

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA
MAY 13, 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
John Ristad, 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; none were heard.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Cox moved to approve the County Board meeting agenda for May 13, 2025. Commissioner Clasen seconded the motion, and it was approved.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

1. Approval of **Resolution No. 2025-048** as follows:

**RESOLUTION APPOINTING GRIFFIN BROD TO THE
BROWN'S CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT**

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes 103D.311 requires the county board to appoint a member to fill a vacancy in the office of watershed district manager; and

WHEREAS, a person appointed a watershed district manager must be a voting resident of the watershed district who is not a public officer of the county, state or federal government, expect that a soil and water

conservation supervisor may be appointed a watershed district manager; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes 103D.311 also provides the process that must be followed in making appointments of watershed district managers, including the requirement to ensure the appointees to the watershed district are able to fairly represent the various hydrological areas within the watershed district; and

WHEREAS, a term is expiring for the position of watershed district manager and the county has undertaken all the necessary steps to make an appointment; and

WHEREAS, the county has provided the notice required to the townships and municipalities that are within the watershed; and

WHEREAS, the county has provided the required published notice; and

WHEREAS, the county has reviewed the applications submitted for the manager position and the list of nominees provided by the townships and municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the county has determined that the aggregate list of nominees submitted by the townships and municipalities is valid; and

WHEREAS, the county has reviewed residency of the manager being appointed as well as the residency of the current managers, considered the experience of the individual being appointed to determine if he is able to represent the concerns of the entire watershed district, and reviewed any other material available to determine the ability of the managers to fairly represent all hydrological areas of the watershed district; and

WHEREAS, the county has determined that by making the following appointment it finds that the managers of the watershed district, including the newly appointed member, fairly represent the various hydrologic areas within the watershed district to the greatest extent possible; and

WHEREAS, the individual being appointed manager was included on the list of nominees as presented by the townships and municipalities under Minnesota Statutes 103D.311, subdivision 3.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Washington County Board of Commissioners hereby appoints Griffin Brod to a partial term on the Brown's Creek Watershed District, to begin on May 14, 2025, and end on October 21, 2027.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Washington County Board of Commissioners directs that a record of all appointments made be filed with the county auditor of each county affected by the watershed district, the secretary of the board of managers, and the Board of Water and Soil Resources.

2. Approval to appoint Nicholas Stephens to the Mental Health Advisory Council as a Supportive Housing Representative to a partial term beginning May 14, 2025, and expiring December 31, 2026.
3. Adopt Policy No. 5006, ensuring countywide compliance with Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act.
4. Approval of **Resolution No. 2025-049** as follows:

**RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR COMFORT LAKE-FOREST
LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT PROPOSAL FOR
RESTORATION AND ENHANCEMENT OF BONE LAKE
PROPERTY IN SCANDIA**

WHEREAS, the County desires to support projects in its community that protect its natural features, quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the protection of water is essential to our health and well-being; and

WHEREAS, having adequate natural holding capacity for water is good planning that assists in flooding prevention, soil retention, improved water quality, efficient aquifer recharge; and

WHEREAS, having adequate ecological corridors to allow wildlife to move, flourish, and remain in our midst is of inherent value; and

WHEREAS, the Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District (District) has identified a property acquisition located south of Bone Lake and in an area identified as a priority area, per Figure 2-5 Priority Areas, in the District Watershed Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, once the District acquires the property in fee title, the District proposes to restore key wetland and upland wildlife habitat, provide for significant volume storage enhancement and flood mitigation, support water quality protection in Bone Lake, and provide publicly accessible natural open space; and

WHEREAS, the proposed acquisition and restoration project aligns with the purpose of the Washington County Land and Water Legacy Program, in that it restores natural features to improve the water quality of lakes, preserve wetlands, and help protect land along a waterbody from development; and

WHEREAS, the Washington County Board provided a letter of support for the property acquisition and associated grant application on September 6, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Scandia City Administrator provided a letter of support for the property acquisition and associated grant application on May 19, 2022, and the Scandia City Council adopted resolution 04-16-24-04 in support of the property acquisition on April 16, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota State Representative Bob Dettmer and the Bone Lake Association also provided letters of support for the property acquisition and associated grant application in 2022.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington County Board signals its support for the restoration of the property located at 22211 Lofton Ave N, Scandia, MN, by the Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District and other funding partners.

