

# PROCEEDINGS OF THE RED LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

July 8, 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 July 8, 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 Mickelson moved, seconded by Commissioner Remick, and carried unanimously to approve the agenda with the following additions:

Highway Engineer, Taylor Amiot Re:

-Resolution – MnDOT Agreement No. 1060559 (LPP: TH 32 Turn Lanes)

RLC SWCD Conservation Technician, Travis Nelson Re:

-Soil Erosion Update

## COUNTY ATTORNEY

Tanner Holten, Interim County Attorney reviewed the draft agreement for solid waste disposal and found it generally acceptable. However, Holten recommended adding termination language allowing the county to end the contract if the other party fails to meet its obligations, violates any law, or files for bankruptcy, as the current draft does not contain such a clause. Holten noted this would provide protection and avoid leaving an open-ended contract. The board acknowledged the updated agreement, no action was taken at this time, as the current contract remains valid through December and negotiations are ongoing.

## HIGHWAY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Highway Engineer Taylor Amiot provided a comprehensive update on staffing and current projects. Four Applications were received for the highway operator position; interviews will begin on Monday.

Regarding project updates, the overlay project is complete except for the striping, which was delayed but expected to be completed soon. The bypass project is progressing despite rain, with paving scheduled soon. If delayed, the gravel portion will be reopened to traffic to help compact the surface. Knife River has completed chloride applications on designated gravel roads throughout the county. Additional project updates included a scheduled hot-in-place recycling project led by Polk County on 0.6 miles of shared road near Dorothy, planned for August.

Amiot presented the board with a resolution for Red Lake County enter into MnDOT Agreement No. 1060559 with the State of Minnesota, Department of Transportation for the following purposes: To provide for payment by the State to the County of the State's share of the costs of the turn lane construction and other associated construction to be performed upon, along, an adjacent to Trunk Highway No. 32 from 376 feet southwest of the northeast corner of Section No. 23, T151, R44W to 2,229 feet southwest of the northeast corner of section no. 23 T151N, R44W within the corporate limits of the City of Red Lake Falls under State Project No. 6301-56 (TH 32=32). Commissioner Remick moved, seconded by Commissioner Gerardy and carried unanimously to approve **Resolution 07-01-2025**. A copy of the resolution is available in the Auditor's office.

## HR ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Board received an informational update on the upcoming Paid Family and Medical Leave (PFML)

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program, which will begin January 1, 2026 from Human Resources Director, Angie Lundein. Employers may choose to participate in the state-run plan at a rate of 0.88% or opt for a private plan. The County's ancillary benefits broker issued a RFP, receiving responses from 17 companies. The most competitive quote came from MetLife at 0.79%. To receive a one- or two-year rate guarantee from MetLife, the County must be enrolled in one or more of MetLife's other products (e.g., short- or long-term disability, life, dental, or vision insurance). Currently, the County does not have benefits with MetLife. To qualify for MetLife's rate guarantee, the County is considering switching its voluntary long-term disability (LTD) benefit to MetLife, which offers a 54% cost reduction and aligns its coverage start date (after 90 days) with PFML's end. Lundein will also explore whether additional voluntary MetLife products could provide further flexibility or cost benefits.

### **SOIL EROSION UPDATE**

Travis Nelson, Conservation Technician from Red Lake County Soil and Water received a phone call from a downstream landowner who reported a quick rainfall event of 1.3 inches that caused significant erosion, including new rills forming across the field despite soybean growth. Concerns were reiterated regarding the effectiveness and timeliness of erosion mitigation efforts by the land user, particularly following the first letter issued by the county. A second letter will now be sent to document the user's proposed schedule and acknowledge the recent rain event, while continuing to express the board's concerns about further erosion. Coordination for a site visit is being arranged, involving the landowners, tenant, and representatives from the county and township with the goal of fostering better communication and timely remediation before additional weather events cause further damage.

### **MINUTES**

Commissioner Gerady moved, seconded by Commissioner Moran, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the meeting on June 24, 2025.

Commissioner Gerady moved, seconded by Commissioner Moran, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the Board of Appeal and Equalization meeting on June 18, 2025.

### **JPA MINNESOTA INTERNET CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN TASK FORCE**

Sherrif, Mitch Bernstein presented the board with a Joint Powers Agreement with the Minnesota Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force, in partnership with the BCA. This agreement will allow the Chief Investigator to attend specialized trainings and gain access to resources and support for investigations involving internet crimes against children. This agreement also provides the mechanism to reimburse Governmental Unit for equipment, training, and expenses, if any, that it incurs because of its participation in the ICAC Task Force. The board unanimously approved the JPA to join the ICAC Task Force, with a motion by Commissioner Mickelson and a second by Commissioner Remick.

### **EXPENDITURES**

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

<b><u>Vendor</u></b>	<b><u>Amount</u></b>
Hawkinson Construction Co., Inc.	\$1,133,283.85
Jeremiah Johnson	\$ 4,413.38
RJ Zavoral & Sons	\$ 550,639.09
Stantec Consulting Services Inc	\$ 6,490.75

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16 Payments less than \$2,000	\$ 5,637.21
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,700,464.28</b>

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Remick – Personnel Committee

Mickelson – None

Gerardy – None

Moran – Personnel Committee

Flage – Northwest Regional Development Commission

### **ENVIRONMENTAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Auditor, Kelsey Gervais presented a draft letter for review on behalf of Environmentalist, Kurt Casavan, which he intends to send to the MPCA regarding upcoming changes to the acceptance and handling of construction and demolition (C&D) waste. The letter outlines projected costs and plans to stop accepting C&D materials by December 2028, with final facility closure by the summer of 2029. Board members discussed the importance of clarifying in the letter that the county intends to continue operating as a Permit by Rule transfer site beyond the closure date, as this was not explicitly stated. It was agreed that the letter should include language confirming the county's intention to maintain transfer operations, and Casavan will be advised to make that clarification before submitting the letter to the MPCA.

### **AUDITOR ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Gervais provided the board with an update on the current budget status for the year. Some accounts appear elevated due to early apportionments or anticipated expenses, such as HAVA, which reflects the purchase of new voting equipment. Other departments are generally tracking as expected, with the revenue having utilized 51% of the 2025 budget to date.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Commissioner Gerardy, seconded by Commissioner Mickelson, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 12:28 p.m. The next regular meeting of the board is scheduled for Tuesday, July 22, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

Kelsey Gervais, County Auditor

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Chuck Flage, Chairman  
Board of Commissioner