



**SERVING CARVER  
COUNTY SINCE 1946**

*Mission Statement: Providing high quality assistance to the land managers and citizens of Carver County for the protection of land and water resources.*

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CHAIR  
**Mark Zabel**  
8464 Pine Ct.  
Victoria, MN 55386  
*District III*

## **Minutes of the May 16, 2019 Board Meeting for the Carver Soil & Water Conservation District Held at the Public Works Facility in Cologne, MN**

VICE CHAIR  
**Stan Wendland**  
8040 Dakota Ln.  
Chanhausen, MN 55317  
*District I*

Meeting was called to order by Chair Zabel at 8:04 AM.

**Members Present:** Chair, Mark Zabel  
Vice Chair, Stanley Wendland (arrived at 8:07 AM)  
Member, Robert Burandt  
Member, Marcus Zbinden

SECRETARY/TREASURER  
**Jeff Sons**  
17180 County Rd. 51  
NYA, MN 55368  
*District V*

**Members Absent:** Secretary/Treasurer, Jeffrey Sons

**SWCD Staff Present:** District Manager, Mike Wanous  
Administrative & Finance Specialist, Felicia Brockoff

SUPERVISOR  
**Bob Burandt**  
1340 Waconia Pkwy. S  
Waconia, MN 55387  
*District IV*

**Other Attendees:** BWSR Board Conservationist, Steve Christopher  
NRCS District Conservationist, Katundra Shears

Motion was made by Zbinden, seconded by Burandt to approve the May Agenda as printed. Motion carried unanimously.

SUPERVISOR  
**Marcus Zbinden**  
6460 Bretton Way  
Chanhausen, MN 55317  
*District II*

Motion was made by Zbinden, seconded by Burandt to approve the April 18, 2019 Regular Board Meeting Minutes as read. Motion carried unanimously.

The April 2019 Treasurer's Report was reviewed and accepted, subject to audit.

Zbinden volunteered to be the Secretary/Treasurer in the absence of Supervisor Sons today. Seconded by Burandt. Motion carried.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

1. Personnel Committee (Sons, Zbinden) – Mike reported that 40 of applications were received for the summer intern position. Tom Genelin has been selected for the position, and will be starting on Monday, May 20.
2. Metro Conservation District's (MCD) Committee (Zabel primary; Zbinden alt.) – .The next Board meeting is at the end of the month. The Managers met in April to discuss program updates. Potential grant applications were also discussed for the MCD.

Mike also reported that Melissa King from BWSR was there, discussing the Lower Minnesota River One Watershed One Plan proposal.

3. Education & Outreach Committee (Sons, Wendland) – Felicia reported that Hopkins High School will be representing the Metro Area with three teams at the MN State Envirothon on Monday, May 20.
4. Budget Committee (Burandt, Sons) – The committee will most likely be meeting before the next Board meeting to start the 2020 budget preparations.
5. CCWMO Advisory Committee (Wendland primary; Zbinden alt.) – Wendland reported on the April 30 meeting. There was approximately \$340,000 in projects requests, and only about half of that available for funding. Staff is recommending bonding the additional money to install all the project requests, however the CCWMO Board was not in favor of that option. The Citizens Advisory Committee will choose which projects will get funded with the current requests.
6. Carver County Leaders (CCL) Committee (Burandt primary; Zbinden alt.) – Burandt reported on the last CCL meeting, roads in the County was a main topic of discussion.

Carver County Report – no report.

NRCS Report – Katundra reported the EQIP signup netted 7 applications, and approved 5 high tunnel systems. One cover crop application on a dairy farm was interested, but did not sign up. There was one honey bee application also, but it didn't get approved. She also reported on some of the other projects that did not get approved.

Compliance reviews will be conducted soon. These are random tracts that are selected nationally, NRCS staff will be going out and doing spot checks to see if their conservation contracts are still in compliance. June 3 there will be a new CRP signup starting for continuous CRP. There are approximately 60 CRP contracts that will be expiring this year in Carver County. She also stated that the NRCS Water Bank Program for landowners with flooded land, can sign up for a 10-year rental agreement, May 31 is the deadline.

