

Snake River Watershed Plan Partnership
Technical Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes (DRAFT)

October 6 , 2025, 2:00pm-4:00 pm (Followed immediately by the Steering Committee Meeting)



Technical Advisory Committee:

MN Board of Water and Soil Resources	Zach Guttormson- present Barb Peichel - absent
MN Pollution Control Agency	Kate MacDonald- absent
MN Department of Natural Resources	Kelly Condiff- present Jeff Weiss- absent
MN Department of Agriculture	Aicam Laacouri- absent
MN Department of Health	Chad R. Anderson- present
Snake River Watershed Plan Partnership	Steering Committee Members Jaren Peplinski KSWCD Paul Swanson PSWCD Sienna Storm MLSWCD Aitkin SWCD-absent Aitkin County-(hiring) Kanabec County-absent Pine County- absent

Other Attendees: **Mary Poelman Coordinator, Emily Larsen KSWCD, Erin Hoxsie Fiscal, Nick Foss Forester**

Location:

In-person meeting at Kanabec County Court House: 317 Maple Avenue East Mora, MN 55051 Basement rooms 3 and 4

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/bam-qgik-hjw>

Or dial: (US) +1 502-667-4238 PIN: 479 537 515#

More phone numbers: <https://tel.meet/bam-qgik-hjw?pin=2761399208395>

Purpose:

	Topics	Assigned	Time
A	Approve Agenda/Minutes/Introductions	Coordinator	5 min

	<p>a. Minutes Link to Minutes</p> <p>b. Agenda Link to Agenda</p> <p>Brief introductions were given Kelly Condiff DNR and Zach Guttormson BWSR were present</p>	Decision	
1	<p>Mid Year Progress Report</p> <p>Purpose: To inform partners of the progress towards work plan goals that have been accomplished as of Q2 2025 (Attachment)</p> <p>Mary Poelman, Coordinator, presented and briefly discussed the 2025 mid year progress report. Indicating areas where additional progress had been made since the report was completed.</p>	<p>Coordinator</p> <p>Informational</p>	5 min
2	<p>Steering Committee Updates</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What's working 2. What's not working 3. What are ways that we can collaborate <p>Updates were given by: Paul Swanson PSWCD Jaren Peplinski KSWCD Sienna Storm MLSWCD</p> <p>Overall progress was highlighted including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - smoothing out working of the new group/ new staff/ priorities - increased pace of implementation - increased capacity to complete projects - increased community networks for project planning - moving forward with projects planning <p>Challenge themes included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -figuring out WBIF- what works and what doesn't (how far can the program stretch) -issues with implementation of Forestry Practices -challenges with JPE member communication and understanding of the differences from the Snake River Watershed Management Board -figuring out hurdles in the project approval process 	Steering Committee Members	<p>4 min each</p> <p>2 min for feedback/questions</p>
3	<p>Technical Advisory Committee</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. New Initiatives 	TAC Committee Members	5 min each

2. Feedback on the Snake River Watershed Initiatives
-challenges, opportunities, overlaps
3. Future Directions for the partnership
-technical considerations, recommendations

Chad Anderson MDH - joined the meeting

Updates were given by:

Zach Guttormson BWSR

Kelly Condiff DNR

Chad Anderson MDH

Jeff Weiss DNR- comments shared via email to coordinator

BWSR updates included:

List of initiatives including:

1. Soil health delivery 2.0
2. Keep it Clean
3. Manure Management
4. Buffer implementation Grant
5. MDM- multidrainage management
6. FERN Tool- to be rolled out at BWSR Academy (Oct 2025)

Highlighted the update for the Work plan guidance on pollution reduction and outputs as well as noted the availability of FY26 funding for the Snake River Watershed (must submit no later than April 30 2026)

DNR updates included:

Offering staff assistance from the DNR on various clean water projects.

Noted the groups good progress despite the challenge of high staff turnover prior to the last year. Noting the challenge of the JPE Board questioning project brought forward by the Steering Committee.

From email updates: Included the highway 65, Ann river bridge undersized bridge and discussions being held on possible solutions.

Department of Health updates included:

Noting the well sealings in the area. Noted active projects within the watershed include.

Well head protection progress:

1. Ogalive (Moderate)- part 1
2. Mora - (Moderate/High) part 1
3. Pine City- (Moderate/High) review
4. Hinkley- (Moderate) review

Issues noted were not seeing a lot of Groundwater/ Drinking water projects, but noted that for well testing this area did not have as high of concentrations as other nearby areas.

Noted that goals for well sealings were on the lower end of other watershed goals, but that "achievable" goals were better than unrealistic goals.

Coordinator- updated the group on the MPCA- WRAPS report being generated

4	<p>Future Meeting Times</p> <p>TAC Nominally every 6 months as needed (May 2026, October 2026)</p> <p>Potential meeting months were noted</p>	<p>Coordinator</p> <p>Informational</p>	<p>5 min</p>
5	<p>Adjourn for the Steering Committee Meeting</p> <p>Meeting was adjourned</p>		

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