

11360 Highway 212 STE 6  
Cologne, MN 55322

(952) 466-5230 | [carverswcd.org](http://carverswcd.org)

## Carver SWCD Board Meeting Minutes – February 20, 2025

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

### Board Members Present:

Chair, Mark Zabel  
Vice Chair, Marcus Zbinden  
Secretary/Treasurer, Jeffrey Sons

### Board Members Absent:

Member, Michael Lynch  
Member, Stanley Wendland

### SWCD Staff Present:

District Manager, Mike Wanous  
Admin. & Finance Spec., Felicia Brockoff  
Landscape Restoration Spec., Seth Ristow (*arrived at 8:15 a.m.*)

### Others Present:

FSA Program Analyst, Olivia Vinkemeier  
NRCS District Conservationist, Katie Mattila  
NRCS Soil Conservation Technician, Cindy Hoffmann

### 1. Call to Order.

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

### 2. Public Comments – None.

### 3. Agenda Review and Adoption.

Mike noted that MASWCD Area 4 spring meeting has been rescheduled to April 7. It was previously announced as March 26.

Resolution 009-2025: Zbinden moved, Sons seconded, to approve the February 20, 2025, Board Meeting Agenda, noting the MASWCD Area 4 meeting date change. Roll call vote: Lynch-absent; Sons-aye; Wendland-absent; Zabel-aye; Zbinden-aye. Motion carried.

### 4. Agency Reports

- a. FSA report – Olivia reported the 2025 Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs sign-up is from January 21 through April 15. The sign up for Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) Program is January 29 through March 31. She also reported the deadline for applications for the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) and Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP) has been extended to March 1, 2025. The next County Committee Meeting will be held March 4 at 9:00 AM.
- b. Carver County report – Mike reported that Paul was unable to attend the meeting but sent a quick report. The next WMO meeting will be held on February 26. On February 18, the County Board adopted the WMO projects list update. There will be a work session planned in early March, to discuss the Public Works site master plan, which will include relocating the current driveway access, berms, security fencing, limited building expansions, and future additional buildings to the west of the current parking lot.

interns this summer.

- c. NRCS report – Katie reported that it's been a little chaotic with the recent administration changes and cuts to staff, which included the Waconia Forester, Isabella Wendland. Staff are currently working through EQIP application approvals, 7 of which have been approved in Carver County. Four CSP applications have been received in Carver County, with a ranking deadline of March 21. A bulletin was also recently issued, stating all local work group meetings need to be held by June 25.

## 6. Consent Agenda Items

Resolution 010-2025: Sons moved, Zbinden seconded to approve the following consent agenda items:

- a. Approval of January 15, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes
  - b. Acceptance of the January 2025 Treasurer's Report
  - c. Approve Peterson Company Ltd. engagement letter to conduct the FY24 audit, \$5,000 fee
  - d. Pay MASWCD Area 4 dues, \$350
- Roll call vote: Lynch-absent; Sons-aye; Wendland-absent; Zabel-aye; Zbinden-aye. Motion carried.

## 7. Regular Agenda Items

- a. Seth discussed the changes to the pollinator program he is proposing. Currently, the reimbursement for private and public lands is a maximum of \$1 per square foot, with the program maximum being \$2,000 for private land, and \$5,000 for public land. He would like to raise it to \$2 per square foot, with a \$5,000 maximum for both public and private lands. Chair Zabel suggested removing the sign-up periods. Zbinden suggested a representative from BWSR come to a Board meeting, and discuss their Lawns to Legumes program, and how it's affected Carver County.

Resolution 011-2025: Zbinden moved, Sons seconded, to approve the proposed changes to the pollinator program, and remove the sign-up dates from the program brochure. Roll call vote: Lynch-absent; Sons-aye; Wendland-absent; Zabel-aye; Zbinden-aye. Motion carried.

- b. BWSR has released a request for interest (RFI) to participate in their soil health grant process, which is supposed to provide both federal and state funding for landowners. However, with the new federal cuts, it is unsure if these grants will receive federal funding.

Resolution 012-2025: Zbinden moved to affirmatively request participation in BWSR's soil health grant process and apply for the proposed \$180,000 in funding. Seconded by Sons. Roll call vote: Lynch-absent; Sons-aye; Wendland-absent; Zabel-aye; Zbinden-aye. Motion carried.

- c. The MASWCD legislative briefing and SWCD day at the Capitol has been scheduled for March 4-5. Mike reviewed MASWCD's legislative priorities that included SWCD Aid, clean water funding, and RIM bonding funds.
- d. The MASWCD Area 4 spring meeting has been rescheduled to April 7. There is a proposed change to the by-laws that will be recommended. Chair Zabel mentioned another change he'd like to see, is under Article VII – ELECTIONS, Section 3. Election Procedure. It states that 'Voting shall be by paper ballot.' He commented that even if there is only 1 candidate, voting still has to be done by paper ballot. Chair Zabel may discuss that at the April 7 meeting as well.

## 9. SWCD Board Committee & SWCD Staff Monthly Reports

- a. Personnel Committee (Zabel, Zbinden) – nothing to report.
- b. Metro Conservation District's (MCD) Committee (Zbinden; Lynch alt.) – The next meeting will be February 26, Zbinden plans to attend.
- c. Education & Outreach Committee (Sons, Wendland) – nothing to report.
- d. Budget Committee (Sons, Zbinden) – nothing to report.
- e. WMO Advisory Committee (Zbinden; Wendland alt.) – Mike reported on the January 30 meeting. There were three new Committee members at the meeting, and potentially a fourth new member just recently appointed. Jim Boettcher has been elected as the Chair, and Mike Lynch will serve as the Vice Chair. Mike reported the group discussed the highlights from 2024, and the AIS plan for 2025. The next meeting will be February 25.
- f. South Fork Crow River 1W1P (Zabel; Lynch alt.) – Chair Zabel reported that he received an email update related to budget items for the South Fork Crow River 1W1P, which he reviewed with the Board at this time.
- g. The SWCD staff monthly progress report was presented and discussed. Seth reported that a native plant workshop will be held on April 10 at the Chanhassen Community Center.

Mike updated the Board on the re-determination of ditch benefits, and the public hearings that have been held so far. Chair Zabel also asked about the culvert issue along Salem Avenue, south of Highway 212. Mike explained that landowners are questioning if the new box culvert was installed at the correct elevation, there is a lot of conflicting information and staff will continue to review it.

## 10. Board of Supervisors Announcements

- a. Upcoming meetings/events:
  - March 4-5 – MASWCD Legislative briefing and SWCD Day at the Capitol
  - March 20 – SWCD Board meeting, 8:00 AM
  - April 7 – MASWCD Area 4 meeting, Cabela's in Rogers
  - April 10 – Native Plant Workshop, Chanhassen Community Center

## 11. Adjourn

Resolution 013-2025: Zbinden moved, Sons seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 a.m. Roll call vote: Lynch-absent; Sons-aye; Wendland-absent; Zabel-aye; Zbinden-aye. Motion carried.

