

**Carver County Office / Minnesota**

1103 Gruenhagen Drive  
Glencoe, MN 55336  
Jennifer.King1@usda.gov  
(320) 864-5178

TO: Carver County Soil and Water Conservation District Board

FROM: Jennifer King, County Executive Director

SUBJECT: June 2026 Board Meeting

**Old Business**

Supplemental Disaster Relief Program (SDRP Stage 1 and Stage 2)

- Signup extended to August 12, 2026.
- Calculated payments increased to 70% factor.

Acreage Reporting

- Maps are created and ready for producers to pick up/email.
- July 15<sup>th</sup> is the reporting deadline.

**New Business**

FSA County Committee (COC)

- Nomination period begins June 15, 2026.
- LAA 1 & LAA5 are up for election this year (see attached map for reference).

Base Acre Increase for Safety Net Program (ARC/PLC)

- Eligible landowners have from June 1 until Aug. 31, 2026, to review and consider base acre increases on farms enrolled. Operators will need to work with landowners.
- Contact FSA if:
  - Acreage history data is incorrect or missing,
  - There are "subsequent acres" listed on the producer's Base Allocation summary,
  - If the producer elects to opt out of receiving any additional base acres.

Assistance for Specialty Crop Producers (ASCF)

- Application period is open through Aug 7, 2026.
- Payment rates: (crop list is not all-inclusive)
  - Tier 1 - \$650 per acre: Aronia/Garlic/Mushrooms/Strawberries
  - Tier 2 - \$225 per acre: Apple/Broccoli/Cucumbers/Tomatoes/Squash
  - Tier 3 \$65 per acre: Sweet corn
  - Beans and Peas - \$25 per acre

June CCC Interest Rates announced through Notice FI-3477

- FSFL 3-year term - 4.000%
- FSFL 5-year term - 4.125%
- FSFL 10-year term - 4.375%

CRP Notices

- CRP-1085: Reconciling Manual CRP-1 and FSA-848A FY2025

- CRP-1086: Damage to CRP Trees
- CRP-1087: CSS PIP Software Enhancements
- CRP-1088: Accepting and Rejecting General CRP SU 66
- CRP-1089: Measures to benefit CO, KS, NM, OK, TX
- CRP-1090: Continuous SU 65 Acceptable Offers from Second Batching Period

