

REDWOOD COUNTY, MINNESOTA

July 15, 2025

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, Corey Theis, Rick Wakefield, Administrative Assistant Sierra Fluck, Auditor Treasurer Jean Price, Human Resource Director Michelle Koenig, Sheriff Jason Jacobson, County Attorney Shannon Ness, Assistant County Attorney Marissa Pacheco, Economic Development Coordinator Grady Holtberg, Planning & Zoning Supervisor Jeanette Pidde, Area Wildlife Manager Jeff Zajac, MCIT Risk Management consultant Joe Cieminski, Chris Fischer, Kris Boedigheimer, William Dougless, John Rohlik, Dean Zimmerli, Jim Weidemann, Dave Anderson, Mike Anderson, Dean & Carolyn Huhnerkoch, Andrew Rigge,

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

On motion by Groebner, second by Theis, the Board voted unanimously to approve the July 15 agenda.

Chair Wakefield asked the Board Members to identify any areas in which they had a conflict of interest. There was none.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- On motion Salfer, second by Van Hee, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following:
  - July 1<sup>st</sup> Minutes
  - Payment of bills

General Fund	\$ 277,271.41
Building Fund	\$ 10,360.15
Ditch Fund	\$ 121,263.93
Solid Waste Fund	\$ 35.00
Soil & Water	\$ 453.96
Debt Service Fund	\$ 214,250.00
EDA	\$ 1,000.00
R & B Fund	\$ 2,789.77
State Revenue	\$ 725.00
Insurance	\$ 463.53

○ **Bills exceeding \$2,000:**

Vendor Name

Amount

ACE OF SOUTHWEST MINNESOTA	10,560.75
COUNTIES PROVIDING TECHNOLOGY	4,927.00
CR KERKHOFF INC	9,802.50
FLYING BUTTRESS MEDIA LLC	2,570.15
GEOCOMM	3,240.14
HOPE HAVEN INC	2,180.00
KLABUNDE ELECTRIC INC	12,575.94
LITZAU FARM DRAINAGE INC	98,878.00
MARSH & MCLENNAN AGENCY LLC	17,499.32
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT of CORRECTI	135,029.10
MN COUNTIES COMPUTER COOPERATIV	28,435.29
MN COUNTIES INTERGOVERNMENTAL T	7,604.00
PRO-TECH SALES	12,270.00
REDWOOD COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPT	4,870.93
REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MINN	25,000.00
SCHMIDT CONSTRUCTION INC	8,045.00
THE MARKET AT REDWOOD LLC	8,961.23
U.S. BANK ST. PAUL	214,250.00
56 Payments less than 2 0 0 0	21,496.59
<b>Final Total:</b>	<b>628,195.94</b>

**AUDITOR-TREASURER**

- On motion by Salfer, second by Theis, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following consent agenda: Cash Balance Report; Investment Summary; Budget Reports, and June 2025 Disbursements in the amount of \$12,558,920.95.
- Bills exceeding \$2,000:

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF MINNESO	50,626.38
BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF MINNESO	55,649.00
BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF MINNESO	40,979.29
BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF MINNESO	38,691.41
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT of REVENUE	30,409.81
MN COMMISSION OF FINANCE	377,449.36
PAYCOM CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS	2,755.14
REDWOOD COUNTY LICENSE CENTER	4,077.50
REDWOOD COUNTY LICENSE CENTER	2,667.11
REDWOOD COUNTY LICENSE CENTER	2,585.96
REDWOOD COUNTY LICENSE CENTER	2,691.73
REDWOOD COUNTY LICENSE CENTER	2,660.66
REDWOOD COUNTY LICENSE CENTER	2,232.13
REDWOOD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE	2,041.54
REDWOOD FALLS PUBLIC UTILITIES	3,257.21
REDWOOD FALLS PUBLIC UTILITIES	8,132.69
WEX LEAP	7,713.62
WEX LEAP	7,713.62
WEX LEAP	7,813.62
41 Payments less than 2 0 0 0	-6,176.87
<b>Final Total:</b>	<b>643,970.91</b>

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
METLIFE	4,173.68
MN COMMISSION OF FINANCE	5,387.00