**Next Board Meeting:** Thursday, March 20, 2025, at 8:00 AM  
**Location:** Public Works Headquarters, Conference Room 1  
 11360 Highway 212, Cologne, MN 55322

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Date signed: March 20, 2025  
 Secretary/Treasurer

Date	Num	Name	Memo	Debit	Credit	Balance
1000 Checking-Security Bank						10,080.85
02/03/2025			Deposit - Online Tree Orders	135.64		10,216.49
02/04/2025			Deposit - Online Tree Orders	179.03		10,395.52
02/05/2025			Deposit - Online Tree Orders	358.36		10,753.88
02/06/2025			Deposit - Online Tree Orders	820.19		11,574.07
02/07/2025	3739	Elan Financial Services	1335		522.47	11,051.60
02/07/2025	3740	NCPERS Group Life Ins.	910300-022025		16.00	11,035.60
02/07/2025	3741	HSA Bank	#W601213 January Fees		12.50	11,023.10
02/07/2025	3742	Carver County	PW-7027		104.14	10,918.96
02/07/2025			Deposit - Online Tree Orders	38.54		10,957.50
02/10/2025			Funds Transfer-455292664	50,000.00		60,957.50
02/10/2025			Deposit - Online Tree Orders	140.49		61,097.99
02/10/2025			Deposit - Online Tree Orders	38.54		61,136.53
02/12/2025			Deposit - Online Tree Orders	377.79		61,514.32
02/13/2025		QuickBooks Payroll Serv...	Created by Payroll Service on 02/04/2025		16,189.18	45,325.14
02/13/2025	3743	Carver County	February Insurance Due		10,965.91	34,359.23
02/13/2025			Deposit - Tree Orders	435.00		34,794.23
02/14/2025	DD1096	Brockoff, Felicia L.	Direct Deposit	0.00		34,794.23
02/14/2025	DD1097	Datres, Benjamin R.	Direct Deposit	0.00		34,794.23
02/14/2025	DD1098	Genelin, Thomas M.	Direct Deposit	0.00		34,794.23
02/14/2025	DD1099	Meiller, Terry J.	Direct Deposit	0.00		34,794.23
02/14/2025	DD1100	Polster, Tyler J.	Direct Deposit	0.00		34,794.23
02/14/2025	DD1101	Ristow, Seth E.	Direct Deposit	0.00		34,794.23
02/14/2025	DD1102	Wanous, Richard M.	Direct Deposit	0.00		34,794.23
02/14/2025	EFT-782	HSA Bank	41-1385530		1,492.00	33,302.23
02/14/2025	EFT-783	Minnesota Revenue	7694248		1,046.00	32,256.23
02/14/2025	EFT-784	MSRS	Employee Elective		1,229.00	31,027.23
02/14/2025	EFT-785	PERA	9103-00		3,576.42	27,450.81
02/14/2025	EFT-786	US Treasury IRS	41-1385530		5,765.00	21,685.81
02/18/2025			Deposit - Online Tree Orders	242.15		21,927.96
02/19/2025			Deposit - Online Tree Orders	57.96		21,985.92
02/20/2025			Deposit - Online Tree Orders	125.63		22,111.55
02/20/2025			Funds Transfer-457410338	30,000.00		52,111.55
02/20/2025	3744	Carver County	INTINV-624 New Computers for staff		10,970.06	41,141.49
02/20/2025	3745	MASWCD Area IV	2025 Dues		350.00	40,791.49
02/21/2025			Deposit - Online Tree Orders	373.23		41,164.72
02/25/2025	3746	Datres, Benjamin R.	Meal Reimbursement		23.57	41,141.15
02/26/2025			Deposit - Online Tree Orders	378.08		41,519.23
02/26/2025	2025-05		Refund to 2025-107 (Out of E. Redbud)		45.00	41,474.23
02/27/2025		QuickBooks Payroll Serv...	Created by Payroll Service on 02/14/2025		16,459.20	25,015.03
02/27/2025			Deposit-ETA 2024 Q4	4,994.89		30,009.92
02/28/2025	DD1103	Brockoff, Felicia L.	Direct Deposit	0.00		30,009.92
02/28/2025	DD1104	Datres, Benjamin R.	Direct Deposit	0.00		30,009.92
02/28/2025	DD1105	Genelin, Thomas M.	Direct Deposit	0.00		30,009.92
02/28/2025	DD1106	Meiller, Terry J.	Direct Deposit	0.00		30,009.92
02/28/2025	DD1107	Polster, Tyler J.	Direct Deposit	0.00		30,009.92
02/28/2025	DD1108	Ristow, Seth E.	Direct Deposit	0.00		30,009.92
02/28/2025	DD1109	Wanous, Richard M.	Direct Deposit	0.00		30,009.92
02/28/2025	EFT-787	HSA Bank	41-1385530		1,492.00	28,517.92
02/28/2025	EFT-788	Minnesota Revenue	7694248		1,066.00	27,451.92
02/28/2025	EFT-789	MSRS	Employee Elective		1,229.00	26,222.92
02/28/2025	EFT-790	PERA	9103-00		3,756.42	22,466.50
02/28/2025	EFT-791	US Treasury IRS	41-1385530		5,790.02	16,676.48
02/28/2025			Interest	0.52		16,677.00
Total 1000 Checking-Security Bank				88,696.04	82,099.89	16,677.00
1100 Savings-Security Bank						411,836.74
02/07/2025			Deposit - Carver Co. Trees	340.00		412,176.74
02/10/2025			Funds Transfer-455292664		50,000.00	362,176.74
02/20/2025			Funds Transfer-457410338		30,000.00	332,176.74
02/21/2025			Deposit - Carver Co. Tree Tubes	1,000.00		333,176.74
02/24/2025			Deposit - Nursery Stock Refund	100.00		333,276.74
02/25/2025			Deposit - RIM Inspections	4,150.00		337,426.74
02/28/2025			Interest	396.77		337,823.51
Total 1100 Savings-Security Bank				5,986.77	80,000.00	337,823.51
1110 Member Savings-SouthPoint						

**Carver Soil & Water Conservation District**  
**Treasurer's Report**  
As of February 28, 2025

Date	Num	Name	Memo	Debit	Credit	Balance
Total 1110 Member Savings-SouthPoint						10.30
<b>1150 Savings Citizens NYA</b>						81,445.39
02/28/2025			Interest	103.76		81,549.15
Total 1150 Savings Citizens NYA						81,549.15
<b>1200 Investments CD's</b>						532,227.98
<b>12.ONB**528 (4.75%-4/3/25)</b>						106,371.13
Total 12.ONB**528 (4.75%-4/3/25)						106,371.13
<b>12.SPCU**024 (4.6%-4/15/2025)</b>						108,876.40
Total 12.SPCU**024 (4.6%-4/15/2025)						108,876.40
<b>12.SPCU**871 (4.9%-5/22/25)</b>						106,873.77
Total 12.SPCU**871 (4.9%-5/22/25)						106,873.77
<b>12.SB&amp;T **096 (4.29%-07/13/25)</b>						54,509.68
Total 12.SB&T **096 (4.29%-07/13/25)						54,509.68
<b>12.SB&amp;T **254 (4.25%-08/07/25)</b>						155,597.00
02/07/2025	2025-04		Interest Earned, renewed for 6 mos.	1,925.65		157,522.65
Total 12.SB&T **254 (4.25%-08/07/25)						157,522.65
Total 1200 Investments CD's						534,153.63
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>96,712.22</b>	<b>162,099.89</b>	<b>970,213.59</b>



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## Treasurer's Monthly Report Program Summary - February 2025

	Cash Balance <u>1/31/2025</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Disbursements</u>	Cash Balance <u>2/28/2025</u>
<b><u>Funds</u></b>				
BWSR CRP Incentive Grant	\$20,000.00			\$20,000.00
BWSR Buffer Implementation	\$29,538.71			\$29,538.71
BWSR Conservation Delivery	\$0.00			\$0.00
BWSR District Capacity	\$53,481.04		\$5,486.04	\$47,995.00
BWSR Soil Health Cost-Share	-\$20,000.00			-\$20,000.00
BWSR State Cost Share	\$48,370.00			\$48,370.00
BWSR WBIF (Waconia & Eagle)	\$5,393.15			\$5,393.15
SWCD Operating Funds	\$789,796.36	\$16,712.22	\$76,613.85	\$729,894.73
District Escrow	\$109,022.00			\$109,022.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,035,601.26</b>	<b>\$16,712.22</b>	<b>\$82,099.89</b>	<b>\$970,213.59</b>

<b><u>Use of Cash</u></b>				
1000 Checking Security Bank	\$10,080.85	\$88,696.04	\$82,099.89	\$16,677.00
1100 Savings-Security Bank	\$411,836.74	\$5,986.77	\$80,000.00	\$337,823.51
1110 Savings-South Point CU	\$10.30			\$10.30
1150 Savings-Citizens NYA	\$81,445.39	\$103.76		\$81,549.15
1200 Investments CD's	\$532,227.98	\$1,925.65		\$534,153.63
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,035,601.26</b>	<b>\$96,712.22</b>	<b>\$162,099.89</b>	<b>\$970,213.59</b>

