



**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA
MARCH 31, 2026**

WASHINGTON COUNTY REGIONAL RAILROAD AUTHORITY CONVENES

The Washington County Regional Railroad Authority (WCRRA) met in regular session at 9:00 a.m. in the Washington County Government Center, County Board Room. Present were Commissioners Miron, Karwoski, Cox, Bigham, and Clasen. 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 9:20 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

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Board Chair Bigham asked for comments from the public.

Phillip Williams, Mahtomedi, presented a petition to the board regarding public safety and Federal immigration enforcement. Mr. Williams stated that St. Croix Valley Indivisible developed the petition, which requests that the board make a public statement that assures residents that the county welcomes immigrants and is committed to protecting civil rights and assuring due process for all. Mr. Williams stated the petition is signed by 169 Washington County residents, and provided copies for the board.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Miron moved to approve the County Board meeting agenda for March 31, 2026. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion, and it was adopted 5-0.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

1. Adopt the 2027 Budget Principles.
2. Approve the 2026-2028 Tentative Agreement with the Minnesota Teamsters Public and Law Enforcement Employees Union Local No. 320.
3. Approve Amendment No. 4 to Contract 16024 with Syntax in the amount of \$31,455 for the maintenance and support of Citrix, through December 31, 2026.
4. Approve a joint powers agreement to provide election services to the City of Scandia.
5. Approval of the plat of Dairy Farm Addition in Stillwater Township.
6. Approve comment letter regarding South Washington Watershed District's 2026-2036 Watershed Management Plan.
7. Approve Lease Agreement No. 18102 with Mike Slater in the amount of \$26,412 for the lease of agricultural land located in Big Marine Park Reserve.
8. Approve a budget amendment to increase the Park Stewardship operating budget by \$5,100.

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

WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

Economic Development Association of Minnesota (EDAM) Award

Economic Development Director Chris Eng, Washington County Community Development Agency, presented an award from the Economic Development Association of Minnesota (EDAM), which is a statewide organization for economic development professionals, and has over 500 members throughout the State of Minnesota.

Mr. Eng reported that the Washington County Community Development Agency, local chambers, and education partners were presented with EDAM's 2026 Innovation Award – Twin Cities Metro, for the Exploring Careers through Industry Teacher Externships (EXCITE) 2025 program. The EXCITE program addresses economic development challenges by bridging education and industry in a structured, immersive externship model.

The award was presented by Mr. Eng, Bob Manning, Stillwater Area Schools, Mike Miron, Forest Lake Area Schools, Sarah Shanley, Northeast Metro 916 Intermediate Schools, and Robin Anthony, Stillwater Chamber of Commerce. This award recognizes the strength of partnering to address the workforce of the community, and without any one of the partners,



EXCITE 2025 would not be able to connect teachers and students with the local businesses and employment.

METROPOLITAN MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT

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

Mr. Huff reported that last year West Nile virus increased, with 47 cases in the metropolitan area, which is more cases than they have ever had. Eleven of those cases required hospitalization, and there were two fatalities. Mr. Huff stated that MMCD's job is to suppress mosquitoes, to track disease, and to protect public health, and he thanked the board and county staff for their partnerships.

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 2025 season included a record year for West Nile virus, the highest number of cattail mosquitos, and the fewest number of spring mosquitos.

Mr. Carlson reported that collecting and recycling old tires has been an important way to remove potential mosquito habitat. MMCD has had a tire recycling program for decades. Recently, the number of requests have been increasing, putting a strain on staff time and resources. In 2025, Dakota, Scott, and Carver counties piloted tire drop-off events, in lieu of residential pickups. This removed more tires while also saving staff time. Mr. Carlson reported that this will be expanded to all counties in 2026.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

Resolution Recognizing National Public Health Week

Deputy Director Jill Timm presented a resolution recognizing April 6-10, 2026, as National Public Health Week, which is a time to recognize the contributions of public health employees who make a positive impact on the lives of residents in the community.

Commissioner Cox moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2026-039** as follows:

NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK

WHEREAS, Washington County strives to promote the health, safety, and quality of life of citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Mission of the Department of Public Health and Environment is to protect, promote, and improve the community's health and the environment; and



WHEREAS, the American Public Health Association annually recognizes the first full week of April as National Public Health Week; and

WHEREAS, National Public Health Week in 2026 celebrates with the theme: “Ready. Set. Action” recognizing how public health has improved our daily lives, safeguarded our families and environments, expanded our life spans, and strengthened our communities; honoring the public health workers who show up for us every day; and advocating for policies and practices that promote good health for all; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Health and Environment supports positive health and environmental outcomes through the work of dedicated staff who:

- Provide medical care to inmates in the Washington County jail;
- Respond to the opioid crisis and address substance;
- License and inspect food, pools and lodging establishments, hazardous waste generators, and septic systems;
- Provide family health nursing and WIC services to families;
- Implement and promote environmental initiatives including recycling and waste management;
- Prevent, investigate, and respond to infections and communicable diseases;
- Strive for community driven initiatives to promote health and well-being;
- Partner effectively with other professionals and the communities we serve;
- Preparing for and respond to public health emergencies;
- Evaluate data and trends to create effective and responsible plans;
- Support the operations of the Environmental Center and the Recycling & Energy Center;
- Provide exceptional customer service, and

WHEREAS, the role of local public health is not only to provide services but to provide leadership, facilitate conversations, engage the community, communicate effectively, and support policy which positively impacts the public’s health and environment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners hereby proclaims April 6-10, 2026, as Public Health Week in Washington County and recognizes the contributions and efforts of all employees contributing to a healthy community and environment.

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

PUBLIC WORKS

Long Range Transportation Plan, Connect 2050

Senior Planner Madeline Dahlheimer presented Connect 2050, Washington County's first Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), and a resolution to accept the plan.

Ms. Dahlheimer reported that the LRTP focuses on the county surface transportation network, which includes five systems, vehicular, freight, bicycle, pedestrian, and transit. County highways, bike pedestrian facilities, and associated infrastructure support these systems.

Ms. Dahlheimer reported that the LRTP is a 25-year planning document that will serve as a tool to support communication and discussions around transportation. It is not intended to be project selection tool, but rather it is an additional resource that can be utilized when working through the Capital Improvement Plan or engaging in conversations with city and township partners.

Ms. Dahlheimer reviewed the planning process for the LRTP, which included data collection and analysis of existing conditions, and agency and public engagement. After initial engagement activities, the feedback was used to inform the vision and goals as part of this plan.

Ms. Dahlheimer reported that the LRTP vision statement is: Connect 2050, Washington County's Long Range Transportation Plan, is built on a vision to create a robust transportation network providing safe, accessible, and reliable transportation options for all users.

Ms. Dahlheimer reported that the LRTP goals are: Transportation in Washington County is safe and comfortable; is in good condition; supports ease of travel and choice in mode; supports access to services, businesses, jobs, and destinations; is environmentally responsible and forward thinking; and recognizes and adapts to surrounding contexts.

Ms. Dahlheimer reviewed the five recommendation categories: Utilize needs prioritization to support programming decisions; Track potential development corridors for proactive transportation planning; Continued comprehensive project delivery approach; Policy/practice review; Continued collaboration with local partners.

Commissioner Karwoski moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2026-040** as follows:

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE WASHINGTON COUNTY LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN, CONNECT 2050

WHEREAS, long range planning is critical to aligning transportation investments with organizational and community vision; and



WHEREAS, in response to continued growth in Washington County and the need to balance an expanding list of competing priorities with available resources, it was determined to develop Washington County's first Long Range Transportation Plan; and

WHEREAS, this Long Range Transportation Plan will support existing guiding documents including the 2024-2029 Countywide Strategic plan, the Comprehensive Plan, and the Capital Improvement Plan; and

WHEREAS, the plan development process began in November 2023, and included data collection, analysis, and public and agency engagement; and

WHEREAS, in December 2023, February 2024, and November 2025, the Board of Commissioners participated in workshops with staff to develop and provide feedback on plan direction; and

WHEREAS, engagement with the Board of Commissioners, county staff, City and Township elected officials and staff, partner agencies, and the general public was fundamental in shaping the vision, goals, and recommendations as outlined in the Long Range Transportation Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Long Range Transportation Plan is intended to serve as a technical and informational resource to support planning, coordination, and communication, and does not commit the County to specific projects, or obligate future funding; and

WHEREAS, making the Long Range Transportation Plan publicly available will support transparency and provide a reference for future discussions regarding transportation needs and investments.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners hereby accepts the Long Range Transportation Plan, Connect 2050, to be used as a reference tool to support transportation planning, coordination, and communication efforts countywide.

Commissioner Cox seconded the motion, and it was adopted 4-1 with a Roll Call vote as follows: Ayes, Commissioners Miron, Karwoski, Cox, and Bigham. Nays, Commissioner Clasen.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Resolution Recognizing National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week

Communication Center Division Manager Darlene Pankonie and Public Safety Telecommunicator Alex Freuler presented a resolution recognizing and honoring the public safety telecommunicators in Washington County during National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week, April 12-18, 2026.