5. Approval of **Resolution No. 2025-050** as follows:

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE COMFORT LAKE-FOREST LAKE
WATERSHED DISTRICT GREENBELT AND OPEN SPACE**

WHEREAS, the County desires to support projects in its community that protect its natural features, quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the protection of water is essential to our health and well-being; and

WHEREAS, having adequate natural holding capacity for water is good planning that assists in flooding prevention, soil retention, improved water quality, efficient aquifer recharge; and

WHEREAS, having adequate ecological corridors to allow wildlife to move, flourish, and remain in our midst is of inherent value; and

WHEREAS, the Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District (District) has identified the need for a comprehensive Greenbelt and Open Space initiative to protect and restore valuable natural features, particularly in the Sunrise River corridor and Sunrise River headwaters; and

WHEREAS, the Greenbelt and Open Space initiative would entail fee title acquisitions, conservation easements, natural resource restoration, and natural resource enhancement in key areas such as wetlands and stream corridors; and

WHEREAS, the proposed initiative dovetails with the District's fee title acquisition and restoration project on a property south of Bone Lake, for which the Washington County Board provided a letter of support for the associated grant application on September 6, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the proposed project aligns with the purpose of the Washington County Land and Water Legacy Program in that it protects natural features to improve the water quality of lakes, preserve wetlands, and help protect land along a waterbody from development.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the County Board signals its support for the Greenbelt and Open Space initiative, by the Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District and other funding partners.

6. Approval of the May Township plat Registered Land Survey No. 133.
7. Approve Grant Agreement No. 17316 with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) in the amount of \$250,000 for the period from April 30, 2025, through June 30, 2027.
8. Approve Purchase Order 27889 in the amount of \$192,220.00 with Towmaster, Inc. for the build-out of a new single-axle plow truck for METRO Gold Line using State Contract Number 222949.
9. Approve Purchase Order 27888 in the amount of \$206,062.00 with Towmaster, Inc. for the build-out of a new tandem-axle plow truck for METRO Gold Line using State Contract Number 222949.
10. Approve Purchase Order No. 27885 in the amount of \$201,433.00 with Towmaster, Inc. using State Contract Number 222949 for the build-out of a new tandem-axle plow truck.
11. Approve Purchase Order No. 27887 in the amount of \$201,433.00 with Towmaster, Inc. using State Contract Number 222949 for the build-out of a new tandem-axle plow truck.
12. Approval of **Resolution No. 2025-051** as follows:

**RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT A DONATION FROM MARY JAROS
FOR INSTALLATION OF A CEDAR BENCH WITH
COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE
AT LAKE ELMO PARK RESERVE**

WHEREAS, Washington County gratefully accepts donations, gifts, and bequests from public and private sources to enhance the programs and services it provides; and

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. 375.26 authorizes the county board to accept gifts, donations and bequests on behalf of the county; and

WHEREAS, Washington County Parks has a wide array of donation opportunities for individuals and groups to provide support for the park system; and

WHEREAS, the Washington County Parks - Park Bench Program allows an individual or group to donate funds to install and maintain a bench to be used on a trail or near a park facility; and

WHEREAS, for a donation of \$2,500, a cedar park bench with commemorative plaque may be placed along a turf trail and will be guaranteed for a minimum of five (5) years; and

WHEREAS, Mary Jaros wishes to place a cedar bench at Lake Elmo Park Reserve commemorating her late husband, Captain John Jaros, United States Navy (Retired).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners does hereby accept a donation in the amount of \$2,500 from Mary Jaros for installation of a cedar park bench at Lake Elmo Park Reserve with commemorative plaque; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Washington County will maintain the bench site, including repair and replacement of the bench and plaque for a period of five years; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that after five years, Washington County has the option to dispose of, replace, or relocate the bench and plaque as needed.

13. Approve Agreement No. 17287 for financial services between the Gold Line Joint Powers Board and Washington County to continue to provide budgeting and accounting services, review and draft Joint Powers Board contracts, and provide other general counsel services.
14. Approval of **Resolution No. 2025-052** as follows:

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE GOLD LINE BUS RAPID
TRANSIT EXTENSION FROM THE CITY OF SAINT PAUL TO
THE CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS**

WHEREAS, the METRO Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) line opened on March 22, 2025, as a mostly dedicated transitway between Woodbury and downtown Saint Paul; and

WHEREAS, Washington County has a significant investment in METRO Gold Line and is committed to its success; and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Council, through the Metro Transit Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), recommends the Gold Line Extension, with services to and through downtown Minneapolis; and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Council is in the process of amending the Transportation Policy Plan (TPP) to add the Gold Line Extension; and

WHEREAS, as part of the MnDOT Rethinking I-94 and Metro Transit Network Now Study processes, public outreach has been conducted.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Washington County Board of Commissioners supports the Gold Line Extension and the continuance of Metro Transit's development of preliminary and final plans, and right-of-way acquisition necessary for the construction of the project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Washington County is supportive of returning to the pre-2007 I-94 configuration which allowed buses to operate on shoulders continuously from downtown St. Paul to downtown Minneapolis; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Washington County requests that Metro Transit implement the changes in the Network Now plan that connect to METRO Gold Line in Washington County as soon as feasible, including routes 219 and 354.

