



# REND LAKE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

11231 MARCUM BRANCH ROAD ■ P. O. BOX 907 ■ BENTON, ILLINOIS 62812  
TELEPHONE: (618) 439-4321 ■ FAX: (618) 439-2400

## MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE REND LAKE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT HELD January 28, 2026

The Board of Trustees of the Rend Lake Conservancy District held a rescheduled meeting on Wednesday, January 28, 2026, originally scheduled for Monday, January 26, 2026, at the Rend Lake Event Center, 14967 Gun Creek Trail, Whittington, IL. President Michael Warren called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. The following attended:

**Board of Trustees:** In physical attendance: Paul Lawrence, Nicholas LeMay, John Spence, Todd Thomas, Robert Walton, and Michael Warren. Absent: Ernest Collins

**Staff:** In physical attendance: Gary Williams, General Manager; Tony Furlow, IWS / Sewer Manager; Sean Pickford, District Engineer; Keith Vaughn, Buildings Construction and Repair Manager; Amy Krueger, Seasons Lodge Manager; Jason Stilley, Golf Professional; Pete Hunter, Golf Course Superintendent; Heather Russell, Seasons Restaurant Manager; Judith Markham, Comptroller; and Jen Zinzilieta, Office Manager.

**Legal Counsel:** Jonathan Cantrell

**Visitors:** None

### Minutes – Regular Meeting

Upon motion by John Spence and second by Nicholas LeMay to approve the minutes of the November 24, 2025 Regular Meeting as presented, the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Lawrence, LeMay, Spence, Thomas, Walton, Warren

Nays: None

Absent: Collins

The President declared the motion carried.

### Acceptance of Check Register

Upon motion by Nicholas LeMay and second by Paul Lawrence to accept the Check Register as presented, the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Lawrence, LeMay, Spence, Thomas, Walton, Warren

Nays: None

Absent: Collins

The President declared the motion carried.

### Report of the Executive Team & Managers

Mr. Gary Williams, General Manager, presented the following information:

- A report was given highlighting the information provided in the General Manager's Report included in the Board packet.

Mr. Sean Pickford, District Engineer, presented the following information:

- A report was given highlighting the information provided in the Engineer's Report included in the Board packet.

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Mrs. Judith Markham, Comptroller, presented the following information:

- A report was given regarding the financial statements included in the Board packet.

Mr. Tony Furlow, IWS / Sewer Manager, presented the following information:

- A report was given summarizing the information provided in the IWS / Sewer Manager's Report included in the Board packet.

Mr. Keith Vaughn, Mrs. Heather Russell, Mr. Jason Stilley, Mr. Pete Hunter, and Mrs. Amy Krueger each delivered a departmental status report.

### **District's Strategic Plan**

Mr. Gary Williams reported that the District's Strategic Plan continues to be updated with the completion of projects.

### **Bids / RFPs / Purchases / Contracts**

#### Various Bids / RFPs / Purchases / Contracts

Upon motion by Nicholas LeMay and second by Todd Thomas to approve the following items:

- Approve IDNR Lake Maintenance Bill for FY2026 in the Amount of \$383,762.84.
- Approve a Contract with Hanson Professional Services in the Amount of \$59,643.00 to Complete Design and Construction Documents for the First Phase of North Gun Creek Recreation Project.
- Approve Sludge Disposal Contract with Metro-Ag for all Mine Reclamation Hauling; and Approve Sludge Disposal Contract with J. Oros Envir. for Agricultural Application Hauling.
- Approve a Contract with Hanson Professional Services in the Amount of \$80,013 to Perform Land Acquisition for CIP #26-02 – Water Infrastructure Reliability Project for Benton Bypass Watermain.
- Approve a Contract with Hanson Professional Services in the Amount of \$76,979 to Design CIP #26-02 – Water Infrastructure Reliability Project for Benton Bypass Watermain.

The Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Lawrence, LeMay, Spence, Thomas, Walton, Warren

Nays: None

Absent: Collins

The President declared the motion carried.

### **Resolution 543 – Semi-Annual Closed Session Minutes Review**

Upon motion by Paul Lawrence and second by John Spence to approve Resolution 543 – Semi-Annual Closed Session Minutes Review as presented, the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Lawrence, LeMay, Spence, Thomas, Walton, Warren

Nays: None

Absent: Collins

The President declared the motion carried.

### **Water Rates**

Upon motion by Paul Lawrence and second by Robert Walton to approve a water rate increase effective May 1, 2026, consisting of a three-year wholesale rate increase of five percent (5%) annually and a five-year non-municipal rate increase of 3%, 3%, 3.5%, 3.5%, and 3%, respectively, the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Lawrence, LeMay, Spence, Thomas, Walton, Warren

Nays: None

Absent: Collins

The President declared the motion carried.

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**Gateway Fireworks Contract**

Upon motion by John Spence and second by Todd Thomas to approve a contract with Gateway Fireworks in the amount of \$26,000, the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Lawrence, LeMay, Spence, Thomas, Walton, Warren

Nays: None

Absent: Collins

The President declared the motion carried.

**State and Federal Legislative Update**

Mr. Gary Williams provided a report which outlined the bills of interest that could affect the District.

**Adjournment**

Upon motion by Robert Walton and second by Todd Thomas to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 a.m., the Board voted as follows:

Ayes: Lawrence, LeMay, Spence, Thomas, Walton, Warren

Nays: None

Absent: Collins

The President declared the motion carried.

  
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Michael Warren, President

  
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Robert Walton, Secretary