



**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA
MARCH 10, 2026**

WASHINGTON COUNTY REGIONAL RAILROAD AUTHORITY CONVENES

The Washington County Regional Railroad Authority (WCRRRA) met in regular session at 9:00 a.m. in the Washington County Government Center, County Board Room. Present were Commissioners Miron, Karwoski, Cox, and Bigham. Also present were Kevin Corbid, County Administrator; John Ristad, Assistant County Attorney Division Chief; Stephanie Kammerud, Administrative Assistant; and county staff.

Official proceedings of the Washington County Regional Railroad Authority are available in the Office of Administration.

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS CONVENES

The Washington County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 9:13 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

Absent: Commissioner Michelle Clasen, District 5

Also Present: Kevin Corbid, County Administrator
 John Ristad, Assistant County Attorney Division Chief
 Stephanie Kammerud, Administrative Assistant

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Board Chair Bigham asked for comments from the public.

Carrie Mitchell, City of Scandia, spoke of the shared community well and septic costs and disparities in Wildwood Acres in Scandia. Ms. Mitchell has expressed these concerns with the Scandia City Council, and wished to share this information today with the Washington County Board of Commissioners.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Cox moved to approve the County Board meeting agenda for March 10, 2026. Commissioner Karwoski seconded the motion, and it was adopted 4-0.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

1. Approval of the February 10, 2026, and February 17, 2026, County Board meeting minutes.
2. Approval to appoint Thomas Clemen to a partial term on the Mental Health Advisory Council LAC as a Consumer Representative starting March 10, 2026, and expiring December 31, 2027.
3. Approval of **Resolution No. 2026-023** as follows:

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING SHARON DOUCETTE TO THE SOUTH WASHINGTON 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 reappointed as well as the residency of the current managers, considered the experience of the individual being reappointed to determine if she 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 reappointment it finds that the managers of the watershed district, including the reappointed member, fairly represent the various hydrologic areas within the watershed district to the greatest extent possible; and

WHEREAS, the individual being reappointed 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 reappoints Sharon Doucette to a third term on the South Washington Watershed District, to begin on May 1, 2026 and end on April 30, 2029.

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 of **Resolution No. 2026-024** as follows:

**RESOLUTION APPOINTING ANDREA DATE TO THE
SOUTH WASHINGTON 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 she 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 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 Andrea Date to a first term on the South Washington Watershed District, to begin on May 1, 2026 and end on April 30, 2029.

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.

5. Approve Purchase Order 28593 with Collier IT in the amount of \$287,079.03 for the period of February 28, 2026, to March 1, 2027.

6. Approve a request to apply for renewed 2026–2028 Crisis Response Grant funding from the Department of Public Safety, Minnesota Office of Justice Programs, in the amount of \$300,000 for the grant period of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2028.
7. Approval of **Resolution No. 2026-025** as follows:

LIBRARY DONATION

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 the donation in the amount of \$30,000 from the Anonymous Donor for the Washington County Library.

8. Authorize the withdrawal of \$5,500.00 from the Marine on St. Croix Library Jordan Bequest Fund to be transferred to the Marine Library Association to support library services to the Marine on St. Croix area.
9. Approval of the township plat of Knutson Carnelian Addition.
10. Approval of an application for an off-sale liquor license for Holiday Stationstores, LLC in Denmark Township.
11. Approval of an application for renewal of an on-sale and Sunday liquor license for VR US Holdings, DBA Afton Alps, in Denmark Township.
12. Approval of **Resolution No. 2026-026** as follows:

RESOLUTION APPROVING QUIT CLAIM DEEDS TRANSFERRING PROPERTY PURSUANT TO COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF MINNESOTA AND CITY OF OAKDALE

WHEREAS, Washington County entered into Cooperative Agreements with the State of Minnesota Department of Transportation, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and the City of Oakdale as part of the Trunk Highway 36 and County State Aid Highway 13 (a/k/a Hadley Avenue North) Interchange project; and,

WHEREAS, as part of the Cooperative Agreements, Washington County was to acquire the necessary right-of-way for the project; and,

WHEREAS, permanent of right-of-way and easements were acquired as part of the project; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Cooperative Agreement and upon completion of acquiring all right-of-way for the project, Washington County is to transfer the property and right-of-way to the State of Minnesota Department of Transportation, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and the City of Oakdale.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, pursuant to the Cooperative Agreement, the Washington County Board of Commissioners hereby authorize the transfer of permanent right-of-way and property to the State of Minnesota Department of Transportation, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and the City of Oakdale for their continued maintenance and operation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners hereby authorize its Board Chair and Administrator to execute on behalf of the County the Quit Claim Deed necessary to transfer the permanent right-of-way and property described on Exhibit A to the State of Minnesota Department of Transportation and any other documents necessary for the completion of the transaction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners hereby authorize its Board Chair and Administrator to execute on behalf of the County the Quit Claim Deed necessary to transfer the permanent right-of-way and property described on Exhibit B to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and any other documents necessary for the completion of the transaction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners hereby authorize its Board Chair and Administrator to execute on behalf of the County the Quit Claim Deed necessary to transfer the permanent right-of-way and property described on Exhibit C to the City of Oakdale and any other documents necessary for the completion of the transaction.

