

#### Carver County Office / Minnesota

1103 Gruenhagen Drive Glencoe, MN 55336 Jennifer.King1@usda.gov (320) 864-5177

TO: Carver County Soil and Water Conservation District Board

FROM: Jennifer King, County Executive Director

SUBJECT: June 2025 Board Meeting

#### **Old Business**

No Business

#### **New Business**

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

- Opened through <u>June 6, 2025</u>
  - Continuous, General & CREP Signup Types

#### COC Elections - Nomination Period Opens June 16, 2025

- McLeod-Carver County Local Administrative Area (LAA) 2 and 4: Hale, Winsted, Hollywood, Watertown - Helen, Camden, YA, Benton, and Hancock Townships.
- Must reside in the LAA and be an eligible voter in the LAA to be an eligible candidate.

#### 2023/2024 Supplemental Disaster Assistance

- The American Relief Act of 2025 signed into law on Dec. 21, 2024, provided funds toward disaster recovery assistance.
  - Emergency Commodities Assistance Program (ECAP)
    - Signup open now through August 15, 2025.
    - Applications will be pre-filled with 2024 certified acreage for eligible commodities.
  - Emergency Livestock Relief Program (ELRP) for Drought and Wildfire
    - ELRP payments will be made to livestock producers who have an approved 2023 and/or 2024 Livestock Forage Program (LFP) application on file for grazing losses due to eligible droughts.
  - Emergency Livestock Relief Program (ELRP) for Flooding
    - Provide assistance for losses due to flooding, currently requires more time due to software changes.
    - Target sign-up date of August 18, 2025
  - Supplemental Disaster Relief Program
    - Provide assistance to producers for necessary expenses due to losses of revenue, quality or productions of crops due to weather related events in 2023 and 2024.
    - Target sign-up date of July 7, 2025, for indemnified losses
    - Target sign-up date of September 15, 2025, for uncovered losses

#### **County Committee Meeting**

 June 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:00AM is the next McLeod-Carver County Committee Meeting (COC). Regular session is open to the public (0:15 – 0:30).



# 11360 Highway 212 STE 6 Cologne, MN 55322

(952) 466-5230 | carverswcd.org

## Carver SWCD Board Meeting Minutes – May 15, 2025

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

#### **Board Members Present:** Others Present:

Chair, Mark Zabel Farm Service Agency Director, Jennifer King Vice Chair, Marcus Zbinden NRCS Soil Conservation Technician, Cindy Hoffmann Secretary/Treasurer, Jeffrey Sons (arrived at 8:19 a.m.)

Member, Michael Lynch

#### **SWCD Staff Present:**

District Manager, Mike Wanous Administrative & Finance Specialist, Felicia Brockoff

#### 1. Call to Order.

Chair Zabel called the meeting to order at 8:06 a.m.

2. Public Comments - None.

#### 3. Agenda Review and Adoption.

<u>Resolution 022-2025</u>: Zbinden moved, Lynch seconded, to approve the May 15, 2025, Board Meeting Agenda, with the addition of Tyler Polster's anniversary date under Personnel Committee. Roll call vote: Lynch-aye; Sons-absent; Zabel- aye; Zbinden-aye. Motion carried.

#### 4. Agency Reports

- a. Carver County report Paul was unable to make the meeting this morning but texted Mike that Administration has issued a soft hiring freeze.
- b. NRCS report Cindy reported that there were three additional approvals for EQIP, with one contract being in Scott County. They are still getting through the preapproval process with CSP applications. CRP opened for general and continuous signups on Monday, May 12, with a deadline of June 6. The signups are on a first come, first serve basis, and there is a 1.8-million-acre cap for the signup. They are currently working with FSA to contact interested landowners in the quick turnaround. Jennifer commented that the rental rates for CRP seem to be less than in previous years.

Cindy has been working on HEL and wetland compliance reviews in Carver, Scott, LeSueur and Rice counties. NRCS will be hosting a soil health education event on May 21. She also reported that NRCS will have a summer intern, housed in the Faribault office. There has also been an adjustment in the NRCS teams, due to vacant positions.

c. FSA report – A written report was included in the packets. Jennifer stated 80% of producers have signed up for the Emergency Commodity Assistance program. Lots of producers have

already certified their acres. A signup period for CRP opened this week, there are 1.8 million acres nationwide that can be enrolled. June 6 will be the deadline to sign up for the first batching period, there may be additional batching periods added after that date.

Jennifer inquired about the SWCD's CRP incentive grant, and how FSA could help get the word out to producers about the incentive. Mike felt if the producer has an accepted offer, FSA could send them to our office for more information. The SWCD will also develop a fact sheet about the incentive that FSA can hand out to producers.

