

REDWOOD COUNTY, MINNESOTA

May 19, 2026

The Board of County Commissioners met in regular session at 8:30 a.m. in the Commissioner’s Room in the Government Center, Redwood Falls, Minnesota.

Present for all or portions of the meeting were Commissioners Dennis Groebner, Bob Van Hee, Jim Salfer, Rick Wakefield, Corey Theis, County Administrator Vicki Kletscher, Administrative Assistant Sierra Fluck, Assistant County Attorney Marissa Pochecho, Auditor Treasurer Jean Price, Human Resource Director Michelle Koenig, Economic Development Coordinator Grady Holtberg, Environmental Director Nick Brozek, Engineer Nick Klisch, Road & Bridge Administrative Assistant Robin Kokesch, Veteran Services Officer Roger Zollner, Greg Anderson, Dean Zimmerli, Eric Anderson, Noah Behrends, Assistant Veterans Services officer Stephanie Backer.

Chair Wakefield called the meeting to order asking for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

On motion by Groebner, second by Van Hee, the Board voted unanimously to approve the May 19 agenda.

Chair Wakefield asked the Board Members to identify any areas in which they had a conflict of interest. Wakefield identified a conflict in the Abstract of Bills.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- On motion by Salfer, second by Theis, with Wakefield abstaining due to a conflict of interest, the Board voted to approve the bills from Lori Wakefield in the amount of \$390.00 and Rick Wakefield in the amount of \$390.00.
- On motion Groebner, second by Van Hee, excluding the bills from Lori Wakefield in the amount of \$390.00 and Rick Wakefield in the amount of \$390.00, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following:
  - May 5<sup>th</sup> Minutes
  - Payment of bills

General Fund	\$ 87,197.07
Ditch Fund	\$ 27,468.78
Solid Waste Fund	\$ 65.95
Soil & Water	\$ 225.56
EDA	\$ 1,000.00
R & B Fund	\$ 278.76
Insurance	\$ 468.00

○ **Bills exceeding \$2,000:**

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
BEHREND/MARK	2,692.35
CENTRALSQUARE TECHNOLOGIES LLC	10,694.56
COLUMN SOFTWARE PBC	2,066.90

COUNTIES PROVIDING TECHNOLOGY	4,993.00
DELL MARKETING LP	3,585.72
FLEET SERVICES DIVISION-DEPT OF ADM	14,196.36
KRAMER LAW OFFICE	5,690.00
KUTAK ROCK LP	15,000.00
MARTIN LAW FIRM PLLC	3,681.60
MINNESOTA POLLUTION CONTROL AGEN	3,198.19
OSLAND EXCAVATING	6,295.00
REDWOOD COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPT	6,817.82
THE MARKET AT REDWOOD LLC	10,799.42
65 Payments less than 2000	26,036.77
<b>Final Total:</b>	<b>115,747.69</b>

**EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION**

- The Board recognized Robin Kokesch, Administrative Assistant/Accounting Technician, for 10 years of service to Redwood County.

**AUDITOR-TREASURER**

- On motion by Groebner, second by Van Hee, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following consent agenda: Cash Balance Report; Investment Summary; Budget Reports, and April 2026 Disbursements in the amount of \$1,554,948.68.
- Bills exceeding \$2,000:

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF MINNESO	72,498.87
BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF MINNESO	2,010.00
BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF MINNESO	29,653.01
BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF MINNESO	9,637.63
BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF MINNESO	37,559.93
BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF MINNESO	69,453.52
GREAT PLAINS NATURAL GAS CO	3,820.17
METLIFE	5,884.67
METLIFE	4,620.42
METLIFE	5,823.72
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT of REVENUE	44,153.23
PAYCOM CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS	2,051.80
REDWOOD FALLS PUBLIC UTILITIES	4,578.52
REDWOOD FALLS PUBLIC UTILITIES	7,691.00
REDWOOD FALLS PUBLIC UTILITIES	4,625.52
STATE OF MINNESOTA	49,218.57
STATE OF MINNESOTA	38,781.32
STATE OF MINNESOTA	22,690.29
STATE OF MINNESOTA	28,638.57
STATE OF MINNESOTA	69,873.02
STATE OF MINNESOTA	2,247.75
STATE OF MINNESOTA	38,138.06
STATE OF MINNESOTA	32,182.56
STATE OF MINNESOTA	38,660.53
STATE OF MINNESOTA	17,770.39
STATE OF MINNESOTA	24,956.10
STATE OF MINNESOTA	7,469.38
STATE OF MINNESOTA	30,421.27
STATE OF MINNESOTA	17,405.59
STATE OF MINNESOTA	60,911.11
STATE OF MINNESOTA	28,008.36
STATE OF MINNESOTA	60,178.44

STATE OF MINNESOTA	2,389.50
STATE OF MINNESOTA	50,589.56
STATE OF MINNESOTA	28,047.64
STATE OF MINNESOTA	18,587.93
STATE OF MINNESOTA	28,098.61
STATE OF MINNESOTA	37,459.69
STATE OF MINNESOTA	2,121.50
STATE OF MINNESOTA	36,062.38
STATE OF MINNESOTA	35,876.94
WEX LEAP	10,876.89

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
WEX LEAP	11,141.60
23 Payments less than 2000	8,843.91
<b>Final Total:</b>	<b>1,141,709.47</b>

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
6 Payments less than 2000	2,548.00
<b>Final Total:</b>	<b>2,548.00</b>

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
MN COMMISSION OF FINANCE	5,307.00
REDWOOD COUNTY AUD-TREAS	2,414.00
8 Payments less than 2000	3,156.23
<b>Final Total:</b>	<b>10,877.23</b>

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
MEADOWLAND FARMERS COOP	5,432.70
9 Payments less than 2000	1,418.99
<b>Final Total:</b>	<b>6,851.69</b>

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
10 Payments less than 2000	1,951.95
<b>Final Total:</b>	<b>1,951.95</b>

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
EVERSTRONG CONSTRUCTION INC	212,804.97
MEADOWLAND FARMERS COOP	18,390.83
TOWMASTER	87,554.00
2 Payments less than 2000	855.31
<b>Final Total:</b>	<b>319,605.11</b>

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
SOUTHWEST HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICE	58,807.75
8 Payments less than 2000	2,475.63
<b>Final Total:</b>	<b>61,283.38</b>

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
10 Payments less than 2000	5,190.16
<b>Final Total:</b>	<b>5,190.16</b>

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
9 Payments less than 2000	4,931.69
<b>Final Total:</b>	<b>4,931.69</b>

- On motion by Salfer, second by Van Hee, the Board voted unanimously to acknowledge the Confession of Judgment for parcel #94-200-3280 and #94-200-3300.
- On motion by Van Hee, second by Groebner, the Board voted unanimously to acknowledge the Confession of Judgment for parcel #92-200-1020.
- On motion by Groebner, second by Wakefield, the Board voted unanimously to

acknowledge the Confession of Judgment for parcel #83-565-0220.

- On motion by Salfer, second by Theis, the Board voted unanimously to approve the rental agreement with the Redwood Area Community Center to hold the Election Judge and Clerk training on June 24, 2026.

#### **VETERAN SERVICES**

- The Oath of Office was administered to Stephanie Backer, Assistant Veterans Service Officer, by Chair Wakefield.
- On motion by Groebner, second by Van Hee, in a roll call vote with Theis, Salfer, Van Hee, Wakefield, and Groebner all voting aye, the Board adopted the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statute §197.60 declares that the terms of offices as County Veteran Service Officer and Assistant County Veteran Service Officer shall be for four years with the first 12 months of the initial appointment being a probationary period, unless removed for cause upon written charges and after a hearing thereon.

