



# Snake River Watershed Plan Partnership

## JPE Board Meeting

### Meeting Minutes

<p>June 23, 2025, 9:30 am-11:00 am</p>
<p><b>IN-PERSON</b></p> <p>Kanabec County Courthouse          Basement Rm 3 and 4          317 Maple Avenue East, Mora, MN 55051</p>
<p><b>VIRTUAL</b></p> <p>Video call link: <a href="https://meet.google.com/ybi-uzdv-yhz">https://meet.google.com/ybi-uzdv-yhz</a>          Or dial: (US) +1 937-696-9474 PIN: 149 734 749#          More phone numbers: <a href="https://tel.meet/ybi-uzdv-yhz?pin=4021771821790">https://tel.meet/ybi-uzdv-yhz?pin=4021771821790</a></p>

### Board Members

Aitkin County Board of Commissioners	Travis Leiviska * <b>ONLINE</b>
Aitkin County Soil and Water Conservation District	Dan Gravley (Vice Chair) <b>Present</b>
Kanabec County Board of Commissioners	Tom Roeschlein <b>Present</b>
Kanabec County Soil and Water Conservation District	Kevin Belkholm * <b>Present</b> *Jon Sanford <b>Alternate Present</b>
Mille Lacs County Soil and Water Conservation District	Robert Hoefert * <b>Present</b>
Pine County Board of Commissioners	Joshua Mohr (Chair) * <b>Present</b>
Pine County Soil and Water Conservation District	Michael Cummins * <b>Present</b>
Board Secretary/ Watershed Coordinator	Mary Poelman Kanabec SWCD * <b>Present</b>
Board Treasurer	Erin Hoxsie Pine County * <b>ONLINE</b>

In-person: Members of the public, Zach Guttormson (Board of Water and Soil Resources, BWSR), Susan Shaw(Mille Lacs Soil and Water Conservation District, MLSWCD), Kevin Belkholm(Kanabec Soil and Water Conservation District, KSWCD), Nick Foss(Forester), Heather Donoho (Pine County Soil and Water Conservation District, PSWCD), Emily Larsen(KSWCD)

Online: Barb Peichel(BWSR), Carrie Jennings(Freshwater Society), Jaren Peplinski (KSWCD), Krista

	Topics	Assigned	Time
A1	Call to order/ Pledge of Allegiance	Joshua Mohr Chair	
A2	Introductions/attendance	Joshua Mohr Chair	
A3	<p>Approve Meeting Agenda  <b>Motion: Cummins 2nd: Hoefert</b>  <b>Discussion: Add the Hoffman pit closure discussion addition to section 3.1 Add discussion about the upper snake river to section 3.2</b>  <b>Amended motion: Cummins 2nd: Hoefert</b>  <b>*Approved unanimous</b></p> <p>6.23.2025 Agenda  <a href="https://docs.google.com/document/d/1eidZkP5GQLfRHXYyG6hoA2-Y7l5h31tQ/edit?usp=sharing&amp;oid=115886762896760527439&amp;rtpof=true&amp;sd=true">https://docs.google.com/document/d/1eidZkP5GQLfRHXYyG6hoA2-Y7l5h31tQ/edit?usp=sharing&amp;oid=115886762896760527439&amp;rtpof=true&amp;sd=true</a></p> <p>Approve Minutes from previous meetings</p> <p><b>Motion: Gravley 2nd: Sanford</b>  <b>*approved unanimous</b></p> <p>4.28.2025 Meeting Minutes:  <a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PGPx0S7alyHK7vBfbOKKRbgEPH8unMI6/view?usp=drive_link">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PGPx0S7alyHK7vBfbOKKRbgEPH8unMI6/view?usp=drive_link</a></p>	<p>Joshua Mohr Chair</p> <p><u>Purpose</u>                      Vote to Approve Agenda:                       Vote to Approve Minutes:</p>	5 min
<b>Agenda</b>			
1	<p>Budget Review Erin Hoxsie  <b>Overencumbered some funds in some categories, due to unknowns when creating the plans how much money will be spent were. Now working on where to move money from Gravley: should we move money now</b>  <b>Hoxsie: not necessarily, just move it before the progress report at the end of the year.</b></p> <p>1. Q1 2025  <a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-qMVf-gV-rpl_NtYc-40AUMDXlnRcoKS/view?usp=drive_link">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-qMVf-gV-rpl_NtYc-40AUMDXlnRcoKS/view?usp=drive_link</a></p> <p>2. Projected need for moving funds to cover over encumbrances</p>	<p>Erin Hoxsie Fiscal Agent</p> <p><u>Purpose</u>                      Informational                      Financial Oversight</p>	10 min