\_\_\_\_\_  
Carver SWCD Board Treasurer

\_\_\_\_\_  
3/20/2025

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Carver Soil & Water Conservation District****Balance Sheet**

As of February 28, 2025

	<u>Feb 28, 25</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>	
<b>Checking/Savings</b>	
1000 Checking-Security Bank	16,677.00
1100 Savings-Security Bank	337,823.51
1110 Member Savings-SouthPoint	10.30
1150 Savings Citizens NYA	81,549.15
1200 Investments CD's	534,153.63
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	<u>970,213.59</u>
<b>Accounts Receivable</b>	
1300 Accounts Receivable	3,575.00
<b>Total Accounts Receivable</b>	<u>3,575.00</u>
<b>Other Current Assets</b>	
1310 Due From Other Government	12,000.00
1350 Interest Receivable	2,570.27
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	<u>14,570.27</u>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<u>988,358.86</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b><u>988,358.86</u></b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
<b>Liabilities</b>	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
<b>Other Current Liabilities</b>	
2200 Payroll Liabilities	-180.00
2300 Sales Tax Payable	1,256.09
2400 Unearned-Deferred Revenue	
2402 Buffer Implementation	29,538.71
2405 Cost-Share	48,370.00
2409 CRP Incentive P25-0452	20,000.00
2406 District Capacity Funds	47,995.00
2407 Soil Health Grants	-8,000.00
2408 WBIF Grants	5,393.15
<b>Total 2400 Unearned-Deferred Revenue</b>	<u>143,296.86</u>
<b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>	<u>144,372.95</u>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<u>144,372.95</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<u>144,372.95</u>
<b>Equity</b>	
3000 FUND BALANCE	847,382.08
Net Income	-3,396.17
<b>Total Equity</b>	<u>843,985.91</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b><u>988,358.86</u></b>



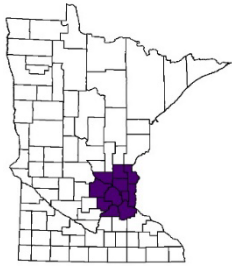
## January through February 2025

	<u>Jan - Feb 25</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Bud...</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
<b>Income</b>				
<b>4000 Intergovernmental County</b>				
4010 Annual Allocation	143,415.50	573,581.00	-430,165.50	25.0%
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>	<b>143,415.50</b>	<b>601,081.00</b>	<b>-457,665.50</b>	<b>23.9%</b>
<b>4100 Intergovernmental Local</b>				
4110 Cities, WD, LGU Revenue	0.00	12,500.00	-12,500.00	0.0%
4120 MCD, MACD Revenue	4,994.89	35,000.00	-30,005.11	14.3%
<b>Total 4100 Intergovernmental Local</b>	<b>4,994.89</b>	<b>47,500.00</b>	<b>-42,505.11</b>	<b>10.5%</b>
<b>4200 Intergovernmental State</b>				
4205 Cost-Share	2,686.90			
4206 District Capacity Funds	5,486.04			
4208 Easement Reimbursements	4,150.00			
4207 Soil Health C/S	8,000.00			
4212 SWCD Aid	0.00	133,000.00	-133,000.00	0.0%
4211 WBIF Grants	0.00	230,000.00	-230,000.00	0.0%
<b>Total 4200 Intergovernmental State</b>	<b>20,322.94</b>	<b>363,000.00</b>	<b>-342,677.06</b>	<b>5.6%</b>
<b>4300 Charges for Services</b>				
4320 Great Plains Drill Rental	0.00	7,500.00	-7,500.00	0.0%
4330 Tree & Native Seed Sales	16,456.36	27,000.00	-10,543.64	60.9%
<b>Total 4300 Charges for Services</b>	<b>16,456.36</b>	<b>34,500.00</b>	<b>-18,043.64</b>	<b>47.7%</b>
4400 Interest Earnings	0.00	17,500.00	-17,500.00	0.0%
4500 Miscellaneous Revenues	0.00	7,500.00	-7,500.00	0.0%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>185,189.69</b>	<b>1,071,081.00</b>	<b>-885,891.31</b>	<b>17.3%</b>
<b>Expense</b>				
<b>5000 District Operations</b>				
<b>5100 Personnel Services</b>				
5101 Payroll Expenses	107,345.95	621,222.00	-513,876.05	17.3%
5102 Payroll Fees	175.75	1,000.00	-824.25	17.6%
5103 SWCD - FICA/Medicare	7,622.02	47,523.00	-39,900.98	16.0%
5104 SWCD - Insurance Ben.	19,663.08	150,000.00	-130,336.92	13.1%
5105 SWCD - PERA & DCP	7,893.15	46,592.00	-38,698.85	16.9%
5106 MN Paid Leave Law	0.00	7,455.00	-7,455.00	0.0%
<b>Total 5100 Personnel Services</b>	<b>142,699.95</b>	<b>873,792.00</b>	<b>-731,092.05</b>	<b>16.3%</b>
<b>5200 Other Services &amp; Charges</b>				
5201 Dues	7,881.37	9,000.00	-1,118.63	87.6%
5202 Education & Promotion	32.79	2,500.00	-2,467.21	1.3%
5203 Employee Expense	508.57	3,500.00	-2,991.43	14.5%
5204 Equipment Repairs	0.00	1,000.00	-1,000.00	0.0%
5205 MCIT Insurance Coverage	14,102.00	14,000.00	102.00	100.7%
5206 Mileage	0.00	2,000.00	-2,000.00	0.0%



## January through February 2025

	<u>Jan - Feb 25</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Bud...</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
5207 Office Operations/Misc.	1,039.17	7,500.00	-6,460.83	13.9%
5208 Professional Services	0.00	5,000.00	-5,000.00	0.0%
5209 Supervisor Expenses	0.00	1,500.00	-1,500.00	0.0%
5220 Vehicle/Equipment Expenses	332.52	6,000.00	-5,667.48	5.5%
<b>Total 5200 Other Services &amp; Charges</b>	<b>23,896.42</b>	<b>52,000.00</b>	<b>-28,103.58</b>	<b>46.0%</b>
5300 Supplies - Office & Field	28.98	3,500.00	-3,471.02	0.8%
5400 Capital Outlay	10,970.06	20,000.00	-9,029.94	54.9%
<b>Total 5000 District Operations</b>	<b>177,595.41</b>	<b>949,292.00</b>	<b>-771,696.59</b>	<b>18.7%</b>
<b>6000 Project Expenses</b>				
6100 District Projects				
6114 Tree Program Expenses	303.55			
<b>Total 6100 District Projects</b>	<b>303.55</b>			
6200 State Projects				
6207 Soil Health Cost-Share				
6207.01 Soil Health Incentive	8,000.00			
<b>Total 6207 Soil Health Cost-Share</b>	<b>8,000.00</b>			
6221 Cost-Share Projects	2,686.90			
6200 State Projects - Other	0.00	71,789.00	-71,789.00	0.0%
<b>Total 6200 State Projects</b>	<b>10,686.90</b>	<b>71,789.00</b>	<b>-61,102.10</b>	<b>14.9%</b>
6000 Project Expenses - Other	0.00	50,000.00	-50,000.00	0.0%
<b>Total 6000 Project Expenses</b>	<b>10,990.45</b>	<b>121,789.00</b>	<b>-110,798.55</b>	<b>9.0%</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>188,585.86</b>	<b>1,071,081.00</b>	<b>-882,495.14</b>	<b>17.6%</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-3,396.17</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>-3,396.17</b>	<b>100.0%</b>



## Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts, Area IV

*Members: Anoka, Carver, Chisago, Dakota, Hennepin, Isanti, Ramsey, Scott, Sherburne, Washington & Wright SWCDs*

### MASWCD Area IV - Spring Meeting

Monday, April 7, 2025

9:30 a.m. to noon

Cabela's 20200 Rogers Drive - 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room  
Rogers, MN 55374