#### 5. Consent Agenda Items

<u>Resolution 023-2025</u>: Lynch moved, Zbinden seconded to approve the following consent agenda items:

- a. Approval of April 17, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes
- Acceptance of the April 2025 Treasurer's Report
   Roll call vote: Lynch-aye; Sons-aye; Zabel- aye; Zbinden-aye. Motion carried.

#### 6. Regular Agenda Items

- a. A public notice has been placed in the local newspaper for three weeks about the Carver SWCD District 1 Board Vacancy. Currently, no eligible candidates have inquired about the position. Zbinden has a contact for an online source that is replacing the Chaska and Chanhassen areas that he will get to Felicia. Mike will also mention the vacancy to Terry Jeffrey, who is the Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District Administrator. Since the vacancy is in the RPBCWD area, Terry might have some recommendations on interested candidates.
- b. Patricia Beier (Frederick N. Beier Trust) has completed constructing the water and sediment basin on their property in Camden Township. She has requested a contract amendment, to raise the total reimbursement payment from all sources (state and federal) to a maximum of 90% instead of 80% as stated in original contract. The discussion on this amendment request had Supervisors concerned that more landowners would be asking for additional reimbursements, after they already have a signed contract accepting the payment percentage terms. It was also discussed to amend the cost-share contracts landowner sign, with the maximum rate they can receive from all sources to a flat 90%, so this would not be an issue in the future.

<u>Resolution 024-2025</u>: Zabel moved, Zbinden seconded to amend the clause in the original contract that the landowner shall not accept more than 90% from state and non-state sources. Roll call vote: Lynch-nay; Sons-aye; Zabel- aye; Zbinden-aye. Motion carried.

<u>Resolution 025-2025</u>: Zbinden moved, Sons seconded to approve a reimbursement payment of \$11,555.57 to Frederick N. Beier Trust for completing the water and sediment control basin. Roll call vote: Lynch-nay; Sons-aye; Zabel- aye; Zbinden-aye. Motion carried.

c. MASWCD has sent out the call for resolutions. If there is a resolution that any Supervisor would like to bring forward, they need to be approved at the June Board meeting. Chair Zabel mentioned he has an idea for a resolution that would be brought to the national level, to provide adequate staff at the local levels to meet the needs of the producers. He plans to draft the resolution and bring it to the June Board meeting for approval.

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

a. Personnel Committee (Zabel, Zbinden) – Mike's 26-year anniversary was April 26. Tyler's 3-year anniversary was May 11.

- b. Metro Conservation District's (MCD) Committee (Zbinden; Lynch alt.) has not met.
- c. Education & Outreach Committee (Sons, Lynch) has not met.
- d. Budget Committee (Sons, Zbinden) Mike reported that budget reductions are likely for this budget cycle. A lot of SWCD staff time was spent on the County ditch systems this year, and while that staff time is billed back to the ditch systems, he hopes the County recognizes that extra effort imposed on the SWCD when it comes to budget cuts.
- e. WMO Advisory Committee (Zbinden; Sons alt.) Mike reviewed the Agenda from the April 29 meeting. Chair Zabel mentioned data centers, and how they use an abundance of electricity and groundwater. Mike stated the County's Groundwater Plan will be updated soon, and that Zabel's comments would be a great suggestion to WMO staff during that update process.
- f. South Fork Crow River 1W1P (Zabel; Lynch alt.) has not met. Chair Zabel commented that the Crow River was highlighted in the BWSR notes, for a water storage project in Renville County. He is also unable to attend the June 13 meeting, Lynch will plan to attend.
- g. The SWCD staff monthly progress report was presented and discussed. Felicia reported that the 2025 tree program went very well, and staff have already met to discuss the 2026 program. Mike reviewed information about Baylor Park possibly expanding, as well as the water quality in Eagle Lake.

#### 8. Board of Supervisors Announcements

- a. Upcoming meetings/events:
  - May 26 Memorial Day SWCD office closed
  - June 19 Juneteenth Holiday, SWCD office closed
  - June 26 SWCD Board meeting, 8:00 AM, followed by a strategic planning session
  - July 4 Independence Day, SWCD office closed
  - July 9 Area 4 summer meeting and tour, Hennepin County

#### 9. Adjourn

<u>Resolution 026-2025</u>: Zbinden moved, Lynch seconded to adjourn the meeting at 10:05 a.m. Roll call vote: Lynch-aye; Sons-aye; Zabel-aye; Zbinden-aye. Motion carried.