<p>2</p>	<p>Policy Updates:</p> <p>1. Manure Pit Pumping as part of Waste Facility Closure</p> <p><b>Discussion about the current manure pit closure project. Clarified that this is just a policy change.</b></p> <p><b>Motion: Hoefert 2nd: Gravley</b></p> <p><b>*Passed unanimous</b></p> <p><a href="https://docs.google.com/document/d/1LSp-36_s6-upgCyqK44jnWgaWOPgPGHl/edit?usp=sharing&amp;oid=115886762896760527439&amp;rtpof=true&amp;sd=true">https://docs.google.com/document/d/1LSp-36_s6-upgCyqK44jnWgaWOPgPGHl/edit?usp=sharing&amp;oid=115886762896760527439&amp;rtpof=true&amp;sd=true</a></p>	<p>KSWCD</p> <p><u>Purpose</u> Vote to Approve new policy</p>	<p>10 min</p>
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<p>3</p>	<p>Completed Projects:</p> <p>Outreach-<a href="#">Snake River Flyer</a></p> <p>Flyer for interested landowners</p> <p>Outreach- <a href="#">Presentation to Cross Lake Association</a> Mary Poelman discussed nanobubbles and the snake river watershed</p> <p>Outreach- <a href="#">Buckthorn Workshop</a> Nick Foss: Buckthorn event update; successful, potential new landowners for buckthorn project</p> <p><b>Amended Agenda Item 3.1</b> Landowner in Mille Lacs county In 2009 a stacking slab was funded. The rain and fresh water mix with the manure and runoff. Original design was done with the Snake River Watershed Management Board (SRWMB). MPCA won't approve the permit for the new manure pit until the stacking slab is fixed. Board all agrees that this needs to be fixed</p> <p><b>Amended Agenda Item 3.2</b> Mary Poelman discussed the understanding from board meetings that the snake river canoe trip was supposed to start in Mcgrath. Freshwater Society states the contract only was through Mora to the St. Croix outlet. The board would like to see the upper part of the snake river, North of Mora, cataloged as well.</p>	<p>LGU's</p> <p><u>Purpose</u> Informational opportunity to share accomplishments</p>	<p>5 min</p>
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<p>4</p>	<p>New Projects:</p> <p>1. Manure Pit Closure Request: \$51,308.40 Statement of Work <a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CmsRqRZUjLUvOe-uw756oGWnKOvZ3dH/view?usp=drive_link">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CmsRqRZUjLUvOe-uw756oGWnKOvZ3dH/view?usp=drive_link</a></p> <p>Ranking Sheet <a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1uPsNciYhC_LJSgZ7kPQHHEKX8t7Z3FAP/view?usp=drive_link">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1uPsNciYhC_LJSgZ7kPQHHEKX8t7Z3FAP/view?usp=drive_link</a></p> <p>Heather Donoho: Presented Producer who no longer has cattle and would like to close their old manure pit.</p> <p><b>Motion: Hoefert 2nd:Cummins</b> <b>*Approved (unanimous)</b></p> <p>2. WASCOB Request: \$28,819.00 Statement of Work <a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ndgAX4vg-F_NTfJYcuhdY1GTAoomSBLy/view?usp=drive_link">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ndgAX4vg-F_NTfJYcuhdY1GTAoomSBLy/view?usp=drive_link</a></p> <p>Ranking Sheet <a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1f-4GEvK_6TPXg0IQY1u-3W1wHELrCkZ/view?usp=drive_link">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1f-4GEvK_6TPXg0IQY1u-3W1wHELrCkZ/view?usp=drive_link</a></p> <p><b>Heather Donoho: Presented project proposal for a water and sediment control basin (WASCOB)</b></p> <p><b>Motion: Cummins 2nd: Roeschlein</b> <b>* Approved (unanimous)</b></p>	<p>PSWCD</p> <p><u>Purpose</u> Vote to Approve funding for Projects</p>	<p>30 min</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>New Projects (Approved by Steering Committee)</p> <p>1. Tree Planting, Grass Lake Twp, Kanabec County \$8022</p> <p>2. Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP), Royalton Twp, Pine County \$9258</p> <p>3. Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP), Pokegama Twp, Pine County \$9258</p> <p>Total: \$26,538</p>	<p>Mary Poelman Coordinator Heather Donoho PSWCD Nick Foss KSWCD</p> <p><u>Purpose</u> Information to share with Board projects scheduled under \$20,000</p>	<p>10 min</p>

