

PROCEEDINGS OF THE RED LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

January 6, 2026

Pursuant to adjournment of its last meeting, the Red Lake County Board of Commissioners duly met in reorganizational session pursuant to Minnesota Statute 357.07 at the Courthouse in Red Lake Falls, MN on January 6, 2026, at 10:00 am.

CALL TO ORDER

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

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Auditor Kelsey Gervais called for nominations for Chair of the Red Lake County Board for 2026. Commissioner Gerardy nominated Commissioner Mickelson as Chair. Auditor Gervais called for further nominations, and there were none. A motion to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Commissioner Mickelson to serve as the 2026 Board Chair was made by Commissioner Gerardy, seconded by Commissioner Flage, and carried unanimously. Auditor Gervais then turned the meeting over to Chair Mickelson. Commissioner Mickelson called for nominations for Vice-Chair. Commissioner Gerardy nominated Commissioner Remick as Vice-Chair. Board Chair Mickelson called for further nominations, and there were none. A motion to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Commissioner Remick to serve as the 2026 Board Vice-Chair was made by Commissioner Gerardy, seconded by Commissioner Moran, and carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Remick moved, seconded by Commissioner Flage, and carried unanimously to approve the agenda.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Environmental Officer, Kurt Casavan met with the board for approval of the annual legal ditch assessments. Commissioner Remick moved, seconded by Commissioner Moran, and carried unanimously to approve the payable 2026 legal ditch assessments and to authorize the County Auditor to levy such assessments for ditch maintenance purposes against the benefited property owners in the following amounts:

<u>Ditch</u>	<u>Assessment</u>	<u>Ditch</u>	<u>Assessment</u>	<u>Ditch</u>	<u>Assessment</u>
CD-2	\$5,000.00	CD-3	\$1,000.00	CD-4	\$5,000.00
CD-12	\$3,000.00	CD-1865	\$2,000.00	CD-22	\$1,000.00
CD-23	\$500.00	CD-28	\$1,000.00	CD-57	\$7,500.00
CD-60	\$4,000.00	CD-61	\$5,000.00	CD-62	\$5,000.00
CD-64	\$2,000.00	CD-67	\$1,500.00	CD-69	\$2,000.00
CD-70	\$500.00	JCD-3	\$2,000.00	JCD-11	\$1,500.00
JCD-13	\$3,000.00	JCD-15	\$4,000.00	JCD-31	\$2,000.00
JCD-60	\$6,000.00	JCD-64	\$4,000.00	JCD-66	\$8,000.00
JCD-71	\$5,000.00				
TOTAL	\$81,500.00				

JOINT COUNTY DITCH APPOINTMENTS

Casavan informed the Board that the County would like to appoint commissioners residing within the respective districts in which each joint county ditch is located. Following the discussion, Commissioner

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Gerardy moved, with a second by Commissioner Moran, to approve the joint county ditch representation as follows:

<u>Joint County Ditch</u>	<u>Commissioners</u>
JCD 1:	Mickelson, Gerardy and Remick as Alternate
JCD 3:	Mickelson, Gerardy, Moran and Remick as Alternate
JCD 11:	Gerardy, Mickelson and Remick as Alternate
JCD 13:	Flage, Gerardy, Mickelson and Remick as Alternate
JCD 15:	Flage, Gerardy, Mickelson and Remick as Alternate
JCD 31:	Mickelson, Gerardy and Remick as Alternate
JCD 60:	Flage, Moran and Remick as Alternate
JCD 64:	Gerardy, Moran and Remick as Alternate
JCD 66:	Moran, Gerardy, Mickelson and Remick as Alternate
JCD 71:	Mickelson, Gerardy and Remick as Alternate

2026 OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

Commissioner Flage moved that the official newspaper of Red Lake County for the year 2026 be The Red Lake County Gazette, published weekly each Saturday in Red Lake Falls. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Remick and, upon vote, was unanimously adopted.

2026 COMMISSIONER BOARD MEETINGS

Commissioner Gerardy moved, seconded by Commissioner Remick, and carried unanimously to establish the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 10:00 a.m. as the 2026 regular board meeting dates and times.

MEAL REIMBURSEMENT POLICY

Auditor Gervais met with the board to approve the County's 2026 meal reimbursement policy and mileage reimbursement rate. The rate of reimbursement for travel expenses of Red Lake County employees and officials for the use of their own private vehicle on County business is set at the IRS rate of \$0.725 per mile. The meal expense reimbursement for travel outside of Red Lake County is not to exceed: Breakfast - \$20.00, Lunch - \$20.00, Supper - \$30.00. Meal reimbursement is made for the exact expenditure and not for the maximum amount allowed. Meals are defined according to the standard meal model of breakfast, lunch, and supper and do not include snacks in between. Tips and alcoholic beverages are not reimbursable. Itemized receipts are required to receive reimbursement for any expenses.

Commissioner Moran moved, seconded by Commissioner Flage, and carried unanimously to approve the 2026 meal reimbursement policy and mileage reimbursement rate.

BEAVER BOUNTY

Commissioner Flage moved, seconded by Commissioner Gerardy and carried unanimously to approve the 2026 beaver bounty at \$75 each.