Next Board Meeting: Thursday, June 26, 2025, at 8:00 AM

Location: Public Works Headquarters, Conference Room 3

11360 Highway 212, Cologne, MN 55322

Approved:		Date signed: June 26, 2025
	Secretary/Treasurer	

#### Carver Soil & Water Conservation District Treasurer's Report

As of May 31, 2025

Date	Num	Name	Memo	Debit	Credit	Balance
	king-Securi	ty Bank				23,382.99
05/01/2025			Deposit - Online Tree Order	52.88		23,435.87
05/02/2025 05/05/2025	3763	Grainger	Deposit - Online Tree Order VOID: Wrong Seal Assembly sentcredited acct.	28.71 0.00		23,464.58 23,464.58
05/05/2025	3764	HSA Bank	#W621304 April Fees	0.00	12.50	23,452.08
05/05/2025	3765	Schumacher's Nursery & Berry Farm Inc.	2025 Trees		15,020.00	8,432.08
05/05/2025	3766	Elan Financial Services	1335	445.00	1,293.05	7,139.03
05/08/2025	3768	NODEDC Crayer Life Inc	Deposit - Trees 910300-052025	115.00	16.00	7,254.03 7,238.03
05/12/2025 05/12/2025	3766 3767	NCPERS Group Life Ins. Carver County	PW-7096		16.00 387.93	6,850.10
05/12/2025	0101	Carver County	Funds Transfer-468075576	50,000.00	007.00	56,850.10
05/12/2025	3769	Hollywood Auto	Inovice #30810		35.00	56,815.10
05/14/2025		QuickBooks Payroll Service	Created by Payroll Service on 05/06/2025		16,149.08	40,666.02
05/15/2025	DD1140	Brockoff, Felicia L.	Direct Deposit	0.00		40,666.02
05/15/2025 05/15/2025	DD1141 DD1142	Datres, Benjamin R. Genelin, Thomas M.	Direct Deposit Direct Deposit	0.00 0.00		40,666.02 40,666.02
05/15/2025	DD1142	Meiller, Terry J.	Direct Deposit	0.00		40,666.02
05/15/2025	DD1144	Polster, Tyler J.	Direct Deposit	0.00		40,666.02
05/15/2025	DD1145	Ristow, Seth E.	Direct Deposit	0.00		40,666.02
05/15/2025	DD1146	Wanous, Richard M.	Direct Deposit	0.00	4 400 00	40,666.02
05/15/2025	EFT-812 EFT-813	HSA Bank	41-1385530 7694248		1,492.00	39,174.02
05/15/2025 05/15/2025	EFT-813 EFT-814	Minnesota Revenue MSRS	Employee Elective		1,061.00 1,229.00	38,113.02 36.884.02
05/15/2025	EFT-815	PERA	9103-00		3,576.42	33,307.60
05/15/2025	EFT-816	US Treasury IRS	41-1385530		5,790.00	27,517.60
05/19/2025	3770	Carver County	May Insurance		10,965.91	16,551.69
05/19/2025			Funds Transfer-469846182	40,000.00		56,551.69
05/19/2025	3771	Cost-Share Payments	Beier-FY23 WASCB		11,555.57	44,996.12
05/27/2025 05/29/2025	3772	Lano Equipment of Norwood, Inc. QuickBooks Payroll Service	Customer #08455 Created by Payroll Service on 05/19/2025		389.48 16,464.20	44,606.64 28,142.44
05/29/2025		Quickbooks Payroll Service	Deposit - Drill Rentals	1.463.94	10,404.20	29,606.38
05/30/2025	DD1147	Brockoff, Felicia L.	Direct Deposit	0.00		29,606.38
05/30/2025	DD1148	Datres, Benjamin R.	Direct Deposit	0.00		29,606.38
05/30/2025	DD1149	Genelin, Thomas M.	Direct Deposit	0.00		29,606.38
05/30/2025	DD1150	Meiller, Terry J.	Direct Deposit	0.00		29,606.38
05/30/2025 05/30/2025	DD1151 DD1152	Polster, Tyler J. Ristow, Seth E.	Direct Deposit Direct Deposit	0.00 0.00		29,606.38 29,606.38
05/30/2025	DD1152	Wanous, Richard M.	Direct Deposit  Direct Deposit	0.00		29,606.38
05/30/2025	EFT-817	HSA Bank	41-1385530	0.00	1,492.00	28,114.38
05/30/2025	EFT-818	Minnesota Revenue	7694248		1,061.00	27,053.38
05/30/2025	EFT-819	MSRS	Employee Elective		1,229.00	25,824.38
05/30/2025	EFT-820	PERA	9103-00		3,576.42	22,247.96
05/30/2025 05/31/2025	EFT-821	US Treasury IRS	41-1385530 Interest	0.65	5,790.02	16,457.94 16,458.59
	Checking-Se	ecurity Bank		91,661.18	98,585.58	16,458.59
1100 Savii	ngs-Security	/ Bank				356,989.88
05/12/2025			Funds Transfer-468075576		50,000.00	306,989.88
05/19/2025	0005.40		Funds Transfer-469846182	44.050.50	40,000.00	266,989.88
05/23/2025 05/31/2025	2025-13		Remaining Deposit of CD Interest	11,256.59 359.39		278,246.47 278,605.86
	Savings-Sec	surity Bank	merest	11,615.98	90,000.00	278,605.86
	· ·	-SouthPoint		11,010.00	30,000.00	10.30
Total 1110	Member Sa	vings-SouthPoint				10.30
<b>1150 Savi</b> 05/31/2025	ngs Citizens	NYA	Interest	100.78		81,747.00 81,847.78
Total 1150	Savings Citi	zens NYA		100.78	0.00	81,847.78
	stments CD'					541,757.58 109,518.97
05/23/2025	2025-13	%-05/22/2025)	Cashed in CD to Security Bank		109,518.97	0.00
Total 12	2.SPCU**871	(4.9%-05/22/2025)		0.00	109,518.97	0.00
		<b>%-07/13/2025)</b> (4.29%-07/13/2025)				54,509.68 54,509.68
		<b>%-08/07/2025)</b> 4.25%-08/07/2025)				157,522.65 157,522.65
		<b>-09/03/2025)</b> 4.3%-09/03/2025)				109,280.47 109,280.47
<b>12.SB&amp;</b> 05/23/2025	T** <b>939 (3.9</b> % 2025-13	<b>%-11/23/2025)</b>	New CD at Security Bank	100,000.00		0.00

