



Carver County Water Management Organization

Citizen Advisory Committee

- 1. Roll call**
- 2. Approval of the January 28, 2025, minutes**
- 3. Approval of the February 25, 2025, agenda**
- 4. Notes from the field**
 - a. Permit enforcement
- 5. Business items**
 - a. Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems 2025 program
 - b. 2025 projects and workplan highlights
- 6. Information items & project updates**
- 7. Next meeting**
 - a. March 25, 2025
- 8. Adjournment**

February 25, 2025

Meetings held at the Carver County Government Center, EOC conference room, 600 East 4th St. Chaska, MN 55318. Virtual option with Microsoft Teams. Contact mseveland@co.carver.mn.us for details.

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Committee Mission

Work with CCWMO staff to proactively make recommendations to the County Board on matters relating to water management including;

- projects and project prioritization
- Funding and water levy
- Water Plan, Groundwater Plan & Solid Waste Plan
- Water quality and TMDL program and projects
- Education program and projects
- Feasibility studies ¹

MEETING OF THE
CARVER COUNTY WATER MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday January 28, 2025

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Attending virtually
Michael Wegner

Citizen representing the Crow River watershed

Attending in person

Mary Stasson

Citizen representing East & West Chaska Creek watershed

Mike Lynch

Citizen representing Commissioner District 4

Jim Boettcher

Citizen representing Commissioner District 1

Kevin Zahler

Citizen representing Commissioner District 2

Joe Polunc

Citizen representing Commissioner District 5

Kellen Schmidt

Citizen, Bevens Creek

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Stan Wendland

SWCD Board Representative

Marcus Zbinden

SWCD Board Representative alt

Vacant

Citizen representing Commissioner District 3

Kayla Pascoe

Citizen representing Carver Creek watershed

STAFF PRESENT

Paul Moline

Carver County Planning & Water Mgmt.

Madeline Seveland

Carver County Planning & Water Mgmt.

Andrew Dickhart

Carver County Planning & Water Mgmt.

Tim Sundby

Carver County Planning & Water Mgmt.

Kristen Larson

Carver County Planning & Water Mgmt.

Mike Wanous

Carver County Soil & Water Conservation District

Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 by Paul Moline.

1) Roll call completed.

2) Introductions completed.

3) Nomination of Chair and Vice Chair

Paul Moline asked for nominations for chair. Lynch nominated Jim Boettcher. Wegner nominated Mike Lynch. Lynch withdrew his nomination. Moline noted that the nomination for Jim Boettcher was still on the table. Zahler seconded. Moline presented the motion to appoint Jim Boettcher as chair. Motion passed unanimously. Boettcher took over the meeting as chair.

Boettcher asked for nominations for Vice Chair. Boettcher nominated Mike Lynch. Wegner seconded. Boettcher presented the motion to appoint Mike Lynch as Vice Chair. Motion passed unanimously.

4) Operating rules and meeting details

Seveland introduced the committee's operating rules. These guidelines describe committee operations like member representation, terms, per diems, and quorums. The committee reviews the operation rules annually in January, make necessary amendments and adopts them for the current year. Seveland provided a short review of the operating rules and asked the committee for any changes or edits needed.

Boettcher inquired what the practice is if a quorum is not present. Seveland responded that the meeting has been held, but without motions or recommendations.

Lynch inquired where mileage is listed. Moline responded that the per diems and mileage are outlined in the County's policies for advisory committees. The 2025 rates will follow the IRS guidelines.

Zahler inquired who the technical advisory committee member representative member. Moline responded that since 2020 we have not had one. The technical advisory committee is made up of staff from city and state agencies and meets as needed. Staff have not brought the representative opening up to the group in a while. Zahler commented that there is a lot of technical expertise represented in the staff present at meetings. Moline shared that the committee composition of roles comes directly out of the County's Water Management Plan and we would likely need to change the plan. Zahler pointed out that it affects the quorum. Moline shared that staff are meeting with the technical advisory committee next month. Staff would come up with a recommendation and bring that back to the committee as an agenda item. The committee could amend the operating rules, if necessary, at a future meeting to reflect any changes in the role of the technical advisory committee.

Lynch moved to accept the Water Management Organization Advisory Committee's operating rules without amendment. Schmidt seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

5) 2025 meeting calendar, details, and topics

Seveland presented the meeting dates for 2025. No complications were identified for the 2025 schedule. Moline mentioned some of the main topics that will be brought to the committee in 2025 including the WMO levy and projects.

