

**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  
(320) 679-1391

Jerah Mattson  
Administrative Assistant

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**

Tony Miller  
Area Forester  
(320) 679-3683

**Kanabec SWCD**  
**2008 Mahogany Street**  
**Suite 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>

**December 18, 2024**  
**Open Meeting Agenda**

1. **Call to Order** **2:00PM**
  - a. Roll call: Norma Heggernes (has to work until 2pm - will be arriving late), Kevin Belkholm, Jon Sanford, Gene Carda, Kim Johnson
  - b. Others Present: Jaren Peplinski, Jerah Mattson, Mary Poelman, Emily Larsen, Nick Foss, Shannon Bodle, Stephanie Paulsen  
\*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](#) – 11/20/2024 [**Exhibit A**]
5. **Guest Presentation** (None scheduled)
6. **Reports of Partners**
  - a. NRCS (Brian Steffen or Shannon Bodle)
  - b. BWSR (Zach Guttormson)
  - c. Technical Service Area III (Matias Valero)
  - d. Kanabec County (Ryan Carda)
  - e. Minnesota PCA (No primary point of contact listed)
  - f. Minnesota DNR (No primary point of contact listed)
  - g. MnDOT (No primary point of contact listed)
7. **Public Comment** (None scheduled)
8. **Financial Report (Action Item)**
  - a. November 2024 [Treasurer's Report and Financial Report](#) [**Exhibit B**]
9. **Action Items [Exhibit C]**
  - a. Consider authorization of \$700 payment from district general fund for woodland stewardship plan
  - b. Consider authorization of job offer, start date, and pay rate for Soil Health Conservationist
  - c. Consider adoption of resolution to update KSWCD staff compensation rates for 2025
  - d. Consider approval of reimbursement payment for Contract SRW.2024.6: Livestock Pipeline (516), Watering Facility (614), HUAP (561) - \$5,341.75
  - e. Consider approval of proposed 2025 KSWCD budget
  - f. Consider approval of 2025 AIS Prevention Program budget
  - g. Consider authorization of PSA for winter no-till drill storage
  - h. Consider drafting a resolution in support of an annual report for SRWPP
  - i. Consider drafting a resolution in support of a yearly invitation/outreach plan to non-participating SRWPP organizations and stakeholder groups
10. **Other Reports**
  - a. Subcommittee reports
    - i. Personnel Committee (Belkholm, Johnson)
    - ii. Finance Committee (Belkholm, Johnson)
    - iii. Coalition of Lake Associations – Aquatic Invasive Species (Sanford)
    - iv. Kettle/Upper St. Croix Watershed Partnership (Johnson primary, Sanford alternate)
    - v. Rum River Watershed Partnership (Johnson primary, Sanford alternate)
    - vi. Snake River Watershed Plan Partnership (Belkholm primary, Sanford alternate)

	<p>b. Funding opportunities (located on next page)</p> <p>11. <b>Other Business</b></p> <p>a. Discussion: Draft MOU with Pokegama Lake Association</p> <p>b. Discussion: Draft updates to Personnel Policies/Employee Handbook</p> <p>c. Discussion: Kanabec County HWY 65 Fish Lake/Ann River Bridge 2024 Riprap</p> <p>d. Discussion: New website has been published</p> <p>12. <b>Consent Agenda [Exhibit D]</b></p> <p>a. <b>Staff Report [Exhibit E]</b></p> <p><b>Adjourn</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>4:30PM</b></span></p> <p style="text-align: center;">The next Regular Monthly Meeting is Wednesday, January 15, 2:00 PM</p>
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### Meeting and Event Announcements

