

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA
MARCH 18, 2025**

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 Bethany Cox, District 3
Commissioner Karla Bigham, District 4
Commissioner Michelle Clasen, District 5

Also Present: Kevin Corbid, County Administrator
Brent Wartner, First Attorney
Stephanie Kammerud, Administrative Assistant

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

1. Approve 2026 Legislative Citizen-Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) funding application for a Department of Public Health & Environment wood utilization program project.
2. Authorize Joint Powers Agreement between the Minnesota DNR and Washington County for the purchase and installation of a new trailhead kiosk at Pine Point Regional Park.

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

ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE

National Institute of Governmental Purchasing Award

Director Cat Piepho announced that Nicki Castro, Procurement Manager in the Accounting and Finance Department, has been honored with the Procurement Manager of the Year Award by the Minnesota Chapter of the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing (NIGP). NIGP is a

professional organization that equips procurement professionals with the skills, resources, education, and certifications needed to manage public funds responsibly, while delivering value to their organizations and communities.

Ms. Piepho reported that Ms. Castro's peers nominated her for this award as a testament to her exceptional leadership, her dedication to continuous improvement, and her success in centralizing the procurement process at Washington County. Throughout this effort, Ms. Castro worked closely with all departments, carefully assessing their procedures and updating the procurement policy to ensure clear, compliant, and effective standards. Beyond just improving processes, Ms. Castro has fostered a culture of collaboration, accountability, and professional growth, empowering her colleagues to develop their skills and work together more effectively to serve the county. Her commitment to efficiency and partnership-building has had a lasting impact, helping Washington County deliver exceptional service to the community.

PUBLIC WORKS

County Highway 2 Rehabilitation Project

Engineer Erin Clarkowski presented a construction contract for the County Highway 2 Rehabilitation project in the City of Forest Lake. This project is identified as #RB-2669 in the Capital Improvement Plan. Ms. Clarkowski reported that this project will rehabilitate the concrete pavement, concrete boulevards, bituminous trail, and replace signing and striping along County Highway 2 (Broadway Avenue West) between the Interstate 35 northbound ramps and Centennial Drive.

Ms. Clarkowski reported that this project was originally anticipated for 2024 construction, however, the one bid received was significantly higher than the engineer's estimate. The board approved rejection of the bid in June 2024, and the project was reprogrammed for construction in 2025. A new request for bids was posted in December 2024, two bids were received, and Ti-Zack Concrete LLC was selected. This project is funded by County Transportation Sales Tax and Transportation Advancement Account.

Commissioner Miron moved to approve Contract No. 17149 in the amount of \$1,369,925.84 with Ti-Zack Concrete LLC for the County Highway 2 Rehabilitation project. Commissioner Bigham seconded the motion, and it was adopted.

County Road 50 and Trunk Highway 61 Intersection Improvement Project

Engineer Ryan Hoefs presented a contract for the County Road (CR) 50 and Trunk Highway (TH) 61 Intersection Improvement project. Mr. Hoefs reported that this project is identified in the Capital Improvement Plan as #RB-2809. This project will provide preliminary design services at the intersection of CR 50 (202nd Street North) and TH 61 in the City of Forest Lake.

Mr. Hoefs reported that a request for proposals was issued in November 2024, to provide project coordination, preliminary engineering, stakeholder and public engagement, utility coordination, data collection, geotechnical analysis and environmental documentation services. There were six

proposals received from qualified firms, and HDR Engineering Inc. was selected. This project will be funded by planned use of the Transportation Advancement Account fund balance.

Commissioner Miron moved to approve Contract No. 17214 with HDR Engineering Inc. in the amount of \$399,968.37 to provide preliminary design services for the County Road 50 and Trunk Highway 61 Intersection Improvement project. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion, and it was adopted.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Legislative Updates

Deputy County Administrator Jan Lucke reported that President Trump signed a continuing resolution into law on March 14. The passage of the continuing resolution officially stopped a potential government shutdown and extends the Federal government's budget through the end of September. It did not include 2025 Community Project Funding requests. County staff met with Mike Erlandson of Downs Government yesterday, and the initial direction is for the county to resubmit all 2025 Community Project Funding requests to each Congressional office. Ms. Lucke reported that the county submitted the County State Aid Highway 32 project in Forest Lake, and the public safety project, featuring water rescue equipment and a K9 training center, to U.S. Rep. Pete Stauber. U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar is currently accepting submissions through the end of the month. The Downs team will work with Congressional offices to garner direction on additional county projects identified for 2026 funding.

Ms. Lucke reported that the Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit is opening this weekend, and it is anticipated that several members of the county's Congressional and State delegations may attend planned events. There will be a public celebration from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday with kids activities, food trucks, and community outreach booths. The opening of Gold Line is the culmination of years of planning, engineering and public engagement.

Ms. Lucke provided an updated State bill tracker to the board. There are no changes since last week. However, staff from Larkin Hoffman expects a bill number soon for the wood waste project request. The first and second committee deadline is April 4.

Ms. Lucke reported that a letter of support is included in today's board packet, for the Ramsey/Washington anaerobic digester project for the Legislative Citizen Commission for Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) 2026 request for proposals (RFP). An identical letter was approved by the board on March 12, 2024, for this year's LCCMR bill (House File 1218), which includes \$5.2 million for the project. The letter today is in support of resubmitting the project for the 2026 RFP if that bill is not successful.

Commissioner Bigham moved to approve a letter of support for the Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy (R&E) and Dem-Con HZI Bioenergy, LLC anaerobic digestion project. Commissioner Clasen seconded the motion, and it was adopted.

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.

EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION

Commissioner Cox moved to move into Executive (closed) session. Commissioner Bigham seconded the motion, and it was adopted.

The Board met in Executive (closed) session, pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 13D.05 subd. 3(c) to review the purchase offer for property at 14386 Hudson Road South, Afton, Minnesota, in regards to the potential purchase of property for a Central Yard Waste Site and a Sheriff's Training facility, the time being 10:15 a.m. Present for the Executive (closed) session were Commissioners Miron, Karwoski, Cox, Bigham, and Clasen, and Kevin Corbid, Jennifer Wagenius, Jan Lucke, Andrew Jackola, David Brummel, Caleb Johnson, Adam Frederick, Wayne Sandberg, Frank Ticknor, Greg Wood, Sharon Price, and Stephanie Kammerud.

The Executive (closed) session closed at 10:32 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The County Board meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

BOARD WORKSHOPS WITH PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

The board met in workshop session for an update on the wood waste management system and related procurement processes. Present for the workshop were Commissioners Miron, Cox, Karwoski, Bigham, and Clasen. Also present were Kevin Corbid, Jan Lucke, Jennifer Wagenius, and county staff.

The board met in workshop session for board feedback on solid waste plan program implementation. Commissioners Miron, Cox, Karwoski, Bigham, and Clasen. Also present were Kevin Corbid, Jan Lucke, Jennifer Wagenius, and county staff.

BOARD WORKSHOP WITH PUBLIC WORKS

The board met in workshop session to review proposed updates to the Parks and Open Space Commission Ordinance 75. Commissioners Miron, Cox, Karwoski, Bigham, and Clasen. Also present were Kevin Corbid, Jan Lucke, Jennifer Wagenius, and county staff.

Attest:

Kevin Corbid

Kevin Corbid
County Administrator

Stan Karwoski

Stan Karwoski
County Board Chair