



Carver County Water Management Organization

Citizen Advisory Committee

- 1. Roll call**
- 2. Approval of the October 29, 2024, minutes**
- 3. Approval of the December 3, 2024, agenda**
- 4. Notes from the field**
 - Committee member recognition
- 5. Business items**
 - Chloride monitoring program
 - GreenCorps service plan
- 6. Information items & project updates**
- 7. Next meeting**
 - January 28, 2025
- 8. Adjournment**

December 3, 2024

Meetings held at the Carver County Government Center, County Board room, 600 East 4th St. Chaska, MN 55318. Virtual option with Microsoft Teams. Contact mseveland@carvercountymn.gov for details.

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 October 29, 2024

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Attending virtually
Nathan Lindall

Citizen representing Commissioner District 3

Attending in person

Carroll Aasen

Citizen, East & West Chaska Creek

Jim Boettcher

Citizen representing Commissioner District 1

Mike Lynch

Citizen representing Commissioner District 4

Michael Wegner

Citizen, Crow River

Kevin Zahler

Citizen representing Commissioner District 2

Stan Wendland

SWCD Board Representative

Kayla Pascoe

Citizen, Carver Creek

Lori Cox

Citizen representing Commissioner District 5

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Marcus Zbinden

SWCD Board Representative alt

Mary Strother

Citizen, Bevens Creek

STAFF PRESENT

Madeline Seveland

Carver County Planning & Water Mgmt.

Paul Moline

Carver County Planning & Water Mgmt.

Tim Sundby

Carver County Planning & Water Mgmt.

Andy Edgcumbe

Carver County Planning & Water Mgmt.

Abigail Janey

Carver County Planning & Water Mgmt.

Mike Wanous

Carver County Soil & Water Conservation District

Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m. by Chair Aasen.

- 1) Roll call completed.
- 2) Approval of the September 24, 2024, meeting minutes.
Boettcher moved to approve the September 24, 2024, meeting minutes. Pascoe seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- 3) Approval of October 29, 2024, agenda.
Wegner moved to approve the October 29, 2024, agenda. Lynch seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

4) Notes from the field

Madeline Seveland provided an overview of the Metro Children's Water Festival.

The Metro Children's Water Festival is a one-day, annual water education program that takes place at the Minnesota State Fair grounds. The program's purpose is to educate 4th graders from across the metro area on ways to protect water and ensure the quantity and quality of water is managed for future generations.

The program is a partnership of the 7-county metro area with representatives from each county sitting on the planning committee. Additionally, we have members of state agencies and some watershed districts that have previously or currently also been on the planning committee. The festival hosts between 1800-1900 students each year.

Seveland share images and information about the different presentations students may see at the festival including a Science Museum show, and presentations on water cycles, fish and aquatic life, septic systems, groundwater and more.

The program began in 1998 with the development of county groundwater plans. In 2024, the festival celebrated its 27th year.

2024 festival details

- 1822 students attended
- 73 classes attended
- 23 schools including Carver Elementary and Central Elementary from Carver County

Cox inquired if there were any other standards that could be met by the water festival outside of the 4th grade science standards. Seveland responded that the festival used to target 5th grade classes but when science standards changed around 2009, they changed the target grade to match when schools were teaching the water cycle. Although the festival targets 4th grade classes, schools may register for whichever grade best fits with their curriculum.

Zahler inquired what percentage of schools the festival can host. Seveland responded that for Carver County it's likely around 2-5%, while for larger counties that number would be much smaller. The festival is limited to host about 1900 students a year. The class selection process factors in if a school hasn't attended before as we want to bring as many different schools as possible. Not only is the festival teaching students about water, but it is exposing teachers to different ways to teach about water.

Zahler shared that during his volunteer time at the Eco-experience building at the State Fair, students were very knowledgeable about water.

Wendland inquired if any private schools attend. Seveland responded that yes, a couple private schools from Carver County have attended in the past including St. Hubert's in Chanhassen and St. Joseph's in Waconia.

5) Business items

• **Priority water bodies**

Kristen Larson presented on the priority water bodies list.

