



**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA
MARCH 24, 2026**

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 Bigham asked for comments from the public.

Lucia Wroblewski, resident of Afton and Afton City Councilmember, commented on the recent change made by the Minnesota DNR to remove the shotgun only restriction from the metro county deer permit area, which includes the City of Afton. Ms. Wroblewski noted she was speaking for herself, not on behalf of the city council. Ms. Wroblewski requested that the Washington County Board grant authority to the City of Afton, as a municipality in the county, to hold a public hearing and vote to make the decision to prohibit rifles for deer hunting in the city, keeping it shotgun only if the majority of the council votes to do so.

Steve Liszewski, resident of Afton, commented on the recent change in firearms law. Mr. Liszewski expressed safety issues on allowing high-powered rifle hunting near houses in close proximity.

Sven Risom, resident of Afton, reiterated the importance of safety in the communities related to firearms. Mr. Risom stated that it is critical that the community be able to decide what kind of firearms and what is allowed to be discharged.

Alexea Cheatem, resident and employee of Washington County, and Communication Liaison for AFSCME Local 517, presented a petition on behalf of AFSCME. Ms. Cheatem stated that the AFSCME union voted to reject the county's offer, and to authorize a strike. Ms. Cheatem stated they did not make this decision lightly, and believe they need more assistance with mental health, healthcare, and rising costs of living. Ms. Cheatem stated

that the union felt the last negotiation session made significant progress, and they have had strong support from the community, as shown by the petition presented today.

Nancy Davis, resident of Stillwater, expressed concerns about the immigrants and the people who suffered during the presence of ICE in the state. Ms. Davis appealed to the board to mitigate some of the results of ICE being in the community.

Dr. Peter Ulland, resident of Stillwater, expressed concerns about the state of democracy, voting rights related to the SAVE Act, and the effects of ICE. If the SAVE Act passes, Dr. Ulland would like to know how the county will improve and encourage people to vote, rather than discourage them. As a health care provider, Dr. Ulland is very worried about the passage of legislation that has taken away health insurance, access to healthcare, and food.

Katherine Noble, resident of Oak Park Heights, encouraged the board to do what they can to take care of the immigrants in the community, and making sure that legal citizens have no impediments in being able to vote.

Debra DeBroux, resident of Stillwater, commented on the small local businesses that have been devastated by the actions of ICE, particularly restaurants, and asked that the board do what they can to support the recovery of small businesses.

Rev. Karsten Nelson, resident of Mahtomedi, commented on the impacts of Operation Metro Surge, such as housing issues, small businesses and employment, and cuts to SNAP and Medicaid. Rev. Nelson spoke of the 7% cut in disability services in Minnesota which affect durable medical care, and spoke of personal experience related to disability services. Rev. Nelson expressed concern about upcoming elections, and asked that the board continue to ensure that Washington County is a place with integrity of voting, with support for processes that allow good voting for the whole community, and is important and integral for our democracy and community.

Tim Hoffman, resident of Cottage Grove, asked the board to ensure that the AFSCME employees receive a fair contract for the work that they do. Mr. Hoffman works in the public sector, and sees the daily work being done by Washington County staff with the families and citizens in the community, and a strike would have massive impacts.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Miron moved to approve the County Board meeting agenda for March 24, 2026. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion, and it was adopted 5-0.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

1. Approval of the March 10, 2026, County Board meeting minutes.



2. Approval to appoint Jacob Connell to a partial term on the Mental Health Local Advisory Council as a Consumer Representative starting March 25, 2026, and expiring December 31, 2026.
3. Approval of **Resolution No. 2026-033** as follows:

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING WASHINGTON COUNTY
ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE ALL NECESSARY
DOCUMENTS TO ENSURE WASHINGTON COUNTY
PARTICIPATION IN THE OPIOID SETTLEMENT
AGREEMENT WITH THE SIX REMNANT DEFENDANTS**

WHEREAS, the State of Minnesota and numerous Minnesota cities and counties are engaged in nationwide civil litigation against opioid supply chain participants related to the opioid crisis; and

WHEREAS, Washington County, on March 28, 2023, authorized Washington County staff to execute all necessary documents to ensure Washington County participation in the multistate settlement agreements, including the Participation Agreement and accompanying Release, and in the State-Subdivision Agreement.; and

WHEREAS, the county was recently made aware of a settlement that has been reached with additional parties related to opioid litigation and the opportunity to sign onto the agreement to receive an allocation of funds; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Health and Environment, the County Attorney's Office and outside counsel for the county have all recommended the county sign onto the agreement; and

WHEREAS, the county stands to gain roughly \$30,000 in funds to continue its fight against opioid addiction.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners delegates authority to the County Administrator to sign the opioid settlement agreement with the Six Remnant Defendants.

