

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA
JULY 9, 2024**

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 Karla Bigham, District 4
Commissioner Michelle Clasen, District 5

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

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Board Chair Karwoski asked for comments from the public.

Joe Ward, Lake Elmo, spoke on behalf of the East Metro EcoFaith Collaborative. This organization is advocating for approval of the new countywide strategic plan, particularly to develop and adopt a comprehensive climate action plan. Mr. Ward provided a handout to the commissioners with additional information.

Bruce Labno, May Township, also had comments regarding the strategic plan and climate, energy, and groundwater.

Chair Karwoski stated that since the countywide strategic plan is an item on today's agenda, the board will allow an opportunity for public comments regarding this topic after the presentation.

Larry Odebrecht, Stillwater, thanked the board for their support on the emergency housing plan, and encouraged the work on the 58th Street project. In regards to the strategic plan, Mr. Odebrecht stated his support for climate action planning.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

1. Approval of the June 18, 2024, County Board meeting minutes.

2. Approve Change Order No. 3 with Axel H. Ohman, Inc. for \$8,074 for elimination of poured walls and addition of concrete block walls below overhead doors at the North Environmental Center.
3. Approve Amendment No. 2 to Grant Agreement No. 14614 with the Minnesota Department of Public Safety for the 2022 Sex Trafficking Investigations Grant Program.

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

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

2024-2029 Countywide Strategic Plan

Chair Karwoski expressed that the County Board has an interest in discussing the strategic plan further, before approving. It was decided to have the presentation, and allow time for public comments, then postponing the approval of the strategic plan to a future board meeting.

Senior Planner Joe Ayers-Johnson presented the Washington County 2024-2029 Countywide Strategic Plan. Mr. Ayers-Johnson reported that the purpose of the strategic plan is to identify a shared vision for the future, create internal alignment around clearly defined priorities, goals, and objectives, and establish measures for tracking progress and accountability.

Mr. Ayers-Johnson reported that Washington County's previous strategic plan was developed more than ten years ago and much has changed since then, both within the organization and the communities served by the county. The 2024-2029 Countywide Strategic Plan reflects these changes, creates alignment within the organization, and will help guide county decision-making over the next several years.

Mr. Ayers-Johnson reported that the new strategic plan was developed through extensive stakeholder engagement, and several workshops with the County Board, which generated strategic priorities, goals, and objectives, as well as updates to the county's mission, vision, and values. Project consultant BerryDunn and staff engaged in a facilitated workshop with the board to review and discuss the draft 2024-2029 Countywide Strategic Plan, and revisions were made, based on board feedback.

Chair Karwoski encouraged members of the public to come forward and comment on the strategic plan.

Bruce Labno, May Township, approached the board and spoke in support of the countywide strategic plan, and looks forward to discussing groundwater and climate at a future workshop.

Joe Ward, Lake Elmo, provided a memo with signatures of the East Metro EcoFaith Collaborative individuals and friends. Mr. Ward stated that the proposed strategic plan has a lot of good in it, and feels the most important step is the comprehensive climate action plan. Mr. Ward feels the board should adopt the strategic plan today.

Clayton Eckles, Stillwater, stated that the county has been a leader in environmental issues and partnerships, and the county can do great things when it leads in these partnerships. Mr. Eckles noted that groundwater is a pivotal issue. Mr. Eckles supports the strategic plan, and looks forward to the county leading the partnership with the community into the future.

Nancy Lyner, Sustainable Stillwater MN Board Member, is delighted with the actions being proposed for a climate action plan. Ms. Lyner stated that Sustainable Stillwater MN is a non-profit and would be willing to collaborate with the work being done.

Commissioner Kriesel moved to table the strategic plan to a future workshop. Commissioner Miron seconded the motion, and it was adopted unanimously.

Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA) Program - Monarch Awards

Public Works Director Wayne Sandberg reported that in April 2024, Washington County Public Works received two awards for its work to protect and grow monarch butterfly habitats.

In 2023, Washington County was accepted into a Monarch Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances Program. This voluntary program aims to protect and grow monarch butterfly habitats within roads' right-of-way.

Mr. Sandberg reported that Washington County received two awards for its work towards this goal at the Monarchs & More Networking Meeting in Austin, Texas. One of the awards, the Biggest Adopter Award, is given to partners with the most acres using adopted conservation measures. The other award the county received, the Highflyer Award, is given to partners with the highest percentage of adopted acres above their 2023 target. Washington County was given both of these awards within the transportation sector of the program.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioners reported on meetings and other events they attended. Please see archived livestreaming 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 Bigham moved to adjourn. Commissioner Clasen seconded the motion, and it was adopted unanimously.

The County Board meeting adjourned at 10:11 a.m.

BOARD WORKSHOP WITH PUBLIC HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT

The board met in workshop session for an update on the county solid waste management plan. Present for the workshop were Commissioners Miron, Kriesel, Bigham, Clasen, and Karwoski. Also present were Kevin Corbid, Jan Lucke, Jennifer Wagenius, and county staff.

BOARD WORKSHOP WITH PUBLIC WORKS

The board met in workshop session to discuss Trunk Highway (TH) 120 (Century Avenue North) Jurisdictional Transfer, from Interstate 694 to County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 12 (Wildwood Road). Present for the workshop were Commissioners Miron, Kriesel, Bigham, Clasen, and Karwoski. Also present were Kevin Corbid, Jan Lucke, Jennifer Wagenius, and county staff.

BOARD WORKSHOP WITH ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE

The board met in workshop session to discuss the American Rescue Plan Act 2024 Recovery Plan. Present for the workshop were Commissioners Miron, Kriesel, Bigham, Clasen, 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 "Stan Karwoski".

Stan Karwoski
County Board Chair