6) Approval of the December 3, 2024, meeting minutes

Lynch moved to approve the December 3, 2024, meeting minutes. Schmidt seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

7) Approval of January 28, 2025, agenda

Schmidt moved to approve the January 28, 2025, agenda. Stasson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

8) Business items

- **2024 Annual Report**

Kristen Larson introduced herself and presented the 2024 annual report for the Carver County Water Management Organization. The report provides a look at the activities, accomplishments, and challenges throughout the year. The annual report is a required activity and is reported to the state. No formal committee recommendation is required, but feedback is welcome before the report is released to the public.

The report can be found in 2 formats, a pdf and a website, and reviews the main program areas of the organization.

Larson reviewed the 2024 highlights

- Staff obtained a grant to restore a buried segment of East Chaska Creek.
- Staff began a new education program in partnership with the Environmental Services department to provide well water test kits and coordination of sample drop off to residents.
- Staff completed the first aquatic vegetation transplant on Benton Lake with a goal of restoring aquatic plant populations.
- Staff completed permit reviews for over 70 development sites
- The organization managed 11 active and ongoing grants totaling over 1 million dollars in received funds.

Larson reviewed metrics and highlights for each program area in the [online annual report](#). The final budget information will be available later in the year.

Boettcher inquired what sealing a well includes. Larson responded that of participants of the County's well sealing cost share program, well sealing has to be done by a licensed contractor. There are certain criteria that both the landowner and the well must meet. The program is designed to prevent the connection between pollution on the surface and groundwater. Contractors remove all the wells infrastructure and fill it with a material like grout.

Boettcher if the well sealing cost share from 2024 was on private property. Sundby responded that it was an apartment building. In 2024, staff did a large, targeted outreach for the program. So far only one application has been completed but staff are waiting on another four.

Boettcher stated that some of these requests are made during a property transfer. Sundby responded that the County cost share does not fund well sealing projects that are triggered by property sales. The program's goal is to find unused wells that could be a potential hazard.

- **Goldfish feasibility study report**

Tim Sundby introduced himself and the topic of his presentation, the goldfish feasibility study report.

Project background

In 2019 during routine monitoring, staff noticed a large congregation of goldfish on an inlet north of Big Woods Lake in Chaska. A posting on social media about the find went viral and received local and national news attention.

Staff began goldfish removal methods and launched a feasibility study to better understand the movement of goldfish, types of removal efforts and their impacts, and the connection between goldfish and water quality. The 3-year feasibility study was funded through the watershed-based implementation funds (WBIF) funds and hired WSB & Associates as a consultant.

Feasibility study

- For any in-lake project, an organization is required by the Board of Water & Soil Resources to conduct a feasibility study. This help use funds the most effectively.
- The goldfish removal feasibility study looked at 1) estimates of adult and juvenile populations, 2) interconnectedness of water bodies, 3) nursery areas, 4) movement, 5) proposed actions to limit recruitment and movement, and 6) proposed actions to reduce adult populations.

Sundby reviewed the results of the study for each of the six areas.

Population estimates

- This step helps staff understand the scope of the goldfish issue. The team used removals and a process of tagging to estimate the biomass of goldfish in the lakes.
- This study found that timing matters when conducting removals of the fish. Goldfish congregate differently than carp. For example, in Big Woods Lake and McKnight Lake, fall is the best time to remove them. In Lake Hazeltine, spring is the best time to remove them.
- Calculating CPUE, which is catch per unit effort, is a common way to estimate for carp, but did not work for goldfish. Yet, data was necessary to collect to demonstrate and this process does not work for goldfish and different methods are needed.

Lynch inquired about the size the goldfish can reach. Sundby responded that the average age in Big Woods Lake started 6-8 inches but has been going down because of the removals and is now around 3-4 inches. In Lake Hazeltine the average is around 3-4 inches. The largest goldfish staff found was 24" and there have been some 11-12 inches.

Big Woods water quality

- There is a potential water quality response to the removals happening with chlorophyll-a and phosphorus. Big Woods Lake is showing the lowest levels of these parameters since 2014. This

change could also be linked to precipitation though and staff need to compare this data to other years of light precipitation.