13. Approve Second Amendment to the Development Agreement for the North Environmental Center project in Forest Lake.

14. Approval of **Resolution No. 2026-027** as follows:

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMITTAL OF A PROPOSAL
TO THE LEGISLATIVE-CITIZEN COMMISSION ON
MINNESOTA RESOURCES FOR FUNDING THROUGH THE
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND**

WHEREAS, Washington County seeks \$1,500,000 for Lake Elmo Park Reserve – Single Track Trail, to construct a 10-mile single track trail system to enhance outdoor recreational opportunities, informed by extensive public engagement and a comprehensive feasibility study completed in 2021;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Washington County supports the above-referenced project and authorizes the submittal of a proposal for funding of this project on behalf of Washington County to the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) in response to the Minnesota Legislature 2027 Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) Request for Proposal; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, if funding is awarded, Washington County agrees to accept the award and may enter into an agreement with the state of Minnesota for the above-referenced project. Washington County will comply with all applicable laws, environmental requirements, and regulations and any additional conditions stated in the grant agreement and the approved LCCMR work plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Washington County understands that grants from the ENRTF are generally paid out on a reimbursement basis. Washington County has the financial capability to pay for project expenses prior to seeking reimbursement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Washington County certifies none of the current principals of Washington County have been convicted of a felony financial crime in the last ten years. For this purpose, a principal is defined as a public official, a board member, or staff that would have the authority to access or determine the use of ENRTF funds, if awarded; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Washington County Public Works is hereby authorized to execute such agreements and work plans as necessary and is authorized to implement the project on behalf of Washington County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Washington County has the financial capability to ensure adequate operation and maintenance of the project once completed.

15. Approve Amendment No. 3 to Contract No. 15929 with Transportation Collaborative & Consultants, LLC for the Long Range Transportation Plan in the amount of \$6,000.

16. Approve Cooperative Agreement No. 17926 with the City of Grant for engineering costs for the County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 12 Safe Routes to School Trail.
17. Approval of **Resolution No. 2026-028** as follows:

**RESOLUTION ACCEPTING GRANT FUNDING THROUGH THE
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (MNDOT)
FOR FUNDING UNDER THE SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS
INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, Washington County has identified project RB-2824 in its Capital Improvement Plan for new trail construction along the south side of CSAH 12 between the Mahtomedi School entrance and Inwood Way; and

WHEREAS, the County Board authorized the submittal of an application, in partnership with Mahtomedi Public Schools, to the Minnesota Department of Transportation Safe Routes to Schools Infrastructure Grant program for the following project:

1. Construction of a trail on the south side of County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 12/75th St N from Inwood Way N to the signalized intersection at the Mahtomedi Middle and High School driveway in the City of Grant; and
2. Construction of a trail from the signalized intersection at CSAH 12/75th St N at the Mahtomedi Middle and High School driveway to the school buildings in the City of Grant.

WHEREAS, the project will be of mutual benefit to residents of Washington County, City of Grant, and Independent School District 832; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned project will improve access and safety to the Mahtomedi Elementary, Middle, and High Schools, and supports the Mahtomedi Public School's 2023 Safe Routes to School Plan; and

WHEREAS, Washington County will be responsible for design and implementation of the proposed trail on the south side of CSAH 12, including but not limited to, preliminary and final engineering, right-of-way acquisition, construction administration and inspection, utility construction, as well as costs above the Safe Routes to School award; and

WHEREAS, Mahtomedi Public Schools will be responsible for design and implementation of the proposed trail connection to the school buildings north of CSAH 12 including but not limited to preliminary and final engineering, right-of-way acquisition, construction administration and inspection, utility construction, as well as costs above the Safe Routes to School award; and

WHEREAS, funds awarded through the Safe Routes to Schools Program will be divided between Washington County and Mahtomedi Public Schools based upon estimated project costs as outlined in the grant application with Washington County acting as fiscal agent.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington County Board accepts \$705,500 towards the construction of RB-2824 through the MnDOT Safe Routes to School Infrastructure Program.