#### Carver Soil & Water Conservation District Treasurer's Report

As of May 31, 2025

Date	Num	Name	Memo	Debit	Credit	Balance
Total 12.	SB&T**939 (3.9%-1	1/23/2025)		100,000.00	0.00	100,000.00
	<b>J**024 (4.0%-03/15/</b> SPCU**024 (4.0%-0	•				110,925.81 110,925.81
Total 1200	Investments CD's			100,000.00	109,518.97	532,238.61
TOTAL				203,377.94	298,104.55	909,161.14



# 11360 Highway 212 STE 6 Cologne, MN 55322

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# **Treasurer's Monthly Report Program Summary - May 2025**

	Cash Balance <u>4/30/2025</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Disbursements</u>	Cash Balance <u>5/31/2025</u>
<u>Funds</u>				
<b>BWSR CRP Incentive Grant</b>	\$20,000.00			\$20,000.00
BWSR Buffer Implementation	\$21,449.27		\$9,290.35	\$12,158.92
BWSR Conservation Delivery	\$0.00			\$0.00
BWSR District Capacity	\$47,995.00			\$47,995.00
BWSR Soil Health Cost-Share	\$0.00			\$0.00
BWSR State Cost Share	\$48,370.00		\$11,555.57	\$36,814.43
BWSR WBIF (Waconia & Eagle)	\$5,393.15			\$5,393.15
SWCD Operating Funds	\$751,658.33	\$3,858.97	\$77,739.66	\$677,777.64
District Escrow	\$109,022.00			\$109,022.00
TOTAL	\$1,003,887.75	\$3,858.97	\$98,585.58	\$909,161.14
<u>Use of Cash</u>				
1000 Checking Security Bank	\$23,382.99	\$91,661.18	\$98,585.58	\$16,458.59
1100 Savings-Security Bank	\$356,989.88	\$11,615.98	\$90,000.00	\$278,605.86
1110 Savings-South Point CU	\$10.30			\$10.30
1150 Savings-Citizens NYA	\$81,747.00	\$100.78		\$81,847.78
1200 Investments CD's	\$541,757.58	\$100,000.00	\$109,518.97	\$532,238.61
TOTAL	\$1,003,887.75	\$203,377.94	\$298,104.55	\$909,161.14

