

Snake River Watershed Plan Partnership
JPE Board Meeting
Meeting MINUTES



April 28, 2025, 9:30 am-11:00 am

IN-PERSON

Alternate Location:

Kanabec Public Health
905 Forest Ave Mora, MN 55051

Go through the main doors and follow the signs (left) to the meeting room

VIRTUAL

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/ybi-uzdv-yhz>

Or dial: (US) +1 937-696-9474 PIN: 149 734 749#

More phone numbers: <https://tel.meet/ybi-uzdv-yhz?pin=4021771821790>

Board Members

Aitkin County Board of Commissioners	Travis Leiviska
Aitkin County Soil and Water Conservation District	Dan Gravley (Vice Chair)-present
Kanabec County Board of Commissioners	Tom Roeschlein-present
Kanabec Soil and Water Conservation District	Kevin Belkholm -present
Mille Lacs Soil and Water Conservation District	Robert Hoefert-present
Pine County Board of Commissioners	Joshua Mohr (Chair)-present
Pine County Soil and Water Conservation District	Michael Cummins-present
Board Secretary/ Watershed Coordinator	Mary Poelman Kanabec SWCD-present
Board Treasurer	Erin Hoxsie Pine County -present

Purpose:

Q1 2025 Spending and Budget Review
 Projects for Approval and review of current projects
 Update Pokegama Nanobubbles
 Annual Report Approval for Distribution

	Topics	Assigned	Time
A1	Call to order/ Pledge of Allegiance	Joshua Mohr Chair	
A2	Attendance	Joshua Mohr Chair	
A3	<p>Approve Meeting Agenda Approve Minutes from previous meeting and Confirm Meeting Minutes were approved for Dec (vote may have been skipped in our last meeting)</p> <p>2.24.2025 Meeting Minutes: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1U09ta3SwjjEXmAjWCnczk0G5RD99Bv_q/view?usp=drive_link</p> <p>12.30.2024 Meeting Minutes: https://drive.google.com/file/d/110rQ6cE6vCxpJa0fmtv6Pxmal_x4C1Zm/view?usp=drive_link</p>	<p>Joshua Mohr Chair</p> <p><u>Purpose</u> Vote to Approve Agenda: -approved Vote to Approve Minutes 2/24: -approved Vote to Approve Minutes 12/30: -approved</p>	5 min

Agenda

	<p>Budget Review:</p> <p>Q1 2025 https://drive.google.com/file/d/1sSgQFzXW0pC16jFv3Nx85_vl6Kc-b_UG/view?usp=drive_link</p>	<p>Erin Hoxsie Fiscal Agent</p> <p><u>Purpose</u> Informational Financial Oversight</p>	10 min
	<p>Completed Projects: Well Sealing KSWCD (Project Summary)</p> <p>https://docs.google.com/document/d/18A3NFUZMSEABQFa4Yj1LJ8allJGubKu/edit?usp=sharing&oid=115886762896760527439&rtpof=true&sd=true</p>	<p>Mary Poelman Coordinator</p> <p><u>Purpose</u> Informational opportunity to share accomplishments</p>	5 min
	<p>New Projects: Cross Lake Feasibility study and SWA</p>	<p>Paul Swanson PSWCD</p> <p><u>Purpose</u> Vote to Approve funding for</p>	20 min

<p>Memo https://docs.google.com/document/d/18vliyLA8rSM4LRW1tKhlduH_hlrIPKen/edit?usp=sharing&oid=115886762896760527439&rtpof=true&sd=true</p> <p>SOW https://docs.google.com/document/d/1a1kHjwejNhYcZPSYocNaqkwJhlaon38/edit?usp=sharing&oid=115886762896760527439&rtpof=true&sd=true</p> <p>Narrative and Quote https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wmAluPBr-1gHm2jvzfs9bd6vaW1CCedT/view?usp=sharing</p>	<p>Study MC/DG- approved</p>	
<p>New Projects (Approved by Steering Committee)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Brush Management, Comfort Twp, Kanabec County \$1460 2. Windbreak, Royalton Twp, Pine County \$2623 3. Brush Management, Pokegama Twp, Pine County \$6482 <p>Total: \$10,567</p>	<p>Mary Poelman Coordinator <u>Purpose</u> Informational to share with Board projects scheduled under \$20,000</p>	<p>5 min</p>
<p>Project List Review: Attachment (TBD)- available at meeting</p>	<p>Mary Poelman Coordinator <u>Purpose:</u> Informational progress status of currently funded projects</p>	<p>5 min</p>
<p>Pokegama Lake Association : Update on Nanobubbles Project Attachment (TBD)- available at meeting</p>	<p>Kathy Felder PLA <u>Purpose</u> Informational on projects happening in the Snake River Watershed</p>	<p>15 min</p>
<p>Annual Report: Approval of Annual Report for Distribution https://drive.google.com/file/d/14umq9BR7aVviJAH0DWXQINP7HuZ3G3JL/view?usp=sharing</p>	<p>Joshua Mohr Chair <u>Purpose</u> Obtain Board feedback on Annual Report for edits <u>and</u> Vote to Approve contents of the Annual Report for general distribution MC/DG- approved</p>	<p>20 min</p>

