



**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA
MAY 12, 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
Brent Wartner, First Attorney
Stephanie Kammerud, Administrative Assistant

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Board Chair Bigham asked for comments from the public.

Julie Andrich, May Township Board Supervisor, requested that the commissioners consider reevaluating the applicants for the Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District manager appointments.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Miron moved to approve the County Board meeting agenda for May 12, 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 April 28, 2026, County Board meeting minutes.
2. Approve an application for renewal of an on-sale and Sunday liquor license for Cenco Farms Inc., Afton Apple Orchard in Denmark Township.



3. Approval of **Resolution No. 2026-058** as follows:

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE APPROVAL OF AN
APPLICATION TO CONDUCT EXCLUDED BINGO FOR THE
AFTON BAYPORT LAKELAND LIONS CLUB**

WHEREAS, Afton Bayport Lakeland Lions Club has made an application to the Minnesota Gambling Control Board to conduct excluded bingo in connection with the Washington County Fair at the Washington County Fairgrounds located in Baytown Township from July 26, 2026, through August 2, 2026, and

WHEREAS, Baytown Township has been notified that the organization is applying to conduct an excluded gambling activity within the township limits, and

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. 349.166 and Minn. Rule 7861.0330 provide that bingo games may be conducted by an organization in connection with a county fair with prior approval of the County Board of Commissioners by resolution and remitted to the Minnesota Gambling Control Board for their consideration.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Washington County Board of Commissioners approves the application to conduct excluded bingo from the Afton Bayport Lakeland Lions Club in connection with the Washington County Fair at the Washington County Fairgrounds located in Baytown Township, and for it to be remitted to the Minnesota Gambling Control Board for their consideration.

4. Approval of **Resolution No. 2026-059** as follows:

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

WHEREAS, an application has been received from the Bayport American Legion to conduct off-site gambling, pull tab, activities from July 29, 2026, to August 2, 2026, during the Washington County Fair at the Washington County Fairgrounds located at 12300 N 40th Street, in Baytown Township, and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Washington County Board of Commissioners approves the application to conduct off-site gambling, pull tabs, from the Bayport American Legion at the Washington County Fairgrounds located at 12300 N 40th Street, in

Baytown Township and for it to be remitted to the Minnesota Gambling Control Board for their consideration.

5. Approval of a property tax abatement for property located at 19948 Headwaters Blvd. N. in Forest Lake.
6. Approve Grant Agreement for the Fiscal Year 2026 Metro Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program for the project titled "Lake Elmo Park Reserve Oak Savanna Restoration Phase IV."
7. Approve Amendment No. 1 in the amount of \$268,070 to Contract No. 16864 with Alliance Architects for additional services for the Park Grove Library project.
8. Approve Cooperative Agreement No. 18222 with the City of Cottage Grove for the city-led 80th Street Rehabilitation Project.
9. Approve Budget Amendment to increase construction budget using R&B Fund Balance in the amount of \$278,400 for the city-led 80th Street Rehabilitation Project.
10. Review the grant application submitted by the Sheriff's Office for the FY25 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program through the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance.

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

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Recognition of the 2026 Child Care Provider of the Year

Michelle McIntosh, Social Services Supervisor, presented the 2026 Washington County Child Care Provider of the Year Award to Jeanette Knutson of Cottage Grove.

Ms. McIntosh reported that Ms. Knutson has dedicated herself not only to caring for children, but to building a place where families feel supported, welcomed, and understood. Her program currently serves 10 full-time children, along with additional school-aged children during the summers and school breaks.

Ms. Knutson's work is measured in trust, consistency, and in the relationships she has built over the years with the children and families in her care. Ms. Knutson believes every child deserves patience, understanding, and the opportunity to succeed. She works to create an environment where children can grow, learn, and feel valued. Ms. Knutson's philosophy is grounded in meeting children where they are, and helping guide them toward where they need to be. She understands that every child comes into the world differently, with different personalities, strengths, needs, and experiences, and she approaches each one with compassion and respect.

ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE

American Rescue Plan Act Completion Presentation

Jill Zenzola, Accounting Manager, presented an overview of the American Rescue Plan Act and provided a final financial update.

Ms. Zenzola reported that in 2021, the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) was signed into law to help the country recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. Washington County was the recipient of nearly \$51 million of the \$1.9 trillion package. The U.S. Department of Treasury required all funds to be fully obligated by December 31, 2024, and fully expensed by December 31, 2026. After more than five years since ARPA was signed into law, Washington County has fully expensed its nearly \$51 million in state and local fiscal recovery funds.

Ms. Zenzola reported that ARPA funds have made a significant impact across the county. In total, the county completed 39 ARPA projects, involving 10 departments in partnership with other agencies, including the City of Stillwater, the Washington County Community Development Agency, and Dakota County. The county separated the funding into four categories: county infrastructure improvements; investments in water, sewer, and broadband; supporting the public health needs of county residents and staff; and supporting workers, residents, businesses, and others negatively impacted by the pandemic.

Ms. Zenzola reviewed ARPA investments and related projects, such as the affordable housing development in Cottage Grove, construction of the Emergency Housing Services Building, and upgrades to county facilities and parks.

ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Auto Theft Grant Presentation

Justin Richardson, Assistant County Attorney III, prosecutes auto theft cases in Washington County. Mr. Richardson reported that citizens who experience the loss of a motor vehicle can be financially devastated, as they are forced to bear the financial costs beyond whatever insurance may cover. To combat this, the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension has created the Auto Theft Grant program, which is used for dedicated resources to investigate and prosecute motor vehicle thefts.

Mr. Richardson reported that the Washington County Attorney's Office (WCAO) has received the grant, and has created solutions to effectively prosecute motor vehicle thefts. Mr. Richardson reported that uniformity in charging provides guidelines to all prosecuting attorneys, and focuses on preparing cases, prior to charging. Cases are charged when they are "trial ready" and Washington County's prosecution rate has gone from 81% to 93%.

Mr. Richardson reported that auto theft related crimes in Washington County are at their lowest in a decade, and law enforcement's active efforts to target areas where stolen vehicles are likely to be used in other crimes has led to the recovery of numerous vehicles.

PUBLIC WORKS

County State Aid Highway 19 and 80th Street South Intersection Project

Erin Blaylock, Engineer II, presented four items for the County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 19 (Keats Avenue South) and 80th Street Intersection Project in the City of Cottage Grove. This project is on the Central Greenway Regional Trail corridor and is identified in the Capital Improvement Plan as #RB-2667.

Ms. Blaylock reported that the project scope includes roundabout construction, concrete and asphalt paving, signage and marking, stormwater management, lighting installation, utility improvements, and widening Central Greenway Regional Trail. There was one bid received for the construction contract, and Meyer Contracting Inc. was selected. This project is funded by Local Contributions and State Aid.

Commissioner Bigham moved to approve Contract No. 18216 for \$4,108,932.23 with Meyer Contracting Inc. for the intersection improvement project at CSAH 19 at 80th Street South. Commissioner Miron 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.

Commissioner Bigham moved to approve Cooperative Cost Agreement No. 18148 between the City of Cottage Grove and Washington County for the intersection improvement project at CSAH 19 at 80th Street South. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion, and it was adopted 5-0.

Commissioner Bigham moved to approve Cooperative Maintenance Agreement No. 18171 between the City of Cottage Grove and Washington County for the intersection improvement project at CSAH 19 at 80th Street South. Commissioner Miron seconded the motion, and it was adopted 5-0.

Commissioner Bigham moved to approve Agreement No. 18211 between 3M Chemical Operations LLC and Washington County for the intersection improvement project at CSAH 19 at 80th Street South. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion, and it was adopted 5-0.

CSAH 4 Roadway Improvements Project

Mike Kline, Engineer I, presented a construction contract for the CSAH 4 Roadway Improvement Project, which is identified in the Capital Improvement Plan as #RB-2204-02. This project is within May Township on CSAH 4 (170th Street) from CSAH 15 (Manning Avenue) to east of CSAH 3 (Olinda Trail).

Mr. Kline reported that the project scope includes adding a right turn lane at CSAH 3 (Norell Avenue), drainage and stormwater improvements, and pavement rehabilitation. There were three bids received for this project, and Park Construction Company has been selected. This project is funded by Wheelage Tax, State Aid, and Planned Use of Fund Balance.

Commissioner Miron moved to approve Contract No. 18242 for \$2,457,844.91 with Park Construction Company for the CSAH 4 (170th Street) Roadway Improvements Project. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion, and it was adopted 5-0.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Legislative Update

Deputy County Administrator Jan Lucke reported that the 2026 Minnesota Legislative Session must adjourn by midnight on May 18. Both chambers continue to process significant policy and appropriations proposals. The Senate has assembled omnibus and policy and supplemental finance bills, while the House has generally moved standalone proposals. Ms. Lucke reported that the Larkin Hoffman team has been front and center in supporting the county's delegation.

Ms. Lucke reported that there a Legacy bill that is carrying the Minnesota Land Trust and Washington County Phase 2 Habitat Protection and Enhancement Partnership Grant awarded through the Outdoor Heritage Fund in the amount of \$2.8 million. This is a very important source of match for the Minnesota Land Trust to provide matching funds for the county's Land and Water Legacy Program. It also includes \$741,000 in direct funding for Washington County. This direct funding provides critical funding to protect 120 acres of land at the Pine Needles project, care of natural habitat, and restoration enhancement.

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, Board Chair Bigham adjourned the meeting at 10:43 a.m.

BOARD WORKSHOP – MANDATES AND CORE FUNCTIONS

The board met in workshop session to discuss the 2026 Mandates and Core Functions report. Present for the workshop were Commissioners Miron, Karwoski, Cox, Bigham, and Clasen. Also present were Kevin Corbid, Jan Lucke, Jennifer Wagenius, media, outside agencies, and county staff.



BOARD WORKSHOP WITH PUBLIC WORKS

The board met in workshop session to review the draft recommendations on the County Transportation Sales Tax funding split. Present for the workshop were Commissioners Miron, Karwoski, Cox, Bigham, and Clasen. Also present were Kevin Corbid, Jan Lucke, Jennifer Wagenius, media, outside agencies, and county staff.

Attest:

Kevin Corbid

Kevin Corbid
County Administrator

Karla Bigham

Karla Bigham
County Board Chair