15. Approval of **Resolution No. 2025-053** as follows:

**RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT METROPOLITAN COUNCIL
GRANT AGREEMENT SG-25P1-10-01**

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Council is authorized by Minn. Stat. § 473.301 *et seq.* to make grants eligible to eligible governmental units for the purpose of acquisition of regional recreation open space in accordance with the Metropolitan Council's Recreation Open Space Policy Plan; and,

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Council has expressed its commitment to issue bonds for acquisition and betterment of regional open space lands ("Council Park Bonds"); and,

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Legislature in Laws of 2021, First Special Session, Chapter 6, Article 6, Subd. 9(c) appropriated funds for the State Fiscal Year 2022 from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund to the Metropolitan Council for grants to implementing agencies for the acquisition of lands within the approved park unit boundaries of the metropolitan regional park system; and,

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Legislature in Laws of 2024, Regular Session, Chapter 83, Section 2, Subd. 9(e) appropriated funds for the State Fiscal Year 2025 from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund to the Metropolitan Council for grants to implementing agencies for the acquisition of lands within the approved park unit boundaries of the metropolitan regional park system; and,

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Laws 2023, Regular Session Chapter 40, Article 3, Section 4, appropriated funds for State Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025 from the Constitutional Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment's Parks and Trails Fund to the Metropolitan Council for grants to implementing agencies as required under Minn. Stat. § 85.53 for parks and trails resources; and,

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Council is authorized by Minn. Stat. § 85.53, subd. 3 to use grant funds from the Land and Legacy Amendment's Parks and Trails Fund (P&T Fund) to support parks and trails of regional significance; and,

WHEREAS, Washington County is a governmental unit eligible for a Park Acquisition Opportunity Fund Grant to assist in the acquisition of recreation, open space lands; and,

WHEREAS, Washington County applied to Metropolitan Council for a Parks Acquisition Opportunity Fund Grant for partial reimbursement for 75% of the estimated acquisition total of \$1,734,243.00 for the purchase of a portion of property at PID 06.031.20.11.0001 within Big Marine Park Reserve; and,

WHEREAS, Washington County was selected to receive partial grant funds up to 75% from the P&T Fund and the Environment and Natural Resource Trust Fund in the amount of \$1,300,682.00 with Washington County 25% match of \$433,561.00.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners accepts the aforementioned grant from the Metropolitan Council and authorizes its County Board Chair and County Administrator to execute on behalf of the county a Metropolitan Council Grant Agreement SG-25P1-10-01 conditioned upon approval as to form by the Washington County Attorney's Office together with the Agreement and Restrictive Covenant and Declaration.

16. Approval of **Resolution No. 2025-054** as follows:

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING WASHINGTON COUNTY
PARKS AND OPEN SPACE COMMISSION
ORDINANCE #220**

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statute 398.36 allows for creation of a county parks commission with such provisions for membership, terms of office, and other requirements as the county board may prescribe; and

WHEREAS, Washington County adhered to Minnesota Statute 398.34. A public hearing notice was published in the official county newspaper (Country Messenger) for three weeks; and

WHEREAS, Parks Ordinance #220 is intended to repeal and replace ordinances #17 and #75 relating to the Washington County Parks and Open Space Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Open Space Commission voted to support proposed ordinance changes to be considered by the Washington County Board of Commissioners on January 16, 2025; and

WHEREAS, a county board workshop was held to discuss the proposed update on March 18, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Washington County Board of Commissioners conducted a public hearing on May 6, 2025.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Washington County Board of Commissioners hereby adopts Washington County Parks Ordinance #220 and its proposed policies, rules and official controls governing the Washington County Parks and Open Space Commission as an update to ordinance #17 and ordinance #75.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners hereby repeals Washington County ordinance #17 and #75, effective on May 13, 2025.

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

PUBLIC WORKS

County State Aid Highway 25 (Century Avenue) Resurfacing Project

Engineer Michael Kline presented three requests for the County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 25 (Century Avenue) Resurfacing Project, which is identified in the Capital Improvement Plan as RB-2204.

Mr. Kline reported that this project will repave 1.9 miles of CSAH 25, from South Century Avenue to Brookview Drive, within the cities of Maplewood and Woodbury. The construction contract includes roadway mill and overlay, and will replace signs and pavement markings. There were five bids received for this contract, and Public Works recommends OMG Midwest Inc. dba Minnesota Paving & Materials for the bid award.

A construction cost agreement with Ramsey County defines design and construction responsibilities and cost shares that have been agreed upon between Washington County and Ramsey County. A budget amendment is being proposed to increase Ramsey County's contribution.

Commissioner Clasen moved to approve Contract No. 17380 in the amount of \$1,459,741.24 with OMG Midwest Inc. dba Minnesota Paving & Materials. Commissioner Karwoski seconded the motion, and it was approved.

