

# PROCEEDINGS OF THE RED LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

May 13, 2025

Pursuant to adjournment of its last meeting, the Red Lake County Board of Commissioners duly met in regular session at the Courthouse in Red Lake Falls, MN on May 13, 2025, at 10:00 am.

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Flage called the meeting to order. Commissioners present were Chuck Flage, Al Remick, Eric Mickelson, Tony Gerardy and Andy Moran. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Commissioner Gerardy moved, seconded by Commissioner Mickelson, and carried unanimously to approve the agenda with the following additions:

- Highway Engineer, Taylor Amiot Re: Soil Erosion
- Environmentalist, Kurt Casavan Re: Landfill Permit & Hydro Study Update and Huot Park Boat Launch Cleanup

## **HIGHWAY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Highway Engineer Taylor Amiot provided a personnel update to the board, reporting the resignation of a heavy equipment operator. At this time, the highway department will delay advertising the position, as another employee has been temporarily covering grading duties. Amiot also noted that summer staff have been hired and are scheduled to begin work in late May. In addition, Amiot requested board approval to advertise for the construction of turning lanes on Trunk Highway 32, which is part of the CSAH 1 bypass project. Commissioner Remick made a motion to approve the advertisement, which was seconded by Commissioner Mickelson and passed. Amiot further informed the board that Soil and Water had reached out regarding farmers interested in clearing erosion buildup from roadside ditches. They inquired whether a permit would be required. The board agreed that no permit is necessary, provided the work is limited to cleaning out the ditches without any grading. This initiative will be a collaborative effort between Red Lake County Soil and Water, the Red Lake Watershed District, and the county to ensure that ditches are properly cleared without affecting buffer strips or engaging in unauthorized grading.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Environmental Officer Kurt Casavan received a call from the MN DNR about the boat landing at Huot Park. The officer stated that the boat launch needs to be cleaned out and it's the county's responsibility to maintain the launch area. Since the DNR removed silt from the boat launch last year but excavated too deeply, the Board directed Casavan to contact both the DNR and Al Page to determine what corrective action is needed at the site. Casavan also met with Andrew from Stantec Consulting last week to review paperwork related to the hydro plan for the Red Lake Falls Landfill site. Although penalties were supposed to be paused until the hydro plan was submitted, the MPCA continued accruing them, contrary to what was stated in a March 4th Teams meeting. Andrew is expected to send the hydro plan for review soon, after which it will be sent to Aaron Salol from the MPCA. Casavan also gave an update about the call that took place on May 5th with Senator Mark Johnson, to discuss penalties and ongoing landfill issues. The Senator requested a timeline of events since the March 4th meeting, which has been submitted.

## **MINUTES**

Commissioner Moran moved, seconded by Commissioner Remick, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the meeting on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025.

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### EXPENDITURES

Commissioner Remick moved, seconded by Commissioner Gerardy, and carried unanimously to approve the following expenditures for the period.

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Clerk City of Red Lake Falls	\$ 90,557.00
Houston Engineering, Inc	\$ 61,381.65
Red Lake County Co-op	\$ 2,778.07
Roger's Two Way Radio Inc.	\$ 4,031.99
Thibert Chev-Buick	\$ 7,857.52
21 Payments less than \$2,000	<u>\$ 7,263.58</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$173,869.81</b>

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Remick – Meeting with Mark Johnson regarding Landfill Fines & Penalties, Tri-County Community Corrections

Mickelson – Meeting with Mark Johnson regarding Landfill Fines & Penalties

Gerardy – None

Moran – Tri-County Community Corrections

Flage – Northwest Regional Development, Minnesota Rural Counties, Safe Routes to School

### AUDITOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Auditor Kelsey Gervais met with the Board to discuss several items:

#### **Public Health Educator Agreement**

Gervais presented an agreement with Pennington and Red Lake County Public Health and Home Care to fund up to a 0.2 FTE Public Health Educator in Red Lake County using opioid settlement funds. The agreement will be effective from June 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. Commissioner Remick moved to approve the agreement, seconded by Commissioner Gerardy. Motion carried.

#### **Legal Newspaper Update**

Gervais informed the Board that the *Red Lake County Herald* will cease publication at the end of May. Effective June 1, 2025, the *Red Lake County Gazette* will serve as the county's official legal newspaper.

#### **Courthouse Repairs**

- Gervais presented a quote from Kiecker Coatings for repairing and restoring the courthouse steps using a polyphatic glaze. Commissioner Mickelson moved to approve the quote of \$65,075, seconded by Commissioner Gerardy. Motion carried.
- A second quote from J&L Construction and Painting was presented for removing, patching, and repairing the south wall in the boiler room. Commissioner Gerardy moved to approve the \$2,800 quote, seconded by Commissioner Moran. Motion carried.

#### **Elections Equipment**

Gervais informed the Board that the Elections Department will be purchasing ExpressVote machines to replace the county's current assisted voting devices.

#### **Courthouse Bonding Resolution**

Gervais presented **Resolution 05-01-2025**, authorizing application for funding through the Minnesota 2026 Bonding Bill for a courthouse ventilation and cooling system and new windows.

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Commissioner Mickelson moved to approve the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Moran.  
Motion carried.

### **Courthouse Roof Update**

Gervais provided an update on the courthouse roof project. Water has once again leaked into the attic. Equity Builders, the contractor responsible for the project, will file an insurance claim to cover the damage.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Commissioner Gerardy, seconded by Commissioner Mickelson, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 11:50 a.m. The next regular meeting of the board is scheduled for Tuesday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Kelsey Gervais, County Auditor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chuck Flage, Chairman  
Board of Commissioner