

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. Approval of the August 15, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes
- b. Acceptance 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 Hoese'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 Hoese'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 Hoese'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 Datre's 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.

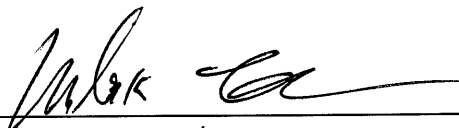
8. Board of Supervisors Announcements

- 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