



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.*

11360 Highway 212, Suite 6  
Cologne, MN 55322  
Phone: (952) 466-5230  
Fax: (952) 466-2070  
<http://www.co.carver.mn.us/swcd>

## **Minutes of the July 16, 2020 Carver SWCD Board meeting Conducted via video teleconference due to COVID-19 concerns.**

### **Board Members Present:**

Chair, Mark Zabel (present via video teleconference)  
Vice Chair, Stanley Wendland (present via video teleconference)  
Secretary/Treasurer, Jeffrey Sons (present via video teleconference)  
Member, Robert Burandt (present in SWCD office)  
Member, Marcus Zbinden (present via video teleconference)

### **SWCD Staff Present:**

District Manager, Mike Wanous (present in SWCD office)  
Administrative & Finance Specialist, Felicia Brockoff (present via video teleconference)

### **Other Attendees:**

Carver County Planning & Water Management, Paul Moline (present via video teleconference)  
NRCS Le Sueur County District Conservationist, Steve Breaker (present via video teleconference)

### **1. Call to Order**

Chair Zabel called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

### **2. Roll Call**

Chair Zabel requested roll call. Supervisors Burandt, Sons, Wendland, Zabel, and Zbinden were all present.

### **3. Agenda review and adoption**

Wendland moved, Zbinden seconded to approve the July 16 Agenda as presented. On roll call vote Burandt, Sons, Wendland, Zabel, Zbinden all voted aye. Motion carried.

### **4. Consent Agenda.**

Wendland moved, Zbinden seconded, to approve the following consent agenda items:

- a. Approval of June 18, 2020 meeting Minutes
- b. Acceptance of the June Treasurer's Report
- c. NRCS and SWCD Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)
- d. Pollinator cost-share payment for Carver Landings HOA (Susan Knoll) - \$611.75 total
- e. Pollinator cost-share payment for Thomas VonBerge - \$1,000 total

## **5. Carver County Report**

Paul reported that the budget recommendation for the Carver County WMO will increase approximately \$12,000. The increase captures growth and new construction. He also reported there is no increases for staff salaries, and no increase to the SWCD's portion of the levy. The Public Services Division budget hearing is scheduled for August 11, this will be a virtual hearing.

He also reported that Carver County has received approximately \$12.8 Million from the federal government for the CARES act, which is to be used specifically for COVID related expenses in Carver County. Most of this funding will be used in the Public Health and Sheriff's departments. The SWCD may see some of these funds being used for improvements at the Public Works Facility for building upgrades, which could include contactless features such as touchless doors, faucets, and light switches. There may be some technology equipment updates made for staff working from home as well.

Paul also reported staff have been monitoring stormwater BMPs that are 10-15 years old. Most of the BMPs that are 15 years old are failing, and the 10-year-old BMPs are doing well. He also reported on the Watertown Wetland Banking site, which is complete and now being monitored. He also stated that the summer WMO tour will be a virtual tour in August, and staff is currently working on short videos to show the committee. Paul reported that the July WMO meeting may be canceled.

He also reported on the grant process with BWSR for metro watershed funding under the One Watershed One Plan (1W1P) process. There have meetings with both the South Fork Crow River Watershed, and the Lower Minnesota River North Watersheds. He's hopeful that by September, both groups will have plans in place for the 2021 funding process.

Mike commented he has also been involved in these two meetings, as well as the Mississippi West Watershed District which covers the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District portion in Carver County.

## **6. NRCS Report**

Steve Breaker reported NRCS is continuing to work with FSA for CRP workloads in the Carver County field office. NRCS announced a full-time technician position for the Waconia field office on July 2. He is hopeful there will be a full-time person in Waconia by this fall. NRCS is still working with EQIP statewide. There were two applications in Carver County that did not get funded in the first round, but they may still be funded in the second round. Steve reported NRCS continues to work with the SWCD as needed, with CREP and CRP. FSA has notified him there are approximately 40 applications in the works in Carver County for CRP. Kara Fairchild, NRCS intern, has completed all the onsite CRP spot checks in Carver County. Steve mentioned how impressed he was with the CRP plantings in Carver County.

## **7. SWCD Monthly Report**

Staff reports were discussed at this time.

*Under Minnesota Statutes 13D.021 the Carver SWCD Board has determined that an in-person meeting is not practical or prudent because of a health pandemic and an emergency has been declared under chapter 12. The physical meeting location (Carver County Public Works Conference Room 3) is closed because it is not feasible to be open due to the health pandemic. This meeting was conducted via video teleconference due to COVID-19 concerns.*

Zabel asked about the soil loss complaint. Mike reported Terry has a meeting scheduled for 9 AM this morning with the involved landowners. Mike also reported that BWSR will only enforce the soil loss law (103F), if the County has a soil loss ordinance in place.

Mike reported that Aaron Finke has resigned his position with the SWCD. He has accepted a position much closer to his family. Mike will be in contact with the Personnel Committee to discuss filling Aaron's position.

**8. Board of Supervisors Announcements**

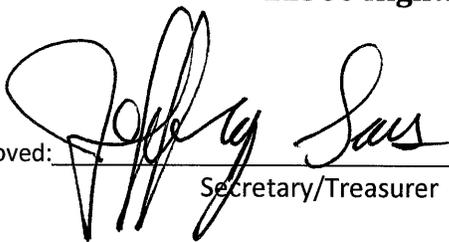
- a. No announcements reported.

**9. Adjourn**

Wendland moved, Sons seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:04 a.m. On roll call vote Burandt, Sons, Wendland, Zabel, Zbinden all voted aye. Motion carried.

**Next Board Meeting: Thursday, August 20, 2020 at 8:00 AM**  
**Tentative Location: Public Works Headquarters, Conference Room 1**  
**11360 Highway 212, Cologne, MN 55322**

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

  
Secretary/Treasurer

Date signed: \_\_\_\_\_

8-30-2020

SWCD Board Approval Date: August 20, 2020