### AGENDA

9:00 a.m.    **Meeting Registration** - Coffee and Donuts

- |       |   |                    |
|-------|---|--------------------|
| 9:30  | 1. <b>Call to Order</b>   |                    |
|       | 2. <b>Pledge of Allegiance</b>  |                    |
|       | 3. <b>Introductions and Roll Call</b>   |                    |
|       | 4. <b>Approve Agenda - (Additions/Corrections/Deletions)</b>                  | <i>Action</i>      |
|       | 5. <b>Approve Fall Meeting Minutes from November 7, 2024</b>                  | <i>Action</i>      |
|       | 6. <b>Approve Treasurers Report</b>   | <i>Action</i>      |
|       | 7. <b>2024 Audit Committee Report</b>   | <i>Action</i>      |
|       | 8. <b>Amendment to the Bylaws</b>   | <i>Action</i>      |
|       | 9. <b>Appointment of Members to Standing Committees</b>                       | <i>Action</i>      |
|       | Budget Committee (5)  |                    |
|       | Audit Committee (3)   |                    |
|       | Public Relations and Outreach (4/3)   |                    |
| 10:15 | 10. <b>MASWCD Area IV Director's Report – John Rheinberger, Area Director</b> | <i>Information</i> |
|       | 11. <b>Agency and MASWCD Updates</b>  | <i>Information</i> |
|       | BWSR Board – Mark Zabel, Carver SWCD & Jayne Hager Dee, Dakota SWCD           |                    |
|       | BWSR – Marcey Westrick, Central Region Manager                                |                    |
|       | NRCS – Rick Berscheid, Assistant State Conservationist Field Operations       |                    |
|       | MASWCD – Sheila Vanney, Assistant Director                                    |                    |
|       | Other -   |                    |
|       | 12. <b>Presentation – Phase 3 Soil Health, Jared House</b>                    |                    |
|       | 13. <b>Legislative DATC Recap</b>   |                    |
|       | 14. <b>Member Updates</b>   | <i>Information</i> |
|       | 15. <b>Upcoming Resolutions</b>   | <i>Information</i> |
|       | 16. <b>Summer Meeting Date and Information – Hennepin County</b>              | <i>Information</i> |
| 12:00 | 17. <b>Adjournment</b>  | <i>Action</i>      |

## MASWCD Area IV Committees (2025)

### Budget Committee

Budget Committee composed of the Secretary/Treasurer and 4 other voting members shall oversee the budget of the current fiscal year and propose a budget for the following fiscal year. The budget committee may propose changes to the budget for the current fiscal year. The proposed changes shall be approved by a majority vote of the association.

<b>2024 Members</b>	<b>2025 Members</b>
Treasurer Binsfeld (Sherburne)	•
Supervisor Meixell (Anoka)	•
Supervisor Zabel (Carver)	•
Supervisor Schoenecker (Scott)	•
Supervisor Zbinden (Carver)	•

### Audit Committee

An Auditing Committee composed of 3 voting members shall audit the Secretary/ Treasurer's accounts at the close of the fiscal year and report at the annual meeting. Historically has met and reported at the Fall meeting.

<b>2024 Members</b>	<b>2025 Members</b>
Supervisor Anderson (Isanti)	•
Supervisor Dee (Dakota)	•
Supervisor Johnson (Dakota)	•

### Public Relations & Outreach Committee

A Public Relations & Outreach Committee composed of four voting members and three staff representatives shall be appointed by the Director whose duty shall be to develop recommendation for effective legislative outreach strategies.

<b>2024 Members</b>	<b>2025 Members</b>
Supervisor Blake (Washington)	•
Supervisor Zannmiller (Dakota)	•
Supervisor Truchon (Anoka)	•
Vacant	•
Kuphal (Scott Staff)	•
Lord (Anoka Staff)	•
Riggs (Washington Staff)	•



# **2024 Annual Report**

# **2025 Annual Plan of Work**

11360 Highway 212, Suite 6  
Cologne, MN 55322  
Phone: 952-466-5230

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

## **INTRODUCTION**

The mission of the Carver Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is to provide high quality assistance to the land managers and citizens of Carver County for the protection of land and water resources.

The Carver SWCD was organized by local farmers for the purpose of promoting the science of good land use; and to assist landowners and operators in planning and applying soil and water conservation practices needed to protect and improve their land and water resources. The District is a legal subdivision of the State of Minnesota, operating under a charter issued by the Secretary of State on November 12, 1946. Soil and Water Conservation Districts are located in each county across Minnesota and operate under Minnesota Statute 103C. The soil and water conservation policy of the State is to encourage land occupiers to conserve soil, water, and the natural resources they support through the implementation of practices that:

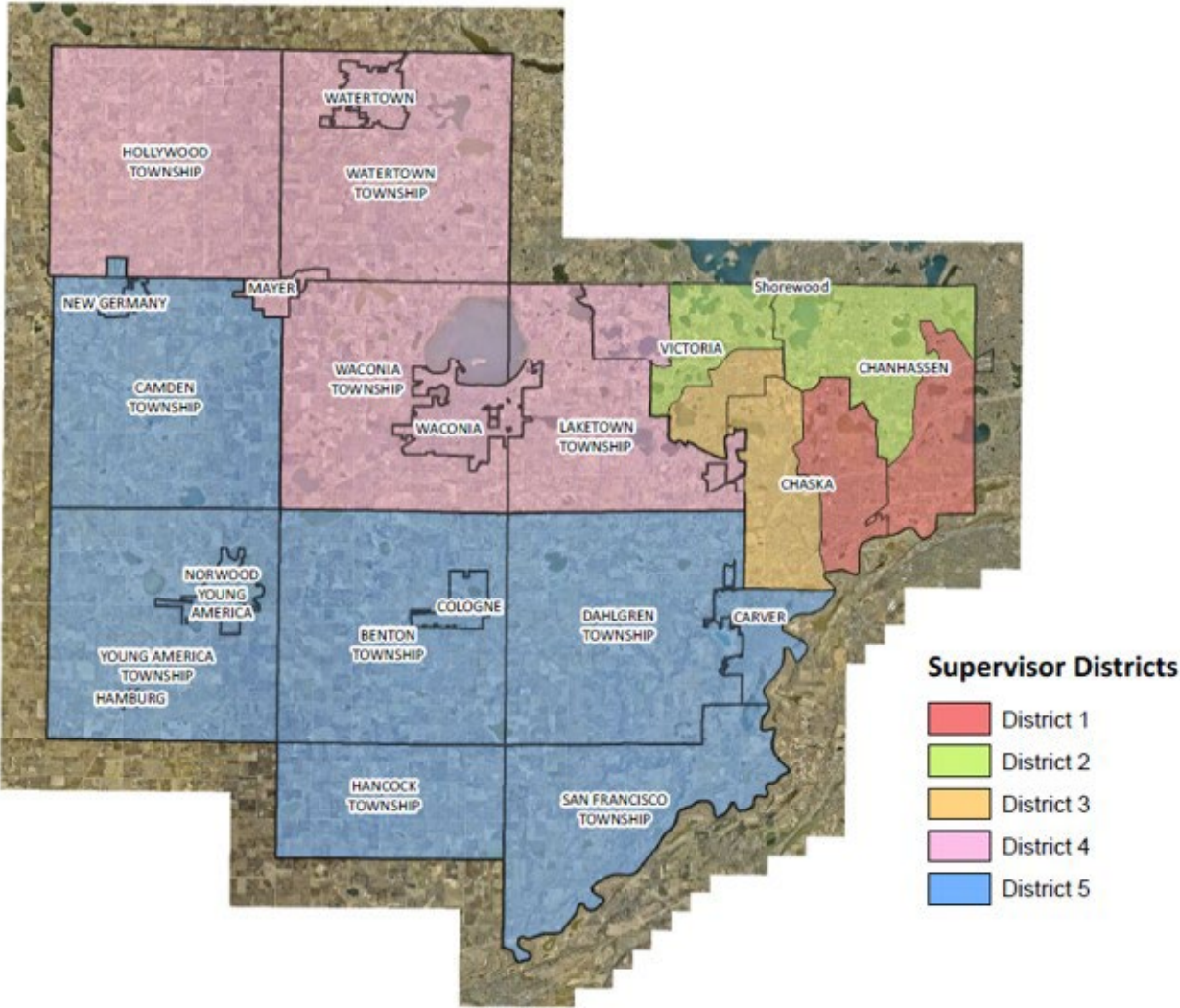
- (1) Control or prevent erosion, sedimentation, siltation, and related pollution in order to preserve natural resources
- (2) Ensure continued soil productivity
- (3) Protect water quality
- (4) Prevent impairment of dams and reservoirs
- (5) Reduce damages caused by floods
- (6) Preserve wildlife
- (7) Protect the tax base
- (8) Protect public lands and waters.