6	<p>Project List Review:</p> <p>Attachment- available at meeting</p> <p><a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1a7fUtmoCogOgH4FjR-0IS-EOtOJxmGp9/view?usp=drive_link">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1a7fUtmoCogOgH4FjR-0IS-EOtOJxmGp9/view?usp=drive_link</a></p>	<p>Mary Poelman Coordinator</p> <p><u>Purpose:</u> Informational progress status of currently funded projects</p>	5 min
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7	<p>Speaker Presentation :</p> <p>Snake River Main Stem Geology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Presentation on the Geology of the Snake River and how it impacts Erosion and bank stabilization projects.</li> </ul>	<p>Carrie Jennings (Freshwater Society)</p> <p><u>Purpose</u> Presentation on the Geology of the Snake River and how it impacts Erosion and bank stabilization projects.</p>	30 min
8	<p>Upcoming Events:</p> <p>Fish Lake Improvement Association Annual Membership Meeting Snake River Partnership Presentation June 28, 2025</p> <p>Pokegama Lake Association Nanobubbles Media Day July 24, 2025</p>	<p>Mary Poelman Watershed Coordinator</p>	1 min
9	<p>Next Meeting Time</p> <p><b>July 28, 2025</b></p> <p>Kanabec County Courthouse Basement conference room 3 317 Maple Ave E, Mora MN 55051</p> <p>Following me: Aug 25, 2025</p>	<p>Mary Poelman Watershed Coordinator</p>	1 min

**Adjorn: Hoefert 2nd Gravley**  
**\*approved (unanimous)**

- **Agenda Review and Approval** The meeting was called to order by Joshua Mohr, and attendees introduced themselves both in person and online. Sections 3.1 and 3.2 were added and the amended agenda was then approved. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved without discussion.
- **Budget Review** Erin Hoxsie provided a budget review, noting some over-encumbered funds due to the timing of project planning versus spending. Erin clarified that moving funds may be necessary before the end-of-year progress report to BWSR. In response to a question from Gravley, Erin explained that a negative number in the "match still needed" column indicates an overage in the required match, which could be beneficial given difficulties in finding overall match.
- **Policy Update: Manure Pit Pumping** Mary Poelman discussed a proposed policy update regarding manure pit pumping as part of waste facility closures. Mary explained that current NRCS policy doesn't cover the cost of pumping prior to closure, but it is an essential step. The steering committee recommended adopting a policy to cost-share funding for liquid and solid waste removal during immediate closures. There was discussion about the cost implications. It was clarified that the proposed policy would apply to future projects and not retroactively to the current one, where the homeowner might need to cover the pumping cost, potentially as a match. The board unanimously approved the steering committee's recommendation to change the policy to include pumping costs in future waste facility closure projects.
- **Outreach Activities** Mary Poelman provided an update on recent outreach activities, including a management field day organized by Nick (Shared Services Forester). Mary also mentioned a presentation given to the Cross Lake Association at their annual meeting, which included information on Nanobubbles. A generic flyer about Snake River projects was shared, noting it could be adapted for individual offices.
- **3.1 Discussion on Non-Functioning Stacking Slab Project** A landowner from Mille Lacs County detailed issues with a stacking slab built around 2009 or 2010 that was not functioning correctly, leading to manure contamination of freshwater. The landowner was seeking assistance to correct the problem, especially since it needed to be fixed to proceed with a new manure pit permit. Belkholm raised concerns about the size of the watershed and potential water volume impacting the design of a new containment system. It was clarified by Susan Shaw (Mille Lacs SWCD) that NRCS funding for the new pit was contingent on fixing the existing stacking slab issue, but current organizational funds (WBIF) could not be used for WBIF policy reasons. The issue of the farm straddling two watersheds and not being a priority area in either was also noted as a potential barrier for funding from this organization. The possibility of other funding sources and revisiting priority designations was mentioned. There was extensive discussion about the eligibility of the project for WBIF funds, particularly regarding animal unit calculations, which the landowners were working to correct. If the project is WBIF eligible, then the board would need to consider it in terms of priority and funding. The

original stacking slab was funded by the Snake River Watershed Management Board, potentially in split with NRCS, and it has reportedly never worked correctly according to the landowner. The landowner felt the issue should be a priority given the water quality concerns and claimed that the original design was flawed. The board acknowledged the urgency and committed to helping if the project meets eligibility benchmarks, aiming for a potential resolution as early as August, assuming a smooth process through various boards and committees. The need for a cost estimate and technically approved design was emphasized to expedite the process once eligibility is confirmed. The current efforts are focused on finding a solution acceptable to contain manure and prevent water contamination.