Stasson asked for clarification on if the goal of the project is to manage or eliminate goldfish. Sundby responded that with common carp there is threshold and if you can get populations below that threshold and management them there, they won't impact water quality as much. Staff are trying to determine if goldfish must be completely eliminated or if, like carp, there is a threshold below which they don't impact the lake as much. There is not a lot of research on goldfish and the County will have to work with other partners doing similar studies.

Lynch inquired how there are so many and if the fish got a head start or breed fast. Sundby responded that this is a prime system with low dissolved oxygen, low water quality, and the lake can freeze out easily. Goldfish can survive these conditions and so do not have competition.

Zahler inquired how long they might have been there before staff noticed them. Sundby responded that staff are aging the fish during surveys and finding fish from 2013. After a couple generations in the wild, the goldfish lose their orange coloring and become more grey, black, and brown.

Zahler inquired if there cross breeding with carp. Sundby responded that there is, but we are not seeing it in these lakes.

Zahler inquired if staff had ideas about how they got into the lake. Sundby responded that it is likely from people dumping them in the lake and it has likely been happening over time.

Lynch inquired if carp feed on goldfish. Sundby responded that both carp and goldfish are bottom feeders digging into the sediment for food.

Stasson inquired if they have had an impact on native fish species. Sundby responded that yes, most fish species need 5-7mg/L of dissolved oxygen in the water to survive. Goldfish can survive down with dissolved oxygen levels down to 0 mg/L. Goldfish can survive anoxic conditions, the hot conditions in summer, and cold conditions in winter.

Lake Hazeltine water quality

- Data is also showing a decrease in phosphorus, but this could also be correlated to annual precipitation levels.

Migration

- By studying migration patterns, staff can learn where goldfish are moving to and from. The process uses PIT, passive integrated transponder, tags. After placing the tags, tagged fish can be tracked with antennas.
- Staff put in 1,274 PIT tags over the three-year study.
- Staff also tried radio tags to track with a handheld tracker to see if they were congregating like carp, but the goldfish stayed spread out, so this method did not work.

- Staff saw mixed results. Data was impacted when the drought dried up the creek between Hazeltine and Big Woods. Yet, the data showed some migration patterns, and that migration may be influenced by precipitation and/or by water temperature.
- Migration data helps staff determine where to install barriers and how to isolate fish populations.

Polunc inquired how many acres the study covered. Sundby responded about 180 acres over 2 lakes.

Ageing

- Aging is done by removing a fish's ear stone (otolith) and counting the rings on them.
- This data helps staff identify recruitment years and estimate how many fish spawned in a year.
- Results showed in 2023 that staff were still collecting some fish that were 10 years old.

Polunc inquired what other species are in the lakes. Sundby responded that it is mostly black bullheads and fathead minnows.

Goldfish size

- Measuring the size of the collected fish helps staff determine if the population is younger or older and understand growth rates and mortality rates.
- Results showed that different capture methods affected which size fish were caught.
- Results showed Lake Hazeltine might be the nursery area as 59% of the fish were small.
- Big Woods Lake showed more uniform sizing of goldfish. Staff are starting to see the average size of fish decrease as removals have taken out bigger fish.

Fish surveys

- Surveys show trends of populations and diversity over time. Black-bullheads, fathead minnows, central mudminnow, and goldfish are the main fish found during staff surveys.

Feasibility study take aways

- There is a large biomass of goldfish in both lakes.
- Removal efforts will be required for long term management.
- Isolating lakes through barriers may be needed to manage goldfish populations in the chain of lakes.
- Fish stocking may be needed to balance the fish community.
- Addressing anoxic conditions which favors survival of goldfish over other species of fish may help.

Next steps

- Research is limited on invasive wild goldfish, and this is the beginning of building knowledge. Carver County Water Management Organization is on the forefront.
- Staff are pulling together an integrated pest management plan, called an IPM, that is a long-term plan that we can update and adapt throughout the project.
- Potential projects
 - o Big Woods Lake draw down.
 - o Rotenone application. This is a chemical that affects the gills of fish, but not other aquatic or terrestrial species.
 - o Fish restocking to build a diverse population.
 - o Aeration to reduce anoxic conditions and increase oxygen.
 - o Temporary and permanent barriers to prevent migration.

Funding

- There is \$50,000 from the WBIF (watershed-based implementation funding) that is dedicated through 2027 to projects of this study.
- Additional potential sources of funding include the Legislative Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources, the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center, and the County WMO levy.

