

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA
MAY 20, 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 Bigham moved to approve the County Board meeting agenda for May 20, 2025. Commissioner Clasen seconded the motion, and it was approved.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

1. Approval of the May 6, 2025, County Board meeting minutes.
2. Approval to revise Policy #1908 Art-In-Public-Places.
3. Approval of **Resolution No. 2025-056** as follows:

**RESOLUTION APPOINTING NICHOLAS BANCKS TO THE
CARNELIAN MARINE ST CROIX 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 Nicholas Bancks to a first term on the Carnelian Marine St Croix Watershed District, to begin on June 22, 2025, and end on June 21, 2028.

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.

4. Approval to convert 1.0 FTE Special Project Case Aide to a permanent position in Community Services, Community Resources & Partnerships Division.
5. Approval to extend 2.0 FTE Special Project Case Aide Access Navigators in Community Services, Administrative Division.
6. Approval of an application for a 1-4 day Temporary On-Sale Liquor License from the Bayport American Legion Post 491 for annual Yellow Ribbon Randy Kopesky Field of Bands event on September 20, 2025, at the Washington County Fairgrounds, 12300 N. 40th Street, in Baytown Township.
7. Approval of **Resolution No. 2025-057** as follows:

**RESOLUTION APPROVING AN APPLICATION
TO CONDUCT OFF-SITE GAMBLING FOR
BAYPORT AMERICAN LEGION POST 491**

WHEREAS, an application has been received from the Bayport American Legion to conduct off-site gambling (Pull-Tabs) activities from July 30, 2025 to August 3, 2025 during the Washington County Fair at the Washington County Fairgrounds located at 12300 N 40th Street, in Baytown Township, and

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. 349.165 requires the permit to be approved by the County Board of Commissioners by resolution and remitted to the Minnesota Gambling Control Board for their consideration.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Washington County Board of Commissioners accepts the application to conduct off-site gambling, pull tabs, from the Bayport American Legion at the Washington County Fairgrounds located at 12300 N 40th Street, in Baytown Township and for it to be remitted to the Minnesota Gambling Control Board for their consideration.

8. Approve minor plan amendments to the Lower St. Croix (LSC) Comprehensive Management Plan and approve a work plan revision and budget amendment to the LSC FY23 Watershed Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) grant work plan and budget.
9. Approve Change Order No. 1 to Contract No. 16176 in the amount of \$13,206.38 with Kraft Mechanical, LLC for exterior lighting controls and bypass valve for the Central Service and License Center.
10. Approve Change Order No. 2 to Contract No. 16169 in the amount of \$8,892.00 with Superset Tile and Stone, LLC for tile modifications on the Central Service and License Center.
11. Approval of **Resolution No. 2025-058** as follows:

DONATION FROM PEPPERBALL

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

WHEREAS, any gift, donation, or bequest becomes the property of Washington County; and

WHEREAS, the Washington County Board is authorized to approve donations, gifts, and bequests.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve and accept a donation of PepperBall launchers valued at \$1,999.89 for use in the Washington County Jail to enhance safety and security.

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

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT

Metropolitan Mosquito Control District (MMCD) Executive Director Daniel Huff, Public Affairs Manager Alex Carlson, and Regional Operations Manager Josh Madetzke reported on the MMCD programs and activities.

Mr. Carlson summarized the services MMCD provides, including comprehensive mosquito control, disease suppression and surveillance, and public education about mosquito habitat and mosquito and tick-borne disease.

Mr. Carlson indicated that the 2024 season had above average rainfall throughout the summer. However, adult mosquito numbers stayed below average for much of the year. A mild winter and

warm spring meant early detections of deer ticks and mosquito larvae in February. There were fewer instances of West Nile Virus in the District than in previous years. Mr. Carlson reported that 2025 plans include expanded services of drones at all MMCD facilities, increasing educational outreach, and the unveiling of a new MMCD Strategic Plan.

