

Call to Order

The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners met the 24th day of March, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. at the Aitkin Government Center with the following members present in the meeting room: Board Chair J. Mark Wedel, Commissioners Laurie Westerlund, Travis Leiviska, and Bret Sample. Commissioner Michael Kearney was present via interactive technology due to an out-of-town commitment and was seen and heard in the meeting room. Also present were County Administrator David Minke and Administrative Assistant April Kellerman.

Approval of Agenda

Motion made by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Sample and upon a roll call vote carried 5-0 to approve the March 24, 2026 agenda.

Citizens' Public Comment made by Richard Anderson, Spalding Township.

Consent Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Sample, seconded by Commissioner Kearney and upon a roll call vote carried 5-0 to approve the Consent Agenda as follows.

- A) Correspondence File March 10, 2026 to March 23, 2026;
- B) Approve March 10, 2026 County Board Minutes;
- C) Approve Auditor Vouchers – Auditor Warrants paid 03.06.26: Road & Bridge \$32,181.55;
- D) Approve Auditor Vouchers – Auditor Warrants paid 03.06.26: Health & Human Services \$506,981.04, Opioid Remediation Settlement \$350.00 for a total of \$507,331.04;
- E) Approve Auditor Vouchers – Sales Use and Diesel Tax paid 03.10.26: General Fund \$132.04, Road & Bridge \$1,079.58, Long Lake Conservation Center \$256.95, Parks \$94.82 for a total of \$1,563.39;
- F) Approve Commissioner Vouchers – Commissioner Warrants paid 03.13.26: General Fund \$110,764.71, Reserves Fund \$232.62, Road & Bridge \$47,376.09, Unorganized Townships \$11,401.62, Health & Human Services \$790.78, State \$5,756.50, Trust \$11,457.40, Forest Development \$14,361.18, Long Lake Conservation Center \$7,394.64, Parks \$5,583.20, Coronavirus Relief Fund \$4,820.00 for a total of \$219,938.74;
- G) Adopt Resolution #20260324-036: LG 220 Application for Exempt Gambling – Ducks Unlimited Aitkin Area;
- H) Approve Auditor Vouchers – Auditor Warrants paid 03.13.26: General Fund \$362.20, Health & Human Services \$68,156.51 for a total of \$68,518.71;
- I) Approve Consolidated Civil Rights, Nondiscrimination, and Program Access Policy;
- J) Approve Auditor Vouchers – Auditor Warrants for Motor Pool paid 03.13.26: General Fund \$13,033.17, Reserves Fund \$74,000.00 for a total of \$87,033.17;
- K) Approve Manual Warrants/Voids/Corrections paid 03.13.26: General Fund \$2,014.41, State \$51,869.56, Long Lake Conservation Center \$350.79 for a total of \$54,234.76;
- L) Approve Manual Warrants/Voids/Corrections – Elan paid 02.26.26: General Fund \$4,746.16, Forest Development \$208.72, Long Lake Conservation Center \$56.32, Road & Bridge \$59.00 for a total of \$5,070.20;
- M) Cash Balance Report – January 2026 – Information Only;
- N) Approve Award Contract 20265: Edwards Oil be awarded Contract 20265 in the amount of

\$824,450 and the chairperson of the Aitkin County Board and the Aitkin County Administrator are authorized and directed to enter into a contract on behalf of Aitkin County upon presentation of proper contract documents;

O) Adopt Resolution #20260324-037: Final Contract Payment Contract 20255 to Lot Pros Inc. in the amount of \$1,509.94;

P) Adopt Resolution #20260324-038 Final Contract Payment Contract 202511 to Sir Lines-A-Lot LLC in the amount of \$3,029.64;

Q) Adopt Resolution #20260324-039 Detour Agreement No. 1062370: **IT IS RESOLVED THAT** Aitkin County enter into MnDOT Agreement No. 1062370 with the State of Minnesota, Department of Transportation for the follow purposes: To provide for payment by the State to the County for the use of County State-Aid Highway No. 28 and County State-Aid Highway No. 12 as a detour route during the construction to be performed upon, along, and adjacent to Trunk Highway No. 18 on bridge No. 0729 over Marmon Creek in Aitkin County under State Project No. 01 02-29 (T.H. 18 =157). **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Aitkin County Engineer is hereby authorized to execute the Agreement and any amendments to the Agreement;

R) Approve purchase of R-Way T4223 Tri Air Trailer from R-Way Trailers for \$54,845;

S) Information Only – 2026 Lower Potency Edible Registration;

T) Approve New Heal& Human Services Advisory Committee Appointment to Sue Finney in District 4 to a 2-year term (January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2027);

U) Adopt Resolution #20260324-040: Search & Rescue Donation from White Pine Township in the amount of \$50.00;

V) Adopt Resolution #20260324-041: Search & Rescue Donation from Wealthwood Township in the amount of \$1,000.00;

Regular Agenda

Brad Pieper, CEO, and Tamara Lowney, VP of Business Development with American Peat Technology, discussed their upcoming business expansion project.

Motion by Commissioner Leiviska, seconded by Commissioner Sample and upon a roll call vote carried 5-0 to Adopt Resolution #20260324-042: Support of a Job Creation Fund Application in Connection with American Peat Technology business expansion project.

The Board discussed: Arrowhead Counties Association, Arrowhead Regional Development Committee, Mississippi Headwaters Board, Lakes and Pines, Aitkin County CARE Board, upcoming AMC Leadership Summit, Aquatic Invasive Species, Aitkin County Water Planning Task Force, Aitkin Airport Commission.

Motion by Commissioner Sample, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and upon a roll call vote carried 5-0 to call a Special Meeting at 9:00 a.m. on April 21, 2026, at Long Lake Conservation Center for the purpose of conducting a tour.

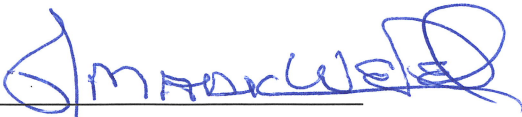
Motion by Commissioner Leiviska, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and upon a roll call vote carried 5-0 to host an Employee Appreciation Event in conjunction with County Government month on April 22, 2026.

Motion by Commissioner Leiviska, seconded by Commissioner Sample and upon a roll call vote carried 5-0 to close the meeting at 10:11 a.m. under Minnesota Statute §13D.05 subd. 3 (a) for County Administrator David Minke's 6 month performance review.

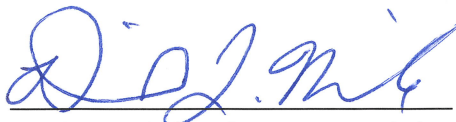
Motion by Commissioner Kearney, seconded by Commissioner Sample and upon a roll call vote carried 5-0 to reopen the meeting at 10:46 a.m.

Adjourn

Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Leiviska and upon a roll call vote carried 5-0 to adjourn the meeting at 10:49 a.m. with the next regular meeting on Tuesday, April 14, 2026 at the Aitkin County Government Center.



J. Mark Wedel, Board Chair
Aitkin County Board of Commissioners



David J. Minke, County Administrator
Clerk to the County Board