9	Payments less than 2 0 0 0	2,118.23
	<b>Final Total:</b>	<b>11,678.91</b>

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
CITY OF BELVIEW	107,557.93
CITY OF CLEMENTS	40,366.88
CITY OF DELHI	41,097.83
CITY OF LAMBERTON	520,081.97
CITY OF LUCAN	74,885.51
CITY OF MILROY	163,529.16
CITY OF MORGAN	226,853.16
CITY OF REDWOOD FALLS	2,157,319.95
CITY OF REVERE	40,668.28
CITY OF SANBORN	105,234.13
CITY OF SEAFORTH	23,255.84
CITY OF VESTA	108,026.93
CITY OF WABASSO	370,611.22
CITY OF WALNUT GROVE	189,675.86
CITY OF WANDA	37,976.88
LINCOLN-PIPESTONE RURAL WATER SY	4,340.99
RED ROCK RURAL WATER SYSTEM	9,073.88
REDWOOD PROPERTY HOLDINGS LLC	2,442.36
RRRSWA	340,453.38
SCHOOL DISTRICT 2190	9,610.18
SCHOOL DISTRICT 2754	238,028.44
SCHOOL DISTRICT 2884	239,872.35
SCHOOL DISTRICT 2897	1,100,954.32
SCHOOL DISTRICT 2898	123,556.03
SCHOOL DISTRICT 2904	46,358.05
SCHOOL DISTRICT 635	111,731.19
SCHOOL DISTRICT 640	311,789.71
SCHOOL DISTRICT 85	98,973.98
SOUTHWEST HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICE	1,932,433.81
SW REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISS	41,286.34
TOWNSHIP OF BROOKVILLE	51,767.22
TOWNSHIP OF CHARLESTOWN	41,234.16
TOWNSHIP OF DELHI	38,728.81
TOWNSHIP OF GALES	35,373.10
TOWNSHIP OF GRANITE ROCK	46,341.38
TOWNSHIP OF JOHNSONVILLE	55,389.72
TOWNSHIP OF KINTIRE	61,192.71
TOWNSHIP OF LAMBERTON	55,827.43
TOWNSHIP OF MORGAN	79,746.19
TOWNSHIP OF NEW AVON	56,492.02
TOWNSHIP OF NORTH HERO	55,003.48
TOWNSHIP OF PAXTON	97,291.47

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
TOWNSHIP OF REDWOOD FALLS	70,798.37
TOWNSHIP OF SHERIDAN	46,332.11
TOWNSHIP OF SHERMAN	51,200.73
TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGDALE	58,582.92
TOWNSHIP OF SUNDOWN	69,507.01
TOWNSHIP OF SWEDES FOREST	39,622.83

TOWNSHIP OF THREE LAKES	80,373.46
TOWNSHIP OF UNDERWOOD	58,023.10
TOWNSHIP OF VAIL	37,224.88
TOWNSHIP OF VESTA	47,811.45
TOWNSHIP OF WATERBURY	47,840.13
TOWNSHIP OF WESTLINE	37,238.81
TOWNSHIP OF WILLOW LAKE	61,110.92
4     Payments less than 2 0 0 0	2,427.45
<b>Final Total:</b>	<b>10,200,528.40</b>

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
FARMWARD COOPERATIVE	6,080.55
11     Payments less than 2000	3,482.49
<b>Final Total:</b>	<b>9,563.04</b>

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
MINNESOTA VALLEY SNOW-RIDERS	4,333.50
12     Payments less than 2 0 0 0	1,715.52
<b>Final Total:</b>	<b>13,041.55</b>

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
COUNTY OF YELLOW MEDICINE HWY DE	764,705.55
WELTSCH EQUIPMENT INC	33,015.31
3     Payments less than 2 0 0 0	309.06
<b>Final Total:</b>	<b>798,029.92</b>

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
RANGER PUMPS	5,800.00
9     Payments less than 2 0 0 0	5,475.30
<b>Final Total:</b>	<b>11,275.30</b>

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
4     Payments less than 2 0 0 0	785.58
<b>Final Total:</b>	<b>785.58</b>

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
MIDWEST CONTRACTING LLC	820,980.92
5     Payments less than 2 0 0 0	1,083.65
<b>Final Total:</b>	<b>822,064.57</b>

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
CORE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES PA	2,100.00
HAHN/JENNIFER	20,000.00
MINNESOTA SOIL HEALTH COALITION	16,000.00
8     Payments less than 2 0 0 0	4,839.44
<b>Final Total:</b>	<b>42,939.44</b>

<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
METLIFE	4,275.50
3     Payments less than 2 0 0 0	767.83

**Final Total: 5,043.33**

- On motion by Salfer, second by Groebner, the Board voted unanimously to approve the 2024 audit.
- On motion by Theis, second by Van Hee, the Board voted unanimously to approve the 2025 Budget Adjustments.