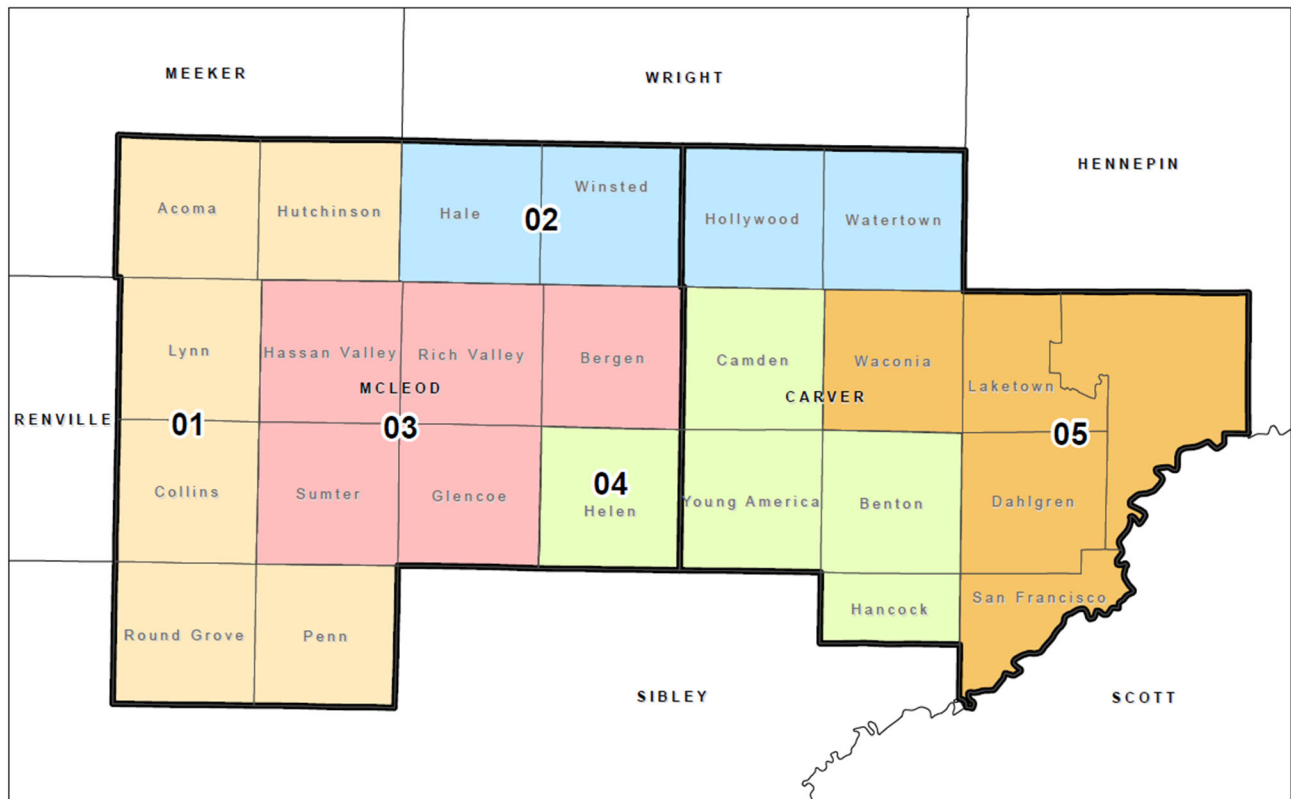
County Committee Meeting

- TBD August 2026 at 9:00AM is the next McLeod-Carver County Committee Meeting (COC). Regular session is open to the public (0:15 – 0:30).

\*FSA COC Reference Map:



**LAA Reference Map**  
Minnesota Farm Service Agency



**019 - Carver County\085 - McLeod County**

Source: Farm Service Agency

Map is intended for Farm Service Agency (FSA) business purposes only. Map depicted serves only as a general reference map.

GIS  
May 3, 2022  
UTM Zone 15 NAD 83



11360 Highway 212 STE 6  
Cologne, MN 55322

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

## Carver SWCD Board Meeting Minutes – May 21, 2026

Held in Conference Room 2 at the Carver County Public Works facility in Cologne, MN

### Board Members Present:

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

### Others Present:

Cindy Hoffmann, NRCS Soil Conservationist  
Jennifer King, Farm Service Agency County Executive Director  
Paul Moline, Carver County Public Services Deputy Director

### SWCD Staff Present:

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

#### 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.

Resolution 021-2026: Sons moved, Lynch seconded, to approve the May 21, 2026, Board Meeting Agenda as presented. Roll call vote: Lynch-aye; Sons-aye; Wittner-aye; Zabel-aye; Zbinden-aye. Motion carried.

#### 4. Agency Reports.

- a. FSA report – Jennifer King reviewed the written report that was in the Board packets. The signup period for the SDRP signups has been extended to August 12, covering disaster relief from 2023-2024. Emergency loans are now available for Carver County producers, to repair or buy new structures that were affected in 2025, December 1, 2026, is the deadline to apply. All of Carver County's CRP offers were accepted.
- b. NRCS report – Cindy reported that out of the 10 EQIP contracts that were submitted, 3 contracts were obligated. Statewide, only 8% of the EQIP contracts received funding. Additional funding was requested from the national office, and Minnesota received an additional \$40 million statewide. She also reported out of the 5 CSP applications that were received, 3 were funded. Additional funds were also requested, but there has been no word yet on the status of additional CSP funding. NRCS staff have been working on CRP status reviews, there are 39 contracts that expire in 2028, and 16 new contracts. Cindy also thanked the SWCD staff, for their assistance with surveying various projects.

Supervisor Zbinden inquired about staffing shortages in FSA and NRCS. Jennifer reported there are currently 7 temporary FSA employees hired through September. With the early planting season this year, FSA has been able to keep up. Cindy reported that NRCS is down about 25% for staffing.

- c. Carver County report – Paul reported on the construction happening around the Public Works site in Cologne. The parking lots at the facility are all planned to be redone. There is a plan to do more native plantings here, as well. He also reported the plan for the Government Center in Chaska, is to be completely torn down and rebuilt. All the staff at the Government Center will be moving out of the offices in about 1-year from now, and will need to be relocated during the construction process. Supervisor Zbinden asked about the native prairie established at the Government Center, if there was a possibility of transferring it to the facility here in Cologne. Paul explained that moving a native prairie would be a very difficult process.

Paul reported the WMO Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 26. One Agenda item will be the 2027 budget discussion. He explained that both union contracts are expiring, and the health care contract is also expiring at the end of the year. Typically, the County takes bids from health insurance companies. There has been some discussion on a self-funded insurance option, and possibly pooling with some other Cities and Scott County for a self-funded insurance program. There have been two capital requests for WMO funding. Cologne requested a rain garden infiltration basin, and Waconia submitted a structure project, totaling about \$45,000 for the two projects. The WMO tour will be held in June and will focus mostly on the east side of Chaska.

The WMO will be starting up meetings for the next round of BWSR WBIF funding with approximately \$700,000 available for the area covered by the Carver County WMO.

Carver County will receive a Green Corps member from September through August of 2027. The main job duties will be turf to native education. BWSR staff contacted Madeline about the native plantings maintenance workshop Carver County recently held. BWSR would like to partner with Carver County to expand the workshops statewide. Paul thanked Tom and Mike for their assistance with some gravel pit issues happening in Watertown Township. Paul also reported the grant that the Lower MN River Watershed District received has been rescinded by BWSR.