- **3.2 Upper Snake Discussion Clarification** Sanford (Kanabec SWCD) initiated a discussion regarding the upper Snake River portion of a canoe trip, noting a board member's assumption that it would start in McGrath, Carrie Jennings (Freshwater Society) stated they could check their notes but recalled being advised that the area upstream of Mora was not easily navigable. Mary Poelman clarified that the board would like to see the upper portion included in association with the existing contract. Mary Poelman indicated the need to clarify the contract with Pine SWCD since multiple board members shared the same understanding about the river's scope. Carrie Jennings found the contract specifying the route as Mora to the outlet at the St. Croix. Mary Poelman stated that if the project's scope were to expand to include the upper river, a cost estimate for that additional portion would be necessary. Board Members Cummins, Gravley, and Sanford emphasized the initial intention to study the entire Snake River watershed.
- **Manure Pit Closure Project** Heather Donoho (Pine SWCD) presented a manure pit closure project for a former dairy farm near Cross Lake, explaining that the pit posed a risk to surface and groundwater due to stored nutrients and bacteria. The project involves pumping and field-applying the contents at university-recommended rates, excavating contaminated material, removing remaining infrastructure, and backfilling the area to restore usable land. The total project cost is \$64,135.50, with a request of \$51,308.40 from the Snake River WBIF and a \$12,827.10 local match from the landowner. The project addresses SWQual-27, promoting feed lot runoff management. Heather clarified the project's proximity to Cross Lake, a priority water body connected to the Snake River. Mary Poelman confirmed that the steering committee recommended the project. A motion to approve the project was made by Robert Hoefert and seconded by Michael Cummins, with the board acknowledging its value and the landowner's good stewardship. The motion was unanimously approved.
- **Water and Sediment Control Basin Project** Heather (Pine SWCD) presented a water and sediment control basin (WASCOB) project designed in collaboration with NRCS to address gully erosion in two crop fields near Cross Lake and the Snake River. The project aims to reduce phosphorus (11.52 pounds/year) and sediment (11.52 tons/year) from entering priority impaired lakes, aligning with SWQual- 9. The total project cost is \$42,284, with a local match of \$13,465 and a funding request of \$28,819. A motion to approve the project was made by Cummins seconded by Roeschlein and the project was unanimously approved.

- **Informational Updates on Smaller Projects** Mary Poelman provided informational updates on three projects approved by the steering committee with funding under \$20,000, which did not require full board approval. These included a tree planting in Kanabec County (\$8,000) and two Comprehensive nutrient management plans in Pine County (approximately \$9,000 each). Mary Poelman also noted the contracting of the previously approved Cross Lake feasibility study. Gravelly requested that SRWPP studies, such as the Pokegama Lake Sub watershed Analysis, be made available online.
- **Snake River Main Stem Geology Presentation** Carrie Jennings (Freshwater Society) After discussion of possible delays due to time constraints, presented a power point presentation to the board covering geological influences, glacial history, and direct observations from the 4 days of travel from Mora to the St. Croix outlet. Carrie Jennings suggested that trying to fight the natural erosion processes is not advisable and that focusing on educating landowners and considering setback ordinances might be more effective. Mary Poelman asked for a recording of the presentation as well as slides be made available especially for Board members who were unable to stay to hear the presentation.
- **Nanobubbles Project Update** Kathy Nielsen, Pokegama Lake Association (PLA), provided an update on the Nanobubbles project, stating it became operational on June 5th after a minor technical issue was resolved. A comprehensive monitoring plan is in place, and media day is scheduled for July 24th 10 am. Kathy Nielsen described the installation process as more complex than anticipated due to deep muck in the North Bay of the lake.
- **Next Meeting** The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for July 28th, depending on workload.