	6/26/2025
Carver SWCD Board Treasurer	Date

# Carver Soil & Water Conservation District Balance Sheet

As of May 31, 2025

	May 31, 25
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	40.450.50
1000 Checking-Security Bank	16,458.59
1100 Savings-Security Bank	278,605.86
1110 Member Savings-SouthPoint 1150 Savings Citizens NYA	10.30 81,847.78
1200 Investments CD's	01,047.70
12.SB&T*096 (4.29%-07/13/2025)	54,509.68
12.SB&T 090 (4.25%-07/13/2023) 12.SB&T*254 (4.25%-08/07/2025)	157,522.65
12.ONB**968 (4.3%-09/03/2025)	109,280.47
12.SB&T**939 (3.9%-11/23/2025)	100,000.00
12.SPCU**024 (4.0%-03/15/2026)	110,925.81
12.0. 00 02. (1.0,000.10,2020)	110,020.01
Total 1200 Investments CD's	532,238.61
Total Checking/Savings	909,161.14
Accounts Receivable	
1300 Accounts Receivable	10,846.31
Total Accounts Receivable	10,846.31
Total Current Assets	920,007.45
TOTAL ASSETS	920,007.45
LIABILITIES & EQUITY Liabilities Current Liabilities Other Current Liabilities	
2300 Sales Tax Payable 2400 Unearned-Deferred Revenue	227.08
2402 Buffer Implementation	12,158.92
2405 Cost-Share	36,814.43
2409 CRP Incentive P25-0452	20,000.00
2406 District Capacity Funds	47,995.00
2408 WBIF Grants	5,393.15
	<del>,</del>
Total 2400 Unearned-Deferred Revenue	122,361.50
Total Other Current Liabilities	122,588.58
Total Current Liabilities	122,588.58
Total Liabilities	122,588.58
Equity 3000 FUND BALANCE Net Income	847,382.08 -49,963.21
Total Equity	797,418.87
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	920,007.45

# **Carver Soil & Water Conservation District** Budget vs. Actual January through April 2025

	Jan - Apr 25	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Income 4000 Intergovernmental County				
4010 Annual Allocation	286,831.00	573,581.00	-286,750.00	50.0%
4020 CCWMO Projects	0.00	10,000.00	-10,000.00	0.0%
4030 Ditches/Misc. County Rev. 4040 WCA Services	0.00 0.00	7,500.00 10,000.00	-7,500.00 -10,000.00	0.0% 0.0%
		<u> </u>		
Total 4000 Intergovernmental County	286,831.00	601,081.00	-314,250.00	47.7%
4100 Intergovernmental Local 4110 Cities, WD, LGU Revenue 4120 MCD, MACD Revenue	0.00 15,021.00	12,500.00 35,000.00	-12,500.00 -19,979.00	0.0% 42.9%
Total 4100 Intergovernmental Local	15,021.00	47,500.00	-32,479.00	31.6%
4200 Intergovernmental State				
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%
Total 4200 Intergovernmental State	28,412.38	363,000.00	-334,587.62	7.8%
4300 Charges for Services 4320 Great Plains Drill Rental	300.00	7,500.00	-7,200.00	4.0%
4330 Tree & Native Seed Sales	22,089.55	27,000.00	-4,910.45	81.8%
Total 4300 Charges for Services	22,389.55	34,500.00	-12,110.45	64.9%
4400 Interest Earnings 4500 Miscellaneous Revenues	5,983.56 28.50	17,500.00 7,500.00	-11,516.44 -7,471.50	34.2% 0.4%
Total Income	358,665.99	1,071,081.00	-712,415.01	33.5%
Expense 5000 District Operations 5100 Personnel Services 5101 Payroll Expenses 5102 Payroll Fees	212,908.39 362.75	621,222.00 1,000.00	-408,313.61 -637.25	34.3% 36.3%
5103 SWCD - FICA/Medicare	15,082.83	47,523.00	-32,440.17	31.7%
5104 SWCD - Insurance Ben. 5105 SWCD - PERA & DCP	39,326.16 15,576.91	150,000.00 46,592.00	-110,673.84 -31,015.09	26.2% 33.4%
5106 MN Paid Leave Law	0.00	7,455.00	-7,455.00	0.0%
Total 5100 Personnel Services	283,257.04	873,792.00	-590,534.96	32.4%
5200 Other Services & Charges				
5201 Dues 5202 Education & Promotion	7,931.37 32.79	9,000.00 2,500.00	-1,068.63 -2,467.21	88.1% 1.3%
5202 Education & Promotion 5203 Employee Expense	32.79 1,205.58	2,500.00 3,500.00	-2,467.21 -2,294.42	1.3% 34.4%
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	196.00	2,000.00	-1,804.00	9.8%
5207 Office Operations/Misc.	2,844.28	7,500.00 5,000.00	-4,655.72 5,000.00	37.9% 0.0%
5208 Professional Services 5209 Supervisor Expenses	0.00 0.00	5,000.00 1,500.00	-5,000.00 -1,500.00	0.0%
5220 Vehicle/Equipment Expenses	968.82	6,000.00	-5,031.18	16.1%
	<del></del>			

