

**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  
Supervisor – Wetlands, Septic, Shoreland  
(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>

**June 18, 2025**

**Draft Meeting Agenda**

1. **Call to Order** **2:00PM**
  - 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, Shannon Bodle  
\*Remote attendee
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](#) – 5/21/2025 [Exhibit A1]
  - b. [Special Board Meeting Minutes](#) – 6/3/2025 [Exhibit A2]
5. **Reports of Partners**
  - a. NRCS (Brian Steffen or Shannon Bodle)
  - b. BWSR (Zach Guttormson)
  - c. Kanabec County (Commissioner Peter Ripka)
6. **Public Comment** (None scheduled)
7. **Financial Report (Action Item)**
  - a. May 2025 [Treasurer's Report and Financial Report](#) [Exhibit B]
8. **Action Items [Exhibit C]**
  - a. Authorization for Staff to Order 2026 Plat Books
  - b. Authorization of Temporary Stipend for Use of Personal Resources
  - c. Authorization for Staff to Apply to Individual Placement CWF RFP (more info in *Funding Opportunities* - pg. 2)
  - d. Adoption of Draft Kanabec SWCD Board Subcommittee Guidance
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 [Exhibit D]**
  - a. Discussion: MNIT Phone System Transition and Retirement of VoIP Services
  - b. Discussion: Deed Restrictions for Publicly-Funded Projects
11. **Consent Agenda Items [None]**

**Adjourn**

**4:30PM**

### **Meeting and Event Announcements**

- **“Unlocking Conservation Resources for Communities & Farms” hosted by Renewing the Countryside - Thursday, July 31, 2025, 12:00-2:00pm\***

- *Sapsucker Farms*
- Are you a local landowner or farmer curious about conservation programs but not sure where to start? Join Renewing the Countryside, in partnership with local staff from the NRCS Mora Service Center and Kanabec SWCD, for an in-person event designed to help you explore funding and support opportunities for implementing conservation practices like EQIP and CSP.
- What to expect:
  - Practical guidance on conservation programs and how to engage with these opportunities
  - Local farmer experiences and success stories
  - Direct access to NRCS and SWCD staff based right here in Kanabec County
  - Networking, refreshments, and useful takeaways

Whether you're a beginning farmer, grow specialty crops, or are simply new to conservation, everyone is welcome.

Do you have questions, or are you looking for more info on the event? Contact Gilbert Schwartz (gilbert@rtcinfo.org) or call 612-296-9020. More details will be available soon:  
[www.renewingthecountryside.org](http://www.renewingthecountryside.org)

- **Kanabec County Fair - July 24-27, 2025\***
- **SWCD Governance 101 - September 10-11, 2025**

\* = tabling / promotional opportunity

### **Funding Opportunities**

- **2026 Clean Water Funds RFP Opens June 1**

- On June 1, 2025 Conservation Corps Minnesota & Iowa will be accepting applications for 2026 clean water field crew projects and individual placement positions.

Funds are available for 2026 Conservation Corps Field Crew labor and Individual Placements on projects with the purpose of protecting, enhancing, and restoring water quality in lakes, rivers, and streams, and/or protecting groundwater and drinking water sources from degradation. Project proposals should demonstrate measurable outputs to achieve water quality objectives through the implementation of best management practices.

#### **Application Timeline**

June 1 - 30: Project application period

June 30: Application deadline

July 1 - 31: Application review

August 1 - 31: Award notices sent out to applicants

January - December: Project implementation period

### **Applications Submitted in FY24/FY25**

- **UMN Water Resources 2025 Soil Health Days Funding Mini-Grant**

- **Funding for Farmers to Attend Soil Health Peer and Professional Learning Events**

- **November 8, 2024** – The University of Minnesota Water Resources Center has awarded a \$1,500 Soil Health funding grant to Kanabec Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) to support local farmers' participation in soil health-focused learning opportunities. The funds will cover direct expenses such as registration fees and travel costs for attending events like the Emerging Farmers Conference, SHC Premier Soil Health Event, U of M Soil Management Summit, or SFA Midwest Soil Health Summit. Selected events must focus on soil health practices such as cover crops and reduced tillage. Attendees will be reimbursed for actual costs based on pre-approved cost estimates and must submit receipts for reimbursement. In accordance with reporting requirements in the funding agreement, Kanabec SWCD will track key learning or networking outcomes - participants receiving funding will be asked to provide feedback on what they learned and how they plan to apply it to their farming practices. The funding must be used by September 30, 2025.
- **Funding is still available! Upcoming events are posted at the front of the SWCD office. Talk with staff to learn more.**

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