Katundra also discussed the MOU between NRCS and the Carver SWCD, as well as Civil Rights and Equal Opportunity. NRCS wants to have these MOU's reviewed annually. Mike has discussed with Katundra that since the SWCD is no longer co-located with NRCS, a lot of these items in the MOU do not apply to the Carver SWCD anymore. Katundra has sent it up to the State Office for review, they are reviewing it to see if the SWCD needs to go through the bulleted items that were included in the Board packets. Chair Zabel questioned top of page 3, notification requirements for posters. Katundra confirmed that those items only need to be posted in the service centers, where NRCS and FSA are located. Mike asked how Katundra wanted to handle the FOIA requests since she is now in the Carver office full-time. Katundra will do some research on how we can better work together on this issue.

Zabel would like to have Mike and Katundra discuss the MOU, after the NRCS State Office completes its review, since our offices are not co-located. Zabel stated since the SWCD has not actually reviewed the MOU, the SWCD Board will not sign the MOU at this meeting. Zabel stated we're interested in meeting the goals, but not necessarily the requirements.

Monthly progress report and construction projects list presented for:

**SWCD Staff:** District Manager, Mike Wanous  
Administrative & Finance Specialist, Felicia Brockoff  
Conservation Technician, Chip Hentges  
Resource Conservationist, Terry Meiller  
District Technician, Aaron Finke  
Resource Conservation Technician, Seth Ristow  
Farm Bill Technician, Ben Datres

## **CORRESPONDENCE:**

MASWCD continues to send out legislative updates weekly.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

Steve Christopher reviewed the Level II draft Performance Review with the Board at this time. This was a high level PRAP review, and the SWCD is meeting its goals. The SWCD was commended for meeting 10 out of 14 high performance standards. Steve also stated that in his 5 years of conducting performance reviews, no SWCD has achieved all the 14 standards. Another piece of the review included internal and external surveys. Steve went over the comments that were included in both the internal and external surveys. One recommendation was to conduct a strategic assessment of the SWCD. This could determine whether the existing mission, goals, and staff capacity are sufficient to meet the demands for the conservation services in the district. The 10-year comprehensive plan will be reviewed soon, which would be a good time to do the strategic plan. Steve would like to have the SWCD's comments on this draft report, to him by the end of June so BWSR can finalize the report. Zabel recommended all the Supervisors read the report, and send comments to Mike to compile, so they can be discussed at the June Board meeting. Mike will finalize a response letter to BWSR after the June meeting and send it to Steve.

Zabel updated his E-coli indicators resolution which was handed out at the meeting last month. Zabel explained the resolution at this time. Burandt moved to approve the E-coli indicators resolution to be submitted to the MACD. Zbinden seconded, motion carried.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

Margaret Coldwell has requested \$1,000 in funding from the SWCD's pollinator cost-share program. She is located in the Minnehaha Creek watershed District, but they do not have any funding for cost-share programs. The total cost of the project is \$6,312, so the landowner will be contributing a significant amount towards the project. Zbinden moved, Burandt seconded to approve the Coldwell pollinator planting cost-share request, total cost estimate of \$6,312; \$1,000 in cost-share assistance. Motion carried.

Marcus Zbinden is requesting \$618.75 in funding from the SWCD's pollinator cost-share program. He explained the project they plan to install. His goal is to do some public relations on this project, and commented he recently obtained bees also. Burandt moved, Wendland seconded to approve Marcus Zbinden's pollinator cost-share request for \$618.75. Ayes: Burandt, Wendland, Zabel. Abstained: Zbinden. Motion carried.

**OTHER:**

Zbinden commented that 10 tons of Ag bags were collected in a recycling program last Saturday.

Zabel reminded everyone that the Carver County WMO plan is currently out for review. He encouraged Supervisors to review it and get any comments to Paul Moline's office.

Burandt moved, Zbinden seconded to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 AM. Motion carried unanimously.

**Next Board Meeting: Thursday, June 20, 2019 at 8:00 AM**  
**Public Works Headquarters, Conference Room 3**  
**11360 Highway 212, Cologne, MN 55322**

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_



Secretary/Treasurer

Date: June 20, 2019