



11360 Highway 212 STE 6
Cologne, MN 55322

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Carver SWCD Board Meeting Minutes – June 18, 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
Michael Lynch, Member
Marcus Zbinden, Member

Board Members Absent:

Jeffrey Sons, Secretary/Treasurer

Others Present:

Cindy Hoffmann, NRCS Soil Conservationist
Katie Mattila, NRCS District Conservationist
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. Appoint a Secretary/Treasurer for June 2026 meeting.

Resolution 024-2026: Chair Zabel moved, Lynch seconded to appoint Supervisor Zbinden as the acting Secretary/Treasurer for the June 18, 2026 Board meeting. Roll call vote: Lynch-aye; Sons-absent; Wittner-aye; Zabel-aye; Zbinden-aye. Motion carried.

4. Agenda review and adoption.

Resolution 025-2026: Zbinden moved, Wittner seconded, to approve the June 18, 2026, Board Meeting Agenda as presented. Roll call vote: Lynch-aye; Sons-absent; Wittner-aye; Zabel-aye; Zbinden-aye. Motion carried.

5. Agency Reports.

- a. FSA report – Jennifer King provided a written report that was included in the Board packets. Due to staff shortages, an FSA representative was unable to attend the meeting. Interesting item was assistance for specialty crops.
- b. NRCS report – Katie reported that all the initial EQIP pre-approvals have been processed and obligated. Minnesota requested additional EQIP funding from the National office, and an increased allocation was granted. Carver County has four contracts, plus one additional under the RCPP program. Carver County also has four CSP applications that are going through the pre-approval process. She also reported staff are completing status reviews for the CRP contracts that are about to expire. Cindy has also completed the HEL compliance reviews for Carver County.

Katie mentioned that the NRCS Local Work Group meeting will be following the Board meeting this morning. She also mentioned that Colton Buckley has been named as the new NRCS Chief.

- c. Carver County report – Paul reported that the SWCD’s proposed overall budget increase for 2027 is currently 3.5%. He noted that this is similar to last year’s initial budget proposal; however, the final approved budget for that year resulted in a 0% increase. The budget hearing for the Public Services Division is scheduled for July 28.

In addition, all Union employee contracts are set to expire in 2026, along with the current health insurance contract, which will impact future budget figures. Mike commented that the preliminary budget will impact the SWCD, since salaries and insurance costs for the SWCD employees are not yet factored into this proposal.

Paul also discussed potential opportunities for the SWCD to receive technical assistance funding through various WBIF projects that are planned. While this would not resolve the SWCD’s broader budget challenges, it could provide some temporary relief.

Paul reminded the Board that the WMO tour will be held on June 30, and highlighted the stops that will be included on the tour.

5. Consent Agenda Items

Resolution 026-2026: Wittner moved, Lynch seconded to approve the following consent agenda items:

- a. Approval of May 21, 2026, Board Meeting Minutes.
- b. Acceptance of the May 2026 Treasurer’s Report

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

6. Regular Agenda Items

- a. MASWCD has announced another Leadership Institute training for 2026-2027, the deadline to register is July 10, 2026.
- b. The DNR has sent out the Public Waters Inventory correction process. Mike gave the Supervisors a presentation on how this would affect the SWCD after the inventory correction process is completed. If there are new waters added to the inventory, the buffer law would then be applicable to those areas. Mike showed them the areas in question that were south of Burandt Lake in Waconia, and north of Benton Lake in Cologne. He reported there are approximately six locations in Carver County that would be changed.

7. SWCD Board Committee & SWCD Staff Monthly Reports

- a. Personnel Committee (Zabel, Zbinden) – Mike reported that mid-year informal reviews with the staff will be conducted soon.
- b. Metro Conservation Districts Committee (Wittner; Lynch alt.) – Wittner gave an update on the licensing agreement for the Children’s Water Festival to be held at the State Fairgrounds. There was a special meeting called to approve the contract, which was held during the luncheon of the Metro Area Conservation District’s meeting and tour on June 4.
- c. Education & Outreach Committee (Sons, Lynch) – did not meet.

- d. Budget Committee (Sons, Zbinden) – did not meet.
- e. WMO Advisory Committee (Zbinden; Wittner alt.) – Zbinden could not attend, the discussion items were the WMO budget for 2027, and notes from the field about the native plant workshops that were held.
- f. South Fork Crow River 1W1P (Zabel; Lynch alt.) – Chair Zabel reported the annual meeting will be on July 10 in Glencoe.
- g. The SWCD staff monthly progress report was presented and discussed.

8. Board of Supervisors announcements

- a. Supervisors' compensation forms are due to Felicia today.
- b. Upcoming meetings/events:
 - July 3 – Independence Day Observed, SWCD office closed
 - July 16 – SWCD Board Meeting, 8:00 AM

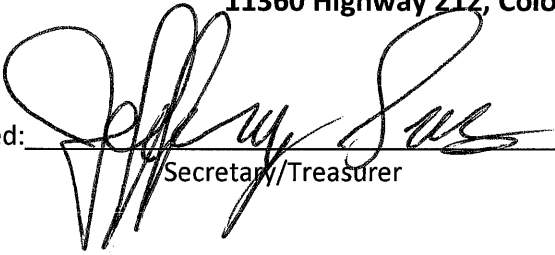
11. Adjourn

Resolution 027-2026: Zbinden moved, Wittner seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 a.m. Roll call vote: Lynch-aye; Sons-absent; Wittner-aye; Zabel-aye; Zbinden-aye. Motion carried.

Next Board Meeting: Thursday, July 16, 2026, at 8:00 AM

Location: Public Works Headquarters, Conference Room 2
11360 Highway 212, Cologne, MN 55322

Approved: _____



Secretary/Treasurer

Date signed: July 16, 2026