Next steps

- Allocate the current Watershed-Based Implementation Funding to a specific project
- Determine long term management strategies to reduce goldfish populations

Polunc asked if the situation has gone beyond introducing predator species. Sundby responded that staff stocked northern pike into Big Woods Lake in 2019, but we did not find them again. It is possible they have died out or moved downstream. Staff are thinking about stocking panfish in the future or channel catfish.

Polunc inquired if the lakes were so eutrophic you would have to aerate in the summer too. Sundby state yes. The lakes are in a turbid state now and if, through restoration, we can flip them to a clean state we could remove an aerator, but we would need one until then.

Lynch inquired if other entities have reached out about goldfish problems. Sundby responded that there are a number of other cities that are dealing with them including cities of Burnsville, Bloomington, Stillwater, and Nine Mile Creek Watershed District and Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District. A metro wide group studying this and sharing knowledge would be best.

Boettcher inquired if permits are required for the rotenone practice. Sundby responded yes, the County would have to work closely with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and have a plan for use, containment, and mitigation in place.

Moline commented that before the WMO allocates money to any future goldfish projects, staff would return to the committee with additional information.

- **Aquatic Invasive Species 2025 program**

Andrew Dickhart introduced himself and his role with the County as the Aquatic Invasive Species coordinator. He presented his 2025 aquatic invasive species program plan. The goal of this program is to prevent the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species, manage and control existing AIS populations, protect native ecosystem, water quality and recreational opportunities in the County, and collaborate with partners to ensure a coordinated approach to AIS prevention and management.

History of the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Program at Carver County

- In 2011, the watercraft inspection program began with one lake.
- In 2012, the watercraft inspection program expanded to five lakes with local partnerships.
- In 2014, the state passed the AIS Prevention Aid, new state funding to help counties with AIS programs.
- In 2016, the program transitioned from the Carver County Parks department to the Carver County Planning & Water Management Department. The County hired Dickhart as the AIS program coordinator. Program expanded to focus on early detection, rapid response, and AIS control projects.

AIS strategic plan

- A 5-year strategic plan that will be updated this year. The plan includes the following.
 - o Watercraft inspections: ensure compliance and educate boaters.
 - o Monitoring and rapid response: early AIS detection and prompt action.
 - o Education and outreach: increase awareness and behavior changes.
 - o Projects: initiatives like carp management and goldfish.

2024 watercraft inspection program summary statistics

- 4,186 inspections of boats entering a lake.
- 3,603 inspections of boats existing a lake.
- 4 courtesy inspections where citizens seek out staff for inspections or decontaminations.
- 14 lift inspections.
- Of the entering violations 3.5% were drain plugs, and 10% were other AIS violation (aquatic vegetation found, zebra mussel found, water not drained).

Dickhart shared a map showing where the dedicated watercraft inspections are located: Waconia, Pierson, Bavaria, Minnewashta, Ann, Lotus, and Susan.

Dickhart shared a chart showing the type and number of watercrafts inspected in 2024. The top three types of boats inspected are a fishing boat, a run-around boat, and a kayak/canoe.

2024 watercraft violation summary statistics

- Total of 394 violations on entering watercraft. Of those, 292 were aquatic plants found, 72 were water not drained, 20 were mud, and 10 were zebra mussels.
- Total of 1,336 violations were found on exiting boats. Of these, 1112 were plants, 116 was water not drained, 69 were zebra mussels, 37 were mud, and 2 were snails.

2024 watercraft inspection program challenges and improvements

- Challenges included staffing and recruiting.
- Improvements: roving inspections, outreach, and public reception. Changes to the roving inspector's structure. The lead watercraft inspector reported that people argued less, shared more appreciation, and more conversation.

Boettcher inquired why watercraft inspectors are limited to 67 days employment. Dickhart responded when an employee works for a government organization for more than 67 days, they are eligible for benefits.

2024 monitoring efforts

- The monitoring program focused on monitoring and treating phragmites and purple loosestrife. Twenty-seven phragmites populations were treated. The County partnered with MN Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center and the MN Department of Natural Resource on monitoring and treatment. Staff found 55 new purple loosestrife sites and are planning future treatments.
- Staff completed early detection surveys on 20 lakes.
- No new AIS species were found in Carver County.

2024 projects

- Continued the Benton Lake carp removal project with efforts to reduce carp populations to improve water quality.
- Big Woods Lake goldfish removal project with efforts to remove and study invasive goldfish.

