

# PROCEEDINGS OF THE RED LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

September 23, 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 September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025, at 10:00 am.

## **CALL TO ORDER**

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

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

Human Resources Director, Angie Lundeen Re: Paid Family Medical Leave Decisions

## **HIGHWAY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Highway Engineer Taylor Amiot presented two quotes for the purchase of a new Motor Grader from RDO Equipment and Ziegler. The county will be trading in a 2019 CAT 140M. Following discussion, Commissioner Gerardy moved to purchase the 770P John Deere Motor Grader from RDO Equipment, with Commissioner Remick seconding the motion. Motion carried.

Amiot requested clarification regarding appurtenances located within county road right-of-ways after a lift station's down and out pipe was damaged by a county mower. The board acknowledged that neither the county nor county employees are liable for damage occurring within the road right-of-way. Tenants or landowners are responsible for maintaining their outlets, and county employees are not responsible for repairing damaged property within the right-of-way.

Amiot also informed the board of a damaged culvert in Browns Creek Township and requested clarification on the county's culvert policy. The board reaffirmed that the policy provides 30 feet of culvert material at county expense, while installation, additional length, and/or aprons remain the responsibility of the landowner. The board agreed to leave the policy as stated.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Environmental Officer Kurt Casavan met with the board to discuss representation for joint legal ditches throughout the county. Currently, two or three commissioners are designated to oversee all ditches collectively, depending on the size of the ditch. Moving forward, each commissioner will be assigned to the joint ditches within their respective districts, with the District 4 Commissioner serving as an alternate since that district has no joint ditches. These assignments will be designated annually during the board's reorganization meeting.

Casavan reported receiving a response from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) regarding the closure of the Oklee and Red Lake Falls C&D Landfill sites. The MPCA revised the schedule of compliance, requesting final covers by December 31, 2026, and December 31, 2027, respectively.

Casavan responded with a proposed amendment to extend the Red Lake Falls closure and final cover deadline to November 1, 2029, while maintaining the Oklee deadline of December 31, 2026. He will update the board once a response is received.

Casavan also informed the board that approximately 100 acres of noxious weeds in Red Lake Falls Township have been mowed. The landowner completed about 35 acres, and a contractor finished the remaining acreage. A bill has been issued for the work, and if payment is not received by year-end, Auditor Kelsey Gervais will certify the amount as a special assessment on the landowner's property taxes.

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### HR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Human Resources Director Angie Lundeen met with the board to discuss the Paid Family and Medical Leave (PFML) policy, which will take effect January 1, 2026. The board approved setting the PFML premium contributions at 50% paid by the county and 50% paid by the employee. Employees who are eligible for PFML must notify the Human Resources Department by email, phone, or in person, and Human Resources will then inform the appropriate department heads.

Under the intermittent leave provision, employees may take a minimum of two hours and up to eight hours per day, not to exceed 40 hours per week. Employees may also use compensatory time, vacation, sick leave, or paid time off in addition to PFML benefits. Lundeen will review the policy with the county attorney for final verification. Pending legal approval, Commissioner Remick moved to adopt the PFML policy, with Commissioner Gerardy seconding the motion. Motion carried.

### LABOR RELATION STRATEGY

Per Minnesota Statute §13D.03, Commissioner Moran moved to close the meeting to discuss labor relations strategy. Commissioner Gerardy seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously. Present during the closed session were Commissioners Eric Mickelson, Al Remick, Tony Gerardy, and Andy Moran, along with Human Resources Director Angie Lundeen and Auditor Kelsey Gervais. The meeting was closed at 11:53 a.m.

Commissioner Remick moved to reopen the meeting at 12:30 p.m., with Commissioner Moran seconding the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

### MINUTES

Commissioner Gerardy moved, seconded by Commissioner Remick, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the meeting on September 9, 2025.

### 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>
Stantec Consulting Services Inc	\$ 2,057.00
Tactical Solutions	\$ 3,101.02
Wichtaskservice, LLC	\$ 2,446.00
16 Payments less than \$2000	\$ 5,923.02
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$13,527.04</b>

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Remick- Tri-County Community Corrections, Negotiation Meeting

Gerardy- Negotiation Meeting

Moran- Tri-County Corrections, Negotiation Meeting

Mickelson- Red Lake County Fair Board, NW MN Multi-County Housing & Redevelopment Authority, Inter-County Community Council

### AUDITOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Auditor Kelsey Gervais reviewed the preliminary budget with the board. As labor negotiations are still ongoing, the board agreed to hold a special meeting on September 30, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. to continue budget discussions.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Commissioner Gerardy, seconded by Commissioner Moran, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 1:19 p.m. The next regular meeting of the board is scheduled for Tuesday, October 14, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

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

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