The Water Management Plan identifies three priority areas: priority water bodies, untreated urban areas, and priority wetland restoration areas. The priority areas help with the following.

- Help guide implementation decisions.
- Helps differentiate between similar projects.
- Utilize WMO data in management and implementation decisions.
- Create a framework for project implementation that can be updated over time.

The previous Water Management Plan was adopted in 2020 and included data through 2018. With the update, we can incorporate data from 2019 – 2023.

Overview of priority water bodies

- Criteria focus on water quality (water bodies near the state standard) and those that are highly used and well loved by communities.
- Prioritized using data collected by the WMO. Data includes lake and stream water quality information, lake vegetation surveys, and rapid geomorphic stream assessment information.
- Other GIS based data is used as supplemental information.

Cox inquired that since the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency reviews impaired waters every 2 years and the WMO is reviewing every 4 years, are staff incorporating that data into their priority water body review. Larson responded that yes staff can review both data sets.

Larson shared the full list of criteria used when determining water body priorities.

Lake criteria

- Impairment status of the lake
- Aquatic invasive species criteria
- In-lake vegetation criteria
- Fisheries criteria
- Wildlife criteria
- Recreation criteria
- Overall community resource criteria

Stream criteria

- Impairment status of the creek
- Rapid geomorphic assessment score
- Fisheries criteria

- Wildlife criteria
- Recreation criteria
- Overall community resource criteria

Wendland asked what a geomorphic assessment is. Larson responded that these assessments look at a stream's stability over time. Moline added that the point in time when the data was taken give staff an idea of the shape of the stream. When future assessments are done, staff can see how the stream has changed. The information gathered help staff understand how much the volume of water moving through the stream is affecting it.

Wendland inquired if the data could tell you if one stream is more susceptible to changes than another. Moline responded that is potentially could. It tells us which streams are struggling to adapt and how they are adapting.

Strother inquired about tiling and commented that should be recognized. Larson said historically tiling has been treated separately than other land uses. There are a couple ways the WMO regulates it. Generally, no tiling is allowed in wetlands and the WMO's new rules require a permit on any outlet over 18" in diameter.

Strother commented that tiling has a big influence on the creeks, water quality and baseflow. Moline responded that it has not been something that the WMO has regulated. Strother recommended describing it as "unregulated" in the report, so the public understands that it isn't regulated.

Cox inquired of the term geomorphological also includes flow. Larson responded that there is some measurements that record where the stream bank it and its condition, where the water is, and vegetation. The assessment looks at physically what is there including the shape of the channel, etc.

Larson shared maps showing locations of the priority water bodies from the 2020-2029 Water Management Plan, and the proposed updated water bodies list.

Updates to priority water bodies list

- 4 lakes changed status in 2024 update
 - o Goose Lake changed from a priority 1 in 2020 to a priority 2.
 - o Fireman's Clayhole lake changed from a priority 2 to a priority 3.
 - o Lake Grace went changed from a priority 1 to a priority 2.
 - o And Swede Lake changed from a priority 2 to a priority 1.
- No change to the priority streams.

Cox inquired why the upper portion of Carver Creek is a high priority, but the lower section is a lower priority. She commented that having a high priority water body flow that flows into a low priority water body before and then hits the Minnesota River does not make sense. Moline responded that staff divided streams by reaches and sub-watersheds. Some of the results are not intuitive but when using the criteria to evaluate, sections of streams end up ranking differently. There are good reasons to not have all the stream reaches under the same ranking. In the case of Carver Creek, the lower segment

didn't rank the same. Sundby added the priority is reflective of the data we have. The priority may change if there isn't the same type of data for a different area. Unfortunately, how that comes out is the priority may go down if we don't have the same type or quality of data for an area. Cox commented that she would have expected that existing data for the lower segment of Carver County where it hits the marsh to be a higher priority. Moline commented that we don't have at the point or downstream. He added that staff realize when this area needs work to be more useful and will be a focus of the next full water management plan update.

Larson shared how priority areas are used in project evaluation for WMO funding and grant requests. When staff are evaluating projects, one of the criteria used is the priority water body status of the impacted water body. If the project impacts a higher priority water body, it receives a higher score.