#### **COUNTY ATTORNEY & SHERIFF**

- On motion by Wakefield, second by Groebner, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Injunction Litigation Against Minn. Stat. 241.021 subd. 4f supporting injunction to prevent a new amendment to 241.021 from going into effect.

#### **SHERIFF**

- The Board reviewed the June 2025 Jail Population.

#### **MCIT**

- Cieminski presented the 2025 MCIT Report to the Board.

#### **DITCH AUTHORITY- PUBLIC HEARING- CD 33 BR 5**

- Entered into Ditch Authority at 9:30 a.m.
- On motion by Theis, second by Van Hee, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the July 15, 2025, County Ditch 33 Branch 5 Agenda.
- Pidde presented the Affidavit of publication.
- DNR Engineer William Douglas presented the County Ditch 33 project to the Board.
- On motion by Theis, second by Wakefield, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Petition to impound, reroute, and divert County Ditch 33 Branch 5.
- On motion by Salfer, second by Groebner, the Board voted unanimously to approve the proposed findings and order drafted based on the decision of the Drainage Authority.
- On motion by Salfer, second by Van Hee, the Board voted unanimously to approve June 17, 2025, minutes.
- Ditch Authority adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

#### **DNR**

- On motion by Salfer, second by Groebner, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Proposed State Land Acquisition for Coal Mine Creek Wildlife Management Area, parcel # Tracts 20 & 21, section 14 of Charlestown Township to be acquired by the State of Minnesota for Wildlife Management Area purposes.

#### **DITCH AUTHORITY0 PUBLIC HEARING- CD 20**

- Entered into Ditch Authority at 10:04 a.m.
- Wakefield called the County Ditch 20 Public Hearing to order.
- On motion by Salfer, second by Theis, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the July 15, 2025, County Ditch 20 Agenda.

- Wakefield confirmed that the drainage attorney for the County has reviewed the petition. All legal requirements have been met. The petition has been deemed adequate.
- Wakefield confirmed the petitioner's submitted surety in the form of an irrevocable letter of credit in the amount of \$50,000.00, with Redwood County Drainage Authority listed as the beneficiary. The petitioners twice submitted amended letters of credit to increase the surety amount, first to \$100,000.00, and currently to \$150,000.00. The funds provided to date are adequate to cover costs incurred through the preliminary hearing. Should the Board vote for continued proceedings, additional funds may be needed to cover the costs of the final survey and viewers. The costs will be monitored monthly, and an additional bond would be required of petitioners pursuant to Minn.Stat. 103E.202, Subd. 6, if the costs incurred before the proposed drainage project is established will exceed the amount of the petitioner's bond.
- Redwood County Land Use & Zoning Supervisor Jeanette Pidde presented the affidavits of publication.
- Pidde read the DNR report and provided comments on the preliminary engineer's report.
- Widmer, project engineer for ISG Inc., presented the engineer's preliminary report.
- Zimmerli made comments regarding the proposed project.
- Wakefield asked for testimony from petitioners or objectors. There was none.
- Wakefield closed the Hearing to Public Comment.
  
- On motion by Theis, second by Groebner, the Board finds that the private and public benefits will exceed the costs of the proposed drainage project, and the proposed drainage project is feasible.
- On motion by Van Hee, second by Theis, the Board finds that the proposed drainage project will provide improved drainage capacity which will help increase crop yields and prevent crops from drowning out in depressional areas of the watershed and prevent channelized overland flow from developing across agricultural lands, and add depth to the drainage system in areas where there is inadequate cover for today's farming practices, and accordingly there is necessity for the proposed drainage project;
- On motion by Groebner, second by Theis, the Board finds that there are no alternative measures, including measures identified in applicable state-approved and locally adopted water management plans, to conserve, allocate, and use drainage waters for agriculture, stream flow augmentation, or other beneficial uses; reduce downstream peak flows and flooding; provide adequate drainage system capacity; reduce erosion and sedimentation; and protect or improve water quality beyond those identified by the engineer in the preliminary engineers report.
- On motion by Groebner, second by Salfer, the Board finds that anticipated land use within the drainage project or system will be unchanged from the present use of the land, and compatible with local land use plans.
- On motion by Salfer, second by Groebner, the Board finds that the flooding characteristics of property in the drainage project or system and downstream for 5-, 10-, 25- and 50-year flood events will be improved.
- On motion by Salfer, second by Groebner, the Board finds that there is an insignificant effect on wetlands from constructing the proposed drainage project.

