



**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA
MAY 24, 2022**

WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS CONVENES

The Washington County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 9:00 a.m. in the Washington County Government Center, County Board Room.

Present: Commissioner Fran Miron, District 1
Commissioner Stan Karwoski, District 2
Commissioner Gary Kriesel, District 3
Commissioner Wayne Johnson, District 4
Commissioner Lisa Weik, District 5

Also Present: Kevin Corbid, County Administrator
Susan Tice, County Attorney Civil Division Chief
Stephanie Kammerud, Administrative Assistant

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Board Chair Johnson asked for comments from the public; none were heard.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Commissioner Weik moved, seconded by Commissioner Miron, to adopt the Consent Calendar as follows:

1. Approval of the April 26, 2022, and May 3, 2022, County Board meeting minutes.
2. Approval of **Resolution No. 2022-059** as follows:

**JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT WITH THE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington County Attorney's Office is authorized to enter a Joint Powers Agreement with the State of Minnesota, Department of Corrections, Facilities Division, for reimbursement of prosecution expenses to state correctional facilities for the period of July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Washington County Attorney's Office, is hereby authorized to execute such agreement and any amendments thereto, as are necessary to implement this agreement on behalf of the Washington County Attorney's Office.

3. Approve a grant application for the Evidence Based Opioid Epidemic Response Services grant from the Minnesota Department of Human Services in the amount up to \$350,000.
4. Approval of an application for a 1-4 day Temporary On-Sale Liquor License from Hesley Jensen American Legion Post 491 for the Yellow Ribbon Randy Kopesky Field of Bands Event at the Washington County Fairgrounds on September 17, 2022.
5. Approve Grant Agreement No. 210892 with the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State in the amount of \$139,992.80 with a 50% match for the Voting Equipment Grant (VEGA-3).
6. Approval of **Resolution No. 2022-060** as follows:

**MINNESOTA SNOWMOBILE TRAILS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
STAR TRAIL ASSOCIATION**

WHEREAS, Washington County entered into a county/club agreement with the Star Trail Association on July 31, 1991, whereby the county agreed to sponsor the snowmobile club by acting as a pass-through agency for any grant-in-aid funding received from the State on behalf of the Star Trail Association's trails; and

WHEREAS, the Star Trail Association has developed a snowmobile trail system in Washington County and provides for the maintenance and grooming of those trails; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Snowmobile Trails Assistance Program provides funding for maintenance and grooming through capital improvement grants for snowmobile trails; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources requires a board resolution to be passed each year in order to participate in the program; and

WHEREAS, Washington County staff assistance is needed to help administer the grant, working between the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Star Trail Associations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Snowmobile Trails Assistance Program application and the grant agreement be executed through the signatures of the County Board Chair and the County Administrator without further action of the County Board, conditioned upon the compliance with all specified requirements and approval as to form by the Washington County Attorney's office.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any grant-in-aid funding for the described trails be directed to Washington County for disbursement to the Star Trail Association.

7. Approval of **Resolution No. 2022-061** as follows:

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMITTAL OF AN
APPLICATION TO REQUEST FUNDING FROM THE
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
THROUGH THE 2024 METRO LOCAL PARTNERSHIP
PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) is currently accepting candidate projects for the fiscal year 2024 Metro Local Partnership Program; and

WHEREAS, the Local Partnership Program (LPP) facilitates statewide transportation partnership opportunities with local agencies through a competitive selection process; and

WHEREAS, the program provides construction funding for highway improvements at locations where state highways are involved, where there are not currently any improvements programmed by MnDOT, and where the improvements are mutually beneficial to all partners; and

WHEREAS, Washington County Public Works is proposing to submit two applications for consideration for LPP funding:

1. Replacement of the bridge approach panels at CSAH 2 (Broadway Avenue) and I-35 in Forest Lake; and
2. Extension of a left turn lane on Highway 61 in Hugo between the two CSAH 8 intersections (Frenchman Road and Egg Lake Rd N); and

WHEREAS, the projects will be of mutual benefit to MnDOT, Washington County, and the cities of Hugo and Forest Lake; and

WHEREAS, Washington County is committed to providing the county share of the costs if the projects are selected as part of the fiscal year 2024 Metro Local Partnership Program; and

WHEREAS, Washington County is committed to completing the project, if selected, and funding is provided as part of the fiscal year 2024 Metro Local Partnership Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Washington County Board approves of the applications requesting funding from the Minnesota Department of Transportation through the 2024 Metro Local Partnership Program and the county is committed to completing the projects identified above and providing the county share of funding if the applications for state funding are successful.