2024 education and outreach

- Goal is to enhance public awareness and behavior change.
- Participated in the statewide program called Starry Trek.
- Looked into adoption of a Lake Pledge program for lakeshore owners.
- Looked at providing rotating QR codes linking to educational sites at public boat accesses.

2025 program proposal

- New initiatives
 - o Expand roving inspections to more water bodies.
 - o Increase partner financial rate due to higher general costs and labor market.
 - o Lake Minnewashta Preservation Association audio messaging pilot program. This includes placing a device that senses boaters approaching the launch and gives a short rotating education message. The purpose is to have an education component while watercraft inspectors are not there.
 - o New projects
 - Eagle Lake restoration project includes an alum treatment, and a whole lake curly-leaf pondweed treatment. This project would be funded by the Board of Water & Soils Resources.
 - o Explore AIS treatments in the Seminary Fen.

Zahler inquired if the curly leaf pondweed treatment would happen before the alum treatment on Eagle Lake. Dickhart indicated that yes, the curly leaf pondweed treatment would happen first. Sundby added that staff are working with a consultant to take sediment cores and learn what the total phosphorus release rate is in the lake. Staff would want to see the success of that treatment first. Alum treatment could be 3-5 years down the road.

Zahler inquired if the County has applied for the treatment permit. Dickhart responded that the feasibility study is still in progress but at the end of that study, we'll know if we can do the treatment and apply for permits and funding.

2025 watercraft inspections

Dickhart reviewed the 2025 watercraft inspection program plan, and the number of inspectors hours allocated for each lake.

- Lotus Lake, Lake Waconia, and Minnewashta Lake each allocated 1500 hours.
- Lake Bavaria has 225 hours allocated.
- Pierson Lake has 625 hours allocated.
- Lake Ann and Susan Lake each have 400 hours allocated. Inspections on these lakes are funded by city of Chanhassen. Typically, they have had 800 hours allocated but with staff shortages, we have not been able to provide that.
- Roving staff allocated 600 hours.

Dickhart shared how lakes are prioritized for watercraft inspection programs using the AIS Explorer tool designed by the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center.

Additional 2025 financial needs for watercraft inspection program

- New iPads and uniforms for inspectors.
- Three rakes for removing vegetation piles from boat launches.

2025 monitoring program

- Continue phragmites and purple loosestrife monitoring.
- Early detection monitoring of County lakes.
- Continue to refine rapid response plans.

Lynch asked if all the inspectors are given iPads. Dickhart responded that every inspector on shift has an iPad or equivalent device.

Zahler commented that it is wonderful public perception has improved. He commented that there should be more coordination across state with the MN Department of Natural Resources and the Coalition of Lake Associations to have a state policy on inspections. It would take a few years to accomplish, but there is a lot to be gained by promoting it across counties, lake associations, and the MN Department of Natural Resources. Zahler inquired if there is an option for that. Dickhart responded that AIS program coordinators statewide all get together to discuss these topics. Enforcement in the County can be a lower priority for deputies, but every few years Dickhart does a training with the Sheriff's office on AIS laws and regulations.

Zahler clarified he was looking for a model similar to western truck stops, something more state side. The County has more strength in these discussions and could promote this concept with other counties and the MN Department of Natural Resources. Dickhart shared that Stearns County piloted a program like this but determined that it was not cost effective. Dickhart was recently appointed to the state aquatic invasive species committee with the MN Department of Natural Resources and as that topic comes up, he can share these thoughts. Zahler suggested that promotion of this discussion should be part of the 2025 AIS goals.

Boettcher shared that a concept like the truck stop idea that was suggested, tried, and piloted years ago. There was a challenge with boat manufacturers as they were stopped with shipping new boats. The centralized inspection was piloted in 2018. Wright County Commissioners approved a program in 2019 and then the MN Department of Natural Resources said it was not going to happen. That pretty much ended all conversations on centralized conversations. He commented that he did not think bringing up the idea again would be beneficial. The lakes out west are more often publicly owned, and they are fewer in number, so they have more control.

Schmidt inquired which public accesses at Waconia are staffed with watercraft inspectors and for which months. Dickhart indicated that the County used to staff an inspector at all four public accesses but now we focus on the two large accesses. Inspectors are staffed May through November. Larger lakes may have inspectors for up to 14 hours a day, smaller lakes have shorter shifts. Staff work with lake associations to know when public accesses are most busy.

