

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 – Jon Sanford
(Term. 12.2028)
4 – Gene Carda
(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
Forester

Cooperators:

NRCS - USDA
Shannon Bodle,
District Conservationist
(320) 674-3012

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/qaj-aafx-ruq>

Or dial: (US) +1 505-738-3067 PIN: 922 739 424#

More phone numbers: <https://tel.meet/qaj-aafx-ruq?pin=6566792966442>

October 15, 2025
Draft Meeting Agenda

1. **Call to Order** **2:00 PM**
 - a. Roll call: Norma Heggernes, Kevin Belkholm, Jon Sanford, Kim Johnson, Gene Carda
 - b. Others Present: Jaren Peplinski, Jerah Mattson, Mary Poelman, Emily Larsen, Nick Foss, Stephanie Paulsen
**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](#) – 9/17/2025 [Exhibit A]
5. **Reports of Partners**
 - a. NRCS (Brian Steffen or Stephanie Paulsen)
 - b. BWSR (Zach Guttormson)
 - c. Kanabec County (Commissioner Peter Ripka)
6. **Public Comment** (None scheduled)
7. **Financial Report**
 - a. September 2025 [Treasurer's Report and Financial Report](#) [Exhibit B]
8. **Action Items [Exhibit C]**
 - a. *Agreement for Forestry Services.* Renewal of Agreement with Pine SWCD for Shared Services Forester; Term: January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2027, or until terminated by either party.
 - b. *FY2026 Draft Budget.* Finance Committee to present draft budget recommendation for the upcoming fiscal year.
 - c. *FY2026 MN PEIP Renewal Rates.* Resolution updating the monthly staff healthcare payment amount for 2026.
 - d. *PFML Insurance.* The private insurance rate from Shelterpoint for the PFML program, required under the state mandate effective January 1, 2026, is 0.59%, compared to the state program rate of 0.66%. The District and employees will share costs equally (50/50).
 - e. *ECSWC Landfill Expansion - Draft SEAW Public Comment.* Consider approval of the Kanabec SWCD comment letter on the East Central Solid Waste Commission (ECSWC) Sanitary Landfill Expansion Scoping Environmental Assessment Worksheet (SEAW). The draft letter outlines baseline

environmental concerns related to groundwater quality protection, surface water management, wildlife attraction and litter control, and post-closure financial assurance.

- f. *MASWCD Resolutions*. Discussion and action items based on support or opposition to MASWCD resolutions.
- g. *Supervisor Recognition*. Approve formal recognition of Supervisor Jon Sanford for his service, with presentation of a plaque at the November meeting.
- h. *Supervisor Appointment*. Action item to appoint a supervisor to SWCD Supervisor Position #3.

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. MASWCD Area III Annual Meetings Committee (Heggernes, Johnson)
- b. Meeting and Event Announcements, pg. 2 (Peplinski)
- c. Funding opportunities, pg. 2 (Peplinski)

10. Other Business and Possible Action Items

- a. *Reminder: November Board Meeting*. Regular meeting moved to November 12, 2025 (2:00 PM).
- b. *SWCD Bylaws*. Discussion item on Kanabec SWCD bylaws (Peplinski).

11. Consent Agenda Items

- a. None

Adjourn

4:30 PM

The next Regular Monthly Meeting is Wednesday, November 12, 2:00 PM

Meeting and Event Announcements

- BWSR Academy, October 21-23 (Brainerd)
- MSHC Premier Soil Health Event, December 2-3 (Mankato)
- MASWCD Annual Convention and Resolutions Meeting, December 1, 2-3, 2025 (Bloomington)

Funding Opportunities

- [2025 ReLeaf Grants](#) - \$7 million in grants for local units of government and nonprofits in Minnesota. Eligible projects include inventory, planting, assessment, maintenance, treatment, improvement, protection, wood utilization, and restoration of trees and forest resources. These efforts support a wide range of community forest programming and activities.
Deadline: October 28, 2025

Applications Submitted in FY24/FY25

- 2026 Clean Water Funds RFP (2026 conservation IP intern - denied)
- MDA Soil Health Equipment Grant (application in review)
- NDAWN/MDA Weather Station (denied)

Annual or Ongoing Funding to Consider Applying For

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