



**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA
JUNE 2, 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
Patrick Collins, Assistant County Attorney III
Stephanie Kammerud, Administrative Assistant

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Board Chair Bigham asked for comments from the public.

Minnesota Rep. Wayne Johnson, Cottage Grove, provided comments on the county successes that resulted from the 2026 Minnesota legislative session, and thanked the commissioners for testifying and their advocacy during session.

Cork Wicker, resident of Woodbury and chair of the county's Parks and Open Space Committee, commented on the Land and Water Legacy item on today's agenda. Mr. Wicker asked about equal distribution through those cities that are more densely populated versus the ones that are not, and the impact from the levy if the Land and Water Legacy funding goes through.

Jeff Dahlberg, resident of Scandia and member of the Big Marine Lake Association and Scandia Wastewater Committee, spoke in support of Ann Warner being reappointed to a manager position on the Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District.

Kristin Tuenge, resident of Scandia and former board member of the Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District, advocated for a healthy, well-functioning, efficient, effective, and respectful watershed board.

Robert Benishek, Marine on St. Croix, expressed his care and concern for the Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District and its future. Mr. Benishek provided additional information regarding taxing authority of the watershed district. Mr. Benishek asked the board to honor their watershed manager selection process.



Charlie Borden, Marine on St. Croix, asked the board to support the Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District by appointing only board managers who are clearly aligned with its vital mission of preserving watershed quality.

Greg Glenn, Stillwater, spoke in support of the slate of managers that was presented at the May 19 board meeting. Mr. Glenn expressed his thanks to Commissioner Miron and Commissioner Cox for their involvement, leadership, and thoughtfulness.

Wally Nelson, May Township, provided comments regarding May Township and the need for fair representation, and spoke in support of reappointing Ann Warner to the Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District board.

Wendy Ward, Marine on St. Croix, provided comments on water quality, stewardship, and shoreline monitoring. Ms. Ward urged the board to sustain the previously submitted watershed board candidate list for the appointments.

Julie Andrich, May Township, spoke in support of reappointing Ann Warner to the Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District board.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Clasen moved to approve the County Board meeting agenda for June 2, 2026. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion, and it was adopted 5-0.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Commissioner Clasen requested to pull item 4H from the Consent Calendar for discussion, regarding Washington County Opioid Settlements Council appointments.

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

1. Approval of the May 12, 2026, and May 19, 2026, County Board meeting minutes.
2. Approval to reappoint John Burcaw to a second term on the Workforce Development Board as a Labor Representative starting July 1, 2026, and expiring December 31, 2029.
3. Approval to reappoint Susan Evans to a sixth term on the Workforce Development Board as an Adult Basic Education Representative starting July 1, 2026, and expiring December 31, 2029.
4. Approval of **Resolution No. 2026-061** as follows:

**DECLARING THE OFFICIAL INTENT OF WASHINGTON COUNTY TO
REIMBURSE CERTAIN EXPENDITURES FROM THE PROCEEDS OF
TAX-EXEMPT BONDS TO BE ISSUED BY THE COUNTY**

WHEREAS, the Internal Revenue Service has issued Treasury Regulations, Section 1.150-2, as the same may be amended or supplemented (the “Reimbursement Regulations”), that establish the requirements under which an allocation of a portion of the proceeds of tax-exempt bonds, as defined in Section 150 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, to an expenditure that is originally paid from a source other than such tax-exempt bonds will be treated as an expenditure of the proceeds of such tax-exempt bonds on the date of such allocation; and

WHEREAS, the Reimbursement Regulations require that (i) not later than sixty (60) days after payment of the original expenditure, the issuer of the tax-exempt bonds must adopt an official intent for the original expenditure (in any reasonable form, including issuer resolution or action by an appropriate representative of the issuer), (ii) the official intent generally describes the project for which the original expenditure is paid and states the maximum principal amount of obligations expected to be issued for the project, and (iii) on the date of the declaration of official intent, the issuer must have a reasonable expectation that it will reimburse the original expenditure with proceeds of the tax-exempt bonds; and

WHEREAS, the original expenditure must be a capital expenditure or a cost of issuance for the tax-exempt bonds, and the reimbursement allocation (except with respect to (i) costs of issuance; (ii) amounts not in excess of the lesser of \$100,000 or five percent (5%) of the proceeds of the tax-exempt bonds; and (iii) preliminary expenditures (as defined in Section 1.150-2(f)(2) of the Reimbursement Regulations) not in excess of twenty percent (20%) of the aggregate issue price of the tax-exempt bonds), must be made not later than eighteen (18) months after the later of (i) the date the original expenditure is paid, or (ii) the date the project is placed in service or abandoned, but in no event more than three (3) years after the original expenditure is paid; and

WHEREAS, Washington County, a county and political subdivision of the State of Minnesota (the “County”), expects to incur certain expenditures with respect to various capital improvement projects, currently identified in the Capital Improvement Plan for the years 2026-2030 for the County (and which may be included in subsequent five-year capital improvement plans of the County), including but not limited to:

- Park Grove Library
- Stafford Library
- Public Works South Shop

(collectively, the “Project”) that may be financed temporarily from sources other than tax-exempt bonds and other obligations; and

WHEREAS, the County expects to reimburse expenditures with respect to the Project from the proceeds of tax-exempt bonds or other obligations expected to be issued for the Project in an estimated maximum principal amount of \$40,250,000; and

WHEREAS, the County has determined to make this declaration of official intent (the “Declaration”) to reimburse certain costs from proceeds of tax-exempt bonds or other obligations in accordance with the Reimbursement Regulations.



NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA AS FOLLOWS:

1. The County reasonably intends to make expenditures for the Project. A portion of such expenditures may be temporarily financed with cash assets of the County or from other sources. The County reasonably intends to reimburse itself for such expenditures from the proceeds of tax-exempt bonds or other obligations that are proposed to be issued by the County in an estimated maximum principal amount of \$40,250,000.
2. All reimbursed expenditures will be capital expenditures, costs of issuance of bonds or other obligations, or other expenditures eligible for reimbursement under Section 1.150-2(d)(3) of the Reimbursement Regulations.
3. This Declaration has been made not later than sixty (60) days after payment of any original expenditure to be subject to a reimbursement allocation with respect to the proceeds of tax-exempt bonds or other obligations, except for the following expenditures: (a) costs of issuance of bonds or other obligations; (b) costs in an amount not in excess of the lesser of \$100,000 or five percent (5%) percent of the proceeds of an issue of bonds or other obligations; or (c) "preliminary expenditures" up to an amount not in excess of twenty percent (20%) of the aggregate issue price of the issue or issues that finance or are reasonably expected by the County to finance the project for which the preliminary expenditures were incurred. The term "preliminary expenditures" includes architectural, engineering, surveying, soil testing, bond issuance, and similar costs that are incurred prior to commencement of acquisition, construction, or rehabilitation of a project, other than land acquisition, site preparation, and similar costs incident to commencement of construction.
4. This Declaration is an expression of the reasonable expectations of the County based on the facts and circumstances known to the County as of the date hereof. The anticipated original expenditures for the Project and the principal amount of the tax-exempt bonds or other obligations described in paragraph 1 are consistent with the County's budgetary and financial circumstances. No sources other than proceeds of tax-exempt bonds or other obligations to be issued by the County are, or are reasonably expected to be, reserved, allocated on a long-term basis, or otherwise set aside pursuant to the County's budget or financial policