

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA
JUNE 3, 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 June 3, 2025. Commissioner Miron seconded the motion, and it was approved.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

1. Approval of the May 13, 2025, and May 20, 2025, County Board meeting minutes.
2. Approval to appoint Tracy Maki to a partial term on the Community Development Block Grant Advisory Council as a Non-Profit representative starting June 4, 2025, and expiring December 31, 2027.
3. Approval to appoint Nicklaus Petrucelle to a partial term on the Workforce Development Board as a Labor Representative starting June 4, 2025, and expiring December 31, 2027.
4. Approval of a 1.0 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Special Project Legal Assistant position in the Juvenile Division of the County Attorney's Office.



5. Approval of Cooperative Agreement No. 17450 between Washington County and the Washington County Community Development Agency for the administration of the Bridges Program from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2027.
6. Approve Contract No. 17409 between Washington County and Pinnacle Services, Inc. in the amount not to exceed \$40,000 for a term starting on the date of signature, through December 31, 2026.
7. Approval of **Resolution No. 2025-059** as follows:

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMITTAL OF AN
APPLICATION TO REQUEST FUNDING FROM THE
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION THROUGH
THE 2027 METRO LOCAL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) is currently accepting candidate projects for the fiscal year 2027 Metro Local Partnership Program; and

WHEREAS, the Local Partnership Program (LPP) facilitates statewide transportation partnership opportunities with local agencies through a competitive selection process; and

WHEREAS, the program provides construction funding for highway improvements at locations where state highways are involved, where there are not currently any improvements programmed by MnDOT, and where the improvements are mutually beneficial to all partners; and

WHEREAS, Washington County Public Works is proposing to submit one application for consideration for LPP funding:

1. Intersection improvements at Trunk Highway 61 and County Road 50 (202nd Street North), in the City of Forest Lake; and

WHEREAS, the projects will be of mutual benefit to MnDOT, Washington County, and the City of Forest Lake; and

WHEREAS, Washington County is committed to providing the county share of the costs if the projects are selected as part of the fiscal year 2027 Metro Local Partnership Program; and

WHEREAS, Washington County is committed to completing the project if selected, and funding is provided as part of the fiscal year 2027 Metro Local Partnership Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Washington County Board approves of the application requesting funding from the Minnesota

Department of Transportation through the 2027 Metro Local Partnership Program, and the county is committed to completing the projects identified above and providing the county share of funding if the applications for state funding are successful.

8. Approval of **Resolution No. 2025-060** as follows:

DONATION FROM OUR RESCUE

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 of Commissioners is authorized to approve donations, gifts, and bequests.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners does hereby approve the donation of camera and forensic equipment from OUR Rescue, valued at \$13,592.00, that will support investigative efforts to protect children from sex trafficking and sexual exploitation.

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

HUMAN RESOURCES

Resolution for Pride Month

Pride Employee Resource Group (ERG) Co-chairs Lizzy Grover and Carrie Genereux presented a resolution proclaiming June 2025 as Pride Month. The Pride ERG will be hosting a celebration entitled "Living Out Loud: Real Stories, Real Impact" for county employees on June 5, 2025.

Commissioner Clasen moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2025-061** as follows:

2025 PRIDE MONTH RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the month of June was designated as Pride Month in recognition of the Stonewall Uprising of June 1969, which is recognized as the start of the LGBTQIA+ rights movement, and numerous events have been organized around the country to commemorate that event; and

WHEREAS, the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, and Asexual (LGBTQIA+) communities are important and vital parts of Washington County; and

WHEREAS, Washington County is a welcoming community that recognizes the importance of inclusion, equality, and freedom; and

WHEREAS, the United States was founded upon the principles that every person is created equal, that each has rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, and that each shall receive full recognition and protection of the law; and

WHEREAS, Washington County is dedicated to fostering acceptance of all residents and preventing discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression; and

WHEREAS, Washington County's Pride Employee Resource Group works to create a safe, welcoming, and supportive workplace at the county where people of all identities and orientations can be their authentic selves; and

WHEREAS, Washington County is strengthened by and thrives upon the rich diversity of ethnic, cultural, racial, gender, and sexual identities of its residents, all of which contribute to a vibrant community; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Washington County Board of Commissioners do hereby proclaim June 2025 as Pride Month in Washington County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Washington County Board of Commissioners encourage our communities and organizations to celebrate the achievements of LGBTQIA+ community members and renew our commitment to protecting and strengthening the rights of everyone.

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

LIBRARY

Resolution for Summer at Your Library

Library Director Jacquie Kramer presented a resolution proclaiming June 1 through August 16, 2025, as Summer at Your Library, to celebrate the Washington County Library summer learning program. This program includes events and activities to encourage kids, teens, and adults to make reading and learning part of their summer plans.



