

PROCEEDINGS OF THE RED LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

February 24, 2026

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 February 24, 2026, at 10:00 am.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Eric Mickelson called the meeting to order. Commissioners present: Al Remick, Tony Gerardy, Andy Moran and Eric Mickelson. Chuck 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:

- Kurt Casavan re: Joint Polk County Ditch Meeting Update
- Kelsey Gervais Re: Statewide Affordable Housing Update

HIGHWAY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The board reviewed an updated bridge priority resolution for Red Lake County, identifying high-priority bridges requiring replacement, rehabilitation, or removal within the next five years and enables the County to seek state aid funding. Commissioner Gerardy moved, seconded by Moran and carried by unanimous vote to approve **RESOLUTION 02-01-2026: Red Lake County Prioritized Bridge Replacement List** contingent upon legal review, and the motion passed unanimously. A copy of the resolution is available in the Auditor's office for review.

Taylor Amiot, County Engineer, presented a resolution in support of Lambert Township's T36 (270th Avenue SE) Lost River crossing replacement project, with the County agreeing to serve as the sponsoring agency for state and federal funding. The proposal was developed in coordination with the Minnesota DNR, Red Lake Watershed District, Soil and Water Conservation District, township officials, and state bridge representatives. The DNR is pursuing grant funding to assist with engineering and design costs due to the structure's impact on fish passage. The existing LT10 (less than 10-foot) crossing, which consists of multiple culverts that frequently plug and overtop, will require a hydraulic and risk analysis to establish eligibility for Special Town Bridge funding, with a tentative construction year of 2027. Per the resolution, Lambert Township will own and maintain the completed structure and assume responsibility for any costs not covered by grants or state aid, while the County will act as fiscal agent and oversee compliance with applicable regulations. Commissioner Moran moved to approve **RESOLUTION 02-020-2026: Resolution of Support from Sponsoring Agency** contingent upon legal review, with Remick seconding the motion. The motion carried unanimously; a copy of the resolution is available in the Auditor's office for review.

Amiot requested approval for advertising for SP 063-601-022, CSAH 1 Mill and Overlay project from Highway 32 to U.S. 59, completing the final segment of the CSAH 1 corridor. Rumble strips were previously omitted in curve sections in anticipation of this overlay, and the prior pavement section was constructed with a minimum design (5 inches over 12 inches of gravel) to accommodate the upcoming work. The new overlay will be placed over recent construction without milling those sections, with milled areas tapered to minimize elevation differences. A motion from Remick for approval to advertise was made, seconded by Gerardy, and carried unanimously.

Amiot request approval to advertise for SAP 063-651-004, the Brooks Reconstruct project, with design services provided by Houston Engineering and an estimated cost of approximately \$3.06 million. Funding will utilize \$1.3 million from the County's municipal construction account, supplemented by regular construction funds and federal dollars, with sufficient overall funding available. The project includes

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storm sewer improvements, with MnDOT Hydrology determining that approximately 91% of costs are eligible for State Aid, and the City of Brooks responsible for its share, including any selected bid alternates. Additional improvements include new street lighting with outlets for seasonal use, dimming capabilities, ADA-compliant pedestrian access, and related infrastructure upgrades. The City will own and maintain the lighting system and coordinate any necessary utility adjustments. A motion to advertise was made by Commissioner Gerardy, seconded by Remick, and carried unanimously.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Environmental Officer, Kurt Casavan gave an update on the proposed joint county ditch informational hearings with Polk County, on Joint Ditches 60, 64, and 71. Discussion centered on whether to include additional non-joint systems, cost implications of redetermination of benefits, and concerns about potential expenses related to buffer strips, land acquisition, and viewer services. Commissioners expressed hesitation about pursuing redetermination without clear justification, noting limited drainage issues locally and questioning whether the cost would outweigh the benefits. It was agreed to proceed with informational meetings for the three joint systems, likely in late summer, with coordination between Red Lake and Polk Counties regarding notices, meeting logistics, and participation from H2O Overviews.

MINUTES

Commissioner Remick moved, seconded by Commissioner Moran, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the meeting on February 10, 2026.

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>
City of Thief River Falls	\$ 5,000.00
True North Surveys, P.A.	\$ 46,750.00
11 Payments less than \$2000	<u>\$ 2,649.68</u>
TOTAL	\$ 54,399.68

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Remick – Joint County Ditch Meeting in Polk County
- Gerardy – Joint County Ditch Meeting in Polk County, Household Hazardous Waste
- Moran – Joint County Ditch Meeting in Polk County, Red Lake River Advisory & Policy Committee
- Mickelson - None

AUDITOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Auditor Kelsey Gervais informed the board that the county has issued a total of four checks for the Down Payment Assistance Program in cooperation with the Northwest Minnesota Multi-County Housing and Redevelopment Authority. A total of \$80,000 in funds has been utilized, leaving \$99,043 available for future applicants.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Gerardy, seconded by Commissioner Remick, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 11:45 a.m. The next regular meeting of the board is scheduled for Tuesday, March 10th, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

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Attest: _____
Kelsey Gervais, County Auditor

Eric Mickelson, Chairman
Board of Commissioner