

**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>**

**April 15, 2026**

**Draft Regular 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, 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](#) – 3/24/2026 [Exhibit A]
  - b. [Special Board Meeting Minutes](#) – 4/6/2026 [Exhibit A1]
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. March 2026 [Treasurer’s Report and Financial Report](#) [Exhibit B]
8. **Action Items [Exhibit C]**
  - a. *Wildlife Planting and Windbreak Establishment cost-share.* Consider approval of 75% cost-share in the amount of \$1,046.85 to be funded through the Conservation Contracts grant. Contract # *KSWCD-FY26-CC-WildlifePlanting-01*
  - b. *July board meeting schedule.* Consider rescheduling the July 22 board meeting due to a conflict with Conservation Planner training. The July meeting was previously moved from July 15 due to a DMPD cohort session conflict.
  - c. *KUSCP Education and Outreach Statement of Work agreement.* Consider authorization for the District Manager to enter into a Statement of Work

agreement with Pine County SWCD for education and outreach activities in priority areas.

**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. *Subcommittee goals review.* Subcommittees will report on progress and feedback related to drafted goals.

c. *Meeting and Event Announcements*, pg. 3 (*Peplinski*).

d. *Funding opportunities*, pg. 3 (*Peplinski*).

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

a. *Elections guidance for 2026.* Informational update on election timelines and Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts guidance.

b. *Center for Changing Landscapes pre-proposal update.*

**Adjourn**

**3:30 PM**

The next Regular Monthly Meeting is Wednesday, May 20, 1:00 PM

### **Meeting and Event Announcements**

- Pine SWCD Well Water Screening Clinic | Rutledge, MN | **April 17, 2026** | **11:00 AM – 4:00 PM** | 7369 County Hwy 61, Willow River, MN 55795 | Lunch provided
- Kanabec SWCD Nitrate Testing Clinic | Mora, MN | **April 27 – May 1, 2026** | 2008 Mahogany Street, Mora, MN 55051
- Kanabec SWCD Tree Sale Pick-Up Day | Mora, MN | **May 8, 2026** | 701 S Union St, Mora, MN 55051
- Emerald Ash Borer Education Event | Moose Lake, MN | **May 9, 2026** | **1:00 PM** | Moose Lake Brewing, 244 Lakeshore Dr, Moose Lake, MN 55767
- Emerald Ash Borer Education Event | Mora, MN | **May 30, 2026** | **1:00 PM** | Sapsucker Farms, 2752 215th Ave, Mora, MN 55051
- Emerald Ash Borer Education Event | Mora, MN | **June 13, 2026** | **1:00 PM** | Freddy's Restaurant, 810 MN-65, Mora, MN 55051

### **Funding Opportunities**

- Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program
  - Conservation Partners Legacy (CPL) Grant Program is accepting applications for Expedited Conservation Projects (ECP) on a rolling basis until May 11, 2026.  
<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/habitat/cpl/index.html>

### **Applications Submitted in FY26/FY27**

- Keep It Clean Grant - Kanabec COLA (denied)
- 2026/2027 Conservation Delivery Grant (awarded)
- 2026/2027 Conservation Contracts Grant (awarded)
- MOSH Soil Health Education Grant - for Farm Tours (in review)

### **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