Larson shared that staff are seeking input on two aspects of the priority water body process.

- 1) How often should prioritization be updated?
- 2) What other information does the committee want in terms of how the prioritization is use?

Zahler inquired how long it took for Lake Bavaria to go from having good water quality to an at-risk lake. Sundby responded that monitoring data in recent years and shown water quality measurements to be close to the state standard which makes it at risk of being impaired. This is the reason staff chose to move forward with developing the Lake Bavaria Management Plan.

Zahler commented that if things don't change that rapidly than an update every 5 years makes sense. However, if data shows a significant change, that should also trigger some action.

Cox commented that as the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency updates their impaired waters list and the halfway point in the water management plan update (every 10 years), a priority water body review every 5 years makes sense.

Cox commented that large weather changes such as the three years of drought followed by floods with little snowmelt can skew data and should also be taken into consideration.

Pascoe commented that even with the weather changes, only one water body received a higher priority. Things seem stable and five years seems like a reasonable check in.

Zahler commented that lake size should be included in the criteria. A horribly impaired lake can be very small. Pascoe commented that seems to be included in the use data as there is likely a strong correlation between the size of the lake and public use. Aquatic invasive species is also very much correlated to recreation. Zahler commented that yes, but somehow including volume, for example creek flow, into the criteria.

Cox commented that she would like to have the list and process brought back to the committee again. Moline responded that staff are 2-3 years away from beginning discussions on the next water management plan update, but the priority water body list will be addressed in that update. Larson added that staff plan to tie project updates and proposals back to this list throughout the year.

Cox commented that as development occurs there may be additional factors to consider.

Moline shared that staff are trying to use this to help us focus on where time and money are spent. There is the monitoring data but also the cultural data (qualitative data from residents and lake users). The prioritization is intended as a guide, and it isn't prescriptive.

Wendland commented that having the criteria, process, and list, helps defend reasonable expenditure of public funds.

Pascoe moved that staff pursue a plan amendment to add updated water body prioritization to the Water Management Plan. Wendland seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Larson shared that there will be a public review process and public hearing. Both processes are an additional opportunity for committee members to provide feedback.

- **CCWMO levy and water plan project list**

Moline reviewed the 2025 recommended project list as approved by the committee last summer, and shared where the projects are included in the County's Water Management Plan. The goal of this discussion item is to provide a better understanding of how a project moves from a concept included in the water plan to a project the WMO is ready to fund and implement.

The project list can be found in table 5-5 in the plan. Each project includes a description, the sub-watershed in which its located, the water body it benefits, project type, partners, timeframe, total cost, and WMO cost.

Moline reviewed the projects the committee recommended for the 2025 WMO levy including the associated water body and its priority status.

- Chaska Seminary Fen C2 ravine stabilization
 - o City requested project through the capital improvement projects fund.
 - o Seminary Fen was included include in the priority water bodies list which focused on streams and lakes. The project falls under Chaska ravine stabilization projects which covers a lot of potential areas. Staff will revisit including Seminary Fen in the next plan.
 - o Benefits a priority 1 water body.
- Watertown SAFL treatment
 - o City requested project through the capital improvement projects funds.
 - o Benefits a priority 1 water body.
- NYA SAFL treatment
 - o City requested project through the capital improvement projects funds.
 - o Benefits a priority 1 water body.
- Lake Bavaria project
 - o Project recommended by WMO staff after completion of a sub-watershed assessment and stakeholder meeting process.

- Benefits a priority 1 water body.
- Big Woods Ravine grant match
 - Funded by Watershed Based Initiative funds (state funding) and WMO grant match.
 - Benefits a priority 1 water body.
- Carver Creek stream restoration grant match
 - Funded by Watershed Based Initiative funds (state funding) and WMO grant match.
 - Benefits a priority 2 water body.
- Lyman Bridge stream naturalization grant match
 - Funded by Watershed Based Initiative funds (state funding) and WMO grant match.
 - Benefits a priority 1 water body.
- Eagle Lake feasibility study
 - Funded by Watershed Based Initiative funds (state funding) and WMO grant match.
 - Benefits a priority 1 water body.
- Goldfish management study
 - Benefits a priority 1 and a priority 2 water body.