8. Approval of Cooperative Construction Cost Agreement No. 14797 with the City of Woodbury for landscaping of County State Aid Highways 18 and 19.
9. Approval of Cooperative Construction Cost Agreement No. 14798 with the City of Woodbury for landscaping of County State Aid Highway 19.
10. Approval of Amendment No. 1 of Cooperative Agreement No. 13188 with the City of Woodbury for maintenance of County State Aid Highway 18.
11. Approval of Amendment No. 1 of Cooperative Agreement No. 13175 with the City of Woodbury for maintenance of County State Aid Highway 19.
12. Approval of Amendment No. 1 of Cooperative Agreement No. 14027 with the City of Woodbury for maintenance of County State Aid Highway 19.
13. Approve Joint Powers Agreement No. 14803 with the State of Minnesota for the Washington County's Sheriff's Office to participate in the Minnesota Financial Crimes Task Force.
14. Approval of **Resolution No. 2022-062** as follows:

**GRANT AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THE OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY
AND THE WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chair of the Washington County Board of Commissioners and the County Administrator are hereby authorized to execute and sign the 2022-2023 HIDTA grant agreement with the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Washington County Sheriff, Dan Starry, is hereby authorized to execute any amendments thereto, as are necessary on behalf of the Washington County Sheriff's Office.

The motion was adopted 5-0 with a Roll Call vote as follows: Ayes, Commissioners Miron, Karwoski, Kriesel, Weik, and Johnson. Nays, none.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Veterans Service Officer Resolution

Rick Roy presented a resolution to reappoint Ryan Carufel as the Washington County Veterans Service Officer for a four-year term. Mr. Carufel leads a team of three Assistant Veterans Service Officers that provide services to approximately 14,000 veterans. The County Board appointed Mr. Carufel as Veterans Service Officer in June 2014, and reappointed him in May 2018. The department recommends adoption of the resolution to reappoint Mr. Carufel to a four-year term.

Commissioner Kriesel moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2022-063** as follows:

APPOINTMENT OF WASHINGTON COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statute Chapter 197.60 requires county boards to appoint a veterans service officer to assist veterans in the county with securing a broad range of services; and

WHEREAS, the Washington County Board of Commissioners appointed Ryan Carufel as the Veterans Service Officer for a four-year term on June 3, 2014, and reappointed Mr. Carufel as the Veterans Service Officer for a four-year term on June 3, 2018; and

WHEREAS, the county veterans service office provides services to approximately 14,000 veterans that reside in Washington County; and

WHEREAS, assistance is provided to veterans, surviving spouses, active duty, reserve and national guard members residing in Washington County who are seeking or applying for federal, state, and local benefits.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners hereby reappoints Ryan Carufel to the position of Veterans Service Officer for a four-year term, effective June 3, 2022.

Commissioner Karwoski seconded the motion, and it was adopted 5-0 with a Roll Call vote as follows: Ayes, Commissioners Miron, Karwoski, Kriesel, Weik, and Johnson. Nays, none.

Veterans Service Office Presentation

Veterans Service Officer Ryan Carufel provided the County Board with an update on the Veterans Service Office (VSO) activities. Mr. Carufel introduced the three Assistant Veterans Service Officers, Thallassa Gunelius, Lon Pardun, and Andrea Dunn. The VSO staff advocate for veterans and their surviving spouses, and active-duty reserve and National Guard members residing in Washington County who are seeking or applying for federal, state, and local benefits.

Mr. Carufel reported annual phone calls in the VSO were 4,904 in 2021. Electronic claims submissions have been beneficial in expediting claims. Federal Veterans Affairs (VA) claims have also increased and will continue to do so. VA pension claims have increased significantly as the population ages. New VA presumptive conditions for Agent Orange and Particulate Matter exposure for Vietnam and Gulf War veterans has resulted in an increased workload and number of claim submissions. Once a claim has been submitted through the VSO, a veteran can be treated for free at the VA.

The VA continues to have difficulty processing claims in a timely manner. Applications can take approximately six months; however, it is retroactively paid back to date of claim. The VA suspended many services throughout the pandemic. It is now fully operational and reducing its backlog.