Since 1946, the Carver SWCD has been providing technical and financial assistance to landowners, land operators, municipalities, townships, and businesses for the improvement of their natural resources. The continued success of the Carver SWCD is a result of listening to our constituents, adjusting or expanding our technical capabilities, and providing leadership in emerging land use and conservation issues.

The purpose of this annual report and annual plan is to summarize the major accomplishments of last year and to identify needs for the upcoming year. It should be noted that not every activity can be captured by this report, but the reader should get an overall idea of the District's activities.

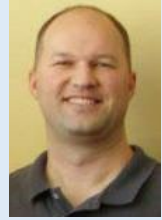
**Carver SWCD Board of Supervisors**

The SWCD is governed by an elected five-member Board of Supervisors. They are charged with developing policies and employing staff to fulfill the mission of the SWCD. The Board meets the third Thursday of each month at 8:00 a.m. in the Cologne Public Works Headquarters (unless otherwise scheduled).



 <p><b>District 1</b> <b>Stan Wendland</b></p> <p>Chanhassen, MN Term Expires 2026 (952) 934-1742</p>	 <p><b>District 2</b> <b>Marcus Zibinden</b></p> <p>Chanhassen, MN Term Expires 2028 (952) 288-1742 mzbinden0704@gmail.com</p>	 <p><b>District 3</b> <b>Mark Zabel</b></p> <p>Victoria, MN Term Expires 2026 (952) 443-3166 zabelmark25@gmail.com</p>	 <p><b>District 4</b> <b>Mike Lynch</b></p> <p>Watertown, MN Term Expires 2028 (612) 860-7086</p>	 <p><b>District 5</b> <b>Jeff Sons</b></p> <p>Norwood Young America Term Expires 2026 (952) 466-5888</p>
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## **Carver SWCD Staff**



Mike  
Wanous  
*District  
Manager*



Felicia Brockoff  
*Administrative  
& Finance Spec.*



Ben Datres  
*Farm Bill  
Technician*



Tom Genelin  
*Senior  
District  
Technician*



Terry Meiller  
*Resource  
Conservationist*



Tyler Polster  
*District  
Technician*



Seth Ristow  
*Landscape  
Restoration  
Specialist*

## **Partner Agencies & Organizations**

MN Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR)  
Carver County  
Carver County Water Management Organization (WMO)  
Cities of Carver County  
MN Department of Natural Resources (DNR)  
Hamburg Hunt & Fish Club  
Lower Minnesota River Watershed District (LMRWD)  
Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD)  
Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)  
Pheasants Forever (PF)  
Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District (RPBCWD)  
Townships of Carver County  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)



## **ANNUAL OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS**

### **Agriculture Conservation Practices**

We are committed to protecting our natural resources by working directly with private landowners to minimize impacts of agriculture activities. Through partnerships, we facilitate access to state and federal funding, enabling landowners to implement water quality improvement projects. Equally important, we provide expert technical guidance on soil health, ensuring the long-term viability of our agricultural lands and promote sustainable practices for future generations.

The SWCD has provided technical assistance and cost share assistance for traditional Ag BMP's for over 75 years. Examples of these practices include, but are not limited to, grass waterways, water and sediment control basins, residue management, grade stabilization structures, contour strips, nutrient management, critical area planting, rock inlets, buffer strips, and tree and shrub establishment. The SWCD will continue to promote the use of BMP's on a county wide basis. Special focus has also taken place in the sub-watershed's that have been identified as priorities from Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) studies, those identified in the Carver County Water Management Plan, as well as BMP's identified in rural sub-watershed assessments.

To help protect Minnesota's water, the MN buffer law was enacted in 2015. The buffer law requires 50-foot buffers of perennial vegetation along all public waters and 16.5-foot buffers along public ditch systems. The MN DNR developed buffer protection maps based on public water inventory maps and legally established public drainage ditches. SWCD's are charged with determining compliance on land that is adjacent to public waters and public drainage ditches.

#### **Accomplishments for 2024**

1. Installed 3 grassed waterways totaling 1,170 linear feet through the Lake Waconia WBIF and SWCD state cost-share program.
2. Completed I&E and Designs for multiple projects (terraces, grassed waterways, water and sediment control basins & diversions to utilize funds from the Lake Waconia and Eagle Lake WBIF grant.
3. Completed I&E, field surveys and design assistance for 4 water and sediment control basins for 2025 EQIP funding consideration.
4. I&E, field surveys, design assistance and construction oversight for the completion of 3 wetland restorations and 48.5 acres of upland buffer establishment to utilize funds from the Eagle Lake WBIF grant.
5. Completed 12 site inspections for past cost-share BMP projects
6. Sold and distributed 13,050 trees to 165 landowners.
7. Great Plains no-till drill rented to 25 landowners for CRP plantings, alfalfa inter-seeding, and cover crop establishment on 425 acres.
8. Assisted 7 landowners in obtaining DNR prescribed burn permits who participate in CRP or easement programs, totaling 173 acres in prairie management.
9. Soil Health/Cover Crops – staff attended several workshops and trainings to learn more about soil health. Held Soil Health Field Day/Workshop for local producers in September.
10. Provided cost-share and incentive payments to 12 landowners for establishing 543 acres of cover crops through the Soil Health and Cover Crop Program.
11. Staff provided technical assistance in several other areas for Carver County landowners, the Carver WMO, and the MNDNR (technical assistance might include survey work, hydrology calculations, construction inspections, etc.).

12. Completed buffer monitoring for Middle 1/3 of Carver County- Watertown TWP, Waconia TWP, Benton TWP, Hancock TWP
13. Worked with 4 landowners to become compliant with the MN Buffer Law, this involved field visits, buffer staking, and reviewing buffer width averages.



*Cover crop established on cropland in Hollywood Township through the Soil Health Cost-share Program.*



*50' buffer along a public water in Carver County.*

#### Actions for 2025

1. Implement BMP projects with state and federal funding sources.
2. Expand upon the soil health/cover crop program utilizing state/federal funding to achieve additional acres of cover crops to improve soil health.
3. Work cooperatively with the USDA NRCS and FSA to promote and implement the Federal USDA programs such as EQIP, CRP, and CREP.
4. Assist the County Feedlot officer with feedlot technical assistance and compliance.
5. Work cooperatively with the Carver County WMO to encourage compliance with County and WMO rules and regulations.
6. Implement BMP installation on projects that were identified in the Eagle Lake and Lake Waconia rural sub-watershed analysis for targeted watershed improvements.
7. Secure funding to complete priority projects identified in the Carver County Water Plan by applying for grants and special funding programs.
8. Complete annual parcel inspections for the MN Buffer Law, 1/3 of Carver County.

