



11360 Highway 212 STE 6
Cologne, MN 55322
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Carver SWCD Board Meeting Minutes – January 16, 2025

Held in conference room 1 at the Carver County Public Works facility in Cologne, MN

Board Members Present:

Member, Michael Lynch
Member, Jeffrey Sons
Member, Mark Zabel (*arrived at 8:15 a.m.*)
Member, Marcus Zbinden

Board Members Absent:

Member, Stanley Wendland

Others Present:

Carver County WMO, Madeline Seveland (*arrived at 8:35 a.m.*)
Carver County Green Corps Member, Tom Lloyd
FSA Program Analyst, Olivia Vinkemeier
NRCS Team Lead, Chris Schmidt
NRCS Soil Conservation Technician, Cindy Hoffmann

SWCD Staff Present:

District Manager, Mike Wanous
Admin. & Finance Spec., Felicia Brockoff
Landscape Restoration Spec., Seth Ristow

The oath of office was taken by Supervisors Michael Lynch (District 4) and Marcus Zbinden (District 2) at this time.

1. Call to Order.

District Manager, Mike Wanous, called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

Since Supervisor Zabel was not at the meeting yet, it was decided to start with the Agency Reports.

2. Agency Reports

- a. NRCS report – Cindy reported there were 14 EQIP applications for Carver County that made it through the ranking process. No applications were received for the Act Now program, high tunnel funding. Staff are certifying completed practices for existing projects under the CSP program and making payments. Four applications were also received by the December 15 deadline and will be ranked before the March 21 deadline. There has been no new activity for CRP. She also mentioned Steve Braeker, the District Conservationist in LeCenter, retired December 31.

Chris reported that he will be working in the LeCenter office a lot more, since the staff there is new. He mentioned Eleanor Berg who was hired by Pheasants Forever as a wildlife biologist, is housed in the LeCenter office. She can assist any county in the southeast field operations area. The Faribault office has recently moved into their new building, after about a year of not being in a permanent workspace. There is still no new Farm Bill, so USDA is basically operating status quo.

- b. FSA report – Olivia reported FSA would like to remind producers who buy, sell, or rent different land should notify their office as soon as possible. She reported signup for the 2025 Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) program is January 21 through April 15. The

sign up for Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) Program is January 29 to March 31. The next County Committee Meeting will be held February 11 at 9:00 AM.

c. Carver County report – will be given when Madeline arrives.

3. Nominations and election for Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary/Treasurer for 2025.

Manager Wanous opened the nominations for Chair at this time. Zbinden nominated Zabel as the Chair. With no other nominations or objections, Zabel is the 2025 Carver SWCD Chair by acclamation.

Zabel took over the meeting and opened the nominations for Vice Chair. Sons nominated Zbinden as the Vice Chair. With no other nominations or objections, Zbinden is the 2025 Carver SWCD Vice Chair by acclamation.

Zabel opened the nominations for Secretary/Treasurer. Zbinden nominated Sons as the Secretary/Treasurer. With no other nominations or objections, Sons is the 2054 Carver SWCD Secretary/Treasurer by acclamation.

4. Public Comments – None.

5. Agenda Review and Adoption.

Resolution 001-2025: Zbinden moved, Sons seconded, to approve the January 16, 2025, Board Meeting Agenda as printed. Roll call vote: Lynch-aye; Sons-aye; Wendland-absent; Zabel-aye; Zbinden-aye. Motion carried.

6. Organizational Meeting Items.

a. Operating Rules for 2025. The new SWCD website has been added to page 6. Mike also reported that as of yesterday, the Carver County Leaders group will be dissolved. That standing committee will be stricken from the Operating Rules.

b. Resolution 002-2025: Zbinden moved, Lynch seconded to keep the Supervisors compensation policy the same as it was in 2024. Roll call vote: Lynch-aye; Sons-aye; Wendland-absent; Zabel-aye; Zbinden-aye. Motion carried.

c. Resolution 003-2025: Zbinden moved, Sons seconded to set the 2025 mileage rate a \$0.70 per mile. Roll call vote: Lynch-aye; Sons-aye; Wendland-absent; Zabel-aye; Zbinden-aye. Motion carried.

d. Resolution 004-2025: Sons moved, Lynch seconded to designate Security Bank & Trust, MidCountry Bank, Citizens State Bank of NYA, Old National Bank, and Southpoint Financial Credit Union as the Carver SWCD's 2025 depository designations.

e. Chair Zabel made the following appointments to the standing SWCD committees:

1. Personnel Committee – Zabel, Zbinden
2. Metro Conservation District's Committee – Zbinden; Lynch alt.
3. Education Committee – Sons, Wendland
4. Budget Committee – Sons, Zbinden
5. WMO Advisory Committee – Zbinden; Wendland alt.
6. South Fork Crow River 1W1P –Zabel; Lynch alt.

