

**Helena Township
Board of Supervisors Quorum
Attendance at MAT District 4 Meeting
8/5/2026 | New Prague City Hall | 7 p.m.**

Present: Chairperson John Wermerskirchen, Supervisor Edward Nytes, Treasurer Nathan Hutton, Deputy Treasurer Patty Peterson, Clerk Heather M. Taylor DuCharme, Deputy Clerk Kim Carlberg, Road Overseer Jeff Haag, MAT staff and members, speakers, and other individuals.

1. Refreshments were provided from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.
2. The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. with a welcome and pledge of allegiance by MAT District 4 Director Diane Johnson.
3. Scott County Commissioner Barbara Weckmann Brekke provided comments and information.
4. Scott SWMO District Director Troy Kuphal provided an update on conservation, soil, water, and weed control in Scott County and by Townships.
5. MAT Executive Director Jeff Krueger provided a MAT update and federal legislative update.
6. MAT Staff Attorney Maddie Cash provided an update on state legislation and case law, including regarding legislative changes to the board of canvas, record retention, and contracts.
7. MAT Training Manager Michael Gilbreath provided an update regarding recent, upcoming, and available trainings.

Respectfully submitted

Dated: 8-6-2026

Clerk

Approved

Dated: Aug-6-26

Chairperson

Minnesota Association of Townships District 4 Meeting Notice

**For Township Officers in Carver, Dakota,
Goodhue, Le Sueur, McLeod, Nicollet, Rice,
Scott, and Sibley Counties**



You're invited to attend your MAT District 4 Meeting.

District Meetings are one of the best opportunities for township officers to:

- Stay informed on current legislative and legal issues affecting townships
- Learn about new laws, regulations, and township responsibilities
- Hear updates directly from MAT leadership and staff
- Ask questions on township operations and governance
- Network with other township officers from your district
- Share local concerns and ideas with your MAT District Director
- Build connections with community partners

Whether you are newly elected or a seasoned township leader, you'll come away with valuable updates, helpful resources, and new connections to help you serve your township.

Meeting Information:

DATE: Wednesday, August 5, 2026

TIME: 6:00 PM Registration
(Snacks provided: Assorted pinwheel wraps, chips, cookies, water)

7:00 PM Meeting

LOCATION: Spring Lake Township Town Hall
20381 Fairlawn Avenue
Prior Lake, MN 55372 (Scott County)

Agenda:

- Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance: MAT District 4 Director Diane Johnson
 - Speakers and discussion of local issues
 - MAT updates:
 - Executive Director's Report — Jeff Krueger
 - Legal Update — MAT In-House Counsel
 - Clerk/Treasurer Trainer Updates
 - Door prizes and drawings
 - Adjournment
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SAVE THE DATE:

TOWNSHIP DAY AT THE CAPITOL

MONDAY, MARCH 1, 2027

AT THE MN HISTORY CENTER & STATE CAPITOL

ST. PAUL, MN

ALL township officers are invited to "Township Day at the Capitol" in St. Paul to advocate for township priorities and grassroots government. We'll have trainings, speakers, and impactful meetings with state legislators at the Capitol. Please save the date - more information and registration will be available in the fall. There is no cost to this event.

2026 ANNUAL CONFERENCE:

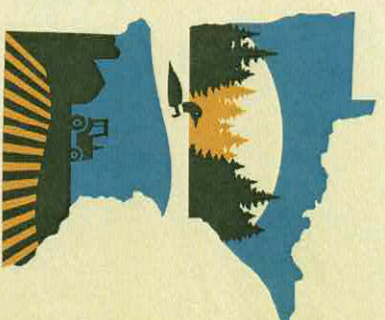
THE CHANGING LANDSCAPE OF TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENT

Join township leaders from every corner of Minnesota at MAT's 2026 Annual Conference:
"The Changing Landscape of Township Government."

Townships face growing land use challenges, from annexation and housing development to renewable energy projects, data centers, transportation improvements, and shifting development patterns. Make sure your township is ready for what's next and gain practical knowledge, fresh ideas, and valuable connections that will help you serve your community even better.

SPEAKERS: Hear from experienced speakers on key topics for all township officers
EDUCATION: Dive into hands-on breakout sessions, ask questions directly to state agency experts, and get real answers for township challenges.
EXHIBITORS: Explore the exhibitor showcase featuring trusted vendors with products and services designed for township needs. Network with peers, share solutions, and bring home proven strategies.