Mr. Carufel reported that in 2020 the VA expended \$58,313,000 in service-connected compensation and pension benefits within the county. The value of medical care received by Washington County veterans at VA hospitals and community-based outpatient clinics was \$55,549,000. The State Soldier's Assistance Program provided \$264,394 within the county.

PUBLIC WORKS

Contract for County State Aid Highway 32 Pedestrian and Safety Improvement Project

Public Works Engineer Ryan Hoefs presented Contract No. 14773 with SRF Consulting Inc. for preliminary design engineering services for \$459,003 for the County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 32 (11th Avenue Southwest) Pedestrian and Safety Improvement Project in Forest Lake. This project is identified in the county's Capital Improvement Plan as project RB-2609.

Mr. Hoefs reported that this project will improve the safety of CSAH 32 (11th Avenue Southwest) in Forest Lake from Interstate 35 to Trunk Highway (TH) 61 (Lake Street). This corridor is a regionally important route that has increased its traffic load, resulting in the need to evaluate improvements to this corridor. Improvements include: pedestrian and bicycle accessibility and safety improvements; pavement improvements; surface water management and drainage improvements; improved traffic capacity, safety, and operations; and access management.

This contract will provide resources and expertise for project coordination and preliminary design engineering services, along with a robust public engagement plan. Costs for this project will be funded by County Transportation Sales Tax and Local Contributions (City of Forest Lake).

Commissioner Miron moved to approve Contract No. 14773 with SRF Consulting Inc. to perform preliminary design engineering services for \$459,003 for CSAH 32 Pedestrian and Safety Improvement Project. Commissioner Karwoski seconded the motion, and it was adopted unanimously.

Contract for County State Aid Highway 28 at Trunk Highway 95 Improvements Project

Public Works Design Engineer Frank Ticknor presented Contract No. 14767 with Kimley-Horn for preliminary and final design services in the amount of \$182,925 for the County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 28 at Trunk Highway (TH) 95 Improvements Project in Denmark Township. This project is identified in the county's Capital Improvement Plan as project RB-2681.

Mr. Ticknor reported that in 2019, the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) reconstructed TH 95 (Manning Avenue) at CSAH 28 (Old County Road 78). This reconstruction significantly lowered the intersection, resulting in unsafe and undesirable geometrics for drivers approaching the intersection from the east, especially during winter. The project will also widen the existing paved shoulders to improve safety for motorized and non-motorized users.

In October 2021, Washington County accepted MnDOT Local Partnership Program (LPP) funding in the amount of \$710,000 to be used for construction of this project in fiscal year 2023. MnDOT has given the county the opportunity to deliver this project sooner, due to flexibility in MnDOT's LPP program funding. The county is interested in taking advantage of an earlier construction year due to the challenges this intersection poses, especially during winter. Design would need to begin this year, 2022, moving construction to 2023.

To begin design in 2022, additional funding is needed. Highway State Aid was made available for this project, due to another capital improvement project (RB-2677) being placed on an indefinite hold.

Commissioner Johnson moved to approve Contract No. 14767 with Kimley-Horn for preliminary and final design services for \$182,925 for CSAH 28 at TH 95 Improvements Project. Commissioner Karwoski seconded the motion, and it was adopted unanimously.

Cooperative Construction Cost Agreement and Resolution for County State Aid Highway 14 and Interstate 694 Signal Replacement and Trail Construction Project

Public Works Engineer Mitch Bartelt presented two items for approval. The first is Cooperative Construction Cost Agreement No. 14636 with the City of Oakdale for construction of County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 14. The second item is a resolution authorizing Agreement No. 1047190 with the Minnesota Department of Transportation for construction and long-term maintenance responsibilities as a result of CSAH 14 and Interstate 694 Signal Replacement and Trail Construction Project in the City of Oakdale. This project is identified in the county's Capital Improvement Plan as project RB-2670.

The project will include the full replacement of the signal system at CSAH 14 and both I-694 ramp intersections, and adding flashing yellow arrow (FYA) capability for left turns. The project will also fill in a gap in the trail along CSAH 14 from Hadley Avenue to east of the I-694 ramps. This project was identified as a high-priority future project in the MOVE Washington County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. When completed, it will allow for dedicated non-motorized travel on a continuous trail along the south side of CSAH 14 from Granada Avenue to Ideal Avenue.