Commissioner Bigham moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2025-062** as follows:

SUMMER AT YOUR LIBRARY 2025 PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, libraries are at the heart of their cities, counties, and communities, providing free and equitable access to books, technology, and innovative programing that ensures all individuals – regardless of background – have the support they need to learn, connect, and thrive; and

WHEREAS, libraries partner with schools, businesses, and organizations, connecting the dots to maximize resources and expand access to essential services; and

WHEREAS, Washington County Library branches are anchors in their neighborhoods, providing beautiful, flexible, and welcoming spaces for community members to freely gather and grow together; and

WHEREAS, library staff throughout Washington County work tirelessly and directly with all members of the community at all times of the year, using expertise and empathy to meet each person’s needs in a welcoming and supportive environment; and

WHEREAS, from June 1 through August 16, 2025, Washington County Library will celebrate its Summer at Your Library program with an array of events and activities to encourage community and lifelong learning; and

WHEREAS, participation in summer library programs can neutralize summer learning loss and encourage library users of all ages to become lifelong readers and learners; and

WHEREAS, Washington County Library staff will offer exciting programs that encourage community members to visit the library, connect with their neighbors, and learn something new; and

WHEREAS, these programs and activities will bring artists, scientists, musicians, and entertainers to library branches throughout Washington County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim June 1 to August 16, 2025, as Summer at Your Library.

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

PUBLIC WORKS

Contracts for Preliminary Design Services

Engineer Mike Kline presented a consultant contract for County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 20 (Jamaica Avenue), from CSAH 22 (70th Street) to Military Road, in the City of Cottage Grove. This project is identified as RB-2691 in the Capital Improvement Plan. Mr. Kline reported that this section of CSAH 20 was a 2018 transfer from the City of Cottage Grove.

Mr. Kline reported that land development in this area is progressing, with recent development on the east side of CSAH 20 and the future Lochridge development on the west side of CSAH 20. A previous county-led project in 2024, which included the cities of Woodbury and Cottage Grove, looked at intersection alternatives, which included a roundabout and a signal at CSAH 20 and Military Road. The intersection alternatives included a leg for the future connection of Pioneer Drive. This project will utilize the previously developed intersection alternatives and incorporate them into the preliminary design process.

Mr. Kline reported that Public Works issued a request for proposal (RFP) in January 2025, to provide project coordination, preliminary engineering, and stakeholder and public engagement services. Six proposals were received and LHB, Inc. is recommended for this contract. This contract will be funded by Highway State Aid and Local Contributions.

Commissioner Bigham moved to approve Contract No. 17441 with LHB, Inc. in the amount of \$319,316 to provide preliminary design services for CSAH 20 (Jamaica Ave) from CSAH 22 (70th Street) to Military Road Improvement Project. Commissioner Clasen seconded the motion, and it was approved.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

WTS Minnesota Awards

Public Works Deputy Director Frank Ticknor introduced two awards received from WTS Minnesota. WTS Minnesota Chapter is a group of transportation professionals who are committed to the WTS mission of transforming the transportation industry through the advancement of women.

Design Engineer Kevin Peterson announced that Public Works Engineer Erin Clarkowski has received the WTS Woman to Watch Award. The WTS Woman to Watch Award recognizes someone who is mid-career and has made a significant impact on the transportation industry. Mr. Peterson stated that Ms. Clarkowski has certainly done that, and she also had significant impacts on access to environmental services, mining, and parks improvements.

Public Works Planning Director Lyssa Leitner announced the METRO Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) team received the WTS Innovative Transportation Solutions Award. Ms. Leitner reported that this award salutes innovative projects led by a woman, and the Gold Line project was delivered by more than 160 women.

Voting Delegates for 2025 National Association of Counties (NACo) Annual Conference

Commissioner Karwoski moved to appoint Commissioner Bigham as the Voting Delegate, and Commissioner Cox as the Alternate Delegate, representing Washington County at the NACo Annual Conference, occurring July 10-15, 2025, in Philadelphia, PA. Commissioner Miron seconded the motion, and it was approved.

Resolution for 2026 Proposed Projects for the State Capital Budget

Deputy County Administrator Jan Lucke presented a resolution to submit proposed projects for the 2026 state capital budget to the Minnesota Office of Management and Budget. Ms. Lucke reported that the board met in workshop session this morning, prior to today's meeting, to discuss the projects for consideration.

