



**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 July 18, 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.
Chanhassen, MN 55317
District I

Meeting was called to order by Chair Zabel at 8:02 AM.

Members Present: Chair, Mark Zabel
Secretary/Treasurer, Jeffrey Sons
Member, Robert Burandt
Member, Marcus Zbinden

SECRETARY/TREASURER

Jeff Sons

17180 County Rd. 51
NYA, MN 55368
District V

Members Absent: Vice Chair, Stanley Wendland

SWCD Staff Present: District Manager, Mike Wanous
Administrative & Finance Specialist, Felicia Brockoff
Resource Conservationist, Terry Meiller

SUPERVISOR

Bob Burandt

1340 Waconia Pkwy. S
Waconia, MN 55387
District IV

Other Attendees: NRCS Team District Conservationist, Chris Schmidt
Carver County WMO, Paul Moline

SUPERVISOR

Marcus Zbinden

6460 Bretton Way
Chanhassen, MN 55317
District II

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

Motion was made by Sons, seconded by Burandt to approve the June 20, 2019 Regular Board Meeting Minutes as read. Motion carried.

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

Discussion on switching our main checking and savings accounts from Old National Bank to Security Bank and Trust Co. here in Cologne. They offer interest rates on their checking accounts, as well as better rates for the savings accounts. Discussions on other banks in the area and rates they may have, including Hometown Bank which MCD uses. Chair Zabel tabled the issue, so Felicia could look up rates online.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Personnel Committee (Sons, Zbinden) – Mike reported informal reviews have been conducted with the staff.

2. Metro Conservation District's (MCD) Committee (Zabel primary; Zbinden alt.) – Zabel reported on the May 29 meeting. The next meeting will be August 28, Zbinden will also plan on attending that meeting.
3. Education & Outreach Committee (Sons, Wendland) – The Carver County Fair will held August 7-11. Zbinden would like to see us market the pollinator habitat program at the fair. Our booth has been in the Sheriff's building with all the other County departments. Zabel also suggested cover crop promotion.
4. Budget Committee (Burandt, Sons) – Mike reported the budget hearing was on Tuesday, July 16, and it went well. Mike commented that Dave Hemze, County Administrator, is very happy with the work the SWCD staff has done with the Watertown wetland banking project. Mike urged Supervisors to go look at it if they are in the area.
5. CCWMO Advisory Committee (Wendland primary; Zbinden alt.) – The WMO tour was held on June 25. Mike reported there was a quick meeting before the tour, which finalized WMO project expenses for 2020. There were a few CIP requests that requested funding, but more requests were received than funding was available. They toured the Waconia Food Shelf where several rain gardens were restored, also stopped at the Watertown wetland banking site. The WMO is contributing \$50,000 to the restoration process, the SWCD has contributed staff time to the project, and Public Works will be paying for the additional costs, and retaining all the wetland credits. The tour also stopped by the dam on the Crow River in Watertown, where a feasibility study is being done to assess removal. They also stopped at a solar farm on the way back to Waconia, which had good native vegetation under the solar panels.
6. Carver County Leaders (CCL) Committee (Burandt primary; Zbinden alt.) – did not meet.

NRCS Report – Chris Schmidt is the new team District Conservationist for NRCS and will be attending the Carver SWCD Board meetings as the NRCS representative. NRCS is starting to go through another reorganization, which would split Minnesota into four major Customer Service Teams. Carver County would be in the Southeast area of this new reorganization, with Faribault being the location of the area office, this is the location Chris is currently housed in. He also gave a background of his work history with SWCD's and NRCS. He mentioned the cover crop planting program through EQIP was a popular program since landowners had a difficult time getting crops planted this year. He also reported that Katundra is working in Carver and Scott Counties, however there isn't an actual NRCS office in Scott County. The SWCD office has some space that Katundra utilizes, but the situation isn't ideal. He also recognized the revolving door problem we've had at the Carver County NRCS office, with no permanent staff there since Keith Kloubec (District Conservationist) had left. Mike asked about the SWCD staff getting the technical approval authority through NRCS. Currently Mark Pierson is the NRCS area engineer that staff would have to work with, Chris mentioned that Scott SWCD is working with Mark to get staff their job approval authority (JAA). Mike and Chris will be in contact about the issue.

9:00 AM – Paul Moline and Terry Meiller arrived at this time.

