



11360 Highway 212 STE 6
Cologne, MN 55322

(952) 466-5230 | carverswcd.org

Carver SWCD Board Meeting Minutes – January 15, 2026

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

Board Members Present:

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

Board Members Absent:

Michael Lynch, Member

Others Present:

Cindy Hoffmann, NRCS District Conservationist
Andrea Kerber, FSA Program Analyst

SWCD Staff Present:

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

1. Call to order.

District Manager, Mike Wanous, called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

2. Nominations and election for Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary/Treasurer for 2026.

Manager Wanous opened the nominations for Chair at this time. Zbinden nominated Zabel as the Chair. With no other nominations or objections, Zabel is the 2026 Carver SWCD Chair by acclamation.

Zabel took over the meeting and opened the nominations for Vice Chair. Sons nominated Wittner as the Vice Chair. With no other nominations or objections, Wittner is the 2026 Carver SWCD Vice Chair by acclamation.

Zabel opened the nominations for Secretary/Treasurer. Zbinden nominated Sons as the Secretary/Treasurer. With no other nominations or objections, Sons is the 2026 Carver SWCD Secretary/Treasurer by acclamation.

3. Public comments – None.

4. Agenda review and adoption.

Resolution 001-2026: Zbinden moved, Sons seconded, to approve the January 15, 2026, Board Meeting Agenda with the two minor additions. Roll call vote: Lynch-absent; Sons-aye; Wittner-aye; Zabel-aye; Zbinden-aye. Motion carried.

5. Agency Reports.

a. FSA report – Andrea reported on the various FSA programs and sign-up deadlines. The County Committee election ballots are due February 2 and will be counted at the February 10th Committee meeting. The CRP annual payments were processed on December 1. Counties are

also able to authorize routine modifications to CRP-1s and cost-share agreements through the 1-year extension to the Farm Bill that passed on November 12, 2025.

- b. NRCS report – Cindy reported today is the deadline for CRP, ACEP, and CSP. Carver County has 8 CRP applications, and 21 EQIP/CSP applications. A lot of producers have signed up for both EQIP and CSP since there hasn't been much guidance for the CSP program. Staff has finished up payments for prior CSP and EQIP contracts and have started working on eligibility and planning for the new applications. She reported there is a new regenerative Ag initiative that just came out, but there aren't a lot of details to what the initiative will entail. NRCS is having two teams in each area pilot the new program, and Carver has been selected as one of those teams.
- c. Carver County report – Paul was unable to attend today's meeting.

6. Organizational meeting items.

- a. The Board discussed the Operating Rules for 2026. Staff recommended a couple of minor changes, which were discussed at this time. On page 2, paragraph 2 talking about a vacancy on the SWCD Board, will add the wording 'background and experience or a resume,' after sending a letter of interest. The suggested wording change on page 5 will remain as it is currently.

Resolution 002-2026: Zbinden moved, Sons seconded to approve the 2026 Operating Rules with the wording amendment on page 2. Roll call vote: Lynch-absent; Sons-aye; Wittner-aye; Zabel-aye; Zbinden-aye.

- b. Resolution 003-2026: Zbinden moved, Wittner seconded to keep the Supervisors compensation policy the same as it was in 2025. Roll call vote: Lynch-absent; Sons-aye; Wittner-aye; Zabel-aye; Zbinden-aye. Motion carried.

- c. Resolution 004-2026: Zbinden moved, Sons seconded to set the 2026 mileage rate at \$0.725 per mile. Roll call vote: Lynch-absent; Sons-aye; Wittner-aye; Zabel-aye; Zbinden-aye. Motion carried.

- d. Resolution 005-2026: Sons moved, Wittner seconded to designate Security Bank & Trust, MidCountry Bank, Citizens State Bank of NYA, Old National Bank, and Southpoint Financial Credit Union as the Carver SWCD's 2026 depository designations. Roll call vote: Lynch-absent; Sons-aye; Wittner-aye; Zabel-aye; Zbinden-aye. Motion carried.

- e. Chair Zabel made the following appointments to the standing SWCD committees:
 1. Personnel Committee – Mark Zabel, Marcus Zbinden
 2. Metro Conservation District's (MCD) Committee – Karli Wittner; Mike Lynch alt.
 3. Education Committee – Jeff Sons, Mike Lynch
 4. Budget Committee – Jeff Sons, Marcus Zbinden
 5. WMO Advisory Committee – Marcus Zbinden; Karli Wittner alt.
 6. South Fork Crow River 1W1P – Mark Zabel; Mike Lynch alt.

7. Consent Agenda Items

Resolution 006-2026: Sons moved, Wittner seconded to approve the following consent agenda items:

- a. Approval of December 18, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes.

- b. Acceptance of the December 2025 Treasurer's Report, with the note of additional interest being added to investments.
- c. Acknowledgement of thank you note sent from Sherburne SWCD for the MN Envirothon donation.
- d. The final 2024 Audit report is complete.