The county was awarded \$952,500 in funding through the MnDOT Local Partnership Program (LPP). Funding is contingent on the project being awarded no later than June 30, 2022. A cooperative construction agreement with both MnDOT and the City of Oakdale is required as a condition of that funding to govern the construction and maintenance responsibilities as a result of this project, as a portion of this project which will occur within right-of-way that belongs to the State of Minnesota. The cost agreement with the City of Oakdale will split the project costs outside of MnDOT right-of-way appropriately, according to Washington County's Cost Participation Policy #8001. Project construction is scheduled to begin this summer.

Commissioner Karwoski moved to approve Cooperative Construction Cost Agreement No. 14636 with the City of Oakdale for construction of CSAH 14. Commissioner Miron seconded the motion, and it was adopted unanimously.

Commissioner Karwoski moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2022-064** as follows:

**WASHINGTON COUNTY COOPERATIVE CONSTRUCTION
AGREEMENT NUMBER 1047190 WITH THE STATE OF
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND THE
CITY OF OAKDALE TO REPLACE SIGNAL SYSTEMS AND TO
CONSTRUCT A NON-MOTORIZED RECREATIONAL TRAIL IN
THE RIGHT-OF-WAY OF TRUNK HIGHWAY 694 AT COUNTY
STATE AID HIGHWAY (CSAH) 14 (34TH STREET N) IN THE
CITY OF OAKDALE**

WHEREAS, Washington County is a political subdivision, organized and existing under the laws of the State of Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, the Washington County Board has approved a project to replace the signal systems at the intersections of CSAH 14 and both Trunk Highway 694 ramp intersections and construct a non-motorized recreational trail along the south side of CSAH 14 in the right-of way of Trunk Highway 694 in the City of Oakdale to promote the orderly and safe crossing of the highway; and

WHEREAS, the project is known by State Project 8286-91, Washington County State Aid Project 082-614-015, City of Oakdale Project 185-020-006, and Washington County Project 22-11403; and

WHEREAS, the State of Minnesota, Department of Transportation requires a Cooperative Construction Agreement as a condition to provide funding for the construction of the project, as well as govern construction and maintenance responsibilities as a result of the project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners hereby enters into a Cooperative Construction Agreement with the State of Minnesota, Department of Transportation, and

the City of Oakdale to provide payment by the State of Minnesota to Washington County of the State's share of the costs of the traffic signal replacement and trail construction and other associated construction to be performed upon, along, and adjacent to Trunk Highway 694 (TH 694 = 393) at CSAH 14 as part of the project numbers listed above.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Director of Public Works to construct and maintain the signal and trail components in accordance with Agreement Number 1047190 granted by the Minnesota Department of Transportation, and to execute the Agreement and any amendments to the Agreement.

Commissioner Miron seconded the motion, and it was adopted 5-0 with a Roll Call vote as follows: Ayes, Commissioners Miron, Karwoski, Kriesel, Weik, and Johnson. Nays, none.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Resolution for a Land and Water Legacy Program Purchase Agreement of a Conservation Easement on Keystone Woods (Haas) Property in Hugo

Senior Planner June Mathiowetz presented a resolution to approve a Land and Water Legacy Program (LWLP) purchase agreement and contribution to acquire a 69-acre conservation easement on Parcel ID 13.031.21.11.0002, the Haas property, in partnership with the Minnesota Land Trust (MLT). This project is in the Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District at 15500 Keystone Ave. N. in Hugo. A portion of the property is in the LWLP's Keystone Woods high-priority area. It is adjacent and near two previously completed conservation easements by the county and MLT, and adjacent to Kelley Land and Cattle Company and Barker Lake parcels.

Ms. Mathiowetz reported that this parcel contains 34 acres of trees, 19 acres of wetlands, 10 acres of water, and 6 acres of grasslands. This project ranks very high in the LWLP, and it has nearly 3,000 feet of shoreline. It is indicated to have moderate biodiversity significance in the Minnesota Biological Survey (MBS) and is identified in the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Wildlife Action Network as a high-quality habitat area. There are rare, threatened, and endangered species within three miles of the property. This project will protect surface water and will likely protect groundwater.