4. Approval to add 1.0 FTE Special Project Social Worker I/II to Community Services Access, Aging, and Disability Division.
5. Approval to add 1.0 FTE Social Worker - Clinical, to the Community Services Department, Adult Social Services Division.
6. Approve the 2026-2028 Tentative Agreement with the Minnesota Public Employees Association Correctional Officer Sergeant/Public Safety Telecommunicator Supervisors' Unit.

7. Approve Contract No. 17945 with SirsiDynix in the amount of \$207,368.15 for Integrated Library System Software through December 31, 2027.
8. Approval of an application for renewal of an on-sale and Sunday liquor license for Outing Lodge LLC in Stillwater Township.
9. Approve Agreement No. 18092 with TIPS USA for Cooperative Purchasing.
10. Approve Purchase Order No. 28589 in the amount of \$400,000 to MP Nexlevel, LLC to provide Gopher State One Call ticket processing and underground locating services for the county's fiber optic network.
11. Approve Amendment No. 1 for Contract No. 17265 with Kraus-Anderson Construction Company for General Conditions for the Park Grove Library project.
12. Approval to use Capital Repair Fund balance as funding source for completion of Capital Improvement Plan project #BSD-SWNS-001 North Shop Floor Improvements.
13. Approval of **Resolution No. 2026-034** as follows:

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN THE
CARNELIAN-MARINE-ST. CROIX WATERSHED
DISTRICT COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, The Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District (CMSCWD) has a Community Grants Program to provide technical and financial assistance to groups and municipalities for using Best Management Practices (BMPs) to correct resource issues impacting our lakes, streams and wetlands; and

WHEREAS, Washington County, with assistance from Pollinator Friendly Alliance and Washington Conservation District, is implementing a Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR) Habitat Enhancement Landscape Pilot Project Grant to restore 24 acres of cropland to prairie within Big Marine Park Reserve; and

WHEREAS, the proposed project area has stormwater that flows west and northwest and southeast across the 24 acres of annual crop agricultural fields to discharge into Big Marine Lake and Mud and Turtle Lake wetlands; and

WHEREAS, Big Marine Lake is a focused-implementation waterbody with a total phosphorus load reduction goal of 92 lbs./year based on RUSLE 2.0 pollutant load estimating, and both



Big Marine Lake and the Mud and Turtle Lake Wetlands are tributary to Big Carnelian Lake; and

WHEREAS, this 24-acre ag-to-prairie restoration qualifies for cost share in accordance with Practice Standard 342 Critical Area Planting in the 2025 CMSCWD Cost Share Policy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Washington County will participate in the CMSCWD Community Grants Program and will receive \$13,500 to assist the 24-acre project during establishment and stewardship.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Washington County hereby agrees to complete tasks listed in the CMSCWD BMP Sub watershed Grants Program Application, including seeding and maintenance such as mowing, burning and/or spot chemical treatment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Washington County acknowledges their commitment to long-term ecological stewardship, and authorizes staff to execute all actions, agreements, and administrative steps necessary to carry out the intent of this resolution and ensure the successful establishment and maintenance of the prairie restoration project within Big Marine Park Reserve.

14. Approval of **Resolution No. 2026-035** as follows:

**RESOLUTION FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY TO ENTER INTO
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (MNDOT)
AGREEMENT NO. 1061897**

BE IT RESOLVED, that Washington County enter into MnDOT Agreement No. 1061897 with the State of Minnesota, Department of Transportation for the following purposes:

To provide for payment by the County to the State of the County's share of the state costs of a Signal System construction and other associated construction to be performed upon, along, and adjacent to County State Aid Highway 39 (80th St S) within the corporate City limits of Cottage Grove under State Project No. 8205-159

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Board Chair and the County Administrator are authorized to execute the Agreement and any amendments to the Agreement.

15. Approve Cooperative Cost Share Agreement No. 1061897 between the City of Cottage Grove, MnDOT, and Washington County for rehabilitation of the Trunk Highway (TH) 61, County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 39, and 80th Street South interchange in Cottage Grove, Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) project #RB-2815.



