



11360 Highway 212 STE 6
Cologne, MN 55322

(952) 466-5230 | carverswcd.org

Carver SWCD Board Meeting Minutes – July 16, 2026

Held in Conference Room 1 at the Carver County Public Works facility in Cologne, MN

Board Members Present:

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

Others Present:

Katie Matilla, NRCS District Conservationist
Jennifer King, Farm Service Agency County Executive Director
Paul Moline, Carver County Public Services Deputy Director

SWCD Staff Present:

Mike Wanous, District Manager
Terry Meiller, Resource Conservationist (partial meeting)
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

Terry has an appointment with a landowner at 9:00 AM this morning, so he requested that Regular Agenda Item 6-b be moved to the top of the Agenda.

Resolution 028-2026: Lynch moved, Wittner seconded, to approve the July 16, 2026, Board Meeting Agenda, moving Regular Agenda Item 6-b to the top of the Agenda. Roll call vote: Lynch-aye; Sons-aye; Wittner-aye; Zabel-aye; Zbinden-aye. Motion carried.

6. Regular Agenda Item

- b. Two landowners have enrolled in the cover crop implementation practice under the Soil Health Practices RCPP grant (P26-0006). Each application must be batched and ranked before their contracts can be approved. Terry reviewed both projects with the Board and noted that they received scores of 45 (10-1-2), and 60 (10-1-3) out of 100 for this batching period.

Resolution 029-2026: Wittner moved, Sons seconded to approve the July batch of cover crop rankings with two landowners. Roll call vote: Lynch-aye; Sons-aye; Wittner-aye; Zabel-aye; Zbinden-aye. Motion carried.

Resolution 030-2026: Lynch moved, Sons seconded to approve contract 10-1-2 for 56 acres at \$95/acre (\$5,320 total); and contract 10-1-3 for 66.9 acres at \$95/acre (\$6,355.50 total). Roll call vote: Lynch-aye; Sons-aye; Wittner-aye; Zabel-aye; Zbinden-aye. Motion carried.

4. Agency Reports

- a. FSA report – Jennifer King provided a written report that was included in the Board packets. She mentioned that yesterday was the deadline for landowners to certify their spring planted acres. The supplemental disaster relief program (SDRP) deadline has been extended to August 12, and the specialty crop program is August 31. There is an opening on the FSA County Committee for areas LAA1 and LAA5. Sue Goetz currently holds the position for LAA5 but has reached her 9-year limit.
- b. NRCS report – Katie reported they received one additional pre-approval for an EQIP application, bringing the total to 5 contracts in Carver County. She also mentioned the deadline for the first batching of EQIP and CSP applications is September 11. The ranking and pre-approval dates have not been announced yet. Carver County received 5 CSP applications for 2026. Staff are currently reviewing 39 existing CRP contracts and will be writing up contracts for 19 new applications.
- c. Carver County report – Paul reported the WMO tour was held on June 30. The July WMO committee meeting has been canceled, making August 25 the next meeting date.

Paul also reported that the budget hearing for the Public Service division will be held on July 28, in front of the full County Board. He also discussed WBIF funding and the future convene meetings. The funding for the Minnesota River water management area will have the cities of Chaska and Chanhassen attend. He hasn't heard of any city staff that will be attending the Crow River management area meetings but is hoping that Watertown will be interested.

5. Consent Agenda Items

Resolution 031-2026: Lynch moved, Zbinden seconded to approve the following consent agenda items:

- a. Approval of June 18, 2026, Board Meeting Minutes
- b. Acceptance of the June 2026 Treasurer's Report

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

6. Regular Agenda Item

- a. MASWCD award nominations are open through September 4. Staff will put together a list of possible Outstanding Conservationists and bring to the August meeting.

7. SWCD Board Committee & SWCD Staff Monthly Reports

- a. Personnel Committee (Zabel, Zbinden) – did not meet.
- b. Metro Conservation Districts Committee (Wittner; Lynch alt.) – The next meeting is August 26. Mike reported the managers met at the end of June. Normal program updates were given, Marcey Westrick from BWSR discussed the SWCD Comprehensive Plans process to the metro managers, since there has recently been a legislative change regarding SWCD comprehensive plans and BWSR policy changes to how SWCD's can receive WBIF funding.
- c. Education & Outreach Committee (Sons, Lynch) – did not meet.
- d. Budget Committee (Sons, Zbinden) – did not meet. The budget hearing is scheduled for the last week of July.
- e. WMO Advisory Committee (Zbinden; Wittner alt.) – Zbinden gave the Board a summary of the June 30 WMO tour. Sites visited included East Chaska Creek where a new bridge was constructed, and a stream

connection was completed. The Lake Bavaria boat landing, owned by Carver County, currently has a gravel lot, that will transition to a granite parking lot, to keep sediment out of the lake. They also visited the Seminary Fen where a large ravine was repaired and stabilized.

- f. South Fork Crow River 1W1P (Zabel; Lynch alt.) – Zabel reported on the July 10 meeting. The annual report and budget have been approved. There was a change to non-structural cost-share practices from 3-year contracts to just a 1-year contract. Landowners can still have multiple contracts, but the total contract (3 year) up-front payments will not be made. Payments will only be made on an annual basis.
- g. The SWCD staff monthly progress report was presented and discussed

8. Board of Supervisors announcements

a. Upcoming meetings/events:

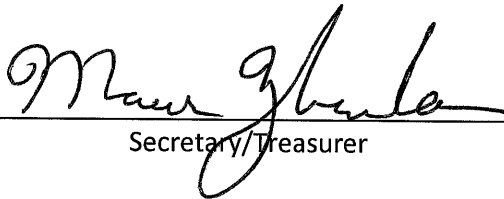
- August 20 – SWCD Board Meeting, 8:00 AM
- September 7 – Labor Day, SWCD office closed
- September 17 – SWCD Board Meeting, 8:00 AM

9. Adjourn

Resolution 032-2026: Zbinden moved, Wittner seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:17 a.m. Roll call vote: Lynch-aye; Sons-aye; Wittner-aye; Zabel-aye; Zbinden-aye. Motion carried.

Next Board Meeting: Thursday, August 20, 2026, at 8:00 AM
Location: Public Works Headquarters, Conference Room 2
11360 Highway 212, Cologne, MN 55322

Approved: _____



Secretary/Treasurer

Date signed: August 20, 2026