Moline shared that when staff present projects to the committee they will continue to tie them back to the water management plan.

Cox commented that the projects are worded generally and inquired how committee members will know that a project is being fulfilled. Larson shared that there is a broad range in the list itself in terms of the specificity of the project. Staff can pull out specific projects from the general project and give them their own place on the list. Moline shared that some projects are intentionally left general. For example, treating untreated urban areas will likely never be removed from the list as there are many developed areas without treatment. Additionally, options for providing treatment for these areas depend on specific site conditions. Staff want to make sure it is included so that when opportunities come up, we can share that it is identified in the plan. As the list evolves, projects can and do get dialed in.

- **November meeting date change**

The committee reviewed the discussion from the September meeting and the proposal to move the November 26 meeting to another date or location due to the County Board room being used by another department during on November 26. Lynch moved to change the November 26 meeting date to December 3 at 6pm in the Carver County Board Room. Cox seconded to move the November meeting to December 3. Motion passed unanimously.

Next meeting is December 3, 2024.

Meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.



Water Management Organization Advisory Committee

December 3, 2024, Meeting

Business Item

Chloride Monitoring Results

Water Management Plan Related Goals

- Surface Water Quality. To preserve and improve the quality of surface water resources within the watershed.
- Groundwater Resource Protection. To preserve and protect groundwater resources within the watershed.
- Awareness and Behavior. To provide those living, working, and recreating in the CCWMO with the knowledge, skills, and motivation needed to make positive behavior changes that protect surface water and groundwater resources.
- Evaluating Effectiveness & Progress. To collect data and use the best available science to identify problems and evaluate the effectiveness of solutions

Summary

Carver County Water Management Organization began monitoring for chloride concentrations in lakes in 2019. Chloride pollution is a growing concern in the metro region and all of Minnesota. The three highest contributors of chloride to waterways include road salt from winter maintenance, salts associated with synthetic fertilizer application, and water softener inputs to local wastewater treatment plants. Two WMO lakes (Meuwissen & Benton) have been listed with chloride impairments and staff are taking next steps to pinpoint pollution sources.

Discussion Points

- Background information on the effects of chloride pollution and leading sources of chloride to waterways.
- Summary of WMO lake chloride monitoring results and an overview of the impairments at Meuwissen and Benton Lakes.
- Summary of WMO stream chloride monitoring.

Recommended WMOAC Committee Action

- Informational item

Attachments

- None



Water Management Organization Advisory Committee

December 3, 2024, Meeting

Business Item
<i>GreenCorps member service plan</i>
Water Management Plan Related Goal
1. To work with partners to identify and implement efficient solutions to water resource problems. 2. Awareness & Behavior. To provide those living, working, and recreating in the CCWMO with the knowledge, skills, and motivation needed to make positive behavior changes that protect surface water and groundwater resources.

Summary:

Tom Llyod is the GreenCorps member serving with Carver County Water Management Organization from September 2024 to August of 2025. The GreenCorps program is an AmeriCorps program hosted by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. It aims to preserve and protect Minnesota's environment while training a new generation of environmental professionals. Tom will present his service plan including topic areas, programs, and projects.

Discussion Points:

- Service plant topic area: native plant outreach, smart salting outreach, best management practices inventory and assessment.

Recommended WMO Advisory Committee Action:

- Information only

Attachments:

- None



Carver County Water Management Organization Advisory Committee

Upcoming Meetings

Date	Meeting Type	Business Items
12/31/2024	No meeting	
1/28/2024	Regular	Organizational meeting Goldfish project update
2/25/2024	Regular	
3/25/2024	Regular	

Upcoming Events

December 12	WMO Stormwater workshop	Carver County Water Management Organization's annual stormwater workshop returns in December. This year's workshop will present updates to water rules and guidelines and host discussions on BMP tracking, prioritizing, and maintenance.
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