## 5. Consent Agenda Items

Resolution 022-2026: Lynch moved, Sons seconded to approve the following consent agenda items:

- a. Approval of April 16, 2026, Board Meeting Minutes.
- b. Acceptance of the April 2026 Treasurer's Report

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

## 6. Regular Agenda Items

- a. Peterson Company Ltd. has sent the 2025 Audit Planning Letter.
- b. MASWCD has sent out a call for resolutions, no resolutions were brought forward.
- c. The MASWCD Area 4 summer meeting will be held on June 4 at the Cambridge Public Library. Supervisors planning on attending should let staff know by early next week.

- d. After the June 18 Board meeting, a strategic planning session will be held. Chair Zabel asked for data showing how key metrics have changed over time (i.e. WCA violations, construction site erosion control visits, plan reviews, etc.).

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

- a. Personnel Committee (Zabel, Zbinden) – Mike’s 27-year anniversary with the SWCD was on April 26. Tyler’s 4-year anniversary was on May 11.
- b. Metro Conservation Districts Committee (Wittner; Lynch alt.) – did not meet.
- c. Education & Outreach Committee (Sons, Lynch) – did not meet.
- d. Budget Committee (Sons, Zbinden) – did not meet. Paul stated some preliminary numbers should be out over the next few months. The union contracts and health insurance will be the biggest hurdle with the 2027 budget. Union contract negotiations won’t start until fall.
- e. WMO Advisory Committee (Zbinden; Wittner alt.) – Marcus reported on the stream monitoring results that were collected on area lakes, data and chemistry trends are being collected. He also mentioned the capital improvement projects that Waconia and Cologne requested, and reported that the Big Woods Lake ravine project along Highway 41 has been completed.
- f. South Fork Crow River 1W1P (Zabel; Lynch alt.) – Chair Zabel reported the annual meeting will be on July 10.
- g. The SWCD staff monthly progress report was presented and discussed.

**8. Board of Supervisors announcements**

- a. Upcoming meetings/events:
  - May 19–June 2: Filing period for general election (*District’s 1, 3, and 5 in 2026*)
  - May 25 – Memorial Day, SWCD office closed
  - June 4 – MASWCD Area 4 meeting & tour
  - June 18 – SWCD Board meeting, 8:00 AM, followed by the NRCS Local Work Group meeting, and the SWCD Strategic Planning session
  - June 19 – Juneteenth, SWCD office closed

**11. Adjourn**

*Resolution 023-2026:* Zbinden moved, Wittner seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 a.m. Roll call vote: Lynch-aye; Sons-aye; Wittner-aye; Zabel-aye; Zbinden-aye. Motion carried.

**Next Board Meeting:** Thursday, June 18, 2026, at 8:00 AM  
**Location:** Public Works Headquarters, Conference Room 2  
11360 Highway 212, Cologne, MN 55322

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Date signed: June 18, 2026  
Secretary/Treasurer

