



11360 Highway 212 STE 6
Cologne, MN 55322

(952) 466-5230 | carverswcd.org

Carver SWCD Board Meeting Minutes – April 16, 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
Andrea Kerber, Farm Service Agency Program Analyst
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 017-2026: Sons moved, Wittner seconded, to approve the April 16, 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 – Andrea Kerber reviewed the written report that was in the Board packets. CRP rental rates were discussed; some landowners did not re-enroll because the rates were lower than expected.
- b. NRCS report – Cindy reported the EQIP ranking deadline was March 20. Carver County had 20 applications, and 3 were preapproved. NRCS has been working on 8 CSP applications in Carver County, but she noted funding issues could be a concern. She also mentioned the Local Work Group (LWG) meeting needs to be held before June 23.
- c. Carver County report – Paul reported the WMO committee has a new member from the City of Chaska. The WMO has sent out requests to the cities in Carver County, asking for applications for capital improvement projects for 2027 funding. Cologne and Waconia were the only cities that submitted requests. He also reported the recent native plant workshops were very well attended (40-50 people). The WMO has approximately \$90,000 available for cost-share project funding.

5. Consent Agenda Items

Resolution 018-2026: Zbinden moved, Wittner seconded to approve the following consent agenda items:

- a. Approval of February 19, 2026, Board Meeting Minutes.
- b. Acceptance of the February 2026 Treasurer's Report.
- c. Acceptance of the March 2026 Treasurer's Report

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

6. Regular Agenda Items

- a. Paul Moline gave an overview of the process to update the 2050 Carver County Comprehensive Plan. Updating the plan is a state statute requirement and many of the requirements are prescribed by Met Council. The WMO staff will be meeting with the Townships from May through September to discuss items they would like to see in the plan, as far as growth and economic development in the townships. Paul will review this item again with the SWCD Board after input is gathered from township officials.

- b. The Board discussed the Great Plains Drill rental rates at this time. There are requests for non-Carver County residents to rent our drill, mostly in Hennepin and Wright counties. Staff have been discussing increasing the rates, especially for the renters outside of the County, with the increased staff time it takes to get the drill to and from the customer, as well as the increase in fuel prices, and wear and tear on the equipment. The Board discussed various options, and possibly setting up a boundary for the service area where the drill could be used in the future.

Resolution 019-2026: Lynch moved, Wittner seconded to change the drill rental rates to the following:

- Carver County Residents: \$250 minimum; 14-49 acres, \$20/acre; 50+ acres, \$15/acre
- Outside Carver County: \$350 minimum; 15+ acres, \$25/acre

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

- c. The spring MASWCD Area 4 meeting will be held on April 23 at Cabela's. Mike reported that prevailing wage will be one of the discussion items on the Agenda. He reviewed a memo received from BWSR about these requirements and how it will affect BWSR grants the SWCD receives. Chair Zabel plans to attend the meeting, and possibly Supervisor Zbinden.
- d. MASWCD has sent out a call for resolutions. If any Supervisor has an idea for a resolution, it will need to be brought to the May meeting for approval. The MASWCD Area 4 summer tour will be held on June 4, where area resolutions will be discussed and approved.
- e. It was decided to hold the NRCS local work group meeting immediately following the June 18, 2026, Board meeting. The Board will also do a strategic planning session, following the local work group meeting. SWCD partners will also be invited to attend.

7. SWCD Board Committee & SWCD Staff Monthly Reports

- a. Personnel Committee (Zabel, Zbinden) – Seth's 10-year anniversary was on February 28.
- b. Metro Conservation Districts Committee (Wittner; Lynch alt.) – Wittner reported on the February 25th meeting. Chisago SWCD and MCD are working out details of a Joint Powers Agreement for a drone that was purchased. MCD will hire their own legal counsel to review the

joint powers agreements, instead of each SWCD having their County attorney's review. She also reported that an audit will be conducted every other year for MCD instead of every year.

- c. Education & Outreach Committee (Sons, Lynch) – nothing to report.
- d. Budget Committee (Sons, Zbinden) – nothing to report.
- e. WMO Advisory Committee (Zbinden; Wittner alt.) – Zbinden reported on the February 24 meeting. The three main agenda items were accepting staff recommendations on the subsurface sewage treatment system program for 2026, lake monitoring results, and the aquatic invasive species program.
- f. South Fork Crow River 1W1P (Zabel; Lynch alt.) – Chair Zabel reported the annual meeting is supposed to be held in June but may be rescheduled due to a staff scheduling conflict.
- g. The SWCD staff monthly progress report was presented and discussed.

8. Board of Supervisors announcements

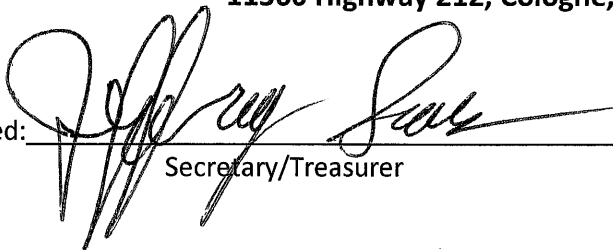
- a. Chair Zabel commented he has recently driven by the Crow River bank stabilization project completed in Camden Township along 84th St. The project seems to be holding up very well.
- b. Upcoming meetings/events:
 - April 23 – MASWCD Area 4 spring meeting
 - May 19–June 2: Filing period for general election (*District's 1, 3, and 5 in 2026*)
 - May 21 – SWCD Board meeting, 8:00 AM
 - May 25 – Memorial Day, SWCD office closed
 - June 4 – MASWCD Area 4 meeting & tour

11. Adjourn

Resolution 020-2026: Sons moved, Zbinden seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 a.m. Roll call vote: Lynch-aye; Sons-aye; Wittner-aye; Zabel-aye; Zbinden-aye. Motion carried.

Next Board Meeting: Thursday, May 21, 2026, at 8:00 AM
Location: Public Works Headquarters, Conference Room 2
11360 Highway 212, Cologne, MN 55322

Approved: _____



Secretary/Treasurer

Date signed: May 21, 2026