WHEREAS, Stephanie Backer has been first appointed as the Redwood County Assistant Veteran Services Officer by the Redwood County Board of Commissioners on May 12, 2026, serving the first 12 months as probationary period and the remainder of the term ending May 12, 2027.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Commissioners in and for the County of Redwood, Minnesota that, in accordance with Minnesota Statute §197.60 that Stephanie Backer be and hereby is appointed to a one-year probationary term beginning May 12, 2026, and continuing through May 12, 2027.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Department of Veteran's Affairs

#### **PUBLIC HEARING- Continuation of CD 20 from April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026**

- Entered Ditch Authority at 9:00 a.m.
- Chair Wakefield presented information to determine the sufficiency of the petition, and it was determined to be sufficient.
- Brozek read the DNR Commissioner's Advisory Report
- On motion by Wakefield, second by Van Hee, the Board voted unanimously to close discussion on the Commissioner's report.
- On motion by Groebner, second by Van Hee, the Board voted unanimously to close discussion on the Engineers report.
- The Board viewed and discussed the viewers report. Behrends stated the total amount of benefits is \$ 1,753,992; the total amount of damages is \$273,680; and the net benefits is \$292,850
- The Board heard testimony by Greg Anderson.
- On motion by Groebner, second by Salfer, the Board voted unanimously to close public comment.

- On motion by Wakefield, second by Theis, the Board voted unanimously that based upon the evidence, the Board find that the detailed survey report and viewers' report have been made and other proceedings have been completed under Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 103E;
- On motion by Theis, second by Wakefield, the Board voted unanimously that based upon the evidence, the Board finds that the reports made or amended are complete and correct;
- On motion by Theis, second by Groebner, the Board voted unanimously that, based upon the evidence, the Board finds that the damages and benefits have been properly determined;
- On motion by Theis, second by Groebner, the Board voted unanimously that based upon the evidence, the Board finds that the estimated benefits are greater than the total estimated cost, including damages;
- On motion by Groebner, second by Van Hee, the Board voted unanimously that based upon the evidence, the Board finds that the proposed drainage project will be of public utility and benefit, and will promote the public health;
- On motion by Theis, second by Van Hee, the Board voted unanimously that based upon the evidence, the Board finds that the proposed drainage project is practicable;
- On motion by Wakefield, second by Van Hee, the Board voted unanimously that based upon the findings, the Board issue its order:
  - (i) presenting the drainage authority's findings;
  - (ii) adopting and confirming the viewers' report as made or amended; and
  - (iii) establishing the proposed drainage project as reported and amended.
- On motion by Groebner, second by Wakefield, the Board voted unanimously that the Redwood County Auditor be contacted by petitioner's attorney to confirm the length of time and number of annual statements in which the assessments for the project shall be paid and the interest rate to be borne by the drainage lien, and whether drainage bonds are to be issued to finance the construction, including the rate of interest for such bonds; and that this information be included in the final resolution and order.
- On motion by Groebner, second by Wakefield, the Board voted unanimously that based upon the evidence, the Board finds that only a separable portion of the existing drainage system will be improved and that this portion also needs repair.
- On motion by Van Hee, second by Salfer the Board voted unanimously that based on the evidence, the Board determine and assess, by order, that the amount of \$1,447,825 be allocated as repairs and assessed against all property benefited by the entire drainage system, and that the balance of the cost of the improvement be assessed in addition to the repair assessment against the property benefited by the improvement.
- On motion by Wakefield, second by Theis, the Board voted unanimously that the Board's drainage attorney draft the resolution and order establishing the drainage project and forward the draft order to the petitioners' attorney for review. The resolution and order will be considered for adoption at the next open meeting of the board of commissioners and duly issued forthwith.
- On motion by Theis, second by Van Hee, the Board voted unanimously to direct the Auditor- Treasurer to send letters to landowners for prepayments.
- On motion by Wakefield, second by Theis, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the Ditch Authority at 9:29 a.m.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

- Holtberg updated the Board on current EDA projects including Broadband, Housing Trust Fund, and Childcare.
- On motion by Theis, second by Groebner, the Board voted unanimously to Table the EDA Purchase of vacant lots agreement and the EDA Development Agreement with Green Buffalo Institute to June 2, 2026.