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

Date	Num	Name	Memo	Debit	Credit	Balance
<b>1000 Checking-Security Bank</b>						18,902.50
05/01/2026			Deposit-Trees	43.21		18,945.71
05/04/2026			Deposit-Drill Hennepin Co. Open House	96.22		19,041.93
05/04/2026	3895	Elan Financial Services	1335		470.55	18,571.38
05/04/2026	3896	HSA Bank	#W701769 April Fees		12.50	18,558.88
05/04/2026	3897	NCPERS Group Life Ins.	910300		16.00	18,542.88
05/11/2026			Deposit-Drill Rental	533.75		19,076.63
05/11/2026			Deposit-Drill & ETA	10,774.56		29,851.19
05/12/2026			Funds Transfer-519942784	35,000.00		64,851.19
05/12/2026	3898	Carver County	PW-7201		84.63	64,766.56
05/14/2026		QuickBooks Payroll Service	Created by Payroll Service on 05/05/2026		16,904.02	47,862.54
05/15/2026	DD1317	Brockoff, Felicia L.	Direct Deposit	0.00		47,862.54
05/15/2026	DD1318	Datres, Benjamin R.	Direct Deposit	0.00		47,862.54
05/15/2026	DD1319	Genelin, Thomas M.	Direct Deposit	0.00		47,862.54
05/15/2026	DD1320	Meiller, Terry J.	Direct Deposit	0.00		47,862.54
05/15/2026	DD1321	Polster, Tyler J.	Direct Deposit	0.00		47,862.54
05/15/2026	DD1322	Ristow, Seth E.	Direct Deposit	0.00		47,862.54
05/15/2026	DD1323	Wanous, Richard M.	Direct Deposit	0.00		47,862.54
05/15/2026	EFT-936	HSA Bank	41-1385530		1,347.95	46,514.59
05/15/2026	EFT-937	Minnesota Revenue	7694248		1,173.00	45,341.59
05/15/2026	EFT-938	MSRS-VOYA	0058 Carver SWCD		1,679.00	43,662.59
05/15/2026	EFT-940	US Treasury IRS	41-1385530		6,278.68	37,383.91
05/15/2026	EFT-939	PERA	9103-00		3,792.61	33,591.30
05/19/2026	3899	Shooting Star Native Seeds	Seed for CD4		376.00	33,215.30
05/19/2026	3900	Carver County	May Insurance		9,828.87	23,386.43
05/26/2026			Funds Transfer-521939806	40,000.00		63,386.43
05/27/2026			Deposit	725.00		64,111.43
05/28/2026		QuickBooks Payroll Service	Created by Payroll Service on 05/19/2026		17,219.00	46,892.43
05/28/2026	3901	Lano Equipment of Norwood...	Customer #08455		413.60	46,478.83
05/29/2026	DD1324	Brockoff, Felicia L.	Direct Deposit	0.00		46,478.83
05/29/2026	DD1325	Datres, Benjamin R.	Direct Deposit	0.00		46,478.83
05/29/2026	DD1326	Genelin, Thomas M.	Direct Deposit	0.00		46,478.83
05/29/2026	DD1327	Meiller, Terry J.	Direct Deposit	0.00		46,478.83
05/29/2026	DD1328	Polster, Tyler J.	Direct Deposit	0.00		46,478.83
05/29/2026	DD1329	Ristow, Seth E.	Direct Deposit	0.00		46,478.83
05/29/2026	DD1330	Wanous, Richard M.	Direct Deposit	0.00		46,478.83
05/29/2026	EFT-941	HSA Bank	41-1385530		1,347.95	45,130.88
05/29/2026	EFT-942	Minnesota Revenue	7694248		1,173.00	43,957.88
05/29/2026	EFT-943	MSRS-VOYA	0058 Carver SWCD		1,679.00	42,278.88
05/29/2026	EFT-944	PERA	9103-00		3,792.61	38,486.27
05/29/2026	EFT-945	US Treasury IRS	41-1385530		6,278.74	32,207.53
05/31/2026			Interest	0.62		32,208.15
Total 1000 Checking-Security Bank				87,173.36	73,867.71	32,208.15
<b>1100 Savings-Security Bank</b>						549,938.09
05/12/2026			Funds Transfer-519942784		35,000.00	514,938.09
05/26/2026			Funds Transfer-521939806		40,000.00	474,938.09
05/31/2026			Interest	539.88		475,477.97
Total 1100 Savings-Security Bank				539.88	75,000.00	475,477.97
<b>1110 Member Savings-SouthPoint</b>						10.30
Total 1110 Member Savings-SouthPoint						10.30
<b>1150 Savings Citizens NYA</b>						82,838.16
05/31/2026			Interest	78.29		82,916.45
Total 1150 Savings Citizens NYA				78.29	0.00	82,916.45
<b>1200 Investments CD's</b>						431,904.51
<b>12.ONB*968 (3.75%-07/03/26)</b>						113,116.62
Total 12.ONB*968 (3.75%-07/03/26)						113,116.62
<b>12.SPFCU*024 (3.8%-08/23/26)</b>						115,055.87
Total 12.SPFCU*024 (3.8%-08/23/26)						115,055.87
<b>12.ONB*141 (3.75%-08/24/26)</b>						101,636.44
Total 12.ONB*141 (3.75%-08/24/26)						101,636.44
<b>12.SB&amp;T*266 (3.7%-02/07/27)</b>						102,095.58
Total 12.SB&T*266 (3.7%-02/07/27)						102,095.58
Total 1200 Investments CD's						431,904.51
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>87,791.53</b>	<b>148,867.71</b>	<b>1,022,517.38</b>



11360 Highway 212 STE 6  
Cologne, MN 55322

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

## Treasurer's Monthly Report Program Summary - May 2026

<u>Funds</u>	Cash Balance <u>4/30/2026</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Disbursements</u>	Cash Balance <u>5/31/2026</u>
BWSR Soil Health Delivery	\$7,252.20		\$399.68	\$6,852.52
BWSR Buffer Implementation	\$14,944.88			\$14,944.88
BWSR Conservation Delivery	\$0.00			\$0.00
BWSR Soil Health Practices	\$180,000.00			\$180,000.00
BWSR State Cost Share	\$38,924.00			\$38,924.00
BWSR WBIF (Waconia & Eagle)	\$0.00			\$0.00
SWCD Operating Funds	\$723,052.48	\$12,791.53	\$73,468.03	\$662,375.98
District Escrow	\$119,420.00			\$119,420.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>\$1,083,593.56</u></b>	<b><u>\$12,791.53</u></b>	<b><u>\$73,867.71</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,022,517.38</u></b>
<u>Use of Cash</u>				
1000 Checking Security Bank	\$18,902.50	\$87,173.36	\$73,867.71	\$32,208.15
1100 Savings-Security Bank	\$549,938.09	\$539.88	\$75,000.00	\$475,477.97
1110 Savings-South Point CU	\$10.30			\$10.30
1150 Savings-Citizens NYA	\$82,838.16	\$78.29		\$82,916.45
1200 Investments CD's	\$431,904.51			\$431,904.51
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>\$1,083,593.56</u></b>	<b><u>\$87,791.53</u></b>	<b><u>\$148,867.71</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,022,517.38</u></b>