Schmidt commented that having lighting at boat accesses is a motivator for people to inspect when leaving during dark hours. He shared that the biggest violation as a fisherman is an anchor that has not been cleaned. He suggested more conversations between inspectors and boaters on what is

inside the boat. Dickhart responded that it is part of the training and conversation between inspectors and boaters. Schmidt thanked the AIS team and staff for all their work.

Lynch inquired if the County Board takes care of increased wages. Moline responded that the increase is within the range that has already been adopted to seasonal employees and has already been approved. The increase of partnership costs will reflect the increase in watercraft inspector pay so the County is recouping its costs.

Mary Stasson inquired if it was possible for watercraft inspectors to have the required programs on their personal devices. Dickhart responded that staff have thought about the idea and some inspectors will do that. To do so requires going through the MN Department and the inspectors must add a series of applications to their phone. Some inspectors may not like that. There are old phones from our County IT department that can be used to supplement equipment needs as well.

Lynch moved to approve the 2025 program as presented for recommendation to the County Board. Wegner seconded. Zahler brought up his previous request to add into the 2025 AIS plan promotion of a discussion about statewide inspection policies. Dickhart shared that he didn't know how to add it to the plan and inquired what specific action would we take. Zahler responded that he would like the County to promote statewide inspection across counties and across the Coalition of Lakes. The Coalition of Lakes is a strong organization and their support already exists. Actions would include talking to the other counties about it and have them take it to the MN Department of Natural Resources. Zahler shared that perhaps a statewide program is not going to be effective, but he does think continuing to do inspection within this County is the end all solution. We need support across the state.

Moline clarified that there is a distinction between discussing the idea with other stakeholders versus lobbying for change. He is not sure it would rise to a level where the County would include it in a lobbying effort. Moline stated Dickhart is in contact with other counties and maybe he could get more information on whether a statewide inspection program is progressing statewide or anywhere else. Moline shared that he would be hesitant if Carver County was taking the lead on it. Zahler shared that the County is already talking to all the people involved, it seems like a natural step.

Boettcher shared that a program like this is not a County thing and he would not be in favor of it. He said that Dickhart can talk about it with the statewide AIS committee, but he wouldn't support this advisory committee approving it.

Lynch commented that really this should be a nationwide thing.

Dickhart mentioned that he belongs to two AIS advisory committees and these conversations do come up. The state is where the buck stops, but he can have conversations with partners about this and share that the County has stakeholders interested in programs like this.

Schmidt shared that he doesn't think we have the state staff, law enforcement, and support to do truck inspections.

Boettcher reminded the committee that the motion and a second is still on the floor. Motion passed unanimously.

Schmidt inquired if there are opportunities to volunteer to be an inspector. Dickhart responded that there is a state program called AIS ambassadors, and he can share information with Schmidt about that.

9) Information items

Seveland informed the committee that job postings for seasonal positions will open soon. The organization is hiring 1 water education intern and 3 water monitoring interns that will work both on water chemistry and aquatic invasive species, and watercraft inspectors.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.



Water Management Organization Advisory Committee

Feb 25, 2025 Meeting

Business Item	
<i>Subsurface sewage treatment system 2025 program</i>	
Water Management Plan Related Goals	
Goal SW-1	Maintain or improve the physical, chemical, biological, and aesthetic condition of surface water resources in the CCWMO, taking into account the watershed context of each resource.
Goal MON-1	To maintain a comprehensive, accurate assessment of surface and ground water quality trends over the long term and comply with all current and future TMDL's monitoring and assessment protocols. This data will be used to compile trend analysis, assess BMP effectiveness, and complete TMDL studies.

Summary:

In 2008, Carver County began a Sub-surface Sewage Treatment System (SSTS) Incentive Program to replace direct discharge sewer systems to reduce contributing bacteria to tributaries and water bodies in the WMO. Attached is a memo outlining the background of the program, and the recommendation for 2025. Staff will present a summary of the program activities along with current data and program results.

Discussion Points:

- Input and questions on the program and the recommended targeted sub-watersheds for 2025.

Recommended WMO Advisory Committee Action:

- Motion to accept staff recommendation for the 2025 sub-watersheds to target for the SSTS direct discharge incentive program.