Commissioner Clasen moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2026-041** as follows:

**PROCLAMATION
NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATORS WEEK
APRIL 12 – APRIL 18, 2026**

WHEREAS, emergencies and crises can occur at any time, requiring the immediate response of law enforcement officers, firefighters, and emergency medical personnel; and

WHEREAS, when a resident calls 9-1-1, the voice that answers is often the first lifeline in a moment of fear, confusion, or crisis; and

WHEREAS, Public Safety Telecommunicators serve as the critical first point of contact for emergency services, gathering vital information, coordinating resources, and ensuring responders receive the information they need to act quickly and safely; and

WHEREAS, these highly trained professionals provide lifesaving instructions, reassurance, and calm guidance to individuals facing emergencies while simultaneously coordinating complex responses across multiple agencies; and

WHEREAS, modern emergency communications professionals operate advanced systems that include voice, text-to-911, digital data, and other emerging technologies designed to improve emergency response and protect our communities; and

WHEREAS, Public Safety Telecommunicators demonstrate extraordinary professionalism, compassion, and resilience as they assist people during some of the most difficult and life-altering moments they will ever experience; and

WHEREAS, the Public Safety Telecommunicators of the Washington County Emergency Communications Response Center serve our community 24 hours a day, ensuring that residents and responders alike receive the support and coordination necessary to protect life and property.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Washington County Board of Commissioners hereby proclaims the week of April 12 through April 18, 2026, as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week in Washington County, and encourages all residents to recognize the dedication, professionalism, and vital contributions of these public safety professionals who work behind the scenes to keep our community safe.

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

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

National County Government Month

County Administrator Kevin Corbid presented a resolution to recognize April 2026 as National County Government Month. The National Association of Counties (NACo) has proclaimed April 2026 as National County Government Month in appreciation of county government employees who provide services for residents, clients, and customers in Washington County.

Commissioner Miron moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2026-042** as follows:

RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING 2026 NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT MONTH

WHEREAS, the nation's 3,069 counties provide essential services to create healthy, safe and vibrant communities to more than 330 million Americans; and

WHEREAS, counties fulfill a vast range of responsibilities and deliver services that touch nearly every aspect of peoples' lives; and

WHEREAS, counties as intergovernmental partners enact local, state and federal programs to address the needs of all; and

WHEREAS, Washington County and all counties take pride in our responsibility to protect and enhance the health, wellbeing, and safety of all people in efficient and cost-effective ways; and

WHEREAS, our nation is celebrating 250 years of independence and counties have served our residents with pride and dignity; and

WHEREAS, each year, since 1991, the National Association of Counties has encouraged counties across the country to elevate awareness of county responsibilities, programs and services by proclaiming April as National County Government Month; and

WHEREAS, Washington County, through its more than 1,400 employees, provide services that ensure individuals can live in strong and vibrant communities; and

WHEREAS, Washington County is proud to be one of the original nine counties that made up the Minnesota Territory; and

WHEREAS, each of the county's 12 departments takes pride in our mission to provide exceptional services that enhance quality of life and promote a safe, healthy and welcoming community for all; and



WHEREAS, if we fulfill that mission, we will reach our vision of being a vibrant county that embraces the diversity of its communities, advances equitable access to resources and opportunities, and prioritizes the sustainability of its natural environment; and

WHEREAS, during the month of April, the county board is excited to undertake efforts to highlight and thank all county employees for their outstanding leadership and service.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners thanks and recognizes county employees for their willingness to serve and for their dedication to the noble and honorable work of public service.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners hereby proclaims April 2026 as National County Government Month and encourages everyone to participate in county government celebration activities.

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

Legislative Updates

County Administrator Kevin Corbid provided the commissioners with a current legislative bill tracker, which is updated each week during the Minnesota legislative session.

Mr. Corbid reported that all of the county's Congressionally Directed Spending requests have been submitted to the five Congressional members who represent Washington County. The deadline for the legislators to have requests to the appropriations committees is April 3.

Mr. Corbid noted that last week, there were public comments about the issue of deer hunting with rifles and shotguns. In addition, a letter was received from the City of Afton. Mr. Corbid worked with Assistant County Attorney Ristad and Commissioner Cox to get answers for the questions raised, which were, does the county have authority to delegate its authority to do an ordinance to the city, or can the county do an ordinance that would only affect Afton. Mr. Corbid stated the answer is no, the county does not have that authority. Mr. Corbid has drafted a letter in response to the City of Afton, noting this. The letter would be sent this week.

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 County Board, Chair Bigham adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

BOARD WORKSHOP WITH COMMUNITY SERVICES

The board met in workshop session to discuss the integrative Children's Mental Health/Family Services collaborative. Present for the workshop were Commissioners Miron, Karwoski, Cox, Bigham, and Clasen. Also present were Kevin Corbid, Jennifer Wagenius, outside agencies, and county staff.

BOARD WORKSHOP WITH PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

The board met in workshop session to discuss solid waste governance. Present for the workshop were Commissioners Miron, Karwoski, Cox, Bigham, and Clasen. Also present were Kevin Corbid, Jennifer Wagenius, outside agencies, and county staff.

Attest:

Kevin Corbid

Kevin Corbid
County Administrator

Karla Bigham

Karla Bigham
County Board Chair