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
6/18/2026  
Date

**Carver Soil & Water Conservation District**  
**Balance Sheet**  
As of May 31, 2026

	<b>May 31, 26</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>	
<b>Checking/Savings</b>	
1000 Checking-Security Bank	32,208.15
1100 Savings-Security Bank	475,477.97
1110 Member Savings-SouthPoint	10.30
1150 Savings Citizens NYA	82,916.45
1200 Investments CD's	431,904.51
	1,022,517.38
<b>Accounts Receivable</b>	
1300 Accounts Receivable	5,798.08
	5,798.08
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	1,028,315.46
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>1,028,315.46</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
<b>Liabilities</b>	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
<b>Other Current Liabilities</b>	
2200 Payroll Liabilities	730.04
2300 Sales Tax Payable	282.09
<b>2400 Unearned-Deferred Revenue</b>	
2402 Buffer Implementation	14,944.88
2405 Cost-Share	38,924.00
2407 Soil Health Grants	186,852.52
	240,721.40
<b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>	241,733.53
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	241,733.53
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	241,733.53
<b>Equity</b>	
3000 FUND BALANCE	825,887.29
Net Income	-39,305.36
	786,581.93
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>1,028,315.46</b>

**Carver Soil & Water Conservation District**  
**Budget vs. Actual**  
 January through May 2026

	<u>Jan - May 26</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Bud...</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
<b>Income</b>				
<b>4000 Intergovernmental County</b>	286,831.00	608,581.00	-321,750.00	47.1%
<b>4100 Intergovernmental Local</b>	32,503.58	55,000.00	-22,496.42	59.1%
<b>4200 Intergovernmental State</b>	35,694.16	362,000.00	-326,305.84	9.9%
<b>4300 Charges for Services</b>	30,422.91	37,500.00	-7,077.09	81.1%
<b>4400 Interest Earnings</b>	6,464.83	20,000.00	-13,535.17	32.3%
<b>4500 Miscellaneous Revenues</b>	0.00	5,000.00	-5,000.00	0.0%
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>391,916.48</u>	<u>1,088,081.00</u>	<u>-696,164.52</u>	<u>36.0%</u>
<b>Expense</b>				
<b>5000 District Operations</b>				
<b>5100 Personnel Services</b>	370,880.81	922,513.00	-551,632.19	40.2%
<b>5200 Other Services &amp; Charges</b>	27,484.60	48,500.00	-21,015.40	56.7%
<b>5300 Supplies - Office &amp; Field</b>	174.00	2,500.00	-2,326.00	7.0%
<b>5400 Capital Outlay</b>	0.00	10,000.00	-10,000.00	0.0%
<b>Total 5000 District Operations</b>	<u>398,539.41</u>	<u>983,513.00</u>	<u>-584,973.59</u>	<u>40.5%</u>
<b>6000 Project Expenses</b>	<u>32,682.43</u>	<u>104,568.00</u>	<u>-71,885.57</u>	<u>31.3%</u>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<u>431,221.84</u>	<u>1,088,081.00</u>	<u>-656,859.16</u>	<u>39.6%</u>
<b>Net Income</b>	<u><b>-39,305.36</b></u>	<u><b>0.00</b></u>	<u><b>-39,305.36</b></u>	<u><b>100.0%</b></u>

# LEADERSHIP



## Lead With Purpose. Lead With Impact.

The Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD) has partnered with the University of Minnesota Extension for 30 years and is pleased to offer the 16th MASWCD Leadership Institute — a skill-building, lifelong learning opportunity.

Participants focus on gaining insights and engaging in experiential activities designed to strengthen personal and ethical leadership skills, increase emotional intelligence, help manage change and communicate to make a difference

Since 1996, more than 360 participants have completed the MASWCD Leadership Institute training. Be part of a powerful experience that builds leadership skills, confidence, and professional networks for SWCD supervisors and staff.

## Training Dates:

The MASWCD Leadership Training consists of seven in-person sessions at various locations around the state with one webinar training.