18. Approval of **Resolution No. 2026-029** as follows:

DONATION FOR SHERIFF'S OFFICE K9 UNIT

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 a donation in the amount of \$10,000.00 from Washington County resident, Jim Dingle, in memory of his late wife, Helen Ann McKasy Dingle, to support the Sheriff's Office K9 Unit.

19. Approval to convert the Radio Technician position in the Sheriff's Office from 0.34 to 1.0 FTE.
20. Approve Joint Powers Agreement No. 18029 that allows the Sheriff's Office to provide fuel to the City of Oak Park Heights for law enforcement services.
21. Approval to submit an application for the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) FY25 Enhanced Collaborative Model (ECM) Task Force to Combat Human Trafficking grant program.
22. Approval to transfer ownership of K9 Odie to his handler, Sergeant Justin McDonough.

The motion was adopted 4-0 with a Roll Call vote as follows: Ayes, Commissioners Miron, Karwoski, Cox, and Biggam. Nays, none.

WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

Resolution for Qualified Allocation Plan

Washington County Community Development Agency Deputy Executive Director Karly Schoeman presented a resolution to approve the 2027-2028 Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP) for the Housing Tax Credit Program, and amending the 2025-2026 Housing Tax Credit QAP.

Ms. Schoeman reported that proposed changes will align both QAPs with IRS and state statute updates. This includes increasing minimum points for 4% allocations, removing points for rental assistance coordination (duplicative language), aligning transit points to options available locally, and incentivize lower intermediary costs.

Commissioner Miron moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2026-030** as follows:

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE 2027 and 2028 QUALIFIED ALLOCATION PLAN FOR THE HOUSING TAX CREDIT PROGRAM AND AMENDED 2025 and 2026 QUALIFIED ALLOCATION PLAN

WHEREAS, Congress has permanently extended the Housing Tax Credit Program by enactment of the Revenue Reconciliation Act of 1993; and

WHEREAS, United States Department of Treasury Regulations (the “Regulations”) require allocators of housing tax credits, including the Washington County Community Development Agency (the “CDA”) which allocates such credits on behalf of Washington County (the “County”), to provide procedures to allocate low income housing tax credits and monitor compliance of projects to which it has allocated low income housing tax credits pursuant to Section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended; and

WHEREAS, the CDA has determined it is necessary and appropriate to modify the CDA's previously adopted Housing Tax Credit Qualified Allocation Plan (the “Plan”) for allocation years 2025-2026 and 2027-2028 in the form attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, the CDA has adopted the Plan as amended for allocation years 2025-2026 and 2027-2028 in substantially the form attached hereto, following a public hearing regarding the revision of the Plan for which not less than 14 days’ notice was published in a newspaper of general circulation in the County; and

WHEREAS, the Regulations require the Plan to be approved by the elected body of the allocating agency.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, that the Housing

Tax Credit Qualified Allocation Plan for 2027-2028 and amended Housing Tax Credit Qualified Allocation Plan for 2025-2026, previously adopted by the Agency and attached hereto, are hereby adopted and approved.

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

PUBLIC WORKS

County Road 74 Roadway Improvements

Engineer Mike Kline reported that Washington County, in partnership with the City of Newport, the City of Cottage Grove, and the South Washington Watershed District, is leading a roadway improvement project along County Highway 74 (65th Street) from County Highway 38 (Hastings Avenue) to Geneva Avenue. This project is identified in the Capital Improvement Plan as #RB-2675.

Mr. Kline reported that this project will reconstruct the existing roadway, install curb and gutter, storm sewer, add a new trail along the north side of the highway, add stormwater basins, and replace aging highway signs. Seven bids were received for the construction bid, and Meyer Contracting was selected. Funding for these construction expenses will be provided through a combination of County Transportation Sales Tax revenues and local contributions from the cities of Newport and Cottage Grove, and the South Washington Watershed District.

Commissioner Bigham moved to approve Contract No. 18069 in the amount of \$3,735,359.11 with Meyer Contracting Inc. Commissioner Miron seconded the motion, and it was adopted 4-0.

Commissioner Bigham moved to approve Cooperative Cost Share Agreement No. 17862 between the City of Cottage Grove and Washington County. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion, and it was adopted 4-0.

Commissioner Bigham moved to approve Cooperative Maintenance Agreement No. 17875 between the City of Cottage Grove and Washington County. Commissioner Karwoski seconded the motion, and it was adopted 4-0.