Commissioner Miron moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2025-063** as follows:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMITTAL OF PROPOSED PROJECTS TO THE MINNESOTA MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET FOR CONSIDERATION IN THE 2026 CAPITAL BUDGET

WHEREAS, Minnesota's capital budget is primarily funded by issuing state general obligation bonds; and

WHEREAS, items funded by general obligation bonds must serve a public purpose, be publicly owned, achieve a public goal and be implemented by a public agency; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Minnesota Management and Budget Office process, eligible agencies wishing to receive funding for a project shall submit an application for consideration; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Management and Budget Office has released the capital budget request process for 2026; and

WHEREAS, Washington County is eligible to submit requests for projects to be included in the 2026 capital budget; and

WHEREAS, Washington County is proposing to submit applications for the following projects as ranked in priority from highest to lowest:

1. Request \$22.5 million for the construction of County Road 19A and 100th Street realignment in the City of Cottage Grove; and
2. Request \$10 million for the reconstruction of the Southern Environmental Center and Public Works Campus in the City of Woodbury; and

3. Request \$4 million for the Wood Recovery and Utilization Program in the cities of Forest Lake, Woodbury, and Afton; and
4. Request \$3 million for construction of the CSAH 5 (Stonebridge Trail) and Brown's Creek State Trail connection project in the City of Stillwater; and
5. Request \$2 million for the construction of lighting on Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park trails; and
6. Request \$1.5 million for the construction of the Hardwood Creek Regional Trail extension project.

WHEREAS, Washington County is committed to completing projects, if selected, and funding is provided as part of the 2026 Capital Budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Washington County is submitting the aforementioned projects to Minnesota Management and Budget for consideration in the 2026 Capital Budget and the county is committed to completing projects identified above if they are selected and providing the county share of funding.

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

Legislative Update

Deputy County Administrator Jan Lucke reported that Minnesota Governor Tim Walz has not yet called a special session. However, committees are making progress towards agreements, and Ms. Lucke summarized the recent components of those agreements that will impact counties.

Ms. Lucke reported that in the health and human services area, the most recent update removes the major proposed county cost shifts, including Waiver Rate Exception County Cost Share, Waiver Residential County Cost Share, Behavioral Health Cost Share, and Minnesota Sex Offender Program Cost of Care Increase. It also calls for the creation of a workgroup charged with finding human services cost savings (\$178 million). If the cost savings goal is not reached, new contingent cost shares will be imposed.

In addition, the following are cost shifts or cuts in funding to Washington County:

- A \$63,000 cut in funding from the state for the Behavioral Health fund county allocation. Along with this cut in county funds, the administration is transitioning to the state.
- Counties will now be responsible for Competency Attainment cost of care. This is not a cost the county has every year. However, when there is an individual in this situation, the costs can be significant.
- Similarly, the cost for individuals who do not meet medical criteria to stay in the state facility (and no bed is available in another state facility) is shifted back to counties. This cost was removed from counties two years ago. When this happens, the cost to counties can be very significant. This is part of overall concerns about lack of funding to implement the 48-hour rule and care for those that do not meet criteria.

- It also includes a change to how counties get reimbursed for the MnCHOICES assessments completed. The impact of this change is not clear. However, the state is booking a savings from this change, which means counties would receive less funding. This change would be effective starting in mid-2027.
- The agreement cuts a \$5,000 Day Treatment and Habilitation grant that the county currently receives.

Ms. Lucke continued that related to the agreement for the tax bill, there are no cuts to County Program Aid. Local government cannabis aid was repealed, and aquatic invasive species aid was cut by half. This means the county would have approximately \$67,000 less to grant to the Conservation District, Watershed Districts, and lake associations that are using the funds to fight the spread of invasive species in Washington County lakes.

Ms. Lucke reported that the transportation bill agreement included a key change in the reduction in the percent of funds from the metro area sales tax for transit that goes to the counties from 17% to 8.5%. The Public Works Department estimates this represents a \$3.6 million dollar cut to the county's Transportation Advancement Account Capital funding.

In conclusion, Ms. Lucke reiterated that \$100,000 was cut in the Sentence to Service program, included in the adopted public safety bill.

Commissioners discussed drafting a letter to legislators. Commissioner Miron moved to delegate authority to Board Chair Karwoski and Commissioner Bigham to sign a letter regarding the state transportation funding. Commissioner Bigham seconded the motion, and it was approved.

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

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.

The County Board meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

BOARD WORKSHOP WITH ADMINISTRATION

The board met in workshop session to discuss submission process, projects, and ranking for the 2026 state capital budget process. Commissioners Miron, Karwoski, Cox, Bigham, and Clasen. Also present were Kevin Corbid, Jan Lucke, Jennifer Wagenius, and county staff.

BOARD WORKSHOP WITH PROPERTY RECORDS AND TAXPAYER SERVICES

The board met in workshop session to review assessment year 2025 local appeals and adjustments in preparation for the County Board of Appeal and Equalization meeting. Commissioners Miron, Karwoski, Cox, 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