Thursday, December 10 - Saturday, December 12, 2026
Grand View Lodge in Nisswa (Brainerd Lakes Area)
Registration available at MNTownships.org





2026 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

TRANSPORTATION FUNDING

Townships maintain approximately 41% of Minnesota's roads (over 55,518 miles) as well as about 6,000 bridges, of which over 400 are on the deficiency list. Road projects have been hit hard by the inflation of the last few years, with MNDOT estimating that the average bridge project has more than doubled in in the past few years. This problem became so dire that Minnesota's Special Town Bridge Account for 2025 was empty by May of 2025.

REQUEST:

- Current minimum maintenance funding levels should be \$100 million per year. Funding should be sustainable and dedicated.
- If the state will not grant funding at that level, townships must be allowed to control their liabilities.

TAXES AND STATE AID

Townships receive far less in local government aid than cities. In 2023, cities received in total \$564,398,012. Townships received \$9,611,507. That same year, approximately 900,000 Minnesotans out of approximately 5,700,000 resided in townships. If townships received the same amount per capita as residents of cities (roughly \$115 per person), townships would have received \$103,500,000.

REQUEST:

- Maintain funding for Town Aid program to ensure full funding of the Town Aid formula.
- Hold townships harmless, dollar-for-dollar, from lost tax revenues by seeking increased, sustainable, and dedicated funding for the Payment-in-Lieu-of-Taxes (PILT) program. Ensure township residents do not lose access to lakes, become landlocked, or other adverse impacts when public lands are transferred.

BROADBAND FUNDING & UNIVERSAL CELL PHONE COVERAGE

- Maintain broadband funding's focus on unserved areas.
- Promote universal cell phone coverage for the many underserved rural areas.

RURAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Minnesota's rural Emergency Medical System is currently experiencing a critical funding shortfall due to vast geographic coverage, limited financial resources and reimbursements, and staffing challenges.

REQUEST:

- Support increased funding for rural emergency medical services.
- Support "Treatment in Place" programs, the designation of EMS as an essential service, or other proposals from the EMS work group.

ADDITIONAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



ANNEXATION FAIRNESS

Current annexation law is unfair to townships and their residents. It allows cities to take township land over the objections of both the township and the landowner.

MAT supports annexation by contract (also known as "orderly annexation"), which is the preferred method because it requires agreement of BOTH parties. This method is undermined when a city, not party to the contract, can take property that is already subject to a contract. Cities can unfairly dictate and prohibit development on adjacent township land that is located up to 2 miles outside of a city's borders and has not yet been annexed.

PAID LEAVE

Minnesota's Paid Leave program offers many burdens to townships without offering any meaningful benefits. Aside from requiring burdensome additional record-keeping, it offers no protections for town boards who already set their own schedules and can only be hired or fired by voters.

REQUEST:

- Exempt elected officials from the state's Paid Leave program.

MISCELLANEOUS ISSUES

TRANSPORTATION

- Require a written agreement with the township before a county can revert jurisdiction of a road to a township, which increases the township's responsibilities, liabilities, and costs.
- Allow townships to place "Now Entering" signs on all state, county, and federal highways.
- Hold utilities responsible for damage they cause in or to road rights-of-way and related infrastructure including culverts and hold road authorities immune for damage to utilities whose infrastructure is improperly placed or marked.

DATA PRIVACY OF PERSONAL INSURANCE INFORMATION

- Make a technical update to add the Minnesota Association of Township Insurance Trust (MATIT) to the list of other state municipal insurance pools that keep workers compensation and personal insurance data private.

ENVIRONMENT

- Provide clear protections for township officers who act in good faith under Minnesota's noxious weed law.

GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS & ELECTIONS

- Allow townships to benefit from pull tabs on the same terms as other units of government
- Enact protections for township clerks using their notarial stamp in the course of their duties.
- Allow deputies to carry on their duties without disruption during vacancies.
- Allow townships to have a say in re-issuance of liquor licenses in within their boundaries.
- Protect local control of local elections.

MANDATE RELIEF AND COST REDUCTIONS

- Reduce costs of townships obtaining easements across state land, especially for roads sited on school trust land.
- Implement a 90-day notice periods for state agency hearings, actions, or comment periods.
- Clarify that only a landowner may appeal the decision of the township Board of Appeal & Equalization concerning the taxable value of a property.

Contacts: MAT In-House Counsel Graham Berg-Moberg GBerg-Moberg@mntownships.org
MAT Lobbyist Shep Harris SHarris@fredgov.com
MAT Executive Director Jeff Krueger JKrueger@mntownships.org

Updated 1/20/26