# **Carver Soil & Water Conservation District** Budget vs. Actual January through April 2025

	Jan - Apr 25	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Total 5200 Other Services & Charges	27,280.84	52,000.00	-24,719.16	52.5%
5300 Supplies - Office & Field	1,371.16 10,970.06	3,500.00 20,000.00	-2,128.84 -9,029.94	39.2% 54.9%
5400 Capital Outlay		<del>,</del>		
Total 5000 District Operations	322,879.10	949,292.00	-626,412.90	34.0%
6000 Project Expenses 6200 State Projects	10,686.90	71,789.00	-61,102.10	14.9%
6000 Project Expenses - Other	0.00	50,000.00	-50,000.00	0.0%
Total 6000 Project Expenses	12,518.43	121,789.00	-109,270.57	10.3%
Total Expense	335,397.53	1,071,081.00	-735,683.47	31.3%
Net Income	23,268.46	0.00	23,268.46	100.0%

#### Federal Support for FSA and NRCS Staffing Levels

WHEREAS, FSA and NRCS staff at the local level have direct contact with producers and landowners; and

WHEREAS, conservation programs are best implemented at the local level; and

WHEREAS, recent cuts to USDA have created staffing shortages at the local level which results in delays of program implementation.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that MASWCD work with USDA to provide adequate staffing at the local level for FSA and NRCS to promote, market, plan, implement, and maintain conservation practices to meet the needs of local producers and landowners.

WORKLOAD IMPACT STATEMENT. High workload – estimated cost to MASWCD is \$3,000.

Submitted by: Carver SWCD Area Association: Metro Area 4

Date adopted:

Reviewed by MASWCD Board of Directors MASWCD Annual Convention

Date:

Action:

For further information, contact:

Mark Zabel, Carver SWCD Supervisor, 612-710-1043, zabelmark25@gmail.com

Background: Staffing shortages in local USDA service centers often result in delays and frustrations for producers that are attempting to implement conservation programs.



# Stewardship Summit: SWCD Governance & Leadership Essentials



Sept. 10 & 11, 2025

## Why Attend?

Governance is a leadership process. To function effectively, SWCD members should have a clear understanding of their governance roles and responsibilities as well as how to apply them practically and correctly within their districts.

Join us for an engaging and practical conference designed to equip supervisors and staff with the essential knowledge and skills needed for effective SWCD governance and leadership. This event will provide foundational instruction that strengthens leadership capabilities, enhances decision-making, and reinforces your district's mission.

Whether you're new to SWCD leadership or looking to refine your expertise, this conference offers valuable insights to drive success in your role.

## **Training Highlights**

- Social Trust in Local Government: William
  I. Dohertv. Ph.D.. Co-Founder. Braver Angels
- SWCD Statutory & Funding Authorities
- Enhancing Board-Staff Relationships
- Data Security & Records Management
- Open Meeting Law
- Creating Collaborative Meetings
- Establishing Collaborative Arrangements with Local Government
- Advocacy in Action
- SWCD Essential Services
- Fostering Deliberations in Your SWCD
- Parliamentary Procedure 101
- and more!

#### For More Information:

e: events@maswcd.org | p: 651.690.9028

Deadline: Aug. 22





### REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

#### Regular Agenda

Meeting Date: June 26, 2025

**Prepared by:** Seth Ristow

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

Review and approve 4 Pollinator Program cost-share applications

#### **SUMMARY:**

Four applications have been submitted for funding through the Pollinator Program:

- 1. **Julie Trabant** requests \$2,000 to convert 8,200 square feet of turf to pollinator habitat using pollinator and songbird seed mixes.
- 2. **Brent Alcott (City of Chaska)** requests \$5,000 to convert 12,000 square feet of turf along a public trail to pollinator habitat using a mesic prairie mix.
- 3. **Glen Wuetherich** requests \$2,000 to convert 8,000 square feet of turf around a pond to pollinator habitat using a mesic prairie mix.
- 4. **Nathan Roise** requests \$3,528 to convert 1,128 square feet of turf and 744 square feed of invasives along Spring Creek's eroding slope to pollinator habitat using native plugs.

Total requested funding: \$12,528

Total area to be converted: 30,720 square feet

Landowner fact sheets with additional details will be provided at the meeting.

#### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends approval of the 4 cost-share application requests.

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

Funding from District Capacity grant (remaining unencumbered funds = \$15,780)

If these 4 contracts are approved, there's still \$3,252 to be encumbered for projects.

**Supporting Documents:** 

**Previous Board Action:** 

**Project Fact Sheets** 

None

#### **DRAFT AGENDA**

# MASWCD AREA 4 MEETING AND TOUR 08:30 A.M., July 09, 2025 Ridgedale Library 12601 Ridgedale Dr, Minnetonka, MN 55205

#### **MASWCD Mission Statement**

MASWCD is a nonprofit organization providing leadership, educational opportunities, and a common voice for Minnesota's soil and water conservation districts.