16. Approve Budget Amendment in the amount of \$11,100 for the use of Highway State Aid fund balance for the county share of CSAH 18 at TH 95 Roundabout Project in Woodbury and Afton (CIP #RB-2697).
17. Approval of **Resolution No. 2026-036** as follows:

**RESOLUTION FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY TO ENTER INTO
AGREEMENT NO. 1061430 WITH THE STATE OF MINNESOTA,
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

BE IT RESOLVED, that Washington County will enter into Agreement No. 1061430 with the State of Minnesota, Department of Transportation to provide for payment by the County to the State of the County's share of the costs of the grading, roundabout, bituminous surfacing, ADA improvements and lighting construction and other associated construction to be performed upon, along, and adjacent to Trunk Highway No. 95 at County State Aid Highway No. 18 under State Project No. 082-618-032 and No. 8208-44 (TH 95=095).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chair and the Administrator are hereby authorized and directed for and on behalf of the County to execute and enter into an agreement with the Commissioner of Transportation prescribing the terms and conditions set forth and contained in "Minnesota Department of Transportation Agency Agreement No. 1061430", a copy of which said agreement was before the County Board and which is made a part hereof by reference.

18. Approve Cooperative Agreement No. 1061430 with MnDOT for construction and maintenance of a roundabout at the intersection of TH 95 and CSAH 18 (Bailey Road/40th Street South) in Woodbury and Afton (CIP #RB-2697).
19. Approval of **Resolution No. 2026-037** 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 a donation from Our Rescue to provide funding for renewal of a GrayKey Essentials software license,



valued at \$6,005.25, that will support investigative efforts to protect children from sex trafficking and sexual exploitation.

20. Approve the Memorandum of Understanding that will govern the contribution from Our Rescue to the Sheriff's Office.
21. Approve Joint Powers Agreement No. 18028 that allows the Sheriff's Office to provide fuel to the City of Bayport for law enforcement services.
22. Approve Contract No. 18044 with Magnet Forensics LLC in the amount of \$12,010.50 for the period of April 16, 2026, to April 15, 2027, for renewal of a GrayKey Essentials software license.
23. Approval of **Resolution No. 2026-038** as follows:

SPARK GOOD LOCAL GRANT

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 Spark Good Local Grant from Walmart in the amount of \$5,000.00 to support the Shop with a Cop community engagement event.

The motion was adopted 5-0 with a Roll Call vote as follows: Ayes, Commissioners Miron, Karwoski, Cox, and Bigham. Nays, none.

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Human Trafficking Prevention Unit Presentation

County Attorney Kevin Magnuson reported that for approximately 10 years, the County Attorney's Office, Sheriff's Office, other local police departments, and the East Metro Human Trafficking Task Force (EMHTTF), have been combating human trafficking in Washington County. This team deters and interrupts the intended crimes that follow when sex and labor trafficking are happening in a community, and gives survivors the resources they need to get out of the lifestyle.

Mr. Magnuson recognized the Attorney's Office staff that are part of the Human Trafficking Prevention Unit: Scott Haldeman, Amanda Moore, Shawna Kish, Jaelyn Young, and Joseph Martin.

Scott Haldeman, Assistant County Attorney/Assistant Division Chief, presented the criminal case in which Billy Ray Wiley was prosecuted, convicted, and sentenced to 40 years in prison for criminal sexual conduct and sex trafficking. This prosecution underscores the continued commitment of law enforcement agencies to proactively combat the sexual exploitation of children and to hold offenders accountable, and the importance of community members being vigilant and reporting suspicious activity to help protect those most vulnerable in the community.

PUBLIC WORKS

2026 Crack Seal Program

Engineer Mike Kline presented six items related to the 2026 Crack Seal Program, which is identified in the Capital Improvement Plan as project #RB-2204, and covers approximately 35 miles within Washington County. Mr. Kline reported that six bids were received, and Asphalt Surface Technologies Corporation was selected. This project is funded through Local Contributions and Wheelage Tax.

Commissioner Miron moved to approve Contract No. 18115 in the amount of \$801,445.75 with Asphalt Surface Technologies Corporation. Commissioner Karwoski seconded the motion, and it was adopted 5-0.

