

**Board of Supervisors:**

- # 2 – Norma Heggernes, Chair  
(Term. 12.2026)
- # 1 – Kevin Belkholm,  
Vice-Chair (Term. 12.2028)
- # 5 – Kim Johnson, Treasurer  
(Term. 12.2028)
- # 3 – Marv Stutz  
(Term. 12.2028)
- # 4 – Jon Sanford  
(Term. 12.2026)

**Staff:**

Jaren Peplinski  
District Manager  
(502) 517-SWCD

Jerah Mattson  
Administrative Assistant  
(320) 679-1391

Mary Poelman  
Watershed Coordinator

Emily Larsen  
Conservation Technician

Nick Foss  
Conservation Forester

**Cooperators:**

**NRCS - USDA**

Stephanie Paulsen,  
Soil Conservationist  
(320) 674-3005

**Kanabec County Environmental Services**

Ryan Carda,  
Environmental Services  
Supervisor  
(320) 679-6456

**Minnesota DNR - Hydrology**

Craig Wills,  
Area Hydrologist  
(763) 689-7100 ext. 225

**Minnesota DNR - Forestry**

(Vacant)  
(320) 679-3683

**Kanabec SWCD**  
**2008 Mahogany Street, Ste. 3**  
**Mora, MN 55051**  
**Office: (320) 679-1391**



**KANABEC SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**REGULAR BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING**

**Kanabec SWCD Board Room**  
**2008 Mahogany Street, Suite 3**  
**Mora, MN 55051**

**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 Agenda**

1. **Call to Order** **1:00 PM**
  - a. Roll call: Norma Heggernes, Kevin Belkholm, Jon Sanford, Kim Johnson, \*Marv Stutz
  - b. Others Present: Jaren Peplinski, Jerah Mattson, Mary Poelman, Emily Larsen, Nick Foss, Stephanie Paulsen, Melissa McCann

\*Remote attendee. *One or more members may attend remotely pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 13D.02 as amended.*
2. **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**
3. **Review and Approval of Agenda (Action Item)**
4. **Review and Approval of Minutes (Action Item)**
  - a. [Regular Board Meeting Minutes](#) – 1/21/2026 [Exhibit A]
5. **Reports of Partners**
  - a. NRCS (*Stephanie Paulsen or Melissa McCann*)
  - b. BWSR (*Zach Guttormson*)
  - c. Kanabec County (*Commissioner Peter Ripka*)
6. **Public Comment (None scheduled)**
7. **Financial Report**
  - a. January 2026 [Treasurer's Report and Financial Report](#) [Exhibit B]
8. **Action Items [Exhibit C]**
  - a. *Labor negotiations (closed session)*. Discuss labor negotiations in closed session.
  - b. *Authorize tree planting contract*. Authorize contract contingent upon project completion and receipt of documentation by April 28, 2026, using Conservation Contracts grant funds expiring May 1, 2026.
  - c. *Authorize AIS inspection contract with Waterfront Restorations*. Authorize the District Manager to enter into a contract for AIS inspections for the 2026 season.

- d. *Updated 2026 budget.* Discuss proposed updates to the 2026 budget.
- e. *Authorize fiscal agent role for TNC tree planting grant.* Authorize the District Manager to enter into a \$100,000 tree planting grant agreement with The Nature Conservancy and Pine SWCD, with Kanabec SWCD serving as fiscal agent.
- f. *Civil rights discussion with NRCS.* Discuss civil rights requirements and coordination with NRCS.
- g. *SWCD board meeting location.* Discuss suitability of the current board meeting location and consider alternative options.
- h. *PSA for wildlife food plot.* Discuss potential changes in direction for the wildlife food plot professional services agreement.
- i. *Contractor compensation for fall 2025 disking and cereal rye seeding.* Consider request for additional compensation for work performed.
- j. *Authorize Woodland Stewardship Plan Cost-Share Contract.* Consider authorization of WBIF cost-share contract for \$107.00 for 80 acres in Hillman Township.
- k. *Board Meeting Schedule.* The March 18 board meeting will need to be moved due to a scheduling conflict.

**9. Other Reports**

- a. Subcommittee reports
  - i. Personnel Committee (*Belkholm, Johnson*)
  - ii. Finance Committee (*Belkholm, Johnson*)
  - iii. Coalition of Lake Associations (*Sanford*)
  - iv. Kettle/Upper St. Croix Watershed Partnership (*Johnson*)
  - v. Rum River Watershed Partnership (*Johnson*)
  - vi. Snake River Watershed Plan Partnership (*Belkholm*)
  - vii. Area III Forestry Association (*Sanford*)
  - viii. TSA Area III Board (*Heggernes*)
  - ix. District Land (*Heggernes, Sanford*)
  - x. Liaison to the County (*Sanford*)
- b. Meeting and Event Announcements, pg. 2 (*Peplinski*).
- c. Funding opportunities, pg. 3 (*Peplinski*).

**10. Consent Agenda Items**

- a. *Board Retreat discussion.*

**Adjourn**

**3:30 PM**

The next Regular Monthly Meeting is Wednesday, March 18, 1:00 PM

### **Meeting and Event Announcements**

- Snake River Watershed Plan Partnership JPE Meeting | Mora, MN | **February 23, 2026** | **9:30 AM**
- Conservation Conversations: Row Crops & Soil Health | Rock Creek City Center, Rock Creek, MN | **March 13, 2026** | **12:30 PM** | Register at [z.umn.edu/conservationconversations](https://z.umn.edu/conservationconversations)

### **Funding Opportunities**

- **AGRI Urban Agriculture Grants (Minnesota Department of Agriculture)** – Up to \$1.93 million available through two grant opportunities supporting urban agriculture projects across Minnesota. Funding supports youth education, workforce skills, economic development, and community partnerships through agriculture-based programming. Eligible uses include equipment, site improvements, curriculum development, and transportation for youth field trips. Grants range from \$5,000 to \$75,000 with a 25% cash match required.

Administered by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture.

**Deadline: February 26, 2026, by 4:00 p.m.**

### **Applications Submitted in FY25/FY265**

- 2026 Clean Water Funds RFP - 2026 conservation IP intern (denied)
- MDA Soil Health Equipment Grant (application in review)
- NDAWN/MDA Weather Station (denied)
- Keep It Clean Grant - Kanabec COLA (denied)
- 2026/2027 Conservation Delivery Grant (awarded)
- 2026/2027 Conservation Contracts Grant (awarded)
- MOSH Soil Health Education Grant (awarded)

### **Annual or Ongoing Funding to Consider Applying For**

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