Carver County Report – Paul reported on the Water Plan process, he's hoping to have it approved this fall. The Comprehensive Plan received an incomplete letter from the Metropolitan Council, they are asking for more data on the community sewer systems that were installed in Laketown Township in the 1980's. These systems do connect into the Metropolitan Council's system, all the gray water currently goes into the Blue Lake Waste Water Treatment Facility in Shakopee. Paul also reported on the budget hearing, which he said seemed to go well this year. The WMO levy will be discussed with the County Board at the end of August, with the preliminary levy set in early September. He also reported on the educational activities Madeline has been working on. Madeline has been visiting various cities and is currently working on items for the Carver County Fair. The WMO has been dealing with lots of concerns from residents about the high lake levels. Barnes Lake

issues were discussed at this time. Paul also discussed the proposed gravel and sand storage area just to the south of Highway 212, which will be delivered by train between Norwood Young America and Cologne. The railroad will also be building a spur at this location. Paul also mentioned that his staff is reviewing the storm water plans between Cologne and Carver for the new proposed Highway 212 expansion from 2 lanes to 4 lanes.

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
Seasonal Conservation Intern, Tom Genelin

Terry reported on the Camden streambank project, staff has harvested willows and staked them in, but the area is now again under water.

10:00 AM - Paul Moline and Chris Schmidt left the meeting at this time.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The metro area will be hosting the 2019 MASWCD convention this year, they are asking for one staff and Supervisor from each SWCD to assist. Zbinden volunteered to be the Supervisor contact, and Mike stated he would be the SWCD staff person from Carver. Felicia has also volunteered to assist with the auction.

MASWCD will be sending out information on their annual awards program soon. Staff asked Supervisors to start thinking about Outstanding Conservationist candidates. Craig Eldred from the City of Waconia was brought up as a possibility.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mike has sent a response letter to BWSR on the Level II Performance Review findings.

NEW BUSINESS:

New office chairs are going to be purchased for the staff; this was a budgeted item for 2019. The current chairs are over 15 years old.

Peterson & Company has sent a management letter that needs to be signed by the District Manager and the Board Chair. This states that the Carver SWCD gave them access to all the information they needed to conduct the 2018 audit, and that there were no problems during the audit. Motion was made by Burandt, seconded by Sons to authorize the Chair and Manager to sign the Management letter from Peterson & Company. Motion carried.

Beth Hoiseth is requesting \$1,000 in cost-share assistance to install a native pollinator buffer on her property. The total cost of the project proposal is \$5,940. Mike also commented that the landowner is going to remove buckthorn from this area as well. Prairie Restorations is also being hired to maintain the area. Zbinden had

questions about what the landowner is buffering, and didn't feel this was a viable project for the pollinator program. Burandt would like to see pictures of the site before. Mike will ask Seth to gather more information, and bring it back to the Board at the August meeting.

Ron Olson is requesting DRAP cost-share funding for three waterways. The total cost estimate is \$26,928, with cost-sharing not to exceed \$20,203.50, which is 75% of the total cost. Terry explained that Ron recently purchased this farm, and stated the field is currently covered in oats. He also explained the cost estimates he used, and tried to keep the costs low on this site. Mike also explained that the DRAP funds we have will expire at the end of this year. Motion was made by Burandt, seconded by Zbinden to approve Ron Olson's DRAP contract, total cost-sharing not to exceed \$20,203.50 based on 75% of the total cost.

Marcus Zbinden has completed his native pollinator buffer, and has requested reimbursement. The total cost was \$911.81, with cost-sharing not to exceed \$618.75, based on the original cost-estimate received. Zbinden reported that he is happy with the planting, and that he did talk to the editor of the Chanhassen Villager who will do a story on the bees out there, as well as the SWCD's pollinator program. Motion was made by Burandt, seconded by Sons to approve a payment of \$618.75 for Zbinden's cost-share project. Burandt, aye; Sons, aye; Zabel, aye; Zbinden, abstained. Motion carried.

OTHER:

Zbinden mentioned that Lori Brinkman contacted him about getting reimbursed for a pollinator project that was installed on her property. She informed Zbinden she discussed her project with Seth at the SWCD office and was under the assumption that she was approved to install a cost-shareable pollinator project. However, after she completed the project and contacted the SWCD about the reimbursement process, she was informed that no cost-share had been approved from the SWCD for her project. Mike explained that under the SWCD's pollinator program, plans needed to be reviewed and approved by the SWCD staff prior to installation, and that a minimum of two bids are required; neither of which were ever received by the SWCD. Mike stated the SWCD will need to come up with a clearer policy and process for pollinator cost-share contracts in the future.

Chair Zabel went back to the Security Bank discussion. Felicia will contact Citizen's State Bank about the interest rate on our current money market savings account. Motion was made by Burandt, seconded by Zbinden to change the SWCD's main checking and savings accounts from Old National Bank to Security Bank & Trust Co. Motion carried.

Burandt moved, Sons seconded to adjourn the meeting at 10:33 AM. Motion carried.

Next Board Meeting: Thursday, August 15, 2019 at 8:00 AM
Public Works Headquarters, Conference Room 3
11360 Highway 212, Cologne, MN 55322

Approved: 
Secretary/Treasurer

Date: August 15, 2019