Attachments:

- SSTS memo



Carver County Water Management Organization

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Fax: (952)361-1828
www.co.carver.mn.us/water

Memo

To: WMO Advisory Committee Members
From: Paul Moline, Carver County Water Management
Date: February 19, 2025
Re: PROPOSED 2025 DIRECT DISCHARGE SSTS COST SHARE PROGRAM

Enclosures: 2025 SSTS DD Sub-watershed map

In 2008, Carver County began a Subsurface Sewage Treatment System (SSTS) Incentive Program to replace direct discharge sewer systems to reduce contributing bacteria to Bevens and Carver Creeks. The program was expanded into the Crow River watershed in 2020. Each year new sub-watersheds are targeted for this program. Through the Direct Discharge Program, a total of 565 systems have been replaced with the help of 178 loans since 2008. .

2025 FUNDING

2025 CCWMO budget has approximately \$100,000 available for SSTS direct discharge incentives. (up to 40 systems). Program implementation numbers are limited largely by contractor availability and weather.

2025 PROPOSAL

Staff is recommending that the program use funds to replace systems not accounted for in previously identified Bevens sub-watersheds (see map) while implementation continues in the Crow River sub-watersheds as approved in 2024. There will be approximately 14 likely systems remaining in the Crow River watershed (Pioneer Creek West) following the 2025 year. Identification of systems not accounted for in previous sub-watersheds will continue and will be brought to the Committee as resources are available.

The following priority sub-watersheds are recommended for funding by staff:

1. Crow River Sub-watersheds: – 20 total likely systems
 - a. Crow 20.3 – 8 likely systems
 - b. Pioneer Creek East – 12 likely systems
2. Bevens Creek Sub-watersheds: - 9 total likely systems
 - a. BE2.2 – 4 likely systems
 - b. BE4.3 – 1 likely system
 - c. Sibley – 2 likely systems
 - d. Co Rd 33 – 1 likely system
 - e. B1 – 1 likely system

Factors leading to the recommendation are as follows:

- Targeting systems not accounted for in previous years
- Distribution of funds across multiple townships
- Number of likely systems in the sub-watershed
- Sub-watershed containing the highest level of E. Coli in 2023 per surface water sampling

2025 COST SHARE QUALIFICATIONS

The County will provide a cash grant of 25% of the cost of a new system up to \$2,500 for the upgrade of systems identified as a likely direct discharge system in the priority sub-watersheds. Owners of likely direct discharge systems in the priority sub-watersheds with no previous trigger (i.e. current enforcement, compliance inspection as a result of property transfer, complaint, or building permit) must sign up by June 30, 2025, and must install the system by June 30, 2026. Owners that do not sign up shall be required to submit an As-Built Inspection to the County by June 30, 2025. The County will also offer a low interest loan with an amortization of up to 10 years to qualified applicants. Payment will be issued to the SSTS contractor upon successful completion of the project (as determined by Environmental Services Staff).

WMO Boundaries

Completed Subsheds (2008-19)

WMO Boundaries

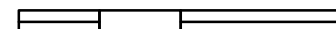
Crow River Completed Subsheds

Completed Backfill Subsheds



scale in miles

0 1.5 3 6





Water Management Organization Advisory Committee

February 25, 2025 Meeting

Business Item
<i>2025 WMO Projects Funding & Activity</i>
Water Management Plan Related Goal
1. Effectively and efficiently manage public capital expenditures needed to correct flooding and water quality problems;

Summary:

2025 will be an ambitious year for projects and feasibility studies with over \$790,000 in funds contributing to 6 projects and 5 feasibility studies. This presentation will quickly review each project, discussing tasks, goals, timelines, and funding.

Discussion Points:

- Overview of the CCWMO projects
- Overview of the CCWMO feasibility studies

Recommended Committee Action:

- None

Attachments:



Carver County Water Management Organization Advisory Committee

Upcoming Meetings

Date	Meeting Type	Business Items
March 25, 2025	Regular	Smartwater program Monitoring 2024 report
April 29, 2025	Regular	Monitoring 2025 plan Capital Improvement Project recommendations
May 27, 2025	Regular	2026 Draft CCWMO Levy
June 24, 2025	Tour	

Upcoming Events

March 18, 2025	Annual feedlot producer workshop The workshop is designed to provide feedlot operators with educational topics and resources that are beneficial for farming practices and livestock production. Contact Matt Steele at msteele@carvercountymn.gov for info.
April 12, 2025	Fix it Clinic Free event connects attendees with volunteers who can repair a variety of household items, including vacuums, clothing, small engines, bicycles, and more. Fix-It Clinics – A Better Society