

PROCEEDINGS OF THE RED LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

September 9, 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 9th, 2025, at 10:00 am.

CALL TO ORDER

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

Highway Engineer, Taylor Amiot Re: MOU with City of Red Lake Falls

Environmentalist, Kurt Casavan Re: Landowner with Noxious Weeds

-Septic Ordinance Modification

Auditor, Kelsey Gervais Re: RLC SWCD 2026/2027 Buffer Aid Funding Request

NORTHWEST REGIONAL LIBRARY

Megan Lysford, Director of the Northwest Regional Library, met with the board to request a 3% funding increase for 2026. She explained that the increase reflects rising costs to maintain high-quality library services and will help sustain access to educational programs, digital resources, and other vital services for residents. Commissioner Mickelson moved, seconded by Commissioner Gerardy, to approve the 3% increase to the Northwest Regional Library's apportionment. Motion carried unanimously.

HIGHWAY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The board reviewed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Red Lake County and the City of Red Lake Falls regarding the bypass project. The MOU outlines that the City will be responsible for costs related to the construction components of non-eligible city work, including paving, manhole and gate valve adjustments, and street shouldering. Following discussion, Commissioner Gerardy moved, seconded by Commissioner Moran, to approve the MOU. Motion carried unanimously. Highway Engineer, Taylor Amiot presented the Highway Department's preliminary budget, as negotiations are still going on.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Environmental Officer Kurt Casavan reported that he has not yet received correspondence from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency regarding the closure of the Oklee and Red Lake Falls C&D Landfill sites. He also informed the Board that a local landowner has approximately 100 acres of noxious weeds that remain un-mowed, despite repeated notifications. The landowner assured Casavan the work would be completed by September 10, 2025. The Board directed that if the landowner fails to comply, Casavan is to secure a contractor to complete the mowing and bill the landowner for the expense. Casavan further requested guidance on removing the requirement for a compliance inspection of septic tanks prior to property sales in the Red Lake County Septic Ordinance, noting that most institutions already require this inspection before closing. The Board was supportive of this change, contingent on approval from the MPCA. Casavan confirmed during the meeting that the MPCA considers this an acceptable revision.

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MINUTES

Commissioner Gerardy moved, seconded by Commissioner Moran, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the meeting on August 26, 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>
3D Specialties, Inc	\$ 11,362.43
Red Lake County Co-op	\$ 3,530.58
RJ Zavoral & Sons	\$786,126.96
17 Payments less than \$2000	<u>\$ 9,010.78</u>
TOTAL	\$810,030.75

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Remick- Alluma, Tri-County Community Corrections

Mickelson- None

Gerardy- RLC Soil & Water Conservation District

Moran- Tri-County Corrections

Flage- Northwest Regional Development Commission

AUDITOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Auditor Kelsey Gervais reviewed the preliminary budget with the board, noting that negotiations are still ongoing and any changes remain tentative. The next negotiation meeting is scheduled for September 10th, after which Gervais will return to the board at the next regular scheduled meeting with updates. Gervais also presented the 2026/2027 request from Red Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District (RLC SWCD) to allocate 25% of the county's Buffer Riparian Aid to the district. Commissioner Gerardy moved to approve the request, with Commissioner Mickelson seconding. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Gerardy, seconded by Commissioner Remick, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 1:15 p.m. The next regular meeting of the board is scheduled for Tuesday, September 23rd, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

Attest: _____
Kelsey Gervais, County Auditor

Eric Mickelson, Vice Chair
Board of Commissioner