#### **AGENDA**

08:30 **Registration** – an opportunity to network with SWCDs and partners

09:00 Call to Order – John Rheinberger, MASWCD Area Director (approximately 15-20 minutes)

- Welcome: Area Director
- Agenda: Additions / Approval
- Roll Call
- Previous Minutes / Approval
- Treasurer's Report / Approval
- Introduction of Resolutions from Area Member SWCDs (read only: action on resolutions later in the agenda)

09:20 SWCD Conservation Delivery and State Investments for SWCD Essential Services: Assistant Director Sheila Vanney (Areas 2, 3, 4, & 7) (approximately 20 minutes)

• SWCD Aid & District Essential Services: An update on the level of funding for SWCD Aid and implications for district essential services will be provided. The SWCD Aid is a standing, statutory, general fund appropriation through the Department of Revenue to SWCDs.

09:40 Local, State and Federal Investments for SWCD-related Clean Water Funds through the Board of Water & Soil Resources: BWSR staff and SWCD Staff (approximately 30 minutes total)

- Will include an update on Clean Water Funds for Watershed Based Implementation Funding in FY2026-27 state
  appropriations (approximately 10 minutes) and discussions around SWCD efforts to leverage outside funding to
  make progress on priorities in comprehensive watershed management plans ((approximately 20 minutes).
  - Marcey Westrick, BWSR
  - o Clean Water Council Presenter pending

10:15 SWCD Leadership Roundtable: Member small group discussion for enhancing district strategies for maintaining and enhancing local partnerships – intro by LeAnn/Sheila, small groups, then reporting out (approximately 15 minutes)

10:30 BREAK (15 minutes)

10:45 Update on the Status of Federal Investments for NRCS Farm Bill Conservation Programs: LeAnn is coordinating with Troy Daniel and Molly Mehl - (approximately 15 minutes pending Q & A)

NRCS Molly Mehl & Steven Cole Confirmed

11:00 Resolution Deliberations – MASWCD Area Director (approx. 20 mins, depends on # resolutions) and Adjourn Business Meeting

11:20 Lunch

12:00 to 3:00 PM TOUR

June 2025

#### Mike Wanous - District Manager

- Coordinating work with Houston Engineering Inc for engineering services for Joint Ditch #15 (formerly CD#5) for a ditch repair. The ditch travels through the Frederick Lake basin so coordinating with the DNR is needed.
- Finished all the public hearings for the ROB process, CD 2-3 was the last system to be completed.
- Assisting Public Works with a potential project near County Road 152 and Bevens Creek, there is a safety hazard with the guard rail along a private ditch so they are looking at options for moving the private ditch.
- Taking drainage complaints after recent rain events.
- Working with WMO staff on potential watershed tax boundary update reviewed parcels bordering the Buffalo Creek Watershed District and provide recommendations on which direction the water actually drains.
- Looking into the CRP incentive program information as a short window opened up for taking CRP applications.
- Meetings 2 public ditch meetings, WMO CAC mtg, Metro mngr mtg, MCWD planning mtg with staff, several landowner mtgs

#### <u>Felicia Brockoff – Administrative & Finance Specialist</u>

- Accounting: Verified and paid regular monthly expenses. Completed May Treasurer's Report, semimonthly payroll and made liability payments. Uploaded payroll ledgers into OnBase. Peterson Company was onsite May 27 conducting their audit, nothing was out of the ordinary according to their accountants. Sent invoices to drill customers.
- Administrative: Updated the 2025 resolutions document. Prepared Minutes from May Board meeting, put June Agenda packets together and posted online. Starting to clean up some old files on the shared drive (within the limits of our retention schedule).
- Cost-Share: Prepared Beier's check and added all documentation to Admin file.
- Education: sent the District 1 Supervisor vacancy to Carver County Local News (online site). Followed up with them since I never saw it posted, haven't heard anything back.

#### **Terry Meiller – Resource Conservationist**

- Eagle SWA: Completed WASCB design for landowner(s) in Camden Twsp, Sec. 34, sent design to
  Engineer for review/comments, final design with spec's and bid sheet completed. Design review and
  comments for WASCB & grassed waterway design for landowner(s) in YA Twsp, Sec. 2, meeting with
  engineer to review. Site visit & meeting with Landowner to discuss wetland restoration (additional
  tile break needed).
- Soil Health: Completed RCPP ranking worksheet and sent to BWSR staff for NRCS review. Attended soil health field sampling training in Scott Co.
- CRP: Phone calls & landowner meetings to discuss CRP enrollments, answer CRP incentive payment questions. Completed incentive ranking worksheet for future use. Great Plains drill deliveries, calibrations, etc. for CRP plantings (3 landowners).
- County/Township assistance: Camden Township culvert replacement (construction inspection and as-built survey shots). Waconia Township tile survey and meeting with landowner. Oak Lake outlet survey for County WMO follow-up. Maplewood ravine site visit/meeting with County WMO staff and consultant.
- Misc: Great Plains Drill deliveries (10 landowners). Great Plains drill maintenance (replaced all planting discs). Teams meeting with MCWD staff to discuss western growth areas. Feedlot visit with NRCS staff to inspect transfer pipe failure, follow up with feedlot officer, etc. Site visit with

landowner/WMO staff in San Fran township re: ravine project. Ran WASCB design scenarios to assist landowner with concept plan and permitting needs.

