



MASWCD Southwest Area 5

Area Director: Mona Henkels

Thursday, June 18, 2026

Grace Lutheran Church – 716 8th Street – Dawson, MN 56232

Director – Mona Henkels Co-Director – Open

Secretary/Treasurer – Cal Spronk

MASWCD is a nonprofit organization which exists to provide leadership and educational opportunities and a common voice for Minnesota's soil and water conservation districts.

AGENDA

**MASWCD
SOUTHWEST AREA 5**

Cottonwood SWCD
(507) 832.8287

Jackson SWCD
(507) 662.6682 Ext. 3

Lac qui Parle SWCD
(320) 598.7071 Ext. 3

Lincoln SWCD
(507) 694.1630

Lyon SWCD
(507) 532.8207 Ext. 3

Murray SWCD
(507) 836.6990 Ext. 3

Nobles SWCD
(507) 376.9150 Ext. 3

Pipestone SWCD
(507) 825.1185

Redwood SWCD
(507) 637.2427

Rock SWCD
(507) 283.8862

Yellow Medicine SWCD
(320) 669.4442 Ext. 3

9:00 Registration & Refreshments

9:30 Call to Order and Welcome: Area Director

- Action on agenda, previous meeting minutes, treasurer's report and roll call
- Appointment of Nominating Committee
- Introduction of Resolutions from Area Member SWCDs

10:00 MASWCD 2026 Focus Areas – Mona Henkels and Sheila Vanney, MASWCD

Each year the MASWCD Board of Directors identifies focus areas which align with the mission, vision and strategic areas of the Association, consider timely and relevant resolutions and legislative activity, and build off MASWCD's ongoing work plan. Details of the 2026 focus areas will be explained, and SWCDs will be asked for feedback.

10:15 MASWCD Advocacy Campaign for SWCD Aid – Sheila Vanney, MASWCD

MASWCD has launched a 2-year campaign for SWCD Aid advocacy to lay the groundwork for a 2027 legislative proposal to increase this important state funding source. In conjunction, MASWCD formed a cohort of SWCD representatives from across the state who will be building their skills in communication and outreach with lawmakers. Information on this initiative will be shared, followed by discussions around effective advocacy in campaign season.

10:45 Clean Water Council's Budget Recommendation Process for Clean Water Fund Spending in the 2028-229 biennium – Sheila Vanney, MASWCD and Attendees

Every two years, the Clean Water Council develops recommendations to the legislature on how to appropriate Clean Water Funding. Learn about the status of the current process, how important items like Watershed Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) are being discussed. SWCDs will be asked to share information on the status of their local WBIF efforts.

11:15 BWSR Legislative and Program Updates - BWSR

Board of Water and Soil Resources staff will share information on legislative outcomes from the 2026 session along with timely and relevant program and implementation updates.

11:30 Debate and Action on Proposed Resolutions

12:00 Lunch (No Cost)

12:45 Living Landscapes and Pollinator Partnerships – Erin Loeffler, BWSR E. S. C.

Update on The Living Landscapes Initiative, which is focused on supporting at-risk wildlife species, establishing habitat corridors, and building landscape resiliency through collaboration with conservation partners and Minnesota residents.

1:15 Dawson Pollinator Pathways Tour – Rhyan Schicker, Lac Qui Parle SWCD, Manager

The Lac qui Parle SWCD was awarded a Pollinator Pathways grant for the City of Dawson after the church reached out to transform the adjacent empty lot into a native plant garden. The SWCD has worked with the City, local nursery and residents to create a variety of garden types around Dawson including boulevard plantings, pocket plantings, tree and shrub plantings and lawn alternatives on both private and public property. Interpretative signage and plant labels are also in different stages of installment to create awareness and appreciation for native plant communities and the species they support. Starting at the Church, attendees will visit a few pollinator gardens in varying states of establishment around town.

2:15 Closing Comments and Adjourn

Registration – Courtesy of Area V MASWCD Please RSVP to the Lac Qui Parle SWCD Office (320-598-7071) by June 8