Commissioner Cox moved to approve Cooperative Cost Share Agreement No. 17877 between the City of Newport and Washington County. Commissioner Miron seconded the motion, and it was adopted 4-0.

Commissioner Karwoski moved to approve Cooperative Maintenance Agreement No. 17876 between the City of Newport and Washington County. Commissioner Bigham seconded the motion, and it was adopted 4-0.

Commissioner Miron moved to approve Cooperative Cost Share Agreement No. 17797 between the South Washington Watershed District and Washington County. Commissioner Karwoski seconded the motion, and it was adopted 4-0.

Commissioner Bigham moved to approve Amendment No. 1 to Contract No. 16518 in the amount of \$200,000 with Stonebrooke Engineering Inc. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion, and it was adopted 4-0.

Commissioner Bigham moved to approve a budget amendment to increase local contributions by \$60,100. Commissioner Karwoski seconded the motion, and it was adopted 4-0.

Commissioner Bigham moved to approve a budget amendment to use the 2026 Road & Bridge Fund Balance of \$107,800. Commissioner Miron seconded the motion, and it was adopted 4-0.

Construction Administration Contracts

Construction Engineer Allan Brandt presented four items for construction administration, inspection, and survey work to aid in the delivery of transportation projects during the construction season, which is identified in the Capital Improvement Plan as #RB-2651. These services will be funded by Wheelage Tax, Transportation Advancement Account, Local Contributions, State Aid, and County Transportation Sales Tax.

Commissioner Miron moved to approve Contract No. 18041 with SRF Consulting Group Inc. in the amount of \$1,114,156.00 for project administration and inspection services to support the 2026 road and bridge construction program. Commissioner Karwoski seconded the motion, and it was adopted 4-0.

Commissioner Cox moved to approve Contract No. 18068 with WSB & Associates in the amount of \$309,000.00 for construction survey and staking services to support the 2026 road and bridge construction program. Commissioner Miron seconded the motion, and it was adopted 4-0.

Commissioner Bigham moved to approve Contract No. 18066 with Kimley-Horn and Associates in the amount of \$3,225,510.00 for construction administration, inspection, and survey and staking services for the CSAH 17/TH 36 Intersection Construction project. Commissioner Miron seconded the motion, and it was adopted 4-0.

Commissioner Karwoski moved to approve a budget amendment in the amount of \$381,900.00 to use the fund balance of the 2025 wheelage tax remaining fund. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion, and it was adopted 4-0.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Women's History Month Resolution

Public Works Engineer Erin Blaylock, representing the Washington County Women's Empowerment Employee Resource Group (ERG), presented a resolution to proclaim March 2026 as Women's History Month. Ms. Blaylock stated that the Women's Empowerment ERG began in 2023, with a vision of advancing equity for women through respect, empowerment, connection, and social impact. They are committed to their mission of advocating for policies and practices that empower women's rights and promote gender equity in the workplace and the community.

Ms. Blaylock announced that the Women’s Empowerment ERG will be hosting an event on March 24 to celebrate Women’s History Month: “Women Creating Art” from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Commissioner Cox moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2026-031** as follows:

2026 WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, March is National Women’s History Month, and the National Women’s History Alliance has designated the theme for Women’s History Month 2026 as “Leading the Change: Women Shaping a Sustainable Future”; and

WHEREAS, this theme honors the women who have and are reimagining and rebuilding systems to ensure long-term environmental, economic, educational, and societal sustainability; and

WHEREAS, women of every race, class, and ethnic background served as early leaders in the forefront of every major progressive social change movement; and

WHEREAS; women have been leaders, not only in securing their own rights of suffrage and equal opportunity, but also in the abolitionist movement, the emancipation movement, the industrial labor movement, the civil rights movement, and other movements, especially the peace movement, which create a more fair and just society for all; and

WHEREAS, the powerful leadership of women is pivotal in creating a future that is rooted in equity, justice, and opportunity for all; and

WHEREAS, equitable and sustainable systems are core values of Washington County’s Strategic Plan; and

WHEREAS, in 2026, women’s leadership is not only addressing today’s most urgent challenges – it is laying the foundation for a more inclusive and resilient tomorrow.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners do hereby proclaim March 2026 as Women’s History Month in Washington County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we encourage our communities and organizations to support women leaders of the past, present, and future.

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

Federal Legislative Updates

Deputy County Administrator Jan Lucke presented a resolution authorizing submittal of five requests for Fiscal Year 2027 Congressionally Directed Spending. The five projects are also included in the Capital Improvement Plan, the County Technology Plan, and the Capital Equipment and Fleet Plan. Ms. Lucke reported that commissioners had the opportunity to meet with members of Congress or their staff at the National Association of Counties (NACo) Legislative Conference, and the county's Congressionally Directed Spending projects were well received.