Commissioner Karwoski moved to approve Cooperative Cost Agreement No. 17219 between Ramsey County and Washington County. Commissioner Miron seconded the motion, and it was approved.

Commissioner Clasen moved to approve a budget amendment to increase the budget for CSAH 25-CSAH 16 to I-94 by \$926,127 for the Ramsey County contribution. Commissioner Karwoski seconded the motion, and it was approved.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Resolution for National Law Enforcement Week and National Law Enforcement Memorial Day

Sergeant Michelle Folendorf presented a resolution recognizing May 11-17, 2025, as National Law Enforcement Week, and May 15, 2025, as National Law Enforcement Memorial Day in Washington County. Sgt. Folendorf talked about honor, gratitude, and remembrance, and spoke of her memories of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. The Washington County Sheriff's Office will have their annual ceremony to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice, at the Historic Courthouse on Thursday, May 15, 2025, at Noon.

Commissioner Bigham moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2025-055** as follows:

**PROCLAMATION
NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT WEEK AND
NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT MEMORIAL DAY**

WHEREAS, established by a joint resolution of Congress in 1962 to pay special recognition to law enforcement officers and the vital contribution they make in public safety; and

WHEREAS, by the enforcement of our laws, these same officers have given our country internal freedom from fear of the violence and civil disorder that is presently affecting other nations; and

WHEREAS, these officers have safeguarded the lives and property of their fellow Americans; and

WHEREAS, this week is dedicated to honoring Washington County's law enforcement officers for their service and sacrifices; and

WHEREAS, the Washington County Sheriff's Office would like to invite the public to the Historic Courthouse on May 15, 2025, at 12:00 PM, for their annual ceremony memorializing those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners hereby proclaims May 11, 2025, through May 17, 2025, as Law Enforcement Week, and May 15, 2025, as Law Enforcement Memorial Day.

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

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Contract for a Climate Action Plan

Senior Planner Joe Ayers-Johnson, Office of Administration, presented a contract for creation of a climate action plan. A climate action plan is a roadmap to prevent and respond to the effects of climate change in the community, landscape, and county operations.

Mr. Ayers-Johnson reported that in August 2024, the County Board adopted the 2024-2029 Countywide Strategic Plan, which included a performance measure to develop and adopt a comprehensive climate action plan by 2026. A climate action plan assesses current and future local climate conditions and identifies actionable strategies to both reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change. Washington County's climate action plan will include

climate strategies at both the county operations and community scales. There has been broad community support for a climate action plan, and stakeholder engagement is a key element to this plan.

Mr. Ayers-Johnson reported that in January 2025, a request for proposals was posted for consultant services for a climate action plan. Twelve proposals were received from qualified candidates. Following extensive review and evaluation of the proposals and interviews with the top three candidates, SRF Consulting Group was selected as the preferred consultant.

Several community members were present to support the county's climate action plan. Public comments of support were expressed by Joe Ward, Anna Barker, Buff Grace, and Andi Arnold.

Commissioner Cox moved to approve Contract No. 17349 with SRF Consulting Group for an amount not to exceed \$174,969.00 for the creation of a climate action plan. Commissioner Clasen seconded the motion, and it was approved.

Legislative Update

Deputy County Administrator Jan Lucke reported that the deadline to close the 2025 Minnesota Legislative Session is May 19 at midnight. Ms. Lucke noted that counties would be greatly affected by funding cuts and cost shifts, including more than \$10 million in cuts and cost shifts in the human services area, and \$20 million in cuts in County Program Aid.

Ms. Lucke introduced Margaret Vesel, Managing Director at Larkin Hoffman, the county's State legislative liaison, who provided her insights on the Legislative Session. Ms. Vesel reported that there have not yet been joint budget targets released from the Governor's budget. There are major policy bills, which are 80% of the budget, that have not passed off of both floors. Ms. Vesel noted that July 1 is the date in which the State budget needs to be passed, or it will go into a government shutdown.

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](https://www.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 Bigham moved to adjourn. Commissioner Clasen seconded the motion, and it was adopted.

The County Board meeting adjourned at 10:29 a.m.

BOARD WORKSHOPS WITH ADMINISTRATION

The board met in workshop session to discuss future funding of the county's Land and Water Legacy Program. Commissioners Miron, Karwoski, Cox, Bigham, and Clasen. Also present were Kevin Corbid, Jan Lucke, Jennifer Wagenius, outside agencies, and county staff.

The board met in workshop session to discuss slogan development. Commissioners Miron, Karwoski, Cox, Bigham, and Clasen. Also present were Kevin Corbid, Jan Lucke, Jennifer Wagenius, outside agencies, and county staff.

Attest:

Kevin Corbid

Kevin Corbid
County Administrator

Stan Karwoski

Stan Karwoski
County Board Chair