COUNTY BOARD ASSIGNMENTS

Commissioner Gerardy moved, second by Commissioner Remick and duly adopted to approve the legally constituted annual county board assignments for 2026 as follows:

Board of Health, County Law Enforcement, County Zoning and Ordinance Committee, Ditch, Finance, Job Evaluation, Road & Bridge, Solid Waste, Union Negotiations – County Board

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Advisory Board to Red Lake Watershed District – Moran (delegate) and Gerardy (alternate)
Area Agency on Aging – Flage (delegate) and Mickelson (alternate)
Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) – County Board
AMC Policy Committees: Environment/Natural Resources – Remick
 General Government – Moran
 Health & Human Services – Mickelson
 Public Safety – Gerardy
 Transportation – Flage
Citizens Advisory Committee (RLWD) – Moran
County Economic Development Board – Flage and Gerardy
County Extension – Mickelson and Flage
County Fair Board – Mickelson (delegate) and Gerardy (alternate)
County Parks – Moran (delegate) and Gerardy (alternate)
County Roads – Moran and Gerardy
County Safety – Remick
County Water Res. Advisory (SWCD) – Gerardy
County Weed Advisory Committee – Moran
Courthouse Purchasing/Maintenance/Planning – Mickelson
Emergency Management – Gerardy
Household Hazardous Waste – Gerardy (delegate) and Mickelson (alternate)
Inter-County Community Council – Mickelson
Pennington & Red Lake County Public Health & Home Care Board – Flage
Joint Counties Watershed Board – Moran (delegate) and Flage (alternate)
County Ditch Board – Gerardy, Moran and Mickelson (CD2, CD3 and CD4)
Joint County Ditch Board – See Ditch Appointments
Law Enforcement Committee – Moran and Remick
Law Library – Mickelson
Minnesota Rural Counties (MRC) – Flage (delegate) and Gerardy (alternate)
Northwest Mental Health Center (Alluma) – Remick
NW Regional Development Commission – Flage (TAC, RTCC & Aging), Mickelson (Loan)
NW Regional Emergency Radio Board – Remick (delegate) and Gerardy (alternate)
Personnel Committee – Moran and Remick
Quin-County Board of Health – Moran (delegate) and Gerardy (alternate)
Red Lake County Affordable Housing Committee – Remick
Regional Corrections – Moran and Remick
Red Lake River Corridor Workgroup – Remick (delegate) and Flage (alternate)
Red River Basin (Int'l Coalition) – Remick
RLWD One Watershed/One Plan (1W1P) – Flage (delegate) and Mickelson (alternate)

COUNTY APPROPRIATIONS

Commissioner Flage moved, seconded by Commissioner Remick and carried unanimously to approve the following county appropriations for 2026, with an appropriation over \$20,000 to be paid out in quarterly installments:

AFRAN	\$500.00
Red River Basin Commission	\$100.00
Red Lake County Fair Board	\$10,000.00

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American Legion (3 @ \$85)	\$255.00
RRV Development Assoc	\$900.00
Penn & Red Lake County PH & HC	\$28,597.00
Oklee Ambulance Service	\$22,000.00
RLF Ambulance Service	\$44,000.00
NW Regional Library	\$39,851.00

MINUTES

Commissioner Remick moved, seconded by Commissioner Gerardy, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the meeting on December 23, 2025.

EXPENDITURES

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

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Government Management Group	\$ 3,250.00
Hawkinson Construction Co, Inc.	\$ 62,917.04
RJ Zavoral & Sons	\$ 53,974.96
Saber Sred Solutions Inc	\$ 2,483.30
11 Payments less than \$2,000	<u>\$ 4,292.21</u>
TOTAL	\$126,917.51

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Gerardy - None
Moran – None
Flage – None
Remick – Alluma
Mickelson - None

AUDITOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Auditor Gervais presented the board with a resolution authorizing the Auditor to pay routine bills. Commissioner Gerardy moved, seconded by Commissioner Moran, and carried unanimously to approve **Resolution 01-01-2026**. A copy of the Resolution is available in the Auditor’s office.

Gervais also presented the board with **RESOLUTION 01-02-2026** establishing Absentee Ballot Board, Mail Ballot Board and UOCAVA Ballot Board for 2026 Elections. Commissioner Flage motioned and seconded by Commissioner Remick to approve **Resolution 01-02-2026**. A copy of the resolution is available in the Auditor’s office.

Gervais presented a request from County Recorder Joyce Paquin to establish a fee, pursuant to M.S. § 480.50, related to the address-protection program for district court judges. The request is to set a fee of \$75 for each real-property notice, consent to access, request to access, and consent to terminate filed under the statute. Commissioner Moran moved to approve the \$75 fee, seconded by Commissioner Remick. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

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A motion was made by Commissioner Flage, seconded by Commissioner Remick, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 11:08 a.m. The next regular meeting of the board is scheduled for Tuesday, January 27, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

Attest: _____
Kelsey Gervais, County Auditor

Eric Mickelson, Chairman
Board of Commissioner