1. August 26 & 27, 2026 - Moorhead
2. October 13-15, 2026 - Duluth
3. November 19 & 20, 2026 - Mankato
4. January 13 & 15, 2027 - Alexandria
5. March 17 & 18, 2027 - St. Paul
6. June 7-9, 2027 - Lanesboro
7. August 11 & 12, 2027 - Grand Rapids

## SWCD Testimonials

- *I gained deeper understanding of my strengths and the personality types I work with. I walked away feeling more confident, more connected, and more energized to lead. It's truly an experience that powers you forward.*  
~ **Tiffany Determan, District Manager, Isanti SWCD**
- *I can confidently say the Leadership Institute helped propel my professional growth. It was a defining experience in my career that strengthened my leadership and collaboration skills, and built relationships that I still value nearly 30 years later.*  
~ **Darren Newville, District Manager, East Ottertail SWCD**

### For More Information:

Michele Asmussen, MASWCD Conference & Events Manager

e: [Michele.Asmussen@maswcd.org](mailto:Michele.Asmussen@maswcd.org)

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**REGISTER HERE**

[maswcd.org/meetings-events](https://maswcd.org/meetings-events)



## WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

SWCD Supervisors and staff of all backgrounds and experience are encouraged to attend.

Whether you are beginning your leadership journey or strengthening your impact within your district, this program will inspire growth, build connections, and establish lasting success.

## WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

**Leadership is a tough job — and it's only getting tougher.**

Today's district leaders face extraordinary change and growing challenges in a world that is more diverse than ever.

This dynamic program is designed as a cohort to help individuals become authentic, purposeful leaders who can effectively lead in this new era.

### In This Program, You Will:

- Turn ideas and strategic plans into meaningful action
- Discover your motivational drivers and leadership strengths
- Build emotional intelligence and communication skills
- Learn how to create a positive, healthy workplace culture
- Sustain and accelerate professional growth and team development
- Strengthen confidence and leadership presence
- Expand your professional network with peers and mentors



## REGISTRATION

**\$5,950**

Registration  
Deadline:

**July 10, 2026**

### Registration fee covers:

- tuition and instructor fees
- resource materials
- lodging and meeting spaces
- group meals
- webinar trainings

**REGISTER HERE**



Ecological and Water Resources  
500 Lafayette Road  
St. Paul, MN 55155

May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Via Electronic and US Mail

Mike Wanous, District Manager  
Carver County Soil and Water Conservation District  
11360 Highway 212, Suite 6  
Cologne, MN 55322  
[mwanous@carvercountymn.gov](mailto:mwanous@carvercountymn.gov)

**RE: Public Waters Inventory Corrections Within Carver County**

Dear Mike Wanous:

In 2024, the Minnesota Legislature enacted Minn. Stat. § 103G.201 (f) which directed the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to update the state's Public Water Inventory (PWI) by correcting errors in the original inventory; adding or subtracting trout stream tributaries; adding depleted quarries, and sand and gravel pits; and adding or subtracting public waters that have been created or eliminated as a DNR permit requirement. The DNR will update the inventory on a county-by-county basis. We are now beginning this work in Carver County.

What are public waters and the PWI?

Public waters are defined by Minn. Stat. § 103G.005, subd. 15 and include meandered lakes, water basins, altered and unaltered water courses, and public waters wetlands. The state holds title to its public waters and lands thereunder as a trustee for the people for public use. The DNR is responsible for regulating activities in these waters to protect the public's interest.

Although the statutory definition of public waters controls a water's classification as public, the PWI is a tool used to help identify public waters in Minnesota. County PWI lists and maps (which together constitute the PWI) were first created by the DNR in the 1980s and the PWI remains a reliable and robust tool in protecting water resources across the state.

Summary of the original PWI stakeholder process

The creation of the PWI was a rigorous and robust process that involved the development of a preliminary list and map of all public waters in each county (preliminary PWI). This list was submitted to the county, after which the county held public informational meetings to elicit feedback on the proposed PWI. DNR reviewed all comments forwarded by the county on the draft PWI, adjusted the preliminary inventory, and published notice of the revised PWI list and maps in each county.

The notice invited anyone challenging a designation to “list the reason(s) why the particular public water or wetland does not meet the statutory definition” of a public water. These objections were heard in a hearing similar in nature to a contested-case hearing. The hearing panel was required to issue findings of fact and conclusions of law which were then used by the DNR to finalize the PWI for the county. The decisions issued by the three-judge panel were appealable to the Commissioner and ultimately to the appellate court. Given the rigors of this process, it is not DNR’s intent to reopen the PWI in each county.

#### The PWI Update stakeholder process

The DNR will use the original PWI stakeholder process to update and correct the original PWI as directed by the new legislation. DNR will undertake this work on a county-by-county basis. The process that the DNR will use is:

- Prepare a preliminary map reflecting the proposed corrections and any modifications and submit it to the county board. Potentially affected landowners will receive direct mail notice.
- Provide a 60-day public comment period and host a public meeting in the county to obtain feedback on the preliminary corrections. The comment period closes 45 days after the public meeting.
- Review the feedback received during the comment period and make necessary modification to the preliminary map. This revised map, now a provisional final map, will be submitted to the county and made available on the DNR’s project webpage.
- Provide 90 days for parties (including riparian landowners) or counties wishing to challenge a decision made by the DNR to request DNR Commissioner’s Review of the modified and updated PWI. This request must be accompanied by a submission form provided by DNR. The form requires a challenge to include technical rationale of statutory definition(s) not met; comprehensive supporting maps and imagery; and, if warranted, evidence from the original PWI review process. Commissioner’s Review requests that do not include a submission form and required materials will be denied.
- Issue the updated PWI list and map for the county, upon completion of Commissioner’s Review process.