**ROAD & BRIDGE**

- On motion Theis, second by Van Hee, the Board voted unanimously to approve Construction Contract 26-3 for CSAH 11 Sherman Township Bridge Replacement to Everstrong Construction in the amount of \$1,287,386.75.

Other Bids received:

<u>Company</u>	<u>Bid Amount</u>
Structural Specialties Inc.	\$1,654,726.86
Redstone Construction, LLC	\$1,926,491.00
S.M. Hentges & Son, Inc.	\$2,250,395.07

- On motion by Groebner, second by Theis, in a roll call vote with Theis, Salfer, Van Hee, Wakefield, and Groebner all voting aye, the Board adopted the following resolution:

WHEREAS **Redwood County** has applied to the Commissioner of Transportation for a grant from the Minnesota State Transportation Fund related to Bridge No. 64609; and  
 WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Transportation has given notice that funding for this project is available; and

WHEREAS, the amount of the grant has been determined to be **\$488,018.75** by reason of the lowest responsible bid;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that Redwood County does hereby agree to the terms and conditions of the grant consistent with Minnesota Statutes, section 174.50, and will pay any additional amount by which the cost exceeds the estimate and will return to the Minnesota State Transportation Fund any amount appropriated for the project but not required. The proper County officers are authorized to execute a grant agreement and any amendments thereto with the Commissioner of Transportation concerning the above-referenced grant.

- On motion by Theis, second by Groebner, the Board voted unanimously to declare the following items Highway Department equipment surplus property- 2014 International Plow Truck, 1988 Sullair Air compressor, Trencher, Pneumatic Tire Roller, Used Packer, Asphalt Box Trailer, Cement Trailer, Used tires and rims, Skid Loader broom, and Stick Welders.
- On motion by Van Hee, second by Groebner, the Board voted unanimously to approve final payment for Construction Contract 24-2 to John Riley Construction, Inc. in the

amount of \$292,428.16.

- On motion by Wakefield, second by Groebner, the Board voted unanimously to approve Culvert repair quote for CSAH 11 to Subsurface, Inc. in the amount of \$58,450.00. No other quotes were received.

**ADMINISTRATION**

- Kletscher reviewed the April 2026 jail population for the Board.
- On motion by Theis, second by Salfer, the Board voted unanimously to Table the Cooperative Agreement for RLS Treatment Court to June 2, 2026.
- On motion by Van Hee, second by Groebner, the Board voted unanimously to approve the revised Plum Creek Library System Agency Agreement.
- On motion by Salfer, second by Wakefield, the Board voted unanimously to approve the revised Electronic License Deputy Registrar Contract.

***Personnel***

- On motion by Salfer, second by Van Hee, the Board voted unanimously to acknowledge the resignation of Chris Burchfield, GIS Specialist, effective May 29, 2026.

**COMMISSIONERS**

Salfer: Southwest Health & Human Services, Personnel, A.C.E, Western Mental Health, Southwest 18 Adult Mental Health Consortium

Wakefield: EDA, Personnel, A.C.E., Explore Southwest Minnesota

Groebner: Redwood Renville Regional Solid Waste Authority, Soil & Water, Friends of Gillfillan

Van Hee: Fair Board, Primewest, SRDC, Minnesota Rural Counties

Theis: A.C.E., Redwood Renville Regional Solid Waste Authority

**ADJOURN**

- There being no further business, Chair Wakefield declared the meeting adjourned at 10:32 a.m.

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Rick Wakefield, Chair  
Board of County Commissioners

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Vicki Kletscher  
County Administrator