7. Consent Agenda Items

Resolution 005-2025: Sons moved, Zbinden seconded to approve the following consent agenda items:

- a. Approval of December 19, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes
 - b. Acceptance of the December 2024 Treasurer's Report
- Roll call vote: Lynch-aye; Sons-aye; Wendland-absent; Zabel-aye; Zbinden-aye. Motion carried.

8. Regular Agenda Items

- a. Resolution 006-2025: Lynch moved, Sons seconded to pay the MCIT annual insurance renewal, total cost of \$14,102. Roll call vote: Lynch-aye; Sons-aye; Wendland-absent; Zabel-aye; Zbinden-aye. Motion carried.
- b. Resolution 007-2025: Sons moved, Zbinden seconded to pay MASWCD annual dues, \$7,431.37; and submit \$100 to NACD for the 2025 conservation investment. Roll call vote: Lynch-aye; Sons-aye; Wendland-absent; Zabel-aye; Zbinden-aye. Motion carried.

2. Agency Reports (cont.)

- c. Carver County Report – Madeline introduced Tom Lloyd, who has been hired as the 11-month GreenCorps position. His position is through the AmeriCorps program, a national program that is run through the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). Tom gave the Board a presentation on the three main areas that he plans to work on over the next 11 months, which included native plant cost-share education, chloride education and pollution prevention, and finally a best management practices inventory for cost-shared sites.

9. SWCD Board Committee & SWCD Staff Monthly Reports

- a. Personnel Committee (Zabel, Zbinden) – Felicia's 31-year anniversary with the SWCD was on December 28.
- b. Metro Conservation District's (MCD) Committee (Zbinden; Lynch alt.) – did not meet.
- c. Education & Outreach Committee (Sons, Wendland) – Felicia asked the Supervisors what type of contact information each Supervisor would like to have on the new website. She will send the phone numbers and email addresses to Brettworks to update.

Sons would like to see some educational items being sent out to Carver County landowners about Wild Parsnip before it starts blooming this spring. Mike asked Madeline about Wild Parsnip education that may have been done through her education efforts, but Madeline reported it has been very sporadic. Cindy also reported that she has been discussing the injection option to quarantine ash trees from Emerald Ash Borer with producers. Chair Zabel stated he was not in favor of the injections for ash trees, due to the harmful effects neonicotinoids have on other bugs and plants.

- d. Budget Committee (Sons, Zbinden) – did not meet.
- e. WMO Advisory Committee (Zbinden; Wendland alt.) – did not meet.
- f. South Fork Crow River 1W1P (Zabel; Lynch alt.) – Nothing to report.
- g. The SWCD staff monthly progress report was presented and discussed.

10. Board of Supervisors Announcements

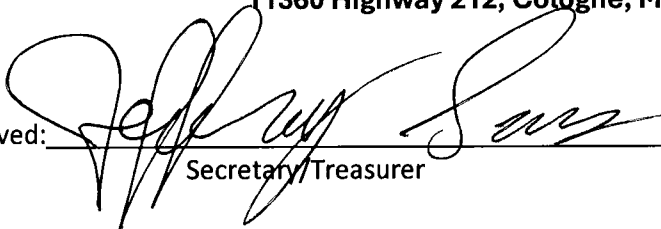
- a. Chair Zabel reported that the BWSR soil health program is on the Docket to be approved at next Wednesday's BWSR board meeting. There is \$150,000 available for 70 SWCD's that meet the minimum criteria that at least 30% of the County is agricultural land. There is also a webinar scheduled for January 21 to provide information about the program.
- b. Upcoming meetings/events:
 - January 20 – Martin Luther King Jr. birthday observed, SWCD office closed
 - February 17 – Presidents Day, SWCD office closed
 - February 20 – SWCD Board meeting, 8:00 AM (Supervisor Lynch will be absent)

11. Adjourn

Resolution 008-2025: Burandt moved, Sons seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:41 a.m. Roll call vote: Burandt-aye; Sons-aye; Wendland-absent; Zabel-aye; Zbinden-aye. Motion carried.

Next Board Meeting: Thursday, January 16, 2025, at 8:00 AM
Location: Public Works Headquarters, Conference Room 1
11360 Highway 212, Cologne, MN 55322

Approved: _____



Secretary/Treasurer

Date signed: February 20, 2025