



MCEA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

January 21 - 24, 2025 | Cragun's - Brainerd

REGISTRATION FOR MEMBERS, RETIREES & MnDOT OPENS NOVEMBER 4
REGISTRATION FOR VENDORS OPENS DECEMBER 2

www.minnesotacountyengineers.org

TENTATIVE AGENDA

Tuesday, January 21, 2025

*All sessions are held in Pine Ballroom (Pine 1-3) unless otherwise noted.

- 11:15 a.m. Board of Directors Meeting**
Pine 4
- 12:00 p.m. State Aid Training for New Engineers**
Room TBD
- 1:30 p.m. Conference Registration Open**
Lobby
- 2:00 p.m. BREAK**
Presiding: TBD
- 2:30 p.m. Opening Session/Welcome**
Mel Odens, MCEA President
- 2:45 p.m. LRRB Update**
- 3:15 p.m. Rapidan Dam Emergency Response & Media Management**
Ryan Thilges, Blue Earth County, MCEA Secretary
- 4:00 p.m. State Aid – Local Road Safety**
- 5:00 p.m. Adjourn for the Day**
- 5:30 p.m. New Engineers Reception**
Shore Room
- 7:00 p.m. Dinner and Fun Night**
Sports Centre

Wednesday, January 22, 2025

*All sessions are held in Pine Ballroom (Pine 1-3) unless otherwise noted.

- 7:30 a.m. Breakfast**
Dining Room
- Presiding: TBD
- 8:30 a.m. FHWA, NACE, ICEA Updates**
- 9:15 a.m. Competitive Grant Writing**
- 10:15 a.m. BREAK**
- 10:30 a.m. Right of Way Issues**
John Kolb, Igor Lenzner, and Adam Ripple – Rinke Noonan
- 12:00 p.m. New Member Recognition**
- 12:15 p.m. Lunch**
Dining Room
- Presiding: TBD
- 1:15 p.m. Winter Road Management**
Jed Falgren, MnDOT
- 2:15 p.m. Section 106**
Jake Foss, MnDOT
- 2:45 p.m. BREAK**
- 3:00 p.m. Mapping County Van Data**
Stephanie Clark, MnDOT
- 3:45 p.m. Adjourn for the Day**
- 3:45 p.m. District Meetings**
- 5:00 p.m. LRRB Orientation**
Upper Deck
- 6:00 p.m. Dinner**
Poolside

Thursday, January 23, 2025

*All sessions are held in Pine Ballroom (Pine 1-3) unless otherwise noted.

7:30 a.m. Breakfast
Dining Room

8:30 a.m. Business Meeting

10:00 a.m. Board of Directors Meeting

10:15 a.m. BREAK

Presiding: TBD

10:30 a.m. Keynote: Impact Leadership – Joe Schmit

12:00 p.m. Lunch
Dining Room

Presiding: TBD

1:00 p.m. Ethics
Josh Root, MnDOT

2:00 p.m. BREAK

2:15 p.m. State Aid – Next Gen

3:00 p.m. State Aid Update

3:45 p.m. Adjourn

1-4:00 p.m. Vendor Registration
Lobby

1-4:00 p.m. Vendor Set-up for Reception
Sports Centre

4:00 p.m. Reception
Sports Centre

6:00 p.m. Awards Banquet
Dining Room

Reception (Ends at 10pm)
Sports Centre

Friday, January 24, 2025

*All sessions are held in Pine Ballroom (Pine 1-3) unless otherwise noted.

7:30 a.m. Breakfast
Dining Room

9:00 a.m. Committee Meetings

10:30 a.m. Adjourn

ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

Mel Odens, President, Kandiyohi County
Lyndon Robjent, Vice President, Carver County
Keith Berndt, Treasurer, Norman County
Ryan Thilges, Secretary, Blue Earth County
Brian Pogodzinski, Past President, Houston County

2025 CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Chad Gramentz, Kanabec County (co-chair)
Phil Schmalz, Meeker County (co-chair)
Erin Laberee, Dakota County
Justin Bergeron, Isanti County
Ryan Thilges, Secretary, Blue Earth County
Mel Odens, President, Kandiyohi County
Ted Schoenecker, State Aid for Local Transportation

Sponsored by:

Minnesota County Engineers Association
Minnesota Department of Transportation

Facilitated by:

Association of Minnesota Counties