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

8. Regular Agenda Items

- a. Resolution 007-2026: Zbinden moved, Sons seconded to pay the MCIT annual insurance renewal, total cost of \$13,581. Roll call vote: Lynch-absent; Sons-aye; Wittner-aye; Zabel-aye; Zbinden-aye. Motion carried.
- b. Resolution 008-2026: Sons moved, Zbinden seconded to pay annual dues to MASWCD-\$7,654.59, MASWCD Area IV-\$450, MCD-\$50; and submit \$100 to NACD for the 2026 conservation investment, total of \$8,254.59. Roll call vote: Lynch-absent; Sons-aye; Wittner-aye; Zabel-aye; Zbinden-aye. Motion carried.
- c. BWSR has sent the FY2026 Buffer Law implementation grant through DocuSign, that will provide the SWCD with \$20,000 to continue implementing the buffer law.

Resolution 009-2026: Sons moved, Wittner seconded to authorize the District Manager to sign the FY26 Buffer Law grant agreement for \$20,000 through DocuSign. Roll call vote: Lynch-absent; Sons-aye; Wittner-aye; Zabel-aye; Zbinden-aye. Motion carried.

- d. Peterson Company Ltd. has sent their engagement letter for them to conduct our 2025 audit. The audit fee for 2026 will be \$5,300, which is \$300 more than 2025.

Resolution 010-2026: Zbinden moved, Wittner seconded to approve the engagement letter with Peterson Company Ltd. for the 2025 Audit, fee of \$5,300; and reach out to the other auditors for a bid to conduct the 2026 Audit. Roll call vote: Lynch-absent; Sons-aye; Wittner-aye; Zabel-aye; Zbinden-aye. Motion carried.

- e. The Carver SWCD will be celebrating 80 years of conservation efforts in 2026, November 12 officially. Chair Zabel requested this item be discussed at the April meeting with a possible open house or similar event held later in the year.

9. SWCD Board Committee & SWCD Staff Monthly Reports

- a. The committees have not met. The WMO Advisory meeting will be held on January 27.
- b. The SWCD staff monthly progress report was discussed.

10. Board of Supervisors announcements

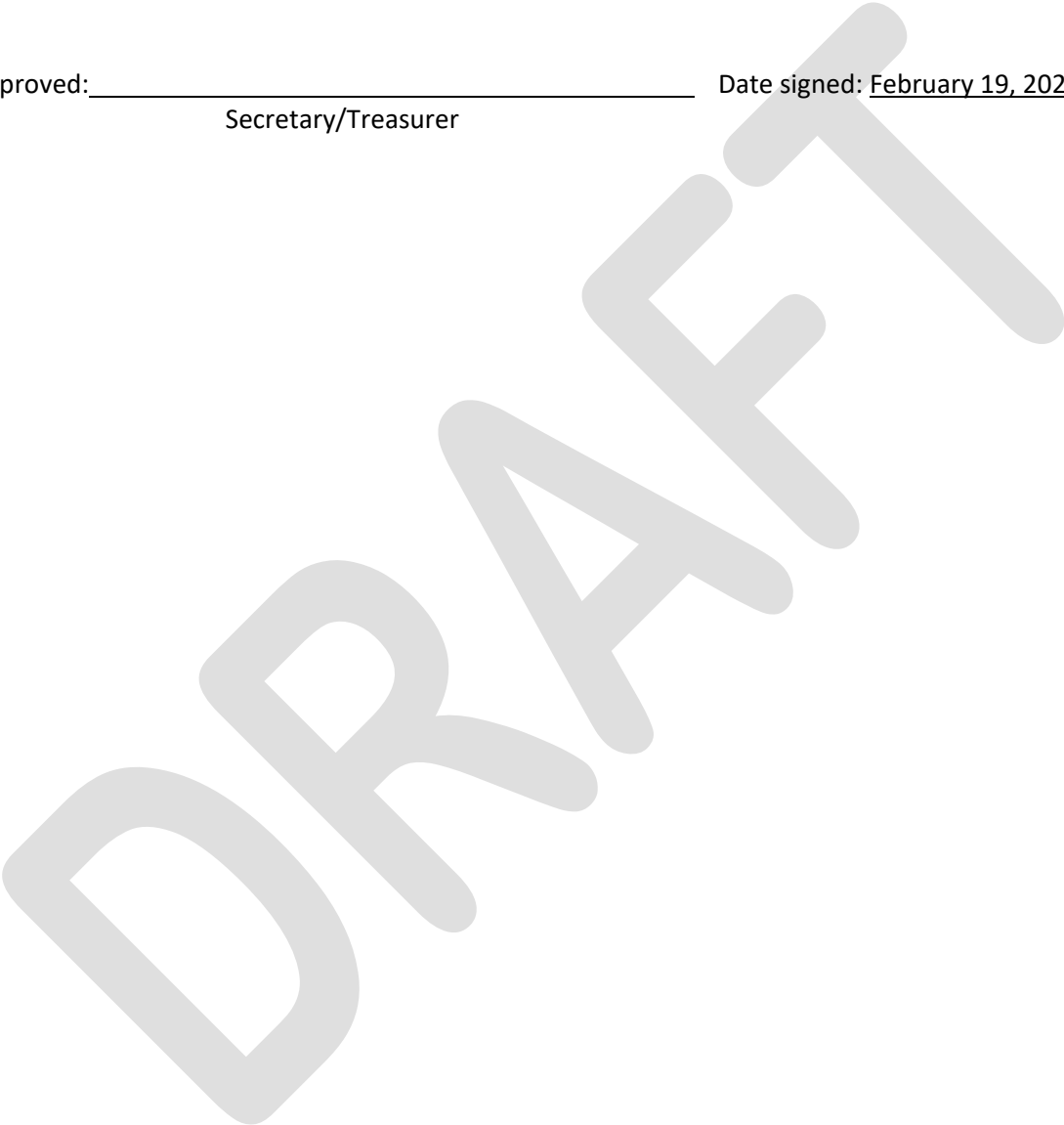
- a. Upcoming meetings/events:
 - January 19 – Martin Luther King Jr. birthday observed, SWCD office closed
 - February 16 – Presidents Day, SWCD office closed
 - February 19 – SWCD Board meeting, 8:00 AM
 - March 19 – SWCD Board meeting, 8:00 AM