- \* = tabling / promotional opportunity

### Current Funding Opportunities

- Implementation Grants for Community Resilience (MPCA)
  - <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/grants-and-loans/implementation-grants-for-community-resilience>
  - **Grant Amounts: Up to \$500,000 per project**
  - Eligible Applicants: Tribal nations and local governmental units in Minnesota are eligible, including: cities, counties, towns or townships, soil and water conservation districts, water management organizations, watershed districts, regional development commissions, and metropolitan planning organizations.
  - Example projects:
    - Community extreme heat mitigation such as increasing drinking water access in outdoor public spaces and shading structures.
    - Hardening of public assets against extreme weather such as more efficient public de-icing equipment.
    - Resilience hubs/community safe space renovations and upgrades such as clean energy and storage to provide backup power.
  - Key Dates and Information:
    - Question and Answer period closes: December 13
    - Application Deadline: December 19 by 4 p.m.
    - Grantee Announcement: March 2025
- Local Climate Action Planning Grants & Local Climate Action Implementation Grants (MPCA)
  - <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/grants-and-loans/local-climate-action-grants>
  - **Grant Amounts: Up to \$50,000 per planning or implementation project**
  - Eligible applicants: Minnesota political subdivisions (i.e., counties, home rule charter or statutory cities and towns, regional development commissions or any other local political subdivision; and tribal governments as defined in Minnesota statute), 501(c)(3) organizations, and educational institutions.
  - Example planning projects:
    - A local or tribal government developing a community-wide plan for climate adaptation and resilience.
    - An educational institution developing a plan to increase renewable energy use on its campus.
  - Example implementation projects:
    - Implementing a priority action from an existing climate action plan.

- Improving access to clean transportation options that don't release climate pollution.
  - Key Dates and Information:
    - Question and Answer period closes: January 2
    - Application Deadline: January 9 by 4 p.m.
    - Grantee Announcement: April 2025
- Good Food Access Program Equipment and Physical Improvement Grant (MDA)
  - <https://www.mda.state.mn.us/grants/grants/gfapequipmentgrant>
  - The Good Food Access Program (GFAP) Equipment and Physical Improvement Grant increases the availability of and access to affordable, nutritious, and culturally appropriate foods for underserved communities in low- and moderate-income areas. Grants help grocery stores and small food retailers make physical improvements and purchase equipment to stimulate sales of such foods.
  - **Grant Amounts: \$5,000 - \$75,000**
  - Eligible Applicants: For-profit and nonprofit grocery stores and small food retailers such as corner stores and farmers markets
  - Funds must be used for projects that will increase the sales of nutritious and culturally appropriate foods. Eligible expenses include:
    - Equipment (like coolers and freezers).
    - Installation costs for eligible equipment.
    - Costs for physical improvements needed for installing equipment (like electrical or architectural work).
  - Key Dates and Information:
    - Application Deadline: January 16 by 4 p.m.
- Small Communities Planning Grants for Stormwater, Wastewater, and Community Resilience (MPCA)
  - <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/grants-and-loans/small-community-planning-grants-for-stormwater-wastewater-and-community-resilience>
  - **Grant Amounts: Total of \$500,000 available with no minimum or maximum grant award.**
  - Eligible Applicants: Tribal nations, cities, counties, towns/townships, soil and water conservation districts, water management organizations, and water districts that have or serve populations under 10,000.
  - Example projects:
    - Stormwater resilience, such as vulnerability assessments and plan development.
    - Wastewater resilience, such as climate vulnerability assessment and plan development.
    - Community resilience, such as community-wide climate adaptation planning or planning for public water supply resilience.
  - Key Dates and Information:
    - Question and Answer period closes: January 13
    - Application Deadline: January 17 by 4 p.m.
    - Grantee Announcement: March 2025
- Minnesota Community IDEAS Grant Program (Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation - SPMCF)
  - <https://spmcf.org/nonprofits/grants-for-nonprofits/minnesota-community-ideas-program>
  - The Minnesota Community IDEAS Program seeks to design, test and spread ideas that make our communities better for everyone and inspire, equip, and connect people through meaningful, community-led change.
  - **Grant Amounts: 15 organizations will each receive a total award of \$160,000, paid over three years.**
  - Eligible Applicants: Organizations that are 501(c)(3) public charities or government entities (including schools), organizations or programs that are fiscally sponsored by 501(c)(3) public charities or government entities (including schools). Groups of organizations (such as coalitions or collaboratives) are eligible to apply, but only one organization may apply and receive the award on behalf of the group.
  - Key Dates and Information:
    - Short interest forms due January 30 by 1 p.m.
    - Selected organizations submit full application by March 13 by 1 p.m.
    - Grantee Announcement: April 2025

- Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Grant Program (National Fish and Wildlife Foundation - NFWF)
  - [https://www.nfwf.org/programs/five-star-and-urban-waters-restoration-grant-program/five-star-and-urban-waters?utm\\_campaign=1113peoplesgarden&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdeliver](https://www.nfwf.org/programs/five-star-and-urban-waters-restoration-grant-program/five-star-and-urban-waters?utm_campaign=1113peoplesgarden&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdeliver)
  - The Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration grant program seeks to develop community capacity to sustain local natural resources for future generations by providing modest financial assistance to diverse local partnerships focused on improving water quality, watersheds, and the species and habitats they support.
  - **Grant Amounts: \$30,000 - \$60,000**
  - Eligible Applicants: Eligible applicants include non-profit 501(c) organizations, state government agencies, local governments, municipal governments, Tribal Governments and Organizations and educational institutions
  - Projects include a variety of ecological improvements along with targeted community outreach, education and stewardship, including:
    - Wildlife conservation and habitat
    - Community tree canopy enhancement
    - Urban agriculture and community gardens
  - Key Dates and Information:
    - Virtual project proposal labs and other assistance are available to potential applicants
    - Application Deadline: January 30 by 11:59 p.m.
    - Grantee Announcement: Late Summer 2025
- Great Lakes Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Grantmaking Program (EPA/Minneapolis Foundation)
  - <https://www.minneapolisfoundation.org/great-lakes/>
  - The Minneapolis Foundation and program partners will award environmental justice grants to organizations working in and for underserved communities throughout the Great Lakes region.
  - **Grant Amounts: \$150,000 - \$350,000 in three project tiers.**
  - Eligible Applicants: Federally recognized tribes, Native American, Indigenous, and community-based nonprofits or fiscally sponsored projects with budgets under \$5 million; Native American, Indigenous, and community-based nonprofits or fiscally sponsored projects with fewer than 10 full-time equivalent staff members; Communities or municipalities that have received federal or state disaster declarations in the past five years; and Communities with populations under 10,000.
  - Grants will support projects that focus on issues including, but not limited to:
    - Air, soil, and water quality.
    - Healthy homes and access to healthy food.
    - Stormwater and green infrastructure.
    - Emergency preparedness and disaster resilience.
    - Environmental job training.
  - Key Dates and Information:
    - Program Overview webinar December 10 at 12 p.m.
    - Application Deadline for first round of reviews: January 31
    - Grant announcements will be made several times each year
    - Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until November 2026
- Solar For Schools Grant (MN Commerce Department - Energy & Utilities)
  - <https://mn.gov/commerce/energy/industry-government/solar-schools/>
  - This program was designed to promote the installation of solar energy systems on Minnesota schools, while using the opportunity to integrate renewable energy use into school curriculum. All eligible schools are encouraged to apply for grants up to 40-70% of the cost to purchase and install a solar energy system. For K-12 schools, the maximum allowable grant size is determined by the most recent Adjusted Net Tax Capacity (ANTC) divided by the Adjusted Pupil Unit (APU).
  - **Grant Amounts: Up to \$500,000 (or \$675,000 in Xcel Energy service territory)**
  - Eligible Applicants: Independent and Special School Districts, Tribal Contract schools, and Cooperative School Districts statewide

- Key Dates and Information:
  - Readiness Assessment - January 2025 (tentative)
  - Full Application - May 2025 (tentative)

### **Applications Submitted in FY23/FY24**

- **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.

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

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