Past decisions, including those tied to the original PWI effort and subsequent final agency actions, will remain in place and are not subject to challenge. The PWI Update Project is not a stakeholder opportunity to re-make past PWI decisions.

#### Examples of known PWI errors and corrections

The PWI Update Project addresses known errors identified by the DNR. The project is a targeted effort and is not a re-inventory of the state’s public waters. Examples of corrections and revisions the DNR has identified statewide include:

- Designated trout streams and trout stream tributaries that are not identified on the PWI.
- Watercourses that qualify as a public water but were removed from the PWI in 2017 by Commissioner’s Order due to errors found during the 2016 Buffer Protection Map initiative.
- Existing public water wetlands that clearly did not conform to statutory criteria for size (estimated area).
- County boundary corrections.

In addition to the example corrections above, DNR Area Hydrologists will inform the PWI Update Project of case-by-case potential corrections when their assigned county is under review.

The following is not considered to be an “error in the original inventory”:

- Areas initially proposed on the preliminary inventory that were subsequently removed by the DNR as part of the public information meeting process or dropped from or remained on the PWI as part of the petition, hearing, and appeal process.

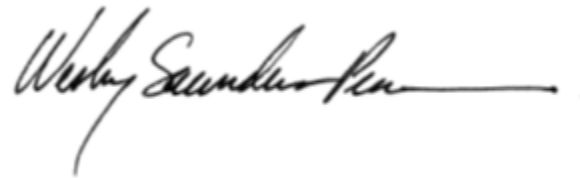
How does this impact landowners in this county?

The updated PWI will provide a better tool for water resource protection, regulatory clarity and a shared understanding of where public waters are located on the landscape. The PWI Update Project will likely result in adding or removing some waters from the inventory. Landowners adjacent to added public waters will be subject to the State Buffer Law.

For more project information see the [Public Waters Inventory Update Project | Minnesota DNR](#). Additionally, the project webpage features a map tool showing the county update status statewide. Questions about the PWI Update Project can be sent to [pwi.update.dnr@state.mn.us](mailto:pwi.update.dnr@state.mn.us).

Our project team is available to meet with you, either individually or at a scheduled board meeting, to discuss any items as we begin work on the PWI Update. Please contact me directly by email at [wes.saunders-pearce@state.mn.us](mailto:wes.saunders-pearce@state.mn.us) or by phone at (651) 259-5416 if you would like to arrange an initial meeting.

Sincerely,



Wes Saunders-Pearce

Lead Hydrologist, PWI Update Project

cc: Dam Lais, DNR Regional Manager  
Megan Moore, DNR District Manager  
John Gleason, DNR Hydrologist Supervisor  
Taylor Huinker, DNR Area Hydrologist

## **Mike Wanous – District Manager**

- Review the process for the next round of WBIF funding, meet with BWSR & WMO staff to review process and changes from previous funding cycle.
- The DNR is starting their review of updating the Public Waters Inventory (PWI) maps for Carver County, reviewed maps and process and had a meeting with DNR and WMO staff to discuss the process.
- Continue assisting county staff with drainage issues associated with the Hwy 212 project and other road projects.
- Start reviewing the budget numbers for 2027 and possible scenarios.
- Meetings – WMO CAC mtg, MCD manager mtg, Area 4 mtg, above mentioned DNR and BWSR mtgs

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

- Accounting: Verified and paid regular monthly expenses. Completed May Treasurer’s Report, semi-monthly payroll and liabilities. Sent out drill invoices to landowners.
- Admin: Completed the Minutes for the May meeting, updated 2026 resolutions document with approved Board meeting motions. Prepared June Agenda packets and posted online. Working through our Personnel Handbook to add things that aren’t in there (i.e. telework), marking out obsolete items, and just cleaning up some language to be more updated (i.e. replacing words like ‘shall’ with ‘will,’ etc. We will need to discuss/review changes at a future Board meeting for approval.
- Trees – contacted all the customers who ordered Native Plant Kits and informed them about the pickup date (June 4). Everyone showed up, so that was good!

## **Terry Meiller – Resource Conservationist**

- Soil Health RCPP: Landowner outreach/technical assistance to producers following planting season regarding cover crop enrollments. Conservation planning, eligibility requests/determinations, and ranking forms completed for participants to be approved in July.
- Crow WBIF: Pre-Bid meetings with contractors for Grassed waterway/WASCB project in Watertown Twp, Sec. 24. Collected bids on landowner’s behalf and updated landowner on status.
- Eagle SWA: Site visit to check on seeding of terrace project in Young America Twsp, Sec. 2. Follow up with landowner on potential overseeding.
- Ditches: CD4 seeding of spoil area with buffer mix.
- Misc: Great Plains drill deliveries and calibrations (5 landowners). Landowner Tech Assistance (drainage & erosion issue/field visits, CRP site visits).