11. Adjourn

Resolution 011-2026: Sons moved, Zbinden seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:14 a.m. Roll call vote: Lynch-absent; Sons-aye; Wittner-aye; Zabel-aye; Zbinden-aye. Motion carried.

Next Board Meeting: Thursday, February 19, 2026, at 8:00 AM
Location: Public Works Headquarters, Conference Room 2
11360 Highway 212, Cologne, MN 55322

Approved: _____ Date signed: February 19, 2026
Secretary/Treasurer



**Carver Soil & Water Conservation District
Treasurer's Report
As of January 31, 2026**

Date	Num	Name	Memo	Debit	Credit	Balance
1000 Checking-Security Bank						30,473.51
01/02/2026			Deposit-Trees	261.56		30,735.07
01/06/2026			Deposit-Trees	38.54		30,773.61
01/07/2026	2026-03		Customer Canceled 2 Red Maple-Refund...		90.00	30,683.61
01/07/2026			Deposit-Tree Sales	954.62		31,638.23
01/08/2026			Deposit-Trees & Drill	549.36		32,187.59
01/09/2026			Deposit-Trees	53.10		32,240.69
01/12/2026			Deposit-Trees	87.09		32,327.78
01/12/2026	3863	NCPERS Group Life Ins.	910300-012026		16.00	32,311.78
01/12/2026			Funds Transfer-503091414	35,000.00		67,311.78
01/12/2026	3861	Elan Financial Services	1335		10.32	67,301.46
01/12/2026	3862	Carver County	Fuel PW-7162		148.15	67,153.31
01/12/2026	3864	HSA Bank	#W675099 December Fees		12.50	67,140.81
01/12/2026	3865	Waconia Postmaster	Permit #9 Non-profit Renewal		370.00	66,770.81
01/13/2026			Deposit-Trees	601.42		67,372.23
01/14/2026		QuickBooks Payroll Service	Created by Payroll Service on 01/12/2026		19,672.72	47,699.51
01/14/2026	3866	Tree Refunds Payable	2026-012		40.00	47,659.51
01/14/2026			Deposit-Trees	179.33		47,838.84
01/15/2026	DD1261	Brockoff, Felicia L.	Direct Deposit	0.00		47,838.84
01/15/2026	DD1262	Datres, Benjamin R.	Direct Deposit	0.00		47,838.84
01/15/2026	DD1263	Genelin, Thomas M.	Direct Deposit	0.00		47,838.84
01/15/2026	DD1264	Meiller, Terry J.	Direct Deposit	0.00		47,838.84
01/15/2026	DD1265	Polster, Tyler J.	Direct Deposit	0.00		47,838.84
01/15/2026	DD1266	Ristow, Seth E.	Direct Deposit	0.00		47,838.84
01/15/2026	DD1267	Wanous, Richard M.	Direct Deposit	0.00		47,838.84
01/15/2026	EFT-894	HSA Bank	41-1385530		1,712.95	46,125.89
01/15/2026	EFT-895	Minnesota Revenue	7694248		1,433.00	44,692.89
01/15/2026	EFT-896	MSRS-VOYA	0058 Carver SWCD		1,429.00	43,263.89
01/15/2026	EFT-897	PERA	9103-00		4,404.98	38,858.91
01/15/2026	EFT-898	US Treasury IRS	41-1385530		7,372.30	31,486.61
01/15/2026			Deposit-Trees	334.39		31,821.00
01/21/2026	3867	Carver County	January Insurance		13,104.26	18,716.74
01/21/2026	3868	MASWCD	2026 Dues		7,654.59	11,062.15
01/21/2026	3869	MASWCD Area IV	2026 Dues		450.00	10,612.15
01/21/2026	3870	NACD	2026 Dues		100.00	10,512.15
01/21/2026	3871	MCIT	20924R - Annual Insurance Due		13,581.00	-3,068.85
01/21/2026			Deposit-Trees	43.39		-3,025.46
01/21/2026			Deposit-Crow ETA, Trees	11,157.72		8,132.26
01/22/2026			Deposit-Trees	270.67		8,402.93
01/26/2026			Funds Transfer-505036902	40,000.00		48,402.93
01/26/2026			Deposit-Trees	198.75		48,601.68
01/28/2026			Deposit-Trees	427.23		49,028.91
01/29/2026		QuickBooks Payroll Service	Created by Payroll Service on 01/26/2026		17,124.05	31,904.86
01/29/2026			Deposit-Trees	310.00		32,214.86
01/30/2026	DD1268	Brockoff, Felicia L.	Direct Deposit	0.00		32,214.86
01/30/2026	DD1269	Datres, Benjamin R.	Direct Deposit	0.00		32,214.86
01/30/2026	DD1270	Genelin, Thomas M.	Direct Deposit	0.00		32,214.86
01/30/2026	DD1271	Meiller, Terry J.	Direct Deposit	0.00		32,214.86
01/30/2026	DD1272	Polster, Tyler J.	Direct Deposit	0.00		32,214.86
01/30/2026	DD1273	Ristow, Seth E.	Direct Deposit	0.00		32,214.86
01/30/2026	DD1274	Wanous, Richard M.	Direct Deposit	0.00		32,214.86
01/30/2026	EFT-899	HSA Bank	41-1385530		1,347.95	30,866.91
01/30/2026	EFT-900	Minnesota Revenue	7694248		1,180.00	29,686.91
01/30/2026	EFT-901	MSRS-VOYA	0058 Carver SWCD		1,679.00	28,007.91
01/30/2026	EFT-902	PERA	9103-00		3,792.61	24,215.30
01/30/2026	EFT-903	US Treasury IRS	41-1385530		6,230.00	17,985.30
01/30/2026			Deposit-Trees	38.54		18,023.84
01/31/2026			Interest	0.82		18,024.66
Total 1000 Checking-Security Bank				90,506.53	102,955.38	18,024.66
1100 Savings-Security Bank						431,517.01
01/12/2026			Funds Transfer-503091414		35,000.00	396,517.01
01/15/2026			Deposit-Easement Assistance	2,500.00		399,017.01
01/16/2026			Deposit - Ditches	25,830.00		424,847.01
01/16/2026			Deposit - QTR1-2026	143,415.50		568,262.51
01/23/2026			Deposit - WCA 2025	10,000.00		578,262.51
01/26/2026			Funds Transfer-505036902		40,000.00	538,262.51
01/29/2026			Deposit-Title Reimb.	2,115.00		540,377.51
01/31/2026			Interest	525.11		540,902.62

