

**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

(Vacant)  
Conservation Agronomist

**Cooperators:**

NRCS - USDA  
Stephanie Paulsen,  
Acting District 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>

**May 20, 2026**

**Draft Regular Meeting Agenda**

1. **Call to Order** **1:00 PM**
  - a. Roll call: Norma Heggernes, Jon Sanford, Kim Johnson, Marv Stutz  
Absent: Kevin Belkholm (*informed the board that he would be unable to attend*)
  - b. Others Present: Jaren Peplinski, Jerah Mattson, 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](#) – 4/15/2026 [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**
7. **Financial Report**
  - a. April 2026 [Treasurer's Report and Financial Report](#) [Exhibit B]
8. **Action Items [Exhibit C]**
  - a. *SRWPP JPE contracts and amendments.* Consider authorization of contracts and contract amendments related to continued implementation work for the Snake River Watershed Plan Partnership Joint Powers Entity.
  - b. *SR-WBIF-02\_A1-KSWCD-2025 payment voucher.* Consider authorization of payment voucher in the amount of \$3,237.50 for buckthorn removal (brush management).

- c. *Mille Lacs SWCD forestry grant agreement for Rum River Watershed.* Consider approval of the updated agreement with Mille Lacs SWCD related to forestry grant work (LCCMR Pilot Tree Planting Project - BWSR Grant ID # 2022-260).
- d. *Terrestrial invasive species grant opportunity.* Authorize staff to submit grant application project proposal - FY 2027 Managing Invasives for a Resilient Landscape (MIRL).

**9. Other Reports**

a. *Subcommittee reports.*

- i. Personnel Committee (*Heggernes, Belkholm*)
- ii. Finance Committee (*Johnson, Sanford*)
- iii. Coalition of Lake Associations (*Stutz; Sanford is alternate*)
- iv. Kettle/Upper St. Croix Watershed Partnership (*Johnson; Stutz is alternate*)
- v. Rum River Watershed Partnership (*Stutz; Johnson is alternate*)
- vi. Snake River Watershed Plan Partnership (*Belkholm; Sanford is alternate*)
- vii. Area III Forestry Association (*Sanford; Johnson is alternate*)
- viii. District Land (*Belkholm, Stutz*)
- ix. Liaison to the County (*Sanford; Stutz is alternate*)
- x. Liaison to the Townships (*Johnson; Sanford is alternate*)

b. *Snake River Watershed Management Board dissolved funds discussion.* Discuss available remaining funds associated with the dissolved Snake River Watershed Management Board.

c. *Audit company letter.* Review correspondence from the SWCD's 2025 audit company.

d. *MAWQCP NE Area Report Q1.* Review report.

e. *Meeting and Event Announcements,* pg. 3.

f. *Funding opportunities,* pg. 3.

**10. Consent Agenda [Exhibit D]**

a. *Statewide proposed resolutions.* Discuss draft MASWCD resolutions.

b. *Elections guidance for 2026.* Informational update on guidance from MASWCD.

c. *2026 Watercraft Inspection Program update.* Informational update from District Manager.

d. *Outreach efforts.* Slideshow presentation on 2026 Tree Sale, Emerald ash borer workshops, watershed education at schools.

e. *Office storage container/conex discussion and possible action.* Discuss proposal for landlord purchase of a storage container/conex unit and a rental arrangement with SWCD at \$400 per month.

	<p>f. <i>FHP plat books</i>. Review information from FHP sales rep.</p> <p><b>Adjourn</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>3:30 PM</b></span></p> <p>The next Regular Monthly Meeting is Wednesday, June 24, 1:00 PM</p>
--	--

**Meeting and Event Announcements**

- Minnesota SWCD Forestry Association Meeting | McGregor, MN | **May 21, 2026** | 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM | McGregor Community Center, 41442 Hwy 65 | Virtual attendance option available: <https://tinyurl.com/msa46mmb>
- Emerald Ash Borer Education Event | Mora, MN | **May 30, 2026** | 1:00 PM | Sapsucker Farms, 2752 215th Ave, Mora, MN 55051
- MASWCD Northeast Area 3 Summer Meeting | Cloquet, MN | **June 5, 2026** | Check-in begins at 8:00 AM; meeting approximately 9:00 AM – 2:30 PM | Cloquet Forestry Center
  - **\*\*Registration closes Friday, May 29.**
- Emerald Ash Borer Education Event | Mora, MN | **June 13, 2026** | 5:00 PM | Freddy’s Restaurant, 810 MN-65, Mora, MN 55051

**Funding Opportunities**

- FY 2027 Managing Invasives for a Resilient Landscape (MIRL)
  - Applications must be submitted by 4:30 PM CT/CST on June 30, 2026.
  - This BWSR grant requires a non-state match equal to at least 10% of the amount of MIRL grant received and/or expended. Match can be provided by a landowner, land occupier, private organization, local or Tribal government or other non-state source and can be in the form of cash or the cash value of services or materials contributed to the accomplishment of grant objectives.

<b>Grant Program Awards</b>	<b>Funding Estimates</b>
Amount to grant	\$180,000
Estimated number of awards (if applicable)	6-12 awards
Award maximum	\$30,000
Award minimum	\$15,000

**Applications Submitted in FY26/FY27**

- Keep It Clean Grant - Kanabec COLA (**denied**)
- 2026/2027 Conservation Delivery Grant (**awarded**)
- 2026/2027 Conservation Contracts Grant (**awarded**)

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

- Wildlife Habitat Project Grants (Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council)
  - Council Seeks Funding Requests for Conservation Programs that Restore, Protect and Enhance Minnesota’s Fish, Game and Wildlife Habitat
  - Key Facts:
    - Total funding available: \$160 million
    - Request minimum is \$500,000
    - Purpose: Habitat restoration, protection, and enhancement in Minnesota.
    - Who Can Apply: Competitive process open for all interested organizations.
    - Application Deadline: Friday, May 22, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.

- Funding Recommendation and Oversight: Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
- Website and Contact: [www.lsohc.mn.gov](http://www.lsohc.mn.gov) | [lsohc@lsohc.mn.gov](mailto:lsohc@lsohc.mn.gov) | 651-284-6430