B	Consent Agenda (Informational Items)		
	<p>Open Invitation: Schedule a time to meet with me for an informal get to know you, your interests in serving on the board, priorities etc.</p> <p>mary@kanabecswcd.org 320-679-1391</p>	Mary Poelman Watershed Coordinator	1 min
	<p>No meeting in May due to Memorial Day Holiday</p> <p>Next Meeting Time June 23, 2025 Kanabec County Courthouse Basement conference room 3 317 Maple Ave E, Mora MN 55051</p>	Mary Poelman Watershed Coordinator	1 min

	<p>Budget Review:</p> <p>Q1 2025 https://drive.google.com/file/d/1sSgQFzXW0pC16jFv3Nx85_vl6Kc-b_UG/view?usp=drive_link</p>	<p>Erin Hoxsie Fiscal Agent</p> <p><u>Purpose</u> Informational Financial Oversight</p>	10 min
--	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------

Erin Hoxsie reviewed the budget, indicating that \$54,000 had been spent in the last quarter, with 22% of the grant utilized. She emphasized the need to increase match contributions to ensure the sustainability of ongoing projects. Erin indicated that we are at 6% match for current funding and should be at 10% of funds spent. Overall, we are at 1% match with 10% overall needed.

	<p>Completed Projects: Well Sealing KSWCD (Project Summary)</p> <p>https://docs.google.com/document/d/18A3NFUZMSEABQFa4YJj1LJ8allJGubKu/edit?usp=sharing&oid=115886762896760527439&rtpof=true&sd=true</p>	<p>Mary Poelman Coordinator</p> <p><u>Purpose</u> Informational opportunity to share accomplishments</p>	5 min
--	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------

Mary Poelman presented a handout on a well-sealing project and discussed the purpose of handouts as a way to reach out to the public about what the Snake River Partnership does. Discussed approaching project updates to the JPE in terms of bins of dollar amounts to protect privacy. JPE suggested the potential for abandoned properties or old homesteads to have abandoned wells. Recommending a possible strategy be developed to reach out to these types of properties/homeowners. JPE suggested creating a standard set of questions to tailor discussions with stakeholders and mentioned the importance of outreach to property owners about old wells and

structures. Paul Swanson added that the feasibility of these initiatives may depend on the workload of the districts.

<p>New Projects: Cross Lake Feasibility study and SWA Memo https://docs.google.com/document/d/18vliyLA8rSM4LRW1tKhlduH_hlrIPKen/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=115886762896760527439&rtpof=true&sd=true</p> <p>SOW https://docs.google.com/document/d/1a1kHjwejNhYcZPSYocNaqkwJhlaon38/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=115886762896760527439&rtpof=true&sd=true</p> <p>Narrative and Quote https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wmAluPBr-1gHm2jvzfs9bd6vaW1CCedT/view?usp=sharing</p>	<p>Paul Swanson PSWCD <u>Purpose</u> Vote to Approve funding for Study</p>	<p>20 min</p>
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------

Paul Swanson presented a proposal for a lake assessment and alum feasibility study for Cross Lake, which aims to analyze phosphorus loading and its internal sources contributing to algal blooms. The Lake Association's involvement in seeking this study was noted, as community engagement is crucial for ensuring public support for non-routine management actions and identifying effective interventions to enhance water quality.

The importance of conducting regular assessments for lakes within the watershed was underscored, noting that updated data is an essential part of effective resource management. The group also discussed the implications of Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) requirements under the Clean Water Act, with Barb Peichel (Clean Water Specialist at BWSR) elaborating on the 303D list of impaired waters in Minnesota. Peichel emphasized the need for monitoring data to prioritize water bodies for further studies. Swanson addressed the need for updated assessments of lakes in the Snake River watershed, mentioning that the last assessments were conducted about ten years ago. It was acknowledged that these assessments involve substantial costs, but it was argued that they are essential for effectively identifying and addressing water quality issues. Swanson noted that funding opportunities exist, as similar projects have been successfully implemented in other regions.

Barb Peichel discussed the opportunity to reassess the priorities established in the watershed plan as the group approaches the five-year mark of implementation. The Joshua Mohr Chair expressed confidence in proceeding with current projects, noting the availability of funding and the role of the steering committee in recommending initiatives. Paul also reminded the board about the upcoming eligibility for additional WBIF funding.