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

- Worked with Native Plant team (WMO and RPBCWD) on workshop for Native Plant Maintenance (August 5<sup>th</sup>, 5pm Chaska Community Center) Currently working on powerpoint
- Reviewed RPBCWD Stewardship Grant Applications (5 apps)
- Met with Camp Fire to discuss pollinator project and future partnering. Did not end up applying for shoreline project
- Created pollinator planting plan for the Koens. They did not apply for funding just wanted a design
- Conducted on site consultation to residents for various cost share programs (17 sites)
- Reviewed Tom Lloyd's metrics for development and cost share site evaluations
- Taught Carver County Parks employee how to maintain native plant beds and how to ID plants
- Attended WMO's weekly development review meetings

#### <u>Tom Genelin – Senior District Technician</u>

- Meetings/Plan Review:
  - Mayer Dollar General plan review
  - Waconia Goodwill preconstruction meeting
  - Waconia Tractor Supply preconstruction meeting
  - Winkler's 4<sup>th</sup> (Cologne) filtration shelf construction meeting
  - NYA 2025 Street Improvement Project preconstruction meeting
  - CSAH 10/Waconia Parkway North preconstruction meeting
  - Locked Loon Storage (Cologne) plan review
- Site inspections:
  - Winkler Crossing (Cologne) 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
  - 11/14 Roundabout (Victoria) site inspection for ESC BMP conditions
  - Engler/41 (Chaska) site inspection for ESC BMP conditions
  - Carlson Bluffs (Chaska) site inspection for ESC BMP conditions
  - Carver Commons Phase 2 (Carver) site inspection for ESC BMP conditions
  - Huntersbrook Creekside (Victoria) site inspection for ESC BMP conditions
  - Lyman/82<sup>nd</sup> (Chaska/Victoria) site 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
  - Sandy Shores (Waconia) Inspection for ESC BMP conditions

#### Ben Datres - Farm Bill Technician

- CREP/RIM:
  - Zellmann Executed conservation agreement received back. Started title work process with Title Agent. Developed their conservation plan.
  - CREP/RIM/CRP meeting(s), proposals, reviewing various conservation options for an interested landowner.
  - Starting on a new RIM wetlands proposal.
  - RIM site inspection with BWSR staff looking at existing cover for vegetation enhancement funding.
  - 2 RIM site inspections with landowners looking at grass cover, tree management etc.

- Working with a newer CREP easement on weed issues and how to best manage.
- Buffers: Starting 2025 aerial review for buffer compliance Hollywood TWP.
- Misc:
  - CRP- working with Terry on how to carry out the incentive payment funds locally.
  - Drill- assisting with the drill program- transporting drill, seed calibrations. Maintenance work.
  - ETA- Zellmann WASCOB design practicing creating my own design. Reviewing construction plans, meeting with NRCS.
  - Continued ArcPro trainings learning how to use the new software.

#### <u>Tyler Polster – District Technician</u>

- WCA
  - Mayer: Attended TEP meeting to discuss this years monitoring and credit release schedule for wetland bank
  - Minnehaha Creek Watershed District: Reviewed reports and applications for road projects near Lake Auburn and Tamarack Lake.
  - Waconia: Reviewed updated report and application for Roundabout project in Waconia.
  - WMO:
    - Attended virtual TEP meeting to discuss Watertown Wetland Bank, and necessary documents required for credit release this year.
    - Attended multiple staff meetings regarding a mining application on property adjacent to Crow River near New Germany. After discussions with DNR, more groundwater studies are being requested as the wetlands on site are dependent on groundwater and de-watering the mine would have a big impact.
    - Assisted staff in possible violation investigation in Dahlgren Township and near New Germany. WMO is working to schedule on-site staff meetings.
    - o Approved final application for communications tower project near Waconia.
  - University of MN (Arboretum): Reviewed reports and application for parking lot/road expansion project. Assisted staff in a self-reported accidental violation during trail construction. The issue has already been remedied.
  - Chaska: Attended on site TEP meetings and approved applications for Industrial Park building expansion, and two separate housing developments. Conducted site inspection for possible violation of road construction erosion into wetland. But via WCA, the area was already planned to be impacted by project.