandt-aye; Sons-aye; Wendland-aye; Zabel-aye; Zbinden-aye. Motion carried.

- c. Terry presented six soil health cost-share applications that have been received from landowners over the past month. Funding for these applications would be used from the P25-0489 Soil Health Delivery grant, approved in item b. above. They include:

• Elmer Hartmann	50 acres (<i>single practice max</i>)	3 rd year	\$3,500 payment
• Kevin Sons	19 acres	3 rd year	\$1,140 payment
• Eric Hoese	50 acres (<i>single practice max</i>)	1 st year	\$3,000 payment
• Alexandra Pierson	18 acres	1 st year	\$1,800 payment
• Dan Hausladen	30 acres	1 st year	\$3,000 payment
• SSP Holdings LP	80 acres (<i>stacked practices max</i>)	2 nd year	\$8,800 payment

Resolution 043-2024: Sons moved, Zabel seconded to approve the six soil health applications listed above, totaling \$21,240, funding to be used from P25-0489 Soil Health Delivery grant. Roll call vote: Burandt-aye; Sons-aye; Wendland-aye; Zabel-aye; Zbinden-aye. Motion carried.

- d. The 2023 omnibus tax bill included new statutory language and provisions for the SWCD Aid Payments from the state. One of the requirements is the SWCD must annually post on its website, a Board adopted resolution with guidelines on how the SWCD will be using the funds. MASWCD has drafted a resolution template that covers the statutory language needed.

Resolution 044-2024: Zabel moved, Wendland seconded to approve the resolution on use of SWCD Aid Payments. Roll call vote: Burandt-aye; Sons-aye; Wendland-aye; Zabel-aye; Zbinden-aye. Motion carried.

- e. The 2024 legislative session resulted in changes to state laws regarding the Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act (WCA). Mike reviewed the changes to the WCA laws that will impact the work of the SWCD. Mike also explained that the law exempts wetlands that are NRCS certified prior converted/non-wetlands. Those NRCS certified determinations cannot be challenged, even if the certification could be questionable.
- f. The Board discussed potential nominees for the 2024 outstanding conservationist, to be recognized at the MASWCD convention in December. Nomination forms are due to MASWCD by August 30.

Resolution 045-2024: Zabel moved, Burandt seconded to select SSP Holdings LP as Carver County's 2024 outstanding conservationist. Roll call vote: Burandt-aye; Sons-aye; Wendland-aye; Zabel-aye; Zbinden-aye. Motion carried.

7. SWCD Board Committee & SWCD Staff Monthly Reports

- a. Personnel Committee (Zabel, Zbinden) – nothing to report.

- b. Metro Conservation District’s (MCD) Committee (Zbinden; Wendland alt.) – the next MCD Board meeting will be on August 28.
- c. Education & Outreach Committee (Sons, Wendland) – Chair Zbinden asked about progress on the new SWCD website. Felicia has been working with Brettworks over the past month getting the Stripe payment processing set up for the online store. She explained that for pictures of the tree species that will be on the online store, we are unable to use the tree/shrub photos from Schumacher’s Berry Farm website. The company who set up Schumacher’s website has the rights to those pictures and have denied permission for anyone to use those photos. Felicia will contact Brettworks, to get an update about the website for the September board meeting.
- d. Budget Committee (Burandt, Sons) – The budget hearing was held on July 25, nothing else to report at this time.
- e. WMO Advisory Committee (Wendland; Zbinden alt.) – Wendland reported a presentation was given on the no-wake ordinance for several Carver County lakes. He also reported on the WMO budget request for 2025, stating the impact to an average household in Carver County was \$0.39 higher. The committee approved the draft WMO levy request. The Lake Bavaria watershed study is not completed yet, but there should be an update by the end of September.
- 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.

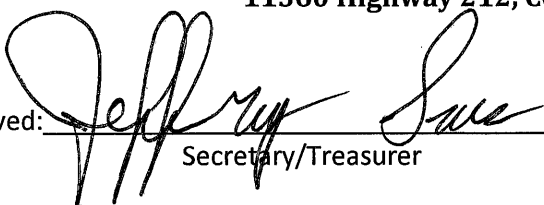
8. Board of Supervisors Announcements

- a. Mike reported that the SWCD’s 2004 F250 has been sold at auction. The SWCD purchased a used 2017 police interceptor Explorer from Carver County as a replacement.
- b. Upcoming meetings/events:
 - September 2 – Labor Day, SWCD office closed
 - September 19 – SWCD Board meeting
 - November 7 – MASWCD Area 4 meeting

9. Adjourn

Resolution 046-2024: Burandt moved, Wendland seconded to adjourn the meeting at 10:11 a.m. Roll call vote: Burandt-aye; Sons-aye; Wendland-aye; Zabel-aye; Zbinden-aye. Motion carried.

Next Board Meeting: Thursday, September 19, 2024, at 8:00 AM
Location: Public Works Headquarters, Conference Room 1
 11360 Highway 212, Cologne, MN 55322

Approved:  _____ Date signed: September 19, 2024
 Secretary/Treasurer