**Carver Soil & Water Conservation District
Treasurer's Report
As of January 31, 2026**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Num</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Memo</u>	<u>Debit</u>	<u>Credit</u>	<u>Balance</u>
		Total 1100 Savings-Security Bank		184,385.61	75,000.00	540,902.62
		1110 Member Savings-SouthPoint				10.30
		Total 1110 Member Savings-SouthPoint				10.30
		1150 Savings Citizens NYA				82,523.10
01/31/2026			Interest	80.60		82,603.70
		Total 1150 Savings Citizens NYA		80.60	0.00	82,603.70
		1200 Investments CD's				424,440.27
		12.ONB*968 (4.1%-02/03/26)				111,227.29
		Total 12.ONB*968 (4.1%-02/03/26)				111,227.29
		12.SB&T*301 (4.2%-02/07/26)				100,000.00
		Total 12.SB&T*301 (4.2%-02/07/26)				100,000.00
		12.SPFCU*024 (4.0%-03/15/26)				113,212.98
		Total 12.SPFCU*024 (4.0%-03/15/26)				113,212.98
		12.ONB**141 (4%-04/24/26)				100,000.00
		Total 12.ONB**141 (4%-04/24/26)				100,000.00
		Total 1200 Investments CD's				424,440.27
TOTAL				274,972.74	177,955.38	1,065,981.55



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Treasurer's Monthly Report Program Summary - January 2026

<u>Funds</u>	<u>Cash Balance</u> <u>12/31/2025</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>Cash Balance</u> <u>1/31/2026</u>
BWSR Buffer Implementation	\$0.00			\$0.00
BWSR Conservation Delivery	\$24,991.56		\$2,082.63	\$22,908.93
BWSR Soil Health Practices	\$180,000.00			\$180,000.00
BWSR State Cost Share	\$38,924.00			\$38,924.00
BWSR WBIF (Waconia & Eagle)	-\$48,982.85			-\$48,982.85
SWCD Operating Funds	\$654,611.48	\$199,972.74	\$100,872.75	\$753,711.47
District Escrow	\$119,420.00			\$119,420.00
TOTAL	\$968,964.19	\$199,972.74	\$102,955.38	\$1,065,981.55
<u>Use of Cash</u>				
1000 Checking Security Bank	\$30,473.51	\$90,506.53	\$102,955.38	\$18,024.66
1100 Savings-Security Bank	\$431,517.01	\$184,385.61	\$75,000.00	\$540,902.62
1110 Savings-South Point CU	\$10.30			\$10.30
1150 Savings-Citizens NYA	\$82,523.10	\$80.60		\$82,603.70
1200 Investments CD's	\$424,440.27			\$424,440.27
TOTAL	\$968,964.19	\$274,972.74	\$177,955.38	\$1,065,981.55

Carver SWCD Board Treasurer

2/19/2026

Date

Carver Soil & Water Conservation District

Balance Sheet

As of January 31, 2026

	<u>Jan 31, 26</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
1000 Checking-Security Bank	18,024.66
1100 Savings-Security Bank	540,902.62
1110 Member Savings-SouthPoint	10.30
1150 Savings Citizens NYA	82,603.70
1200 Investments CD's	424,440.27
Total Checking/Savings	<u>1,065,981.55</u>
Accounts Receivable	
1300 Accounts Receivable	27,740.45
Total Accounts Receivable	<u>27,740.45</u>
Other Current Assets	
1350 Interest Receivable	4,097.20
1400 Undeposited Funds	150.00
Total Other Current Assets	<u>4,247.20</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>1,097,969.20</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>1,097,969.20</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
2200 Payroll Liabilities	392.68
2300 Sales Tax Payable	966.84
2400 Unearned-Deferred Revenue	
2404 Conservation Delivery	22,908.93
2405 Cost-Share	38,924.00
2407 Soil Health Grants	180,000.00
2408 WBIF Grants	-48,982.85
Total 2400 Unearned-Deferred Revenue	<u>192,850.08</u>
Total Other Current Liabilities	<u>194,209.60</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>194,209.60</u>
Total Liabilities	194,209.60
Equity	
3000 FUND BALANCE	825,887.29
Net Income	77,872.31
Total Equity	<u>903,759.60</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>1,097,969.20</u>

Carver Soil & Water Conservation District
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
 January 2026

	Jan 26	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Income				
4000 Intergovernmental County				
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	15,000.00	-15,000.00	0.0%
4040 WCA Services	0.00	10,000.00	-10,000.00	0.0%
Total 4000 Intergovernmental County	143,415.50	608,581.00	-465,165.50	23.6%
4100 Intergovernmental Local				
4110 Cities, WD, LGU Revenue	0.00	20,000.00	-20,000.00	0.0%
4120 MCD, MACD Revenue	21,045.45	35,000.00	-13,954.55	60.1%
Total 4100 Intergovernmental Local	21,045.45	55,000.00	-33,954.55	38.3%
4200 Intergovernmental State				
4202 Buffer Implementation	0.00	20,000.00	-20,000.00	0.0%
4204 Conservation Delivery	2,082.63	19,000.00	-16,917.37	11.0%
4205 Cost-Share	0.00	20,000.00	-20,000.00	0.0%
4208 Easement Reimbursements	2,500.00			
4210 RIM Misc. Income	0.00	10,000.00	-10,000.00	0.0%
4207 Soil Health C/S	0.00	60,000.00	-60,000.00	0.0%
4212 SWCD Aid	0.00	133,000.00	-133,000.00	0.0%
4211 WBIF Grants	0.00	40,000.00	-40,000.00	0.0%
4200 Intergovernmental State - Other	0.00	60,000.00	-60,000.00	0.0%
Total 4200 Intergovernmental State	4,582.63	362,000.00	-357,417.37	1.3%
4300 Charges for Services				
4320 Great Plains Drill Rental	0.00	7,500.00	-7,500.00	0.0%
4330 Tree & Native Seed Sales	11,552.45	30,000.00	-18,447.55	38.5%
Total 4300 Charges for Services	11,552.45	37,500.00	-25,947.55	30.8%
4400 Interest Earnings	0.00	20,000.00	-20,000.00	0.0%
4500 Miscellaneous Revenues	0.00	5,000.00	-5,000.00	0.0%
Total Income	180,596.03	1,088,081.00	-907,484.97	16.6%
Expense				
5000 District Operations				
5100 Personnel Services				
5101 Payroll Expenses	60,082.07	666,016.00	-605,933.93	9.0%
5102 Payroll Fees	88.50	1,200.00	-1,111.50	7.4%
5103 SWCD - FICA/Medicare	4,270.65	50,950.00	-46,679.35	8.4%
5104 SWCD - Insurance Ben.	11,756.21	150,000.00	-138,243.79	7.8%
5105 SWCD - PERA & DCP	4,391.57	49,951.00	-45,559.43	8.8%
5106 MN Paid Leave Law	0.00	4,396.00	-4,396.00	0.0%
Total 5100 Personnel Services	80,589.00	922,513.00	-841,924.00	8.7%
5200 Other Services & Charges				
5201 Dues	8,204.59	9,000.00	-795.41	91.2%
5202 Education & Promotion	0.00	2,000.00	-2,000.00	0.0%
5203 Employee Expense	0.00	2,500.00	-2,500.00	0.0%
5204 Equipment Repairs	0.00	500.00	-500.00	0.0%
5205 MCIT Insurance Coverage	13,581.00	14,500.00	-919.00	93.7%
5206 Mileage	0.00	1,500.00	-1,500.00	0.0%
5207 Office Operations/Misc.	695.32	7,000.00	-6,304.68	9.9%
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%

Carver Soil & Water Conservation District
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
 January 2026

	<u>Jan 26</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
5220 Vehicle/Equipment Expenses	148.15	5,000.00	-4,851.85	3.0%
Total 5200 Other Services & Charges	22,629.06	48,500.00	-25,870.94	46.7%
5300 Supplies - Office & Field	0.00	2,500.00	-2,500.00	0.0%
5400 Capital Outlay	0.00	10,000.00	-10,000.00	0.0%
Total 5000 District Operations	103,218.06	983,513.00	-880,294.94	10.5%
6000 Project Expenses				
6100 District Projects				
6114 Tree Program Expenses	111.37			
6100 District Projects - Other	0.00	40,000.00	-40,000.00	0.0%
Total 6100 District Projects	111.37	40,000.00	-39,888.63	0.3%
6200 State Projects	0.00	64,568.00	-64,568.00	0.0%
Total 6000 Project Expenses	111.37	104,568.00	-104,456.63	0.1%
Total Expense	103,329.43	1,088,081.00	-984,751.57	9.5%
Net Income	<u>77,266.60</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>77,266.60</u>	<u>100.0%</u>



REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

Regular Agenda

Meeting Date: February 19, 2026

Prepared by: Terry Meiller

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED:

Approve batching and cost-share contract (10-1-1) for cover crop implementation under RCPP requirements.