The area of the conservation easement does not have any existing buildings or structures, other than three water control structures between ponds/wetlands. In terms of the conservation easement, general prohibitions include no development, division, residential, industrial, mining, or agricultural uses, and minimal commercial use. Allowances includes that the property owner can use the land for unimproved trails, hiking, biking, cross-country skiing, horseback riding, camping, hunting, nature observation or study, wildlife food plot, and vegetation management aligned with a habitat management plan. Exclusion areas are the house, building site, and driveway.

Ms. Mathiowetz reported that MLT staff has led this project and continues to be a strong partner with Washington County. Both the county and MLT will make financial contributions as co-holders of the conservation easement. Total cost of the conservation easement is \$395,000, with MLT contributing \$275,000 and Washington County LWLP contributing \$120,000. MLT will conduct the ongoing annual monitoring of the property.

Ms. Mathiowetz concluded that with the board's approval of the LWLP contribution and purchase agreement today, the conservation easement will be scheduled for board approval at the June 14th meeting.

Commissioner Miron moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2022-065** as follows:

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE A LAND AND WATER LEGACY
PROGRAM PURCHASE OF A CONSERVATION EASEMENT ON
THE HAAS PROPERTY IN HUGO**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Minnesota Statute Chapter 84C and Minnesota Statutes Sections 373.40 and 394.25, Washington County is authorized to acquire and improve land and interests in land for the purposes of preserving open space, including natural and scenic areas and agricultural land; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes Section 103A.201, which specifically promotes the protection of wetlands, and Minnesota Statutes Section 103A.202, which specifically declares that it is in the public interest to preserve the wetlands of this state to conserve surface waters, maintain and improve water quality, preserve wildlife habitat, reduce runoff, provide for floodwater retention, reduce stream sedimentation, contribute to improved subsurface moisture, and enhance the natural beauty of the landscape; and

WHEREAS, Washington County has enacted the Acquisition of Development Rights Ordinance #175 to establish a program for the preservation of open space, parks and public water, commonly referred to as the Land and Water Legacy Program and has established the policies, rules and official controls governing such acquisitions; and

WHEREAS, Washington County issues general obligation bonds to provide long-term stable funding to acquire land and interests in land for conservation purposes pursuant to the passage of the November 2006 Ballot Question: Preservation of Water Quality, Woodlands and Other Natural Areas; and

WHEREAS, Washington County has determined that the subject property referred to as the Haas Property (or "Property"), legally described in the attached "Exhibit A" and incorporated by reference into this resolution, meets the requirements of the Land and Water Legacy Program and that the

Washington County Board of Commissioners considers the proposed land to merit protection; and

WHEREAS, Washington County and the Minnesota Land Trust seek to purchase a conservation easement over the Property as co-holders of the conservation easement; and

WHEREAS, On May 1, 2022 Charles and Marykay Haas signed an Option Agreement, authorizing Washington County and the Minnesota Land Trust to purchase a conservation easement over the Property; and

WHEREAS, the Option Agreement states that Washington County and the Minnesota Land Trust will each send a formal letter indicating their intent to exercise the Option Agreement to Charles and Marykay Haas, on or before July 31, 2022; and

WHEREAS, Washington County and the Minnesota Land Trust have expressed a desire to formally exercise the Option Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the natural features of this property will be stewarded according to a Habitat Management Plan approved by the County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Washington County Board approves a Land and Water Legacy Program financial contribution of \$120,000 toward the purchase of a conservation easement on the Haas property as part of a partnership with the Minnesota Land Trust; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes its Chairperson and Administrator to execute on behalf of the County all documents necessary to complete the purchase of a conservation easement on the Haas Property property, including the signing of the formal Option Exercise Letter and all necessary closing documents.

Commissioner Karwoski seconded the motion, and it was adopted 5-0 with a Roll Call vote as follows: Ayes, Commissioners Miron, Karwoski, Kriesel, Weik, and Johnson. Nays, none.

Resolution for a Land and Water Legacy Program Purchase of a Conservation Easement on Belwin Conservancy (Blasko) Property on Valley Creek in Afton

Senior Planner June Mathiowetz presented a resolution to approve a Land and Water Legacy Program (LWLP) conservation easement, purchase agreement, state grant agreement, and county contribution to acquire the Blasko property, approximately 18-acres on Valley Creek, Parcel IDs 16.028.20.23.0005, 16.028.20.23.0006, 16.028.20.23.0007, 16.028.20.23.0011, and 17.028.20.14.0003. This property is in the Valley Creek Watershed District at 14020 Valley Creek Trail South in Afton. The property is in the Valley Creek Corridor, an LWLP high-priority area,

and a tributary to the St. Croix River. It is on the St. Croix River Flyway and adjacent and near 1,800 acres protected by Belwin Conservancy and the Minnesota Land Trust.

