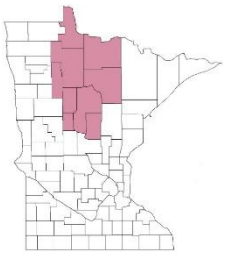

MASWCD North Central Area 8

Area Director: Ken LaPorte

September 11, 2026, Blandin Foundation Community Room, 100 North Pokegama Avenue, Grand Rapids, MN 55744

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

MASWCD NORTH CENTRAL AREA 8

Beltrami SWCD
(218) 333.4158

Cass SWCD
(218) 547.7399

Clearwater SWCD
(218) 694.6845, Ext. 4

Crow Wing SWCD
(218) 828.6197

Hubbard SWCD
(218) 732.0121, Ext. 4

Itasca SWCD
(218) 326.5573

Koochiching SWCD
(218) 283.1174

Lake of the Woods SWCD
(218) 634.1842, Ext. 4

Wadena SWCD
(218) 632.4201

AGENDA

9:00 Registration & Refreshments

9:30 Call to Order and Welcome: Area Director-Ken Laporte
- Approve agenda.

9:40 Blandin Foundation over-view
- 9:40 Welcome from Missy Johnson, Community Relationships Coordinator
- 9:45 Foundation and programs over-view – Kyle Erickson, Director of Rural Grantmaking.
- 10:00 Front parking lot pollinator gardens over-view – Senja Morque, Organizational History Specialist.

10:15 Approve 6-26-26 MASWCD Area 8 meeting minutes

10:20 Area 8 MASWCD Treasurer's Report – Jennifer O'Neill, Treasurer

10:25 Break

10:40 Legislative update
- 10:40, Spencer Igo, House District 7A representative.
- 11:00, MASWCD legislative efforts update – LeAnn Buck, MASWCD Executive Director.

11:20 BWSR Programs Update
- 11:20 - Chad Severts, Board Conservationist
- 11:35 - Justin Hanson, Assistant Director for Regional Operations

12:00 Lunch

12:45 NRCS update – Candi Fuller, District Conservationist-Team Lead

1:00 Forestry Estimator for Run-off and Nutrients (FERN) version 2.0 update – Matt Gutzmann, Itasca SWCD Programs Manager and Matthew Picklo, Itasca SWCD Forester.

1:20 Itasca SWCD small parcel forestry planning program over-view – Matt Picklo, Itasca SWCD Forester.

1:45 Closing Comments by Area Director Ken Laporte

2:00 Adjourn.