SUMMARY:

Per RCPP guidelines, the board must first approve batching prior to contract approval.

Contract 10-1-1 is a single year agreement for cover crop implementation on 65.31 acres. The landowner is requesting board approval for a single species cover crop of Winter Cereal Rye that will be seeded per NRCS seeding rates/dates following the 2026 soybean harvest.

Total cost-share request is \$3,918.60, which is the maximum payment rate of \$60 per acre for the cover crop practice.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Approve batching and cost-share contract (10-1-1) for 65.31 acres.

EXPLANATION OF FISCAL/FTE IMPACT:

Funding is available through the Soil Health Practices Grant (MN RCPP)

Supporting Documents:

Fact Sheet and map attached

Previous Board Action:

None



Project Fact Sheet

Cover Crop Contract 10-1-1

Young America Township

Cover Crops (340)

Project Location

City/Twp. Hamburg, MN
Young America- Sec. 17 & 20
Watershed Bevens Creek

Project Details

Practice Cover Crops (340)
Quantity 65.31 Acres
Project ID 10-1-1
Planting Date October, 2026

Funding

Grant Soil Health Practices Grant (RCPP – P26-0006)
Total Cost-share Requested \$3,918.60

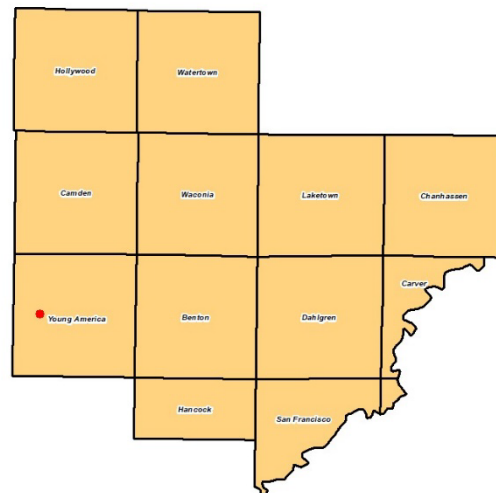
Project Overview

Contract 10-1-1 is a single year agreement for a cover crop mix of winter cereal rye on 65.31 acres to help address local water quality concerns.

Cereal rye was selected based on its ability to effectively utilize nutrients (N-Scavenging) and the planting dates/growth habit that maximizes plant biomass production and nutrient uptake, while not adversely affecting the landowners harvest process.

Environmental Benefits

- Reduce Soil Loss and Erosion
- Improve Water Quality
- Improve Soil Health and Soil Tilth





February 17 – Legislative Webinar 10:30 am – 11:30 am

Registration link: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_zLvn_VuIQGCoqbZcpEKMmg#/registration

March 17 – Legislative Briefing & Networking Reception - \$130 Registration

4pm to 6pm — Legislative Briefing

Hear from key legislators, state agency leaders, and the latest on SWCD aid and other issues and updates pending before the legislature before you meet with them the next day.

6pm to 8pm — Networking Reception & Buffet

Enjoy a cash bar and a complimentary appetizer buffet. ALL 201 state legislators are invited to attend this annual event. Make sure you don't miss this unique opportunity to meet with your legislators and agency leaders in a casual setting. Legislators who attend this event want to meet you and hear what issues are important to your district.

****Send an email reminding your legislators to attend—ask them to meet you there!***

MARCH 18 - SWCD Day At The Capitol

Please call your legislators as soon as possible to schedule appointments. For a legislative directory, visit: www.leg.mn.gov.

2025 Annual Report

HIGHLIGHTS

Agriculture Conservation Practices

- 4 grassed waterways Installed, totaling 2,093 feet
- 2,353 linear foot terrace system installed near Eagle Lake
- 8 water and sediment basins installed
- 17 cost-share inspections on previous BMPs
- 150 landowners purchased and planted 11,150 trees
- 10 DNR prescribed burn permits issued for 358 CRP acres
- 31 landowners planted 641 acres with the Great Plains no-till drill
- 9 landowners received CRP incentive payments on 174 acres
- Assisted USFW upgrade 100 acres of CRP to an enhanced pollinator habitat
- Buffer monitoring for 1/3 of Carver County



Urban Conservation Practices

- Carver County Water Rules compliance:
 - 133 inspections conducted in Carver County's 11 Cities
 - 12 inspections conducted in Carver County's Townships.
- 51 projects reviewed for sediment and erosion control BMPs
- Field visits to construction sites to ensure compliance with stormwater regulations
- Provide technical support on native vegetation and BMP designs for RPBCWD and LMRWD
- Landscape restoration designs including rain gardens, bio-retention cells, shoreline restorations, water re-use projects

Urban Conservation Cost-Share Programs

Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District

- 58 projects installed to improve water quality and habitat
- 47 landowner consultation site visits

Carver County Water Management Organization

- 4 projects installed to improve water quality and habitat
- 15 landowner consultation site visits

Carver SWCD Pollinator & Shoreline Habitat Programs

Pollinator Program

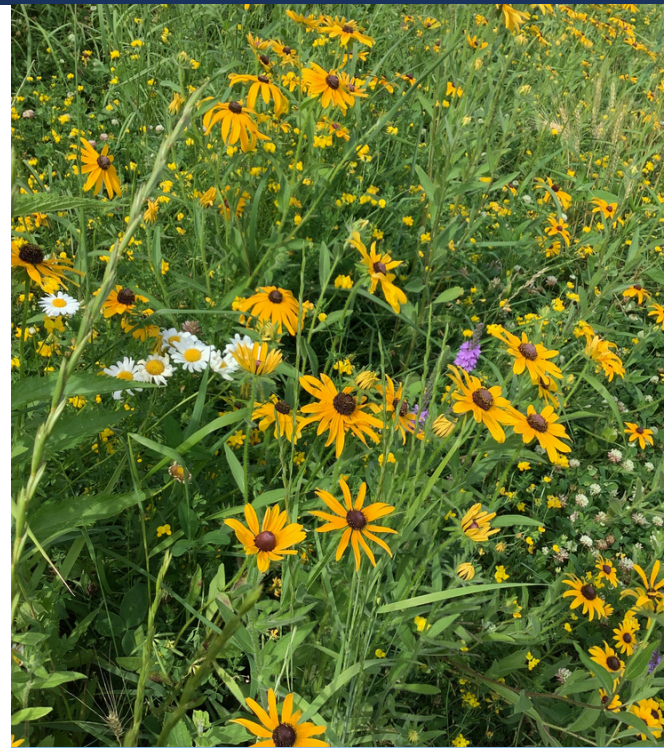
- 6 total projects: 5 residential, 1 non-profit, 1 govt. agency
- 25 landowner consultation site visits, designed 4 projects

Shoreline Habitat Program

- 1 project installed with Metro Blooms and MN Cons. Corps
- 8 landowner consultation site visits

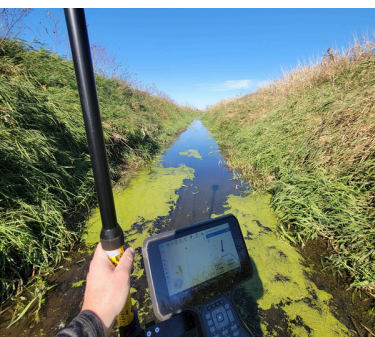
Wetland Protection & Restoration

- Assisted 13 landowners received WCA permits
- 85 Technical Evaluation Panel (TEP) meetings
- 3 WCA violation review/restoration orders
- 4 complaints on possible WCA violations
- 37 annual RIM inspections conducted
- 10 landowners contacted about permanent easement programs
- Easement boundary signs installed on CREP projects
- Provide assistance to landowner interested in CRP, CREP, RIM, Wetland Banking, etc.



Public Drainage Systems

- 5 repairs of public ditches
- Finished redetermination of benefits (ROB) for all systems
- Engineering completed for a future large repair project
- Assist landowners with drainage questions
- Buffer strip acquisitions for redetermined systems



Carver SWCD Supervisors & Staff

Karli Wittner, District 1

Marcus Zbinden, District 2

Mark Zabel, District 3

Mike Lynch, District 4

Jeff Sons, District 5

Mike Wanous, District Manager

Felicia Brockoff, Admin. & Finance Specialist

Ben Datres, Farm Bill Technician

Tom Genelín, Senior District Technician

Terry Meiller, Resource Conservationist

Tyler Polster, District Technician

Seth Ristow, Landscape Restoration Spec.

Carver SWCD Monthly Report

February 2026

Mike Wanous – District Manager

- BWSR grant reporting in eLINK and final reports for grants that expired 12/31/2025
- South Fork Crow River technical staff meeting – plans for the next round of grant funding for project implementation
- Worked with landowners and BWSR staff on an agreement for a wetland restoration project utilizing the Local Government Road Wetland Replacement Program (LGRWRP), the agreement is now signed
- Worked on annual report and quarterly ETA report
- Assisted Public Works with a list of potential BMPs or water related issues to consider with future road planning
- Meetings – staff mtg, Watertown Bank maintenance mtg, ditch related mtgs, trainings

Felicia Brockoff – Administrative & Finance Specialist

- Accounting: Verified and paid regular monthly expenses. Completed January Treasurer’s Report, semi-monthly payroll and payroll liabilities.
- Administrative: Completed the minutes from January meeting and started a 2026 resolutions document for all approved Board motions. Prepared February Agenda packets and posted online. Developed new timesheets using an Excel file we acquired from Dakota SWCD some years back. Perry Clark from Public Works assisted me with calculation formulas for reports.
- Education: contacted Brettworks about adding Native Plant Kits to the online store and re-arranging some items. Hid the pollinator and shoreline pages from our live site, since there is no longer grant funding. Cleaning up media files from our website (i.e. obsolete grant reports). Updated the Legislative requirements page with new eLINK grant reports.
- Trees – Processing the tree orders as they come in and manually adjusting the online inventory when we receive a mail in order. Sales are similar to past years; we’re out of 5 species and have 2 months to sell the remaining inventory.