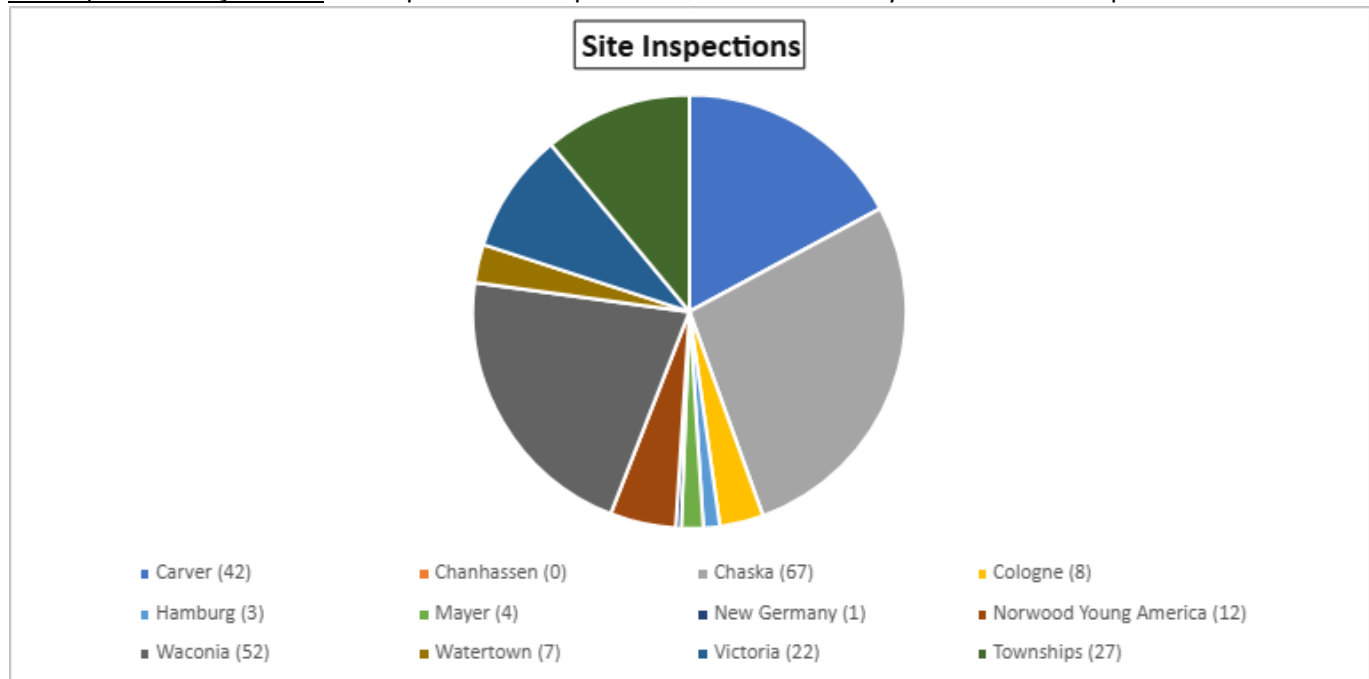
## Urban Conservation Practices

The Carver SWCD assists in the inspection of best management practices and water rules compliance that have been adopted by the Carver County Water Management Organization (WMO). Staff assists with development plan reviews of proposed projects to determine compliance with National Pollution Discharge Elimination Systems (NPDES), and state and local stormwater regulations. Staff also reviews the implementation of the water plan by performing site inspections on construction activities and providing technical assistance with the installation of urban BMP's. In Carver County, SWCD staff work extensively with WMO staff to ensure that projects are installed according to plan and in compliance with all applicable water management rules. The SWCD also has an agreement with the City of Chanhassen to review plans, conduct erosion and sediment control inspections and providing technical assistance on water quality features. In addition, the SWCD has contracts with Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District (RPBCWD) and with the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District (LMRWD) to assist landowners with identifying BMP locations and providing design assistance.

Essential duties of this program include the following:

- Assists the Carver County WMO with plan reviews, reviewing 59 project submittals for sediment and erosion control best management practices.
- Conduct field visits to construction sites to inspect for compliance with stormwater regulations.
- Supports WMO staff and county staff with development of watershed models, site investigations, survey work, and technical expertise.
- Assists and/or prepares landscape restoration designs to treat stormwater, included but not limited to, rain gardens, bio-retention cells, shoreline restorations, and water re-use projects.
- Provide technical assistance and BMP designs for RPBCWD and LMRWD.
- Assist with native vegetation technical expertise.

Accomplishments for 2024 – Completed 245 inspections of sites for County Water Rules compliance.



## **Urban Conservation Cost-Share Programs**



*Shoreline habitat project installed in 2023*



*Shoreline habitat project installed 2024*

### **Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District Cost-Share Program**

- Involved with the installation of 14 cost share projects that improved water quality and habitat.
- Conducted 37 landowner consultation site visits (met with landowners and discussed possible habitat or water quality improvement projects).

### **Carver County Water Management Organization Cost Share Program**

- Conducted 14 site visits to help landowners with water quality and habitat projects.
- Provided technical assistance to (6) cost share projects being installed.
- Assist WMO staff with recommendations and technical assistance for potential projects.

### **Carver SWCD Pollinator Program**

- Installed 5 residential and 1 non-profit cost share projects.
- Conducted 23 site visits on potential projects and gave advice on best practices for homeowners.
- Designed 3 projects to assist in proper installation and establishment of projects.

### **Shoreline Habitat Program**

- Conducted 9 site visits to discuss projects and give advice on best environmental practices for healthy shorelines.
- Installed 1 project in collaboration with Metro Blooms and the MN Conservation Corps.



Actions for 2025

1. Conduct 200 construction site erosion control inspections.
2. Provide BMP design services for the WMO, RPBCWD, and LMRWD.
3. Participate in educational efforts to raise awareness of the impacts of storm water and CSEC on water quality.
4. Provide technical assistance to LGU's and contractors for the best use of storm water BMP's.
5. Assist the WMO and other LGU's with the implementation of rain gardens, bio-retention, shoreline restorations, and other forms of low impact development practices.
6. Follow through with the installation of projects identified in the sub-watershed analysis.
7. Increase technical capacity with current modeling and the latest water quality treatment devices.
8. Host workshops for converting turf to native habitat and best management practices for maintenance of native vegetation.
9. Review and evaluate cost share projects and preservation areas using newly developed metrics

**Wetland Protection and Restoration**

The SWCD provides technical assistance for the Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act (WCA). Wetlands serve multiple functions and are an important part of the Carver County landscape. The Carver WMO is the LGU for WCA implementation in the unincorporated areas, but the SWCD provides technical assistance and field reviews. Each city is responsible for WCA administration within the city limits. By statute requirements, the SWCD is a member of the technical evaluation panel (TEP) and the SWCD writes restoration orders when required. The SWCD also assists landowners that wish to explore options for restoring wetlands on their property. This could be done through a conservation program, private wetland banking, or with landowner contribution without enrolling into a program.

To implement the restoration of marginal farmland to wetland habitat, state and federal conservation programs are available to landowners. One program is the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), which provides landowners with compensation for placing permanent conservation easements on their land. SWCD staff assist landowners with applications and enrollment in the CREP easement program.

Accomplishments for 2024

- Provided technical assistance to apply and receive WCA permits for 10 landowners.
- Attended 77 TEP meetings
- Performed vegetation maintenance throughout the growing season for the County sponsored wetland banking site in Watertown
- Reviewed and issued restoration orders on 6 WCA Violation
- Followed up on 3 complaints to prevent possible violations.
- Sent outreach letters and CREP wetland restoration proposals to 14 landowners.
- Inspected 37 existing RIM easements part of the annual inspection process.
- Installed easements signs and posts marking boundaries of 3 recent CREP easements.
- We provide continued support and management advice for those with land in a conservation easement.
- Aided landowners interested in conservation opportunities on their land – CRP, CREP, RIM, Wetland Banking etc.
- Worked in partnership with the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District to discuss strategies, design services, and complete site surveys to collect baseline data for large wetland bank proposal/prospectus.

- Continued vegetative management activities on Carver County's large wetland banking site to meet the objective of restoration plan and projected wetland credits.