Ms. Mathiowetz reported that the project is a partnership between Washington County, Belwin Conservancy, the City of Afton, and the DNR. Belwin Conservancy will first and separately purchase and own the property, provide ongoing care, maintenance, and programming. Washington County and the DNR will finance acquisition of a permanent conservation easement. The county will also contribute certain transactional costs and hold and monitor the conservation easement. The City of Afton will contribute up to \$25,000 for certain project costs, such as an environmental assessment, stewardship plan, and structure removal.

This project is very high in LWLP ranking for habitat quality and bluff quality. This project will protect surface water and will likely protect groundwater. The property contains 1,350 feet of Valley Creek and rare, endangered, and Special Species of Concern, on or within one mile of the property. It hosts a Regionally Significant Ecological Area as noted in MBS, and contains three types of trout and much wildlife. Land cover is 89% trees, 7% grasslands, and 4% water.

Terms of the conservation easement allow a small network of unpaved paths or foot trails, a maintenance shed, enclosed portable restrooms, a driveway, up to 10 spaces of parking, habitat management, public access through educational and historical programming, and research and data collection. Restrictions include no industrial, commercial, residential or agricultural uses, no division, transfer of development rights, new roads or rights-of-way (city road easement up to 30 feet from centerline allowed), and no mining or docks. State law prohibits continuation of a fish hatchery license that is currently on the property.

Ms. Mathiowetz concluded that the cost of the conservation easement is \$793,025, with the DNR contributing \$260,500 and Washington County LWLP contributing \$532,525. Washington County will conduct the annual monitoring of the property.

Commissioner Kriesel moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2022-066** as follows:

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE A LAND AND WATER LEGACY
PROGRAM PURCHASE OF A CONSERVATION EASEMENT ON
BELWIN CONSERVANCY (BLASKO) PROPERTY IN AFTON**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Minnesota Statute Chapter 84C and Minnesota Statutes Sections 373.40 and 394.25, Washington County is authorized to acquire and improve land and interests in land for the purposes of preserving open space, including natural and scenic areas and agricultural land; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes Section 103A.201, which specifically promotes the protection of wetlands, and Minnesota Statutes Section 103A.202, which specifically declares that it is in the public interest to preserve the wetlands of this state to conserve surface waters, maintain and improve water quality, preserve wildlife habitat, reduce runoff, provide for floodwater retention, reduce stream sedimentation, contribute to improved subsurface moisture, and enhance the natural beauty of the landscape; and

WHEREAS, Washington County has enacted the Acquisition of Development Rights Ordinance #175 to establish a program for the protection of open space, parks and public water, commonly referred to as the Land and Water Legacy Program and has established the policies, rules and official controls governing such acquisitions; and

WHEREAS, Washington County issues general obligation bonds to provide long-term stable funding to acquire land and interests in land for conservation purposes pursuant to the passage of the November 2006 Ballot Question: Preservation of Water Quality, Woodlands and Other Natural Areas; and

WHEREAS, Washington County has determined the subject property referred to as the Belwin Conservancy (Blasko) Property (or "Property"), legally described in the attached "Exhibit A" and incorporated by reference into this resolution, meets the requirements of the Land and Water Legacy Program and that the Washington County Board of Commissioners considers the proposed land to merit protection; and

WHEREAS, Washington County seeks to purchase a conservation easement over the Property; and

WHEREAS, on May 16, 2022 Belwin Conservancy signed a Purchase Agreement, authorizing Washington County to purchase a conservation easement over the Property; and

WHEREAS, the natural features of this property will be stewarded according to a Habitat Management Plan approved by the County; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Washington County Board approves a Land and Water Legacy Program contribution of \$532,525 toward the purchase of a conservation easement on Belwin Conservancy (Blasko) property as part of a financial partnership with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Scientific and Natural Areas Grant Program; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes its Chairperson and Administrator to execute on behalf of the County all documents necessary to complete the purchase of a conservation easement on the Belwin Conservancy (Blasko) property, including the signing of all necessary closing documents.

