

PROCEEDINGS OF THE RED LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

October 28, 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 October 25th, 2025, at 10:00 am.

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

- Environmentalism, Kurt Casavan Re: Rolloff Containers
- Human Resources Director, Angie Lundeen Re: Leave Donation Request
- Highway Engineer, Taylor Amiot Re: Local request for compensation due to road construction impact.

2026 AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES PLAN

Tanya Waldo, District Manager of Red Lake County Soil & Water Conservation District, presented the 2026 County Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) plan. The AIS program will receive \$6,718 in funding for 2026, which will be allocated toward public awareness initiatives, training programs and collaborations with county school to educate students during the annual Northwest Minnesota Water Festival.

Commissioner Gerardy made a motion to approve the 2026 AIS Plan as presented, which was seconded by Commissioner Mickelson and passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION FOR AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES AID

Waldo requested the County Board's approval of a resolution to be submitted to the Department of Natural Resources, regarding the allocation of the \$6,718 in 2026 for administering the AIS plan.

Commissioner Mickelson made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Remick and carried unanimously to approve **Resolution 10-02-2025**. A copy of the resolution is available in the auditor's office.

COUNTY FEEDLOT WORKPLAN

Waldo requested approval of the 2026–2027 Delegated County Feedlot Work Plan. Commissioner Mickelson moved, seconded by Commissioner Gerardy, to approve the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency County Feedlot Program Delegation Agreement Work Plan for 2026–2027. The motion carried unanimously.

BUFFER STRIP COMPLIANCE

Waldo reported that 21 non-compliance notification letters, including supporting documentation, have been prepared for buffer law requirements throughout the county. An additional 10–15 letters remain to be compiled. She noted that letters are not issued to compliant landowners and that landowners receiving notice will have 11 months from the date of the letter to install the required buffers.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Environmental Officer Kurt Casavan requested approval to purchase two 40-yard roll-off dumpsters using SCORE funds. He reported receiving one quote of \$9,450 per unit. Commissioner Gerardy asked Casavan to check with Les's Sanitation regarding the availability of used roll-offs. If none are available,

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Commissioner Mickelson moved to approve the purchase of two new roll-off dumpsters at a cost not to exceed \$9,450 each, with Commissioner Remick seconding the motion.

LOCAL OPTION TO DISASTER

County Assessor Shelly Nelson met with the Board to discuss a property where the carwash had been destroyed during the August windstorms. As the owners do not intend to rebuild, Nelson recommended granting a local option to disaster, which would reassess the property to its current condition for taxes payable in 2026. Commissioner Gerardy moved, seconded by Commissioner Mickelson, to approve the local option to disaster. The motion carried unanimously.

HIGHWAY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Board discussed a letter received from a local business owner requesting compensation for lost revenue during recent road construction. The Highway Engineer explained that, while the project caused temporary access limitations, all closures were consistent with normal construction practices and local access was maintained as much as possible. The contractor also communicated regularly with the business regarding reservations and access routes. The Board expressed sympathy for the inconvenience but raised concerns about setting a precedent and noted that the project will ultimately benefit the business through improved access and infrastructure. Consensus was reached not to issue compensation, and the Board directed Amiot to prepare a written response, with review from the County Attorney, acknowledging the concerns, clarifying project impacts, and committing to improved communication on future projects. The draft response will be presented at the next meeting. Amiot also provided a personnel update to the board as there have been complaints on motor grading on the west side of the county.

HUMAN RESOURCES ANNOUNCEMENTS

Human Resources Director Angie Lundeen met with the Board to discuss several items. She first reviewed employee life insurance options, noting that the County currently provides an \$11,000 policy at a cost of \$2.44 per month per employee. With short-term disability no longer offered, Lundeen asked whether the Board wished to increase the benefit. Following discussion, Commissioner Mickelson moved to offer a \$20,000 life insurance policy at a cost of \$4.44 per month per employee, effective January 1, 2026. Commissioner Gerardy seconded, and the motion carried.

Lundeen then requested an annual step increase for Department Head Kelsey Gervais, moving her from Step 4 to Step 5. Commissioner Mickelson moved, seconded by Commissioner Remick. AYES: Gerardy, Mickelson, Remick. NAYS: None. Commissioner Flage abstained. The motion carried.

Lundeen also presented a request on behalf of Deputy Taylor Awender, who will be exhausting her sick and paid time off and therefore qualifies to receive donated PTO with Board approval. Commissioner Mickelson moved, seconded by Commissioner Gerardy, to approve the request. The motion carried. Employees may donate up to 40 hours per calendar year, with Awender eligible to receive no more than 20 days of donated leave.

Lastly, Lundeen requested consideration of a floating holiday for County employees, noting that the Board previously approved 10 additional hours of holiday pay for the highway union. After discussion, Commissioner Remick approved a floating holiday equal to an employee's regularly scheduled workday, not to exceed eight hours, with employees required to take the day off and provide at least one day's notice effective January 1, 2026, Commissioner Mickelson offered the second and the motion carried.

MINUTES

Commissioner Mickelson moved, seconded by Commissioner Gerardy, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the meeting on October 14, 2025.

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EXPENDITURES

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

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Ture North Surveys, P.A.	\$29,000.00
Ziegler Cat	\$ 4,133.91
13 Payments less than \$2000	<u>\$ 6,734.44</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$39,868.35</u>

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Remick- Township Officer Meeting

Mickelson- Township Officer Meeting, Secretary of State Meeting at Inter County Community Council

Gerardy- Township Officer Meeting, RLC Soil & Water, RLC Economic Development Corporation

Flage- Township Officer Meeting, Economic Development Corporation, Pennington & Red Lake County
Public Health and Home Care, Dancing Sky

AUDITOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Auditor Kelsey Gervais met with the Board on behalf of Human Services to present an addendum to the Conflict of Interest Policy. Per the Department of Human Services, the policy must state that no employee or board member who applies for licensure, or who is licensed to operate a program based on the agency's recommendation, may participate in any licensing recommendation or action related to that individual. Commissioner Mickelson moved to approve the addendum, with Commissioner Remick seconding the motion. Motion carried.

Gervais also presented the third-quarter budget-versus-actual report, noting that Revenue has utilized 70% of its budget year-to-date.

Gervais informed the Board that the annual Truth in Taxation meeting must be scheduled and held in person between November 24 and December 29. The Board set the meeting for Thursday, December 11, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the Courthouse Courtroom.

Additionally, Gervais shared a request from Sherburne County seeking County participation in the Minnesota Nuclear Energy Alliance. Sherburne County has expressed support for repealing the state's moratorium on new nuclear power facilities and for consideration of potential siting locations, including within Sherburne County. After discussion, the Board opted to table the request.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Gerardy, seconded by Commissioner Remick, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 12:41 p.m. The next regular meeting of the board is scheduled for Thursday, November 13th, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

Attest: _____
Kelsey Gervais, County Auditor

Anthony Flage, Chairman
Board of Commissioner