

11360 Highway 212 STE 6
Cologne, MN 55322

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Carver SWCD Board Meeting Minutes – October 16, 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
Member, Michael Lynch
Member, Karli Wittner

SWCD Staff Present:

District Manager, Mike Wanous
Landscape Restoration Specialist, Seth Ristow (partial meeting)
Resource Conservationist, Terry Meiller (partial meeting)

1. Call to Order.

Chair Zabel called the meeting to order at 8:03 AM.

2. Public Comments – None.

3. Agenda Review and Adoption.

Resolution 052-2025: Sons moved, Wittner seconded, to approve the October 16, 2025, Board Meeting Agenda as amended. Roll call vote: Lynch-aye; Sons-aye; Wittner-aye; Zabel-aye; Zbinden-aye. Motion carried.

4. Agency Reports

a. FSA report – Due to the federal government shutdown, no FSA report was provided.

b. NRCS report – Due to the federal government shutdown, no NRCS report was provided.

Chair Zabel commented that with the federal government shutdown, most USDA staff are on a temporary furlough. It is not known at this time how long the shutdown will last and/or if there will be any reduction in force (RIF) for the FSA or NRCS agencies.

c. Carver County Report – Paul was not able to make it to the meeting this morning, no County report was provided.

5. Consent Agenda Items

Resolution 053-2025: Sons moved, Lynch seconded to approve the following consent agenda items:

a. Approval of the September 18, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes

b. Acceptance of the September 2025 Treasurer's Report

Discussion occurred regarding the receipt of funding for the Soil Health grant and how the federal government shutdown is impacting the ability to move ahead with eligibility items for potential applicants.

Roll call vote: Lynch-aye; Sons-aye; Wittner-aye; Zabel-aye; Zbinden-aye. Motion carried.

6. Regular Agenda Items

- a. CRP Incentive Grant contract proposals were presented at this time. CRP incentive payments to landowners will utilize the BWSR grant (\$20,000) and matching funds from Carver County WMO (\$10,000); along with remaining funding from the Lake Waconia WBIF grant (\$10,612). Payment proposals are as follows:

<i>Description</i>	<i>Contract#</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Rate</i>	<i>Payment Amount</i>
Gary Meuwissen	CRP01	11.73	\$500.00	\$5,865.00
Raymond & Ann Hilk Limited Partnership	CRP02	5.87	\$250.00	\$1,467.50
Raymond & Ann Hilk Limited Partnership	CRP02	11.18	\$200.00	\$2,236.00
Brabec Farms	CRP03	18.71	\$200.00	\$3,742.00
Garly Klein	CRP04	18.87	\$200.00	\$3,774.00
Scholars Properties LLC	CRP05	20.00	\$600.00	\$12,000.00
James Storms	CRP06	6.60	\$138.71	\$915.50
WBIF Lake Waconia Grant CRP Incentives				
Marvin Rademacher	CRP07	5.3	\$500.00	\$2,650.00
Marvin Rademacher	CRP07	4.76	\$300.00	\$1,428.00
Joann Rademacher	CRP08	38.16	\$150.00	\$5,724.00
Marilu Luetke Peters	CRP09	1.62	\$500.00	\$810.00

Resolution 054-2025: Zbinden moved, Wittner seconded to approve the CRP incentive payments as presented. Roll call vote: Lynch-aye; Sons-aye; Wittner-aye; Zabel-aye; Zbinden-aye. Motion carried.

- b. Three pollinator program project payment requests have been received.
- 1) Roise – 1,872 total square feet, payment of \$3,423.25
 - 2) Scholars Properties LLC – 2,000 total square feet, payment of \$458.69
 - 3) Walker – 300 total square feet, payment of \$464.36
- TOTAL PAYMENTS: \$4,346.30**

Seth Ristow explained each project that has been completed and the requests for reimbursement from the landowners. Discussion on the use of plugs versus just using seed.

Resolution 055-2025: Zbinden moved, Lynch seconded to approve the three pollinator project payment requests as presented, totaling \$4,346.30. Roll call vote: Lynch-aye; Sons-aye; Wittner-aye; Zabel-aye; Zbinden-aye. Motion carried.

- c. MASWCD resolution votes – board members have submitted their votes or completed the voting online.
- d. MASWCD convention registration. Board members will let staff know prior to November 7 if they will be attending the convention and which days they plan to attend.
- e. Francine Larson, Sherburne SWCD, sent out an email requesting each District to consider donating a raffle item for the convention, or a cash donation directly to the State Envirothon. After some discussion, the consensus from the board was that each Board member will donate \$10, for a total of \$50 donation to the State Envirothon.
- f. The grant agreement for the 2026/2027 SWCD Programs and Operations Grants has been sent by BWSR in DocuSign. After a brief discussion, the Board agreed to authorize the District Manager to sign the agreement in DocuSign.

Resolution 056-2025: Sons moved, Wittner seconded to approve the District Manager to sign the 2026/2027 SWCD Programs and Operations Grants agreement with BWSR. Roll call vote: Lynch-aye; Sons-aye; Wittner-aye; Zabel-aye; Zbinden-aye. Motion carried.

7. SWCD Board Committee & SWCD Staff Monthly Reports

- a. Personnel Committee (Zabel, Zbinden) – did not meet.
- b. Metro Conservation District's (MCD) Committee (Zbinden; Lynch alt.) – did not meet.
- c. Education & Outreach Committee (Sons, Lynch) – At this time, Mike showed the Board a draft of the fall newsletter that will be sent out soon. Zbinden inquired about the new District website and how everything was working.
- d. Budget Committee (Sons, Zbinden) – The committee will meet immediately following today's Board meeting.
- e. WMO Advisory Committee (Zbinden; Sons alt.) – Zbinden provided a report from the September 30 meeting. There was a presentation from Andy regarding blue-green algae in lakes this year. Tim presented on a gully study around the Grace Lake chain of lakes in Chaska. Mike presented on the SWCD organization with an emphasis on ag related programs. Paul was not there but had sent the committee members an email about an adjustment to the WMO proposed levy reducing the proposed 6.8% increase down to 6.0% increase.
- f. South Fork Crow River 1W1P (Zabel; Lynch alt.) – the next meeting will be in 2026.
- g. The SWCD staff monthly progress report was presented and discussed.

8. Board of Supervisors Announcements

- a. Upcoming meetings/events:
 - November 11 – Veteran's Day, SWCD office closed
 - November 20 – SWCD Board Meeting 8:00 AM
 - November 27-28 – Thanksgiving Holiday observed (SWCD office closed)
 - December 2-3 – MASWCD Convention

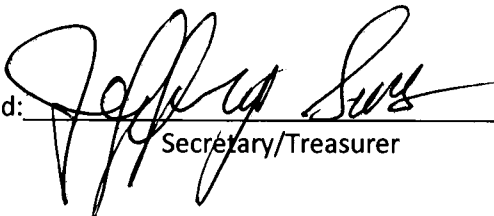
9. Adjourn

Resolution 057-2025: Lynch moved, Sons seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 AM Roll call vote: Lynch-aye; Sons-aye; Wittner-aye; Zabel-aye; Zbinden-aye. Motion carried.

Next Board Meeting: Thursday, November 20, 2025, at 8:00 AM

Location: Public Works Headquarters, Conference Room 1
11360 Highway 212, Cologne, MN 55322

Approved: _____



Secretary/Treasurer

Date signed: November 20, 2025