PUBLIC WORKS

Contracts for Geotechnical Design Services

Engineer Andrew Giesen presented three on-call contracts for geotechnical design. Mr. Giesen reported that since 2015, Washington County Public Works has utilized on-call contracts with geotechnical firms to provide design services for projects identified in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). These design services are crucial to ensure county infrastructure is designed correctly to avoid premature distresses and failures, and to help reduce costly changes during construction.

Mr. Giesen reported that a Request for Proposals was posted in February 2025, and three proposals were submitted. Mr. Giesen reported that Public Works typically has a pool of consultant contracts, and by utilizing these on-call contracts, the county will prepare a scope of services needed for a specific project and request an estimate from a firm within the pool. For larger projects, the county will collect estimates from multiple firms within the pool. Once the county accepts an estimate, the county gives notice to proceed under the on-call contract. These on-call contracts are funded through many projects identified within the CIP, and utilize a portion of the project's CIP design budget.

Commissioner Cox moved to approve Contact No. 17381 with WSB Engineering to provide geotechnical design services over the next five years, which shall not exceed \$500,000. Commissioner Bigham seconded the motion, and it was approved.

Commissioner Miron moved to approve Contact No. 17382 with American Engineering Testing to provide geotechnical design services over the next five years, which shall not exceed \$500,000. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion, and it was approved.

Commissioner Bigham moved to approve Contact No. 17383 with Braun Intertec Corporation to provide geotechnical design services over the next five years, which shall not exceed \$500,000. Commissioner Miron seconded the motion, and it was approved.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Proposal for Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council

Planner Serena Rath, Office of Administration, presented a proposal to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council for a protection and restoration partnership.

Ms. Rath reported that in fiscal year (FY) 2022, Washington County applied for and was awarded funds for a protection and restoration partnership from the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) to acquire conservation easements in partnership with the Minnesota Land Trust

and to steward the county's protected land through its Land and Water Legacy Program. The grant period is ending in June 2026. To continue this work, staff have prepared a new phase II proposal for the LSOHC's FY 2027 call for funding. The proposed scope includes land protection in partnership with the Minnesota Land Trust, enhancement of Woodbury City Parks, which contain county-owned conservation easements, and two FTEs dedicated to the stewardship of Washington County parks. Proposals are due on May 23, 2025, and through this proposal, the county is committing to providing an in-kind match in the form of related staff costs of \$225,000.

Commissioner Bigham moved to approve submitting the Washington County Habitat Protection and Restoration Partnership proposal to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Conservation Fund for the FY 2027 grant period. Commissioner Clasen seconded the motion, and it was approved.

Legislative Update

Deputy County Administrator Jan Lucke reported that the 2025 Minnesota Legislative Session ended yesterday. Minnesota lawmakers did not finish the budget on time, and all signs indicated they are headed towards a special session.

Ms. Lucke reported that while all conference committees made progress, some remain very far apart, namely Taxes, Health and Human Services, Education, and Jobs and Economic Development. They have more discussion and compromising ahead before reaching agreement. Minnesota Governor Tim Walz has not yet called a special session, and stated yesterday that he would do so once all negotiations were complete. The Legislature must pass a budget prior to July 1st to avoid a government shutdown. Layoff notices are sent to State employees weeks prior to the deadline, which will create some additional pressure to reach agreements soon.

Ms. Lucke reported that the Public Safety omnibus policy and funding bill did pass, and it included the State eliminating its share of funding to counties for the Sentence to Service Program. For Washington County, that is a \$100,000 reduction in 2026, and a \$50,000 reduction this year. It also included shifting the cost of the Interstate Compact for offenders that are on probation and moving from one state to another. The exact cost is unsure; however, it should be a modest reduction in funding to Washington County.

Ms. Lucke concluded that staff continue to pay close attention to the Health and Human Services bill, where cost shifts to counties are still being discussed, and the Tax bill, where a cut to County Program Aid is being discussed. In addition, staff are watching the Transportation bill and advocating for Washington County projects, in case there would be an opportunity to fund projects directly through the bill.

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 washingtontymn.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 Miron seconded the motion, and it was adopted.

The County Board meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Attest:

Kevin Corbid

Kevin Corbid
County Administrator

Stan Karwoski

Stan Karwoski
County Board Chair