- On motion by Theis, second by Wakefield, the Board finds that there is an insignificant effect on water quality from constructing the proposed drainage project and potential insignificant impacts on water quality through implementation of the multi-purpose drainage management plan.
- On motion by Groebner, second by Salfer, the Board finds that there is an insignificant effect upon fish and wildlife resources affected by the proposed drainage project.
- On motion by Theis, second by Van Hee, the Board finds that the shallow groundwater availability, distribution, and use in the drainage project or system will be unaffected.
- On motion by Salfer, second by Groebner, the Board finds that the proposed drainage project will be of public benefit and promote the public health, after considering the environmental, land use, and multi-purpose water management criteria in Section 103E.015, subd. 1.
- On motion by Theis, second by Van Hee, the Board finds that the outlet for the proposed drainage project is adequate to sustain the flow of water that is anticipated by improvement.
- On motion by Theis, second by Van Hee, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Preliminary Report and Continued Proceedings.
- On motion by Wakefield, second by Salfer, the Board voted unanimously to direct the Engineer to prepare the final engineering report.
- On motion by Salfer, second by Theis, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Mark Behrends and his group of viewers to view the improvement.
- On motion by Groebner, second by Van Hee, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the Findings and Order for County Ditch 20.
- On motion by Salfer, second by Groebner, the Board voted unanimously to approve June 3, 2025, minutes.
- Ditch Authority Adjourned at 11:04 a.m.

#### **SBDC**

- On motion by Theis, second by Van Hee, the Board voted unanimously to approve the 2026 annual budget \$5,000 appropriation to the Southwest Business Development Center from the EDA budget.

#### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

- On motion by Theis, second by Salfer the Board voted unanimously to approve the formal letter to LinkedIn Ads Support requesting access to the Redwood County LinkedIn page.
- On motion by Van Hee, second by Theis, the Board voted unanimously to approve to transfer 2025 Statewide Affordable Housing Aid in the amount of \$38,566 from the Economic Development Budget to the Redwood County Housing Trust Fund.
- Holtberg provided the Board updates on the current Economic Development projects including Broadband, Housing, and childcare.

**DITCH AUTHORITY- CD 70**

- Entered into Ditch Authority at 11:31 a.m.
- On motion by Van Hee, second by Theis, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the July 15, 2025, County Ditch 70 Agenda.
- On motion by Wakefield, second by Groebner and in a roll call vote with all members voting aye, the Board approved the Findings and Order for County Ditch 70.
- On motion by Theis, second by Salfer, the Board voted unanimously to approve June 3, 2025, minutes.
- Ditch Authority adjourned at 11:32 a.m.

**ADMINISTRATION**

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

**WHEREAS**, Anthony Sellner, Redwood County Engineer resigned from his position effective July 24, 2025, thereby creating a vacancy of the office of the County Highway Engineer; and

**WHEREAS**, the County Administrator has recommended to the County Board of Commissioners that Nick Klisch be appointed as replacement; therefore,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Board of Commissioners in and for the County of Redwood, Minnesota, that, in accordance with Minn. Stat. 163.07 that Nick Klisch be and hereby is appointed to a one-year term beginning July 28, 2025, and continuing through April 30, 2026.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be included with the personnel file held by the County Administrator's Office.

- On motion by Salfer, second by Wakefield, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Joint Powers Agreement with Red Rock Rural Water System.

***Personnel***

- On motion by Theis, second by Van Hee, the Board voted unanimously to approve hiring one additional correctional officer for the Sheriff's Department, only during the time a current Correctional Officer is on leave. Upon the employees' return in July 2026, staffing will revert to original 9 FTE.
- On motion by Salfer, second by Groebner, the Board voted unanimously to hire Tim Tierney as Highway Maintenance Specialist for the Highway Department on AFSCME Non-Union Salary Schedule Grade 10/Step 2 at \$24.73 due to experience, effective August 11, 2025, and resignation of Ashton Stephens Correctional Officer effective August 17, 2025.

**ADJOURN**

- There being no further business, Chair Wakefield declared the meeting adjourned at 11:36 a.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rick Wakefield, Chair  
Board of County Commissioners

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Sierra Fluck  
Administrative Assistant