

EXHIBIT A: Meeting Minutes



KANABEC SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

Kanabec SWCD Board Room
2008 Mahogany Street, Suite 3
Mora, MN 55051
(320) 679-1391

Purpose Statement: *This Board of Supervisors meets regularly, utilizing civic standards to organize ourselves and build capacity and infrastructure as needed to support our goals of achieving better soil and water quality outcomes throughout Kanabec County.*

The public is welcome to attend monthly Board meetings in person at the Kanabec SWCD office (address listed above).

Note: Meeting material, including agendas and minutes, is posted on the District website at www.kanabecswcd.org.

Remote Google Meet joining info:

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/wqm-npaf-xnc>

Or dial: (US) +1 636-498-4352 PIN: 977 678 251#

More phone numbers: <https://tel.meet/wqm-npaf-xnc?pin=6649306027834>

February 18, 2026 Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order

1:00 PM

The meeting was called to order by District Manager Jaren Peplinski.

A. Attendance:

- I. **Chair:** Norma Heggernes; **Vice Chair:** Kevin Belkholm; **Treasurer:** Kim Johnson; Jon Sanford, Marv Stutz*

Supervisors absent:

Others Present: Jaren Peplinski, Jerah Mattson, Emily Larsen, Mary Poelman, Nick Foss, Stephanie Paulsen, Melissa McCann, Crystal Orsello*

***Remote attendee**

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

3. Review and Approval of Agenda (Action Item)

- A. Motion by Belkholm to approve the agenda as amended.

Affirmative: Heggernes, Sanford, Johnson, Stutz, Belkholm

Opposed:

Motion carried.

4. **Review and Approval of Minutes (Action Item)**

- A. *Regular Board Meeting Minutes 01/21/2026*. Motion by Sanford to approve the meeting minutes.
Affirmative: Heggernes, Sanford, Johnson, Stutz, Belkholm
Opposed:
Motion carried.

5. **Reports of Partners**

- A. NRCS (Stephanie Paulsen, Melissa McCann) – A verbal report was provided.
B. BWSR (Zach Guttormson) – No report was provided.
C. Kanabec County (Peter Ripka) – A verbal report was provided.

6. **Public Comment** - No public comment was made.

7. **Financial Report (Action Item)**

- A. *01/31/2026 Year-to-Date Financial Report (Financial Report)*. The Financial Report was detailed by Jerah Mattson and reviewed by the board. Motion by Belkholm to accept the January 2026 financial report.
Affirmative: Johnson, Heggernes, Sanford, Stutz, Belkholm
Opposed:
Motion carried.
- B. *January 2026 Treasurer's Report*. Motion by Sanford to accept the January 2026 Treasurer's Report.
Affirmative: Johnson, Heggernes, Sanford, Stutz, Belkholm
Opposed:
Motion carried.

8. **Action Items**

- A. *Labor negotiations (closed session)*. Motion by Johnson to enter into a closed session.
Affirmative: Johnson, Heggernes, Sanford, Stutz, Belkholm
Opposed:
Motion carried.

The Board entered into a closed session at 1:17 PM.

The Board re-entered public session at 1:50 PM.

- B. *Authorize tree planting contract*. Motion by Sanford to authorize contract # KSWCD-FY26-CC-TreePlanting-01 using Conservation Contract grant funding.
Affirmative: Johnson, Heggernes, Sanford, Stutz, Belkholm
Opposed:
Motion carried.
- C. *Authorize AIS inspection contract with Waterfront Restorations*. Motion by Sanford to authorize a 2026 AIS inspection contract with Waterfront Restorations.
Affirmative: Johnson, Heggernes, Sanford, Stutz, Belkholm
Opposed:
Motion carried.
- D. *Updated 2026 budget*. Discussion item. No action taken.

- E. *Authorize fiscal agent role for TNC tree planting grant.* Motion by Belkholm to authorize the District Manager to enter into a tree planting grant agreement with the TNC, with the District acting as the fiscal agent for the grant.
 Affirmative: Johnson, Heggernes, Sanford, Belkholm, Stutz
 Opposed:
Motion carried.
- F. *Civil rights discussion with NRCS.* Motion by Sanford to authorize to move forward with the UCA agreement.
 Affirmative: Heggernes, Johnson, Sanford, Belkholm, Stutz
 Opposed:
Motion carried.
- G. *SWCD board meeting location.* Discussion only, no action taken.
- H. *PSA for wildlife food plot.* Discussion only, no action taken.
- I. *Contractor compensation for fall 2025 disking and cereal rye seeding.* Motion by Johnson to approve the forthcoming invoice for the fall disking and seeding at the District land for \$863.90.
 Affirmative: Johnson, Heggernes, Sanford, Stutz
 Opposed:
 Abstain: Belkholm
Motion carried.
- J. *Woodland Stewardship Plan contract approval.* Motion by Sanford to approve Woodland Stewardship Plan contract # SRWPP-WBIF-FY26-WSP-02. \$107.00 cost-share approved for the \$1,100.00 plan writing cost total.
 Affirmative: Johnson, Heggernes, Sanford, Stutz, Belkholm
 Opposed:
Motion carried.
- K. *March Meeting Date.* The meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 24th at 1:00 PM.

9. **Other Reports/Discussion**

A. *Subcommittee reports.*

Personnel Committee.

Finance Committee.

Kanabec Coalition of Lake Associations.

Kettle/Upper St. Croix Watershed Partnership.

Rum River Watershed Partnership.

Snake River Watershed Plan Partnership.

Area III Forestry Association.

TSA Area III Board.

District Land.

Liaison to the County.

B. *Meeting and Event Announcements*

C. *Funding Opportunities*

10. Consent Agenda

Adjournment. Motion by Johnson to adjourn the meeting.

3:56 PM

Affirmative: Johnson, Heggernes, Sanford, Belkholm, Stutz

Opposed:

Motion carried.

Submitted by: Jerah Mattson