



MASWCD North Central Area 8

Area Director: Ken LaPorte

June 26, Beltrami County Admin Bldg, 701 Minnesota Avenue NW, Bemidji, MN 56470

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

AGENDA

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

9:00 Registration & Refreshments

9:30 Call to Order and Welcome: Area Director-Ken LaPorte

- Action on agenda, previous meeting minutes, and treasurer's report
- Introduction of Resolutions from Area Member SWCDs
 - *Read only – action taken later in agenda*

10:00 MASWCD 2026 Focus Areas – Ken LaPorte and Sheila Vanney (15 minutes)

Each year the MASWCD Board of Directors identifies focus areas which align with the mission, vision and strategic areas of the Association, take into consideration 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 (20 minutes)

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 with this campaign, 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 – MASWCD Staff and Justin Hanson (30 minutes)

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 - Brett Arne and Justin Hanson (25 minutes)

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-Ken Laporte (30 minutes)

Please review Resolution Guidelines and "Things to Consider During Resolution Debate"

12:00 Lunch (30 minutes)

12:30 USFWS partnership opportunities with SWCDs-AnnMarie Krmpotich and Darrin Wheeling (30 Minutes)

1:00 SH RCPP Soil Health and Forestry Round Robin-Tom Gile (30 minutes)

2:00 Closing Comments and Adjourn