<p>New Projects (Approved by Steering Committee)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Brush Management, Comfort Twp, Kanabec County \$1460 5. Windbreak, Royalton Twp, Pine County \$2623 6. Brush Management, Pokegama Twp, Pine County \$6482 <p>Total: \$10,567</p>	<p>Mary Poelman Coordinator</p> <p><u>Purpose</u> Informational to share with Board projects scheduled under \$20,000</p>	<p>5 min</p>
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------

Updates on ongoing projects were shared, including three forestry-based initiatives totaling \$10,000 aimed at invasive species control and tree planting. Nick Foss (Shared Services Forester) explained that brush management involves invasive species control, specifically targeting buckthorn, which contributes to erosion and water quality issues.

<p>Project List Review:</p> <p>Attachment (TBD)- available at meeting</p>	<p>Mary Poelman Coordinator</p> <p><u>Purpose:</u> Informational progress status of currently funded projects</p>	<p>5 min</p>
---------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------

Mary Poelman presented a project list review, highlighting active and pending projects, and expressed the intention to include financial details in future updates.

<p>Pokegama Lake Association (PLA): Update on Nanobubbles Project</p> <p>Attachment (TBD)- available at meeting</p>	<p>Kathy Felder PLA</p> <p><u>Purpose</u> Informational on projects happening in the Snake River Watershed</p>	<p>15 min</p>
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------

Kathy Felder (PLA) expressed enthusiasm for the Nanobubbles project, which has successfully raised \$53,000 for a pilot initiative in the North Bay of the lake. The discussion also covered engineered practices for lake management, including monitoring sites for evaluating lake treatment technologies, with a particular focus on the ecological benefits of nanobubbles compared to alum treatments.

Jonathan Morales (Moleaer) detailed the innovative Nanobubbles technology as a new approach to lake cleaning, contrasting it with traditional methods like dredging and alum treatment. The Lake Association is moving forward with a \$100,000 pilot project in the North Bay with the \$53,000 that was raised. The project is scheduled for implementation in mid-May, pending DNR permitting.

Moleaer discussed the role of engineered practices in maintaining lake health, particularly through a

feasibility study for Cross Lake and the Pokegama project. Felder described the establishment of five monitoring sites to analyze nutrient loads and the effects of nanobubbles on sediment-water interactions. The project aims to improve water quality by transitioning anaerobic environments to aerobic ones, promoting beneficial bacteria.

The board asked for clarification on the location of a project in the North Bay, confirming it would take place near the boat landing on private property. Board members expressed a desire to observe the project implementation. Felder noted efforts to communicate when implementation will be occurring and willingness to reach out to the coordinator with updates. The conversation also highlighted some roadblocks encountered with the DNR boat launch, but a property owner has agreed to host the equipment.

Denise Devotta (Moleaer) outlined the objectives of a pilot project involving monitoring sites to assess lake treatment technologies. She compared nano bubbles to alum treatments, noting that while alum is a temporary solution, nano bubbles provide a more ecologically friendly approach by introducing oxygen into the lake. Moleaer mentioned the need for ongoing monitoring to determine the long-term effectiveness of these treatments. Devotta detailed the importance of an aerobic environment for phosphate sequestration and how iron and manganese bind with phosphate at the sediment-water interface. Devotta mentioned that the interface must remain oxic to keep the phosphate bound.

Jonathan Morales shared contact information: jonathan@moleaer.com 320-295-6641

	<p>Annual Report: Approval of Annual Report for Distribution</p> <p>https://drive.google.com/file/d/14umq9BR7aVviJAH0DWXQINP7HuZ3G3JL/view?usp=sharing</p>	<p>Joshua Mohr Chair</p> <p><u>Purpose</u> Obtain Board feedback on Annual Report for edits</p> <p><u>and</u></p> <p>Vote to Approve contents of the Annual Report for general distribution</p> <p>- approved</p>	<p>20 min</p>
--	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------

The annual report was discussed as a tool for sharing information with partners and the public about what the Snake River Watershed Partnership is accomplishing. The board suggested that the annual report might be the basis for a presentation to the county boards to update them yearly on activity and accomplishments.

An open invitation to board members was noted, as well as future meeting times and potential locations.

Action Items

Erin Hoxsie will provide a detailed report on the budget and grant status for the next meeting.

Mary Poelman will compile all project “one page” documents into a single PDF for distribution at the end of the year.

Erin Hoxsie will double-check the availability of the statement of work and ensure it is accessible in the drive.

Paul Swanson will ensure that the feasibility study for Cross Lake is approved and move forward with the project.

Mary Poelman will coordinate with the PLA to inform the board of updates on Nanobubbles project