

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA
SEPTEMBER 3, 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.

Sheriff's Office Emergency Services Director Doug Berglund reported on last week's storm damage in the cities of Cottage Grove and St. Paul Park. Mr. Berglund reported that Washington County has been providing assistance for cleanup from the damage. Cottage Grove residents have until October 1 to bring debris to the curb and the city will pickup and transport. St. Paul Park had significant power outages, which have been restored. Mr. Berglund clarified the costs and conditions for an emergency declaration, and the damage incurred is only a third of the threshold required. Therefore, an emergency declaration is not recommended.

Public Works Parks staff reported on zebra mussels found in Big Carnelian Lake in May Township. Adriana Atcheson, Senior Planner, reported that a homeowner found zebra mussels in Big Carnelian Lake and were brought to a watercraft inspector for identification. Ms. Atcheson reported that a rapid response search was then conducted by Washington Conservation District (WCD), Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District, and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and they found dozens of additional zebra mussels. Since the search determined that the population is dispersed and reproducing, there are no feasible treatment options. The DNR does not do widespread chemical treatments of lakes for zebra mussels. Based on conversations with the WCD, it is a high-quality lake and chemical treatment would do more harm than good. An exact outcome is uncertain, and likely the population will increase and plateau in the next 5-10 years.

Ms. Atcheson reported that in 2014, the state created the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) program. The county has received funding through the AIS program for AIS prevention, assisting with community education, watercraft inspections, and treatment of AIS throughout the county.

Dan MacSwain, Natural Resources Coordinator II, reported that there is AIS prevention signage in the parks, as well as clean/drain/dry pull-off areas, tool cleaning, and bait disposal stations. Mr. MacSwain reported that watercraft inspections have been funded through the AIS program with contributions from the lake associations.

Mr. MacSwain reported that in 2023, there were more than 700 watercraft inspections at Square Lake and more than 1,800 at Big Marine Park Reserve boat launches. County staff continue to collaborate with the WCD and lake associations to facilitate inspections and evaluate the feasibility of a decontamination unit.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Board Chair Karwoski asked for comments from the public.

Jane Krenz, May Township, who lives on Square Lake and currently serves as the Vice President of the Square Lake Association, read a letter to the board with great concern of the recent discovery of zebra mussels in Big Carnelian Lake. Ms. Krenz expressed the urgency of action needed on the impaired lake. Big Carnelian Lake is in close proximity to Square Lake, and is likely to affect Square Lake and other lakes.

Rich Cummings, May Township, who lives on Square Lake, expressed his concern of the spread of zebra mussels from the boats using the lakes.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

1. Approval of the August 20, 2024, County Board meeting minutes.
2. Approve Amendment No. 1 to Contract No. 15465 with Tree Trust to increase the not to exceed cost amount from \$120,000 to \$677,849.
3. Approve Contract No. 16803 between Washington County and Redeemer Services, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$30,000 for a term starting on the date of signature through December 31, 2025.
4. Approve Change Order #3 with Wallraff Electric Company for \$8,842.47 for additional power and data locations and additional electrical wiremold in narcotics processing area for the Law Enforcement Center (LEC) Improvement Project.
5. Approve Change Order #4 with Wallraff Electric Company for \$6,121.26 for changes to lighting in two storage rooms for the LEC Improvement Project.
6. Approve Change Order #5 with Commercial Drywall for \$16,283.69 for drywall adjustments on floor S3 as part of the LEC Improvement Project.

7. Approval of **Resolution No. 2024-091** as follows:

FY 2024 BYRNE DISCRETIONARY GRANT

WHEREAS, that the County of Washington, Minnesota, is authorized to accept the grant award terms and conditions with the Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs for the Bureau of Justice Assistance FY 2024 Byrne Discretionary Community Project Funding/Byrne Discretionary Grants Program in the amount of \$963,000 for the period of October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2028.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington County Sheriff, Dan Starry, is hereby authorized to accept the grant award in the Justice Grants System (JustGrants), as it is necessary to implement this grant on behalf of Washington County.

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

LIBRARY

Resolution Proclaiming September 2024 as Library Card Sign-up Month

Library Director Jacquie Kramer presented a resolution to declare September 2024 as Library Card Sign-Up Month in Washington County. Ms. Kramer reported that this is an annual campaign to celebrate the valuable resources available to anyone with a library card.

Commissioner Bigham moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2024-092** as follows:

**RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING SEPTEMBER 2024 AS
LIBRARY CARD SIGN-UP MONTH**

WHEREAS, libraries and librarians play a crucial role in the education and development of young people, from storytimes for children, to college and career planning for teens; and

WHEREAS, libraries are welcoming and inclusive spaces for people of all backgrounds to engage with one another across cultural, ethnic, generational, and economic lines, strengthening the social fabric of the communities they serve; and

WHEREAS, libraries are committed to creating and maintaining diverse programs and collections that reflect the communities they serve, ensuring access for all; and

WHEREAS, libraries help people of all ages navigate the complexities of life, providing access to research, information, and services that allow everyone to lead more productive and fulfilling lives; and

WHEREAS, the shared resources provided by libraries help households save money, conserve resources, and reduce waste, offering a simple way to make a positive impact in the community; and

WHEREAS, libraries uphold democracy by promoting civic engagement and the free exchange of information and ideas for all; and

WHEREAS, a Washington County Library card provides access to a diverse collection of books, databases, and other resources to empower community members to explore new passions, interests, and ideas through lifelong learning.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners hereby proclaims September 2024 as Library Card Sign-up Month and encourages everyone to sign up for a library card today.