Commissioner Karwoski seconded the motion, and it was adopted 5-0 with a Roll Call vote as follows: Ayes, Commissioners Miron, Karwoski, Kriesel, Weik, and Johnson. Nays, none.

Federal Legislative Update

Deputy County Administrator Jan Lucke reported that congressmembers have posted their lists of projects recommended to various appropriations committees for community project funding. A project the county submitted was included on U.S. Rep. Betty McCollum's list. The project would provide \$1.6 million to purchase 20 Ford Interceptor hybrid squad cars and two river patrol boats. The vehicles would be used to patrol both local roadways and the interstate system. The boats would be used to patrol the St. Croix and Mississippi rivers. These are regional assets that are used to assist local, state, and federal agencies. Each congressmember received hundreds of requests, and Ms. Lucke emphasized that the County Board's advocacy was critically important for this success. Staff will continue to work with the Downs Government Affairs staff to identify additional ways to support U.S. Rep. McCollum's office in moving this project through the funding process.

Ms. Lucke noted that the City of Birchwood was included in U.S. Rep. McCollum's list for \$480,000 to replace the city's sewer lift station. It is functionally obsolete and leakage from this system is threatening White Bear Lake. Commissioner Karwoski wrote a compelling letter of support for this project.

Ms. Lucke reported that another project included within the borders of Washington County is \$7.8 million for the City of Cottage Grove's 80th Street Transportation and Infrastructure project. It was forwarded by U.S. Sen. Angie Craig's office.

Ms. Lucke introduced Margaret Vesel from Larkin Hoffman, to provide the state legislative update.

State Legislative Update

Margaret Vesel, Government Relations Director at Larkin Hoffman, reported that the 2022 Legislative Session ended at midnight May 22, 2022. This year was the second year of the biennium, and while nothing technically needed to be passed, there was a significant budget surplus that grew throughout the legislative session of more than \$7 billion that has gone unspent after adjournment.

Ms. Vesel has continued to be surprised throughout the session. Gov. Tim Walz and legislative leaders announced a global framework for ending the 2022 session, which has been referred to as the '\$4 by \$4 by \$4' global agreement - \$4 billion spending, \$4 billion in tax cuts, and \$4 billion of the projected surplus to remain on the bottom line.

The Legislature did pass legislation on reinsurance/health care premiums, unemployment trust fund repayment, and front-line worker pay. Time ran out for bills on public safety, education, transportation, and the bonding bill. Also, it is a big year for the State of Minnesota, as it relates to the November elections. This year was made more difficult with the reality of all 201 legislators being on the ballot, as well as all constitutional officers, including the governor. This session was also unusual, as there was never a bonding bill that surfaced.

Ms. Vesel provided a chart to the County Board with Washington County's priorities and status of the priorities. Some good news for the Land and Water Legacy Program is in the omnibus Legacy bill, Outdoor Heritage portion, the Governor signed into laws Chapter 77, which included \$4.2 million appropriation for Washington County habitat and protection restoration partnership. Solid waste management (the Governor's Select Committee on Recycling and the Environment, SCORE) had a position in the House tax bill, which would have given a 3% increase to counties. If the Legislature returns to a special session, Ms. Vesel is optimistic that counties will benefit in receiving funding for SCORE, Community Corrections, license vehicle service fees, and County Program Aid.

Commissioners expressed their disappointment and frustration with the session ending without agreement on major bills.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioners reported on meetings and other events they attended. Please see archived web streaming of the board meeting for full commissioner reports at www.co.washington.mn.us, under "County Board."

BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

Board correspondence was received and placed on file.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Miron moved to adjourn. Commissioner Weik seconded the motion, and it was adopted unanimously.

The County Board meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon.

BOARD WORKSHOP WITH PUBLIC WORKS

The Board met in workshop session to review the progress on the design of the Historic Courthouse exterior improvement project, and review the new mission and vision statement of the Historic Courthouse. Present for the workshop were Commissioners Johnson, Kriesel, Weik, Miron, and Karwoski. Also present were Kevin Corbid, Jan Lucke, Jennifer Wagenius, and county staff.

Attest:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kevin Corbid".

Kevin Corbid
County Administrator

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wayne A. Johnson".

Wayne A. Johnson
County Board Chair