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

- Created planting plan for Cedar Pt. raingarden in Waconia
- Attended weekly development review with the WMO
- Followed up with workshop attendees that wanted a site visit to discuss their project (13 residents)
- Consulted with landowners interested in RPBCWD Stewardship Program (15 residents)
- Had follow up meeting with WMO and RPBCWD to discuss how the Design Workshop went and potential future workshops
- Answered questions and made suggestions to people putting in Lawns to Legumes projects (3 people)
- Designed a pollinator planting for a front yard in Cologne (Lundgren)
- Conducted maintenance with Tom and Tyler on the Cologne raingarden
- Compiled a plant list for the enhancement of the Chaska Community Garden for Brent (Chaska)

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

- Meetings/Plan Review:
  - Chaska Municipal Building (Chaska) plan review
  - Enclave (Carver) plan review
  - Summerfield (Carver) plan review
  - Highway 10 M/O (Waconia) plan review
  - Fultonwood (Chaska) preconstruction meeting
  - Highway 5 Reconstruction (Waconia) plan review
  - Norwood Flats (NYA) plan review
  - Bongards Pond Clean (Benton Twp) plan review
  - Leasy Home Construction (Cologne) preconstruction meeting
  - High Point Vistas 2<sup>nd</sup> (Chaska) preconstruction meeting
  - North Luebke Pit (Mayer) site meeting
  - State Street Improvements (Watertown) preconstruction meeting
  - Waconia Water Treatment (Waconia) plan review
- Site Inspections –
  - Aion Business Park (Carver) site inspection
  - NYA 2026 Recon (NYA) storm sewer outlet inspection
  - Suite Living (Chaska) site inspection
  - Waterford (Waconia) site inspection
  - Woodland Creek (Waconia) site inspection
  - Villages of Cologne (Cologne) site inspection
  - Timber Creek (Carver) site inspection
  - The Preserve (Carver) site inspection
  - The Fields (Waconia) site inspection
  - Ensconced Woods (Chaska) site inspection
  - Carlson Bluffs (Chaska) site inspection
  - Stephen Mueller Culvert (Waconia) final inspection
  - Rivertown Heights (Chaska) site inspection
  - Chaska Bluffs (Chaska) site inspection
  - Clubs West 11<sup>th</sup> (Chaska) site inspection
  - Winkler’s Crossing (Cologne) site inspection
  - Chestnut Business Park (Chaska) site inspection
  - HNGC (Chaska) site inspection
  - Taco Bell (Carver) site inspection
  - Waconia Boulder Wall (Waconia) site visit
  - Kings Highland Basin (Watertown) site inspection

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

- CREP/RIM:
  - Kullman & Philp Easement- Technical assistance for temporary cover seeding. misc easement tasks.
  - Working with BWSR and landowner for a boundary change- older easement with a mapping discrepancy.
  - Starting annual inspections for CREP and RIM & updating ownership changes.
  - Fielding landowner phone calls- providing easement program info and options.
  - Put together 2 easement proposals
- MN Buffer Law:
  - Starting annual buffer compliance checks for eastern 1/3 of the county- started in Chaska.
  - Continuing to update procedures for documenting buffer status, landowner folders etc.
- Other:

- Great Plains Drill: delivery, pick up and calibration assistance. Landowner phone calls regarding rental, seeding questions etc.
- Site visit for driveway erosion issue.
- JD-1 site visit and survey for ditch bank erosion.
- CD-4A seeding assistance

**Tyler Polster – District Technician**

- WCA
  - Chanhassen: Reviewed application and attended TEP meeting for a custom home lot.
  - Minnehaha Creek Watershed: Conducted a site visit during completion of a wetland restoration that fixed a violation. Attended virtual TEP meeting with staff to go over application and delineations on future multi-lot development. Nearby neighbors have expressed concerns over the construction of the neighborhood, however none of the concerns are wetland related.
  - Carver County WMO:
    - Attended on-site TEP meeting for multiple basic applications and delineations. No additional findings or concerns were found.
    - Continued communications with staff and TEP regarding future mining location near the western county line. TEP’s main concern currently is proper location of monitoring locations within the mining area and adjacent wetlands.
    - Continued communication with CCWMO staff regarding a property owner building a driveway on his parcel. The property owner currently holds all the correct permits but is bordering a wetland. A site visit has been requested before any permit extensions are issued.
- Miscellaneous:
  - Assisted Seth with raingarden maintenance in Cologne. Finished state cost-share inspections, no issues were found within the last few contracts. Conducted a tree health site visit in Dahlgren. The owner planted many trees last year, and had concerns when they started growing and leafing out this spring.