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

PUBLIC WORKS

Agreements to Remove Playground Equipment from County Parks

Engineer Erin Clarkowski presented two agreements for the removal and sale of playground equipment at Lake Elmo Park Reserve and St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park.

Ms. Clarkowski reported that two county parks have scheduled projects that include replacing the current playground equipment, Lake Elmo Park Reserve Swim Pond Play Area and St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park Hilltop Area. Currently, the play areas at both parks have aging equipment and sand surfacing, with limited accessibility for park users with disabilities. Both playground areas have been well-maintained by county staff. However, the equipment is out-of-date and availability of repair parts is limited.

Ms. Clarkowski reported that County Policy #1903, Section 5.c, requires that all sales of personal property use a competitive sales process. Kids Around the World, Inc. is an Illinois not-for-profit corporation that works with agencies to remove and salvage existing playground equipment, which is then refurbished and redistributed to communities in more than 60 countries.

Ms. Clarkowski reported that in 2018, Washington County entered into an “even exchange” sale with Kids Around the World, where the county sold playground equipment to Kids Around the World, for a cost equal to Kids Around the World providing the service of removing the play equipment from Lake Elmo Park Reserve, which resulted in an even exchange of goods and services, meaning no monetary amount exchanged hands. Kids Around the World performed this

work in a timely and quality manner and the result is that the playground equipment was able to be repurposed.

Public Works is recommending the County Board utilize its authority in Minnesota Statute Section 373.01(c), which allows the board, at its discretion, to sell this existing playground equipment directly to Kids Around the World. Utilizing this authority would be an exception to County Policy #1903, Section 5.c, and would allow approval of two “even exchange” contracts with Kids Around the World for the removal and sale of the existing play equipment at each park. These contracts will facilitate the removal of all the existing play equipment at no cost to the county.

Commissioner Kriesel moved to approve Agreement No. 16751 with Kids Around the World, Inc. for removal and sale of playground equipment at Lake Elmo Park Reserve Swim Pond Play Area. Commissioner Clasen seconded the motion, and it was adopted unanimously.

Commissioner Bigham moved to approve Agreement No. 16759 with Kids Around the World, Inc. for removal and sale of playground equipment at St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park Hilltop Playground. Commissioner Clasen seconded the motion, and it was adopted unanimously.

SHERIFF’S OFFICE

Resolution to Recognize September 2024 as National Preparedness Month

Allison Strohl, Senior Planner in the Emergency Management Division, presented a resolution to recognize September 2024 as National Preparedness Month in Washington County. Ms. Strohl reported that since 2004, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has observed September as National Preparedness Month to promote the importance of individuals, families, and communities to prepare for emergencies and disasters.

Commissioner Miron moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2024-093** as follows:

NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH SEPTEMBER 2024

WHEREAS, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has declared September as National Preparedness Month; and

WHEREAS, National Preparedness Month creates an important opportunity for every resident of Washington County to prepare their homes, businesses, and communities for any type of emergency; and

WHEREAS, investing in the disaster preparedness for ourselves, our families, businesses and communities can help save lives and reduce economic devastation in our communities; and

WHEREAS, FEMA’s Ready Campaign and other federal, state, local, private, and volunteer agencies are working to educate individuals on how to take action; and

WHEREAS, emergency preparedness is the responsibility of every citizen of Washington County and all citizens are urged to make preparedness a priority and work together, as a team, to ensure that individuals, families, and communities are prepared for disasters and emergencies of any type; and

WHEREAS, by participating in National Preparedness Month in September 2024, Washington County has the opportunity to join and support our state and nation in strengthening community and regional resiliency; and

WHEREAS, all citizens of Washington County are encouraged to participate in preparedness activities and visit the websites of the Ready campaign at www.ready.gov and the Sheriff’s Office social media pages, which includes information aligned with preparedness principles.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Washington County Board of Commissioners hereby proclaims September 2024 as National Preparedness Month and encourages all citizens and businesses to develop their own emergency preparedness plan, build a preparedness kit, check their insurance coverage, and work together toward creating a resilient community.

Commissioner Bigham seconded the motion, and it was adopted 4-0 with a Roll Call vote as follows: Ayes, Commissioners Miron, Kriesel, Bigham, and Karwoski. Nays, none.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioners reported on meetings and other events they attended. Please see archived livestreaming of the board meeting for full commissioner reports on the county’s website washingtoncountymn.gov under “County Board of Commissioners.”

BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

No board correspondence was received.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The County Board meeting adjourned at 10:34 a.m.

BUDGET WORKSHOP WITH THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE

The board met in workshop session to review the 2025 recommended budget for the Sheriff's Office. Present for the workshop were Commissioners Miron, Karwoski, Kriesel, Bigham, and Clasen. Also present were Kevin Corbid, Jan Lucke, Jennifer Wagenius, and county staff.

BOARD WORKSHOP WITH PUBLIC HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT

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

Attest:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Corbid".

Kevin Corbid
County Administrator

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stan Karwoski".

Stan Karwoski
County Board Chair