Commissioner Karwoski moved to approve Cooperative Cost Share Agreement No. 17970 between the City of Birchwood and Washington County. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion, and it was adopted 5-0.

Commissioner Cox moved to approve Cooperative Cost Share Agreement No. 17971 between Stillwater Township and Washington County. Commissioner Miron seconded the motion, and it was adopted 5-0.

Commissioner Bigham moved to approve Cooperative Cost Share Agreement No. 17972 between Grey Cloud Island Township and Washington County. Commissioner Karwoski seconded the motion, and it was adopted 5-0.

Commissioner Miron moved to approve a budget amendment to move \$307,547 from #RB-2204 planning/design to construction. Commissioner Karwoski seconded the motion, and it was adopted 5-0.

Commissioner Cox moved to approve a budget amendment to increase local contributions by \$44,534. Commissioner Karwoski seconded the motion, and it was adopted 5-0.

Central Yard Waste

Engineer Ryan Hoefs presented two items for engineering and environmental services for the Central Yard Waste site in the City of Afton, which is identified in the Capital Improvement Plan as project #BSD-PHE-2601. Mr. Hoefs reported that three proposals were submitted, and Short Elliott Hendrickson Architects (SEH) Inc. was selected. This project will be funded by Capital Redirect and County Environmental Charge (CEC).

Commissioner Cox moved to approve a budget amendment to move \$408,700 from #BSD-PHE-2601 construction to planning/design. Commissioner Karwoski seconded the motion, and it was adopted 5-0.

Commissioner Cox moved to approve Contract No. 18114 with Short Elliott Hendrickson Architects Inc. in the amount of \$408,729.11 for engineering and environmental services. Commissioner Karwoski seconded the motion, and it was adopted 5-0.

R.H. Stafford Library Improvement Project

Building Services Senior Project Manager Dan Lawrence presented a contract for architectural and engineering design services for the R.H. Stafford Library Improvement project, which is identified in the Capital Improvement Plan as project #BSD-WBSL-001. Mr. Lawrence reported that 11 proposals were submitted, and MSR Design was selected for the contract. This project is funded by 2027 Bonds and Capital Investment.

Commissioner Clasen moved to approve Contract No. 18063 in the amount of \$1,409,930 with MSR Design for the architectural and engineering design services for the R.H. Stafford Library Improvements project. Commissioner Karwoski seconded the motion, and it was adopted 5-0.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Legislative Updates

Deputy County Administrator Jan Lucke provided an updated state legislative bill tracker to the board. Ms. Lucke reported that Washington County's funding requests have been introduced, and committee deadlines are March 27 and April 17. Ms. Lucke reported that the Minnesota Legislative Session adjourns on May 18.

Ms. Lucke reported that Washington County will submit federal Congressionally Directed Spending applications this week.

County Administrator Kevin Corbid spoke to the change made at the Minnesota Legislature related to shotgun and rifle hunting in the southern two thirds of the state. Mr. Corbid will confer with the Attorney's Office to review options for the board to review.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioners reported on meetings and other events they attended. Please see archived livestreaming of the board meeting for full commissioner reports on the county's website washingtoncountymn.gov under "County Board of Commissioners."

BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

No board correspondence was received.

EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION – HUMAN RESOURCES

Commissioner Clasen moved to move into Executive (closed) session. Commissioner Miron seconded the motion, and it was adopted 5-0.

The Board met in Executive (closed) session, per Minnesota Statute 13D.03, to discuss labor relations strategy, the time being 11:07 a.m. Present for the Executive (closed) session were Commissioners Karwoski, Miron, Cox, Bigham, and Clasen, and Kevin Corbid, Jan Lucke, Jennifer Wagenius, Angie Nalezny, and Jody Brown.

The Executive session closed at 12:13 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the County Board, Commissioner Miron moved to adjourn. Commissioner Karwoski seconded the motion, and it was adopted 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 12:17 p.m.

BOARD WORKSHOP WITH ADMINISTRATION

The board met in workshop session for an update on the Climate Action Plan. Present for the workshop were Commissioners Miron, Karwoski, Cox, Bigham, and Clasen. Also present were Kevin Corbid, Jan Lucke, Jennifer Wagenius, outside agencies, residents, and county staff.

BOARD WORKSHOP WITH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The board met in workshop session for an update on Artificial Intelligence (AI). Present for the workshop were 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

Karla Bigham

Karla Bigham
County Board Chair