Terry Meiller – Resource Conservationist

- Soil Health RCPP: Training playbacks, gathered materials for RCPP documentation needs (data releases, planning, and design documents, etc.), received Level 1 Conservation Planner certification. Uploaded latest version of RUSLE databases for RUSLE work. Landowner outreach (phone calls and emails). Drafted outreach letter for future marketing. Completed conservation planning and implementation requirements for RCPP Contract 10-1-1. Eligibility and design documents uploaded to BWSR/NRCS SharePoint site for review.
- Crow WBIF: Bid packets prepared and sent to landowner for Grassed waterway/WASCB project in Watertown Twp, Sec. 24. Completed Crow WBIF application and ranking in MS4Front to secure funding.
- Misc: 2026 Envirothon - Created Wildlife exam for SR and JR Envirothon with answer key. Finalized 2025 accomplishments for annual report info. Feedlot producer meeting – created presentation for Feb meeting. Staff meeting. CSAH 40 ravine field walk meeting with Carver WMO and PW staff.

Seth Ristow – Resource Conservation Technician

- Continued to work on Design workshop organization and presentation with RPBCWD and the WMO. Put together rough draft of presentation for group. First presentation will be at the end of April.
- Collaborated with the City of Eden Prairie and the WMO on creating a Native Plant Maintenance Workshop for municipalities. Workshop will be held at the end of March.
- Attended weekly Development Reviews with the WMO.
- Reviewed the City of Waconia’s Canada thistle management plan and submitted comments.

- Attended Stormwater Seminar on research in St. Paul on municipal trees water uptake in relation to stormwater.
- Met with homeowner to discuss RPBCWD Stewardship Grant Program and potential project options.
- Reviewed Concord Rd. project for WMO and gave recommendations for shrubs in swale.
- Looked further into how to get Job Approval Authority for ecological practices.
- Reviewed tutorials on Adobe Suite Programs for creating handouts and presentations.

Tom Genelín – Senior District Technician

- Meetings/Plan Review:
 - Attended the 2026 Minnesota Erosion Control Association (MECA) conference, held in Mankato
 - Cologne Wastewater Treatment Facility plan review
 - NYA 2026 Road Reconstruction plan review
 - Maplewood Bridge Replacement (San Fran. Twp.) plan review
 - Update ESC portion of Land Management New Home Packet
 - NYA Ditch Clean projects pre-construction meeting
 - Peavey Road Business Center (Chaska) plan review
 - Hwy. 5 Improvements (Waconia) plan review
 - Fox Run Ravine (Waconia) plan review
 - Mill Lane and Provence Creek Pond Clean (Waconia) permitting assistance
- Site inspections:
 - Oak Creek (Chaska) inspection during BMP construction
 - Rivertown Heights (Chaska) inspection during BMP construction
 - Orchard Park (Waconia) inspection during BMP construction
 - The Cove (Watertown) site inspection
 - Northern Exposure (Watertown) site inspection
 - The Fields (Waconia) site inspection
 - Waterford (Waconia) site inspection
 - Woodland Creek (Waconia) site inspection
 - Timber Creek (Carver) site inspection
 - The Preserve (Carver) site inspection

Ben Datres – Farm Bill Technician

- CREP/RIM:
 - RIM Process & Refresh Webinar- module updates, survey and title work process updates
 - Submitted 2 Vegetation Enhancement applications – This is for landowner funding to help improve poor vegetation on old RIM easements.
 - Working on 2 new RIM/wetland program proposals for interested landowners.
- MN Buffer Law: Starting outreach to and follow up letters to parcels that need additional buffer inspections.
- Other:
 - Soil Health- Received Conservation Planner certification from NRCS. Miscellaneous task helping Terry.
 - C.R. 40 road project field visit with county staff, looking at culvert replacement sites and impacts to nearby ravines.
 - Annual Silver Creek Acetochlor review and planning meeting with WMO, MDA, U of M, and Sibley SWCD.
 - Reviewing WASCB plans for a future project.

Tyler Polster – District Technician

- WCA
 - Waconia: Reviewed WCA permit plans for schedule storm pond cleanouts, included an amendment for entry point change on the plans. Reviewed replacement plan amendment for updated application of housing development along Elm Creek Drive.
 - New Germany: Reviewed plans and attended TEP meeting for wetland impacts related to small development construction.
 - Chaska: Reviewed final De-minimus application for Peavy Road Business Park.
 - WMO: TEP approved credit release request for wetland bank near Hollywood.
 - MCWD/Victoria: Ongoing review of plans for Highway 5 reconstructions. Viewed application for replacement plan for small housing development near the Arboretum.
- Attended multiple training courses and webinars about Tree Health and Forest Health. Also conducted site visit with Chanhassen resident regarding Emerald Ash Borer.
- Attended multiple trainings related to WCA and wetlands.