Commissioner Miron moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2026-032** as follows:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMITTAL OF PROPOSED PROJECTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027 CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING REQUESTS

WHEREAS, in 2021 the United States Congress reauthorized Congressionally Directed Spending Requests, also referred to as Community Project Funding, or earmarks; and

WHEREAS, requests are limited to non-profits and local, state, and tribal governments; and

WHEREAS, Congressionally Directed Spending requests can promote community and regional development, natural resources and environment, transportation, national defense, health, and other worthy investments in communities across the county; and

WHEREAS, Washington County is eligible to submit requests for projects to be considered for inclusion in the FY 2027 appropriations cycle; and

WHEREAS, Washington County is proposing to submit applications for the following projects to members of the Congressional Delegation:

1. County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 16 (Valley Creek) project; and
2. County Road 19A and 100th Street Realignment project; and
3. County Road 50 and Highway 61 project; and
4. Fiber Optic Line from Washington County Government Center to a new Public Safety Facility in Afton; and
5. Drone as a First Responder Program with Real-Time Information Center; and

WHEREAS, the projects being submitted to members of the Delegation are a valuable opportunity to engage members of the Congressional Delegation and provide funding assistance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of Washington County directs FY2027 Congressionally Directed Spending Requests be made for the projects listed above to the appropriate members of the Congressional Delegation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of Washington County directs the Board Chair to sign any required letters of support relative to these project submissions.

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

In addition to talking to members of Congress about Congressionally Directed Spending projects, Ms. Lucke reported that there was discussion regarding the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) Human Services legislative priorities, and concerns about recent federal legislation related to elections.

State Legislative Updates

Ms. Lucke reported that on February 18, she and Commissioner Bigham met with Senate Capital Investment Committee Chair Sen. Sandra Pappas, and on February 19, Ms. Lucke and Commissioner Karwoski met with House Capital Investment Committee Co-Chair Rep. Fue Lee. Both Sen. Pappas and Rep. Lee were presented with the county's legislative platform, focusing on the county's bonding request.

Ms. Lucke reported that on February 19, the county hosted a legislative reception at the Woodbury Service Center and the event was well attended.

Ms. Lucke provided the commissioners with a current legislative bill tracker, which will be updated each week during the legislative session.

Ms. Lucke reported that the AMC Legislative Conference was March 3-4 at the State Capitol, and commissioners were able to meet with several members of the delegation, with discussions focused on AMC's Human Services platform and county priorities.

Ms. Lucke presented a letter received by Washington County Parks Director Alex McKinney from the Metropolitan Regional Parks and Trails System, to support Senate File (SF) 3370 legislation, which would allow Minnesotans renewing their vehicle license tabs to voluntarily purchase a State Park pass as part of that process. The letter would be signed by Parks Director McKinney and the parks directors of each of the implementing agencies.

Parks Director McKinney provided additional information regarding the process and revenue.

Commissioner Karwoski moved to approve the letter. Commissioner Bigham seconded the motion, and it was adopted 4-0.

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 County Board, Chair Bigham adjourned the meeting at 11:18 a.m.

BOARD WORKSHOPS WITH ADMINISTRATION

The board met in workshop session for an update on the website redesign and tools implementation. Present for the workshop were Commissioners Miron, Karwoski, Cox, and Bigham. Also present were Kevin Corbid, Jan Lucke, Jennifer Wagenius, outside agencies, and county staff.

The board met in workshop session to review a feasibility study of funding options for the Land and Water Legacy Program. Present for the workshop were Commissioners Miron, Karwoski, Cox, and Bigham. Also present were Kevin Corbid, Jan Lucke, Jennifer Wagenius, outside agencies, and county staff.

The board met in workshop session to discuss 2027 budget development, guidelines and principles. Present for the workshop were Commissioners Miron, Karwoski, Cox, and Bigham. Also present were Kevin Corbid, Jennifer Wagenius, outside agencies, and county staff.

BOARD WORKSHOP WITH PROPERTY RECORDS AND TAXPAYER SERVICES

The board met in workshop session to review assessment year 2026/pay 2027 property values. Present for the workshop were Commissioners Miron, Karwoski, Cox, and Bigham. Also present were Kevin Corbid, Jennifer Wagenius, outside agencies, and county staff.

Attest:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kevin Corbid".

Kevin Corbid
County Administrator

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karla Bigham".

Karla Bigham
County Board Chair