

**Snake River Watershed Plan Partnership**  
**Steering Committee**

**Meeting MINUTES**  
**March 2, 2026 2:00pm-4:00pm**



Steering Committee

Voting Members:

*Pending Hiring*, Aitkin County  
Janet Smude, Aitkin County SWCD- Present  
Ryan Carda, Kanabec County  
Jaren Peplinski, Kanabec SWCD- Present  
Siena Storm, Mille Lacs SWCD- Present  
Aaron Gustafson, Pine County  
Krista Arne, Pine County SWCD - Present

Partners and Staff:

Barb Peichel, BWSR- Present  
Zach Guttormson, BWSR- Present  
Emily Larsen, Kanabec SWCD- Present  
Susan Shaw, Mille Lacs SWCD  
Heather Donoho, Pine County SWCD  
Nick Foss, Pine County SWCD/Kanabec SWCD- Present  
Paul Swanson, Pine County SWCD- Present  
Eddie Johnson, Pine County SWCD- Present

Fiscal:

Erin Hoxsie, Pine County SWCD- Present

Coordinator:

Mary Poelman, Kanabec SWCD Present

Other Present: Kelly Condiff DNR

Location:

In-person meeting at Kanabec SWCD office: 2008 Mahogany St, Ste 3, Mora, MN 55051

**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://meet.google.com/tel/bam-qgik-hjw?pin=2761399208395&hs=1>

Purpose:

Riparian Forest Project Review/Approval, Cross Lake Feasibility Study Updates, Discussion on Strategy

Topics	Assigned	Attachments	Time
<p><b>Administrative</b></p> <p><b>1. Approve Agenda</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Assigned: Mary</li> <li>- Attachments: <a href="#">3.02.2026 SC Agenda</a></li> </ul> <p><b>2. Approve Minutes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Assigned: Mary</li> <li>- Attachments: <a href="#">Minutes SC 2.02.2026</a></li> </ul> <p>Agenda approved with the addition of the Grants discussion</p> <p>Yes: 4, No: 0, Absent:3</p> <p>Minutes approved</p> <p>Yes: 4, No: 0, Absent:3</p>			<p>DECIDE</p> <p>5 min</p>
<p><b>Fiscal/ Reporting</b></p> <p><b>1. Budget Q1 2026</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Assigned: Erin</li> </ul> <p><b>2. Status FY26 Grant Application</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Assigned: Coordinator</li> </ul> <p>Erin Hoxsie provided a brief budget update for mid Q1 values. This budget shows the actual dollars in each category after crediting back encumbered funds that came in under budget.</p> <p>Zach Guttormson noted that the workplan can be updated with the funds needed for the livestock waste facility closure from the Shoreline funding.</p> <p>Erin requested a copy of the Amended Manure Pit closure for records.</p> <p>Mary Poelman updated the SC that the FY 26 WBIF Grant Application was submitted the last week of January, review would take place in February 2026 by BWSR. Grant agreement can be signed by board Chair, work plan is under review by BWSR.</p>			<p>INFORMATION</p> <p>10 min</p>

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<p><b>Projects</b></p> <p>1. PSWCD_RiparianForestPlanting_PineCitySec33_FY24WBIF_2026  - Attachments: <a href="#">SOW</a>, <a href="#">Ranking Sheet</a>  Total Project Cost: \$ 12,836.00  Requesting: \$9,617  Non-State Match: \$3,209.00</p> <p>Krista Arne made a motion to fund project at the level of \$9,617 with a match of at least \$3,209  Yes 4, No 0, Absent 3  Approved</p> <p>2. Review of Cross Lake Feasibility Study  a. Assigned: Paul  b. <a href="#">Link to Cross Lake Study</a></p> <p>Paul Swanson presented highlights from the Cross Lake Feasibility Study that was completed 2.18.2026. Indicates cost of alum treatment would be approximately 3M dollars treating the North and Central Basins only as the Southern Basin has low residency time due to Snake River. Pine SWCD will continue to work with Cross Lake Association in implementing BMPs within the watershed and discussion of what a lake treatment would require.</p>			<p>DECIDE</p> <p>30 min</p>
<p><b>Policy</b></p> <p>1. <a href="#">Updated WBIF Policy: Link</a>  Updated Policy will be posted on the Website. SWCD's are asked to provide a copy of their cost share policy to have on record.</p> <p>2. Updating the Ranking Sheet Discussion (<a href="#">DRAFT</a>)</p> <p>Mary Poelman presented a draft of the updated Ranking Sheet. General comments were positive with staff enjoying the compressed layout and the checklist component. The steering committee voted to adopt the changes with possibly some removal of duplication if found. Yes 4, No 0, Absent 3</p>			<p>DECISION</p> <p>20 min</p>

Topics	Assigned	Attachments	Time
<p><b>Strategic Direction</b></p> <p>1. Reconnecting with our Mission for 2026 as a Steering Committee:  <a href="#">SWOT/ TOWS Analysis Copy</a></p> <p>Informational no discussion</p> <p>2. 12 Week Goals (March-May)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Lake Natural Shorelines Education Pathway</li> </ul> </li> <li>b. Ag Practices</li> <li>c. Shoreline</li> <li>d. Forestry</li> <li>e. Groundwater</li> <li>f. Livestock Waste</li> <li>g. Non-Structural</li> <li>h. Planning and Assessments</li> <li>i. Project Dev</li> <li>j. SSTS</li> <li>k. Urban</li> <li>l. Wetland</li> </ul> <p>Mary asked that the steering committee provide discussion on each topic with the goal of forming 12 week goals. It was proposed that small groups might be better able to have more in depth conversations around the goals and money remaining for FY24 and funds for FY26. Mary will send out a survey to the steering committee and staff to select which groups they would like to participate in to move things forward.</p> <p>3. Grants Information</p> <p>Mary presented a list of potential grant opportunities that were passed along by staff or gathered from places like Elink . The goal for this list is to remind partners what is potentially available for future planning and provide a place to bring future grant opportunities for discussion and decisions on applications.</p> <p>Zach provided an update on when extensions for FY 24 could be made (now) but at least 3 months before the end of the year. The plan is to take this up at the next steering committee meeting and the JPE meeting in April.</p>			<p>DISCUSSION</p> <p>45 min</p>

Topics	Assigned	Attachments	Time
<p>Future Meeting Times</p> <p>JPE April 27, 2026</p> <p>SC April 6, 2026 <a href="#">SC Meeting Calendar 2026</a></p> <p>TAC Last: Oct 6 2025 , Next May 2026</p> <p><b>Newsletter Content Suggestions?</b>  <b>Please send to Coordinator</b></p> <p>Meeting Adjourned 3:35pm</p>			INFORMATION
<p><b>Sub Committee Reports</b></p> <p>1. Ag Cost-Share Review / Subcommittee</p>			Not-Scheduled