Wetland restoration projects completed through the CREP program

Actions for 2025

1. Assist Carver County with WCA issues and stay updated with changes to the MN WCA laws.
2. Continue to be part of the TEP's for WCA projects, write restoration orders when needed.
3. Continued progress in the Watertown wetland banking project by assisting with vegetation maintenance and site inspections.
4. Assist the USDA with the wetland provisions within the Farm Bill Program, including Swamp-buster and 1026 drainage requests.
5. Seek to prevent wetland losses by educating landowners of the State wetland protection laws.
6. Prepare BWSR Road Bank proposals for residents in Carver County with possible restoration projects.
7. Understand and promote the wetland restorations programs available through State and Federal programs including RIM, private and public banking, CRP, CREP, and USFWS programs.
8. Send targeted Conservation Easement outreach proposals to high priority farmed wetlands.
9. Work to ensure all prior easements boundaries are marked and signed with posts.

## **Drainage and Public Ditches**

The Carver SWCD serves as the drainage inspector for the County public ditch systems in accordance with MN Statute 103E. There are 17 public ditch systems in Carver County, the SWCD provides ditch inspections and technical assistance for maintenance of these ditch systems. While assisting landowners with drainage issues, the SWCD seeks to identify areas that need BMPs to resolve erosions issues. By providing this service, the SWCD staff gets out in the field with landowners, and often results in additional conservation practices being suggested and implemented.

The SWCD is also a point of contact for other drainage related questions. We work with many landowners on drainage related questions that range from flooded crop fields to wet backyards, and often involve neighboring properties and drainage problems. While the SWCD does not provide legal advice, we often can direct people in the right direction to help them get their problem resolved.

### **Accomplishments for 2024**

- Completed ditch inspections of 6 public drainage ditches.
- Assisted with repair procedures on 3 ditch systems.
- Inventory and inspections for compliance with the buffer law.
- Completed annual buffer strip reporting.
- Worked with County staff to complete Redetermination of Benefits (ROB) on 5 Joint Ditches.
- Assisted landowners with questions about redetermination of benefits and the buffer law.
- Worked with Townships and private citizens on drainage questions and complaints.

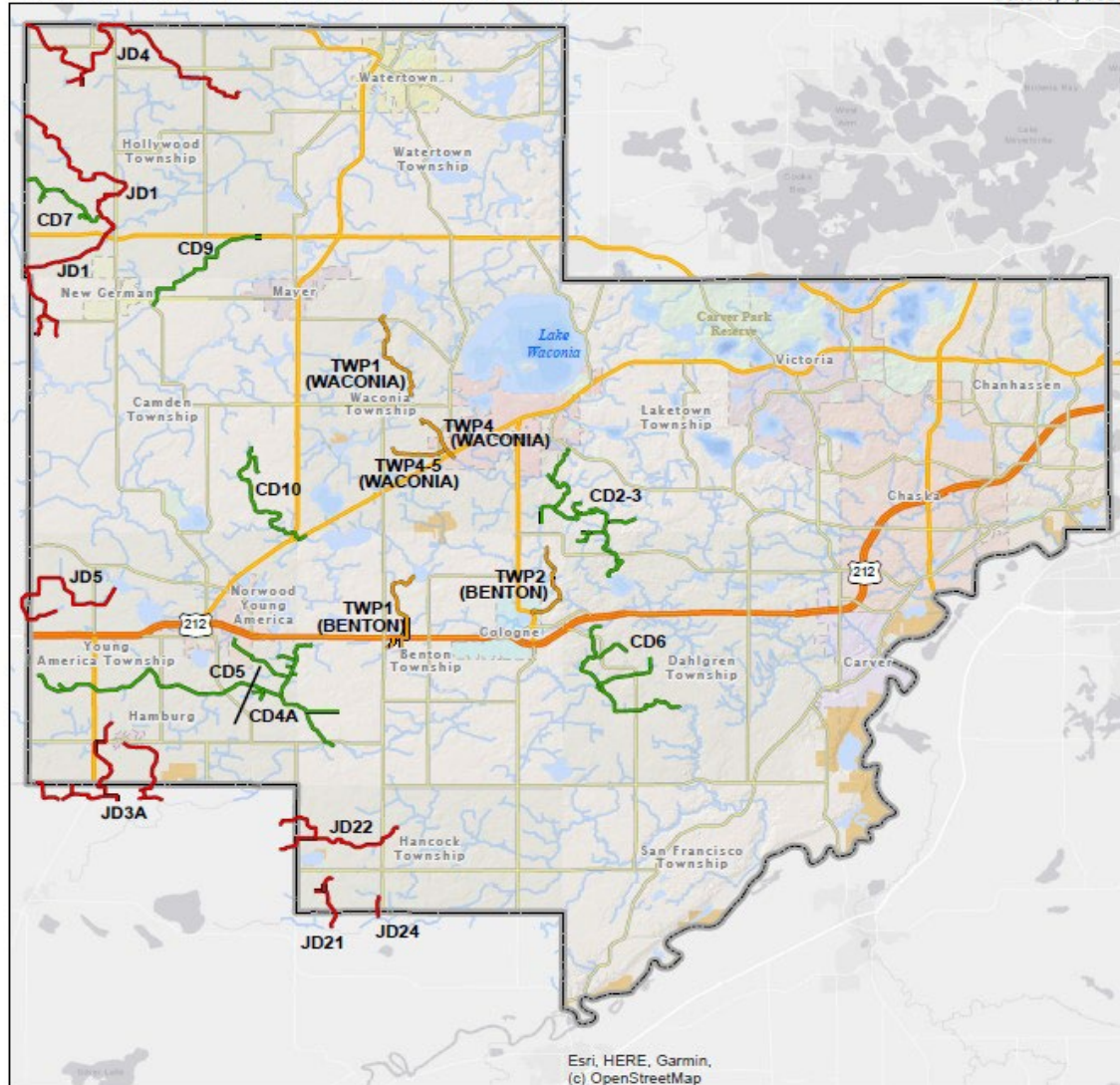


Drainage ditch overgrown with vegetation through the Frederick Lake basin in Young America Township



**CARVER COUNTY PUBLIC DITCH SYSTEM**

Date: 5/4/2021

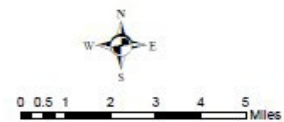


This map was created using Carver County's Geographic Information Systems (GIS), it is a compilation of information and data from various City, County, State, and Federal offices. This map is not a surveyed or legally recorded map and is intended to be used as a reference. Carver County is not responsible for any inaccuracies contained herein.

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**Legend**

- Joint Ditches
- County Ditches
- Township Ditches

**Actions for 2025**

1. Respond to requests for repairs of public drainage systems.
2. Assist with redetermination of benefits for remaining systems.
3. Assist Carver County and landowners with the processes of MN Drainage Law 103E.
4. Promote the installation of grass buffer strips and rock inlets to keep sediment out of the ditch systems.
5. Explore opportunities to include water quality projects with drainage repairs.
6. Continue to work with County staff and Ditch Authority on improving processes/procedures.

## **Financial Stability**

The Carver SWCD does not have taxing authority and relies on cooperation with other agencies to balance its budget of expenditures and revenues. Funding for the Carver SWCD is realized through a combination of state and local funds. In 2023, for the first time ever, SWCDs received funding from the state in the form of local aid (SWCD aid). This was a huge first step towards dedicated, predictable funding from the state. The Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) also provides some funding to the SWCD through specific grant agreements. The SWCD must use the funds from BWSR in accordance with the intended use as described in the grant agreements.

The SWCD provides many services to Carver County and many of the departments within the County. Many of the projects completed by the Water Management Organization are done in cooperation with the SWCD. Because of the close working relationship with Carver County and the WMO, the SWCD receives an annual allocation from the county general levy and the WMO levy.

### **Accomplishments for 2024**

- Worked with the county divisions to prepare a conservative and responsible 2025 budget request.
- Successfully implemented several projects with the Carver WMO.
- Continued our partnership with the Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District to provide BMP design services.
- Leveraged state funding through WBIF and District Capacity grant agreements with BWSR.
- Received the deposit of SWCD Aid from the State of Minnesota.
- Continued implementing workplans for the District Capacity, WBIF, and State Cost-Share grants.

### **Actions for 2025**

1. Continue to be fiscally responsible while still providing high quality service to Carver County citizens.
2. Work with Carver County to ensure the county general levy adequately supports conservation efforts and addresses citizen's needs.
3. Continue to work closely with the Carver WMO to implement the County Water Plan and County Water Rules, assisting with grant implementation.
4. Work with Carver County watershed districts and WMO to make wise decisions with watershed-based funding allocations from the state.
5. Implement and track state requirements of MN water laws.
6. Develop and improve relationships with the WMO, LGU's and Watershed Districts and seek opportunities to partner on programs.

**BUDGET REQUIREMENTS****2025 Budget****Income**

Intergovernmental County	\$601,081
Intergovernmental Local	\$47,500
Intergovernmental State	\$363,000
Charges for Services	\$34,500
Interest Earnings	\$17,500
Miscellaneous Revenues	<u>\$7,500</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$1,071,801</b>

**Expenses**

District Operations Personnel Services	\$873,792
District Operations Other Services & Charges	\$52,000
District Operations Supplies	\$3,500
District Operations Capital Outlay	\$20,000
Project Expenses	<u>\$121,789</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,071,801</b>

# Carver SWCD Monthly Report

March 2025

## **Mike Wanous – District Manager**

- Provided assistance to Carver County staff for drainage ditch meetings and buffer strip payments
- Worked on annual report/annual plan
- Soil Health grant training, still waiting to hear if federal funding will still be available for this program
- County IT staff are working on computer upgrades for the SWCD, working with staff on that process
- Presented to the Joint Ditch 15 ditch authority requesting appointing an engineer to provide repair plans
- Meetings – WMO CAC mtg, MCD BD mtg, staff mtg, weekly mtgs with Paul

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

- Accounting: Verified and paid regular monthly expenses. Completed February Treasurer's Report, semi-monthly payroll and made liability payments. Uploaded payroll ledgers into OnBase. Researched QuickBooks online from other SWCD's who have it, going to try and stay on the desktop version as long as we can.
- Administrative: Edited portions of the 2024 Annual Plan. Made a draft 2-page visual of the Report, as a more modern publication. Preparing for new computer by moving most of my H:/ drive files to OneDrive (cloud). Updated the 2025 resolutions document. Prepared Minutes from February Board meeting, put March Agenda packets together, and mailed to Supervisors.
- Education: I'm now able to edit our website, which has been going good so far. Listed our total tree inventory on the online store, so when an item runs out, it will automatically say "sold out." This should help with not having to refund customers.
- Trees: recording tree receipts, reconciling online payments, and updating tree order spreadsheet daily. Sent out an email push for tree sales, we're sold out of about ½ of our species currently. Made some Facebook posts about our tree sales and inventory running low.

## **Terry Meiller – Resource Conservationist**

- State Cost-share/EQIP: Concept design review/Follow up with Eng Tech & landowner re: project planning for BMP in Laketown Twsp. Contractor and Landowner follow up for Waconia grade stab repair project. More bid packets sent to contractors on behalf of landowner for additional bids. Pre-Bid meeting with contractor at Waconia grade stab. Repair site, Pre-con meeting at Camden WASCB project.
- Soil Health: Attended Soil Health Grant meeting (virtual). Reviewed materials for program requirements on Sharepoint site. Attended Soil Health Practice Grant Meeting (St. Peter). 14 Ag-Learn trainings completed for Conservation Planning requirements.
- Eagle SWA: Landowner/contractor follow up and planning re: WASCB (terrace) project in NYA. Tree clearing just began.
- Engineering: Engineering JAA practice review/requests sent to Area Engineer. Updated JAA approved and filed.
- Misc: Staff Meeting. 2024 Annual report completed. CRP burn plan writing (3 landowners). Attended LGU Contract & Voucher Training (Plymouth).

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

- Made suggested Pollinator Conservation Program updates and finished new program flyer for board to review
- Researched habitat assessments to review existing projects and new WMO conservation easements
- Revised Cedar Pt. raingarden planting plan and plant list, in Waconia for WMO and city

- Reviewed and met with WMO staff to discuss habitat assessment form for cost share projects and conservation easements.
- Finished Mastricola shoreline habitat planting plan and estimate, located on Lake Minnewashta
- Worked with Liz and Eleanor on launch of new Stewardship Grant Program. New rules and new application process
- Continued to work with RPBCWD, WMO, and Tom on our April 10<sup>th</sup> native plant workshop at the Chanhassen Community Center
- Participated in the WMO's weekly development review meetings
- Finished reading Tallgrass Prairie Center Guide to Prairie Restoration in the Upper Midwest
- Reviewed RPBCWD Stewardship Grant Application
- Updated Vectorworks plants and symbols
- Compiled photos from past projects for our Native Plant Workshop and possible website use

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

- Meetings/Plan Review:
  - Victoria Kwik Trip (Victoria) ESC plan review
  - Tractor Supply (Waconia) ESC plan review
  - Waconia Down Town Recon. (Waconia) ESC plan review
  - Centerpoint Energy Victoria Ridge (Victoria) ESC plan review
  - Les Schwab Tire (Carver) ESC plan review
- Site inspections:
  - New Creations Childs Care (Waconia) site inspection for final approval
  - Winkler's Crossing (Cologne) site inspection for ESC BMPs
  - Rivertown Heights (Chaska) site inspection for ESC BMPs
  - Carlson Bluffs (Chaska) site inspection for ESC BMP conditions
  - The Preserve (Carver) site inspection for ESC BMP conditions
  - Timber Creek (Carver) site inspection for ESC BMP conditions
  - Creekside Park (Carver) site inspection for ESC BMPs
  - Oak Creek (Chaska) site inspection for ESC BMP conditions
  - Ensconced Woods (Chaska) site inspection for ESC BMP conditions
  - Waterford (Waconia) inspection for ESC BMP conditions
  - Orchard Park (Waconia) inspection for ESC BMP conditions
  - The Fields (Waconia) inspection for ESC BMP conditions
  - Woodland Creek 5<sup>th</sup> (Waconia) inspection for ESC BMP conditions
  - Industrial Blvd. Wetland Excavation (Waconia) post work site inspection

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

- CREP/RIM:
  - Zellmann- Landowner meeting. Project development tasks- reviewing and feedback on concept restoration plan, working with BWSR on other easement details.
  - Shultz/Larson- WCA permit assistance.
  - 2 wetland site visits checking water levels after winter
  - Working on a BWSR vegetation enhancement application for an older RIM easement that needs management
- Buffers: Starting 2025 aerial review for buffer compliance.
- Misc:
  - Assisting with different landowner emails and questions- CRP eligibility, tree sale question, cover crop/rotational grazing info.
  - IT- transferring computer folders to OneDrive
- Trainings:

- Soil Health Practice Grant meeting
- MNC3- 8 different Conservation Planning and Water Quality trainings completed
- AgLearn- 5 trainings completed. Working towards Level 1 Conservation Planner

**Tyler Polster – District Technician**

- WCA:
  - WMO:
    - Met with WMO staff on another possible violation along Hwy 7. No violation was found. Wrote up findings, as there isn't much room until it would become a violation.
    - Continued assistance to landowners for wildlife pond construction.
    - Assisted a landowner with permit interpretation and where they can and can't place fill near a wetland.
  - Chanhassen:
    - Worked with Chanhassen TEP and DNR to place deed restrictions on property with ongoing violation. RPBCWD is actively working with property owner to complete restoration.
    - Attended TEP meeting to discuss sequencing options for land development application. Included reviewing an engineering report regarding stormwater runoff, storage, etc.
  - Norwood: Reviewed application for road and infrastructure improvements with City of Norwood. Attended TEP meeting last month for a pre-application meeting to guide the applicant on how to turn in a complete application.
- Misc: Put together some tree species materials for the "Tree Program" section of the SWCD website. Attended virtual meetings with BWSR regarding the new language of the Ag Exemption in the WCA statute. Went over real-world examples, however still plenty of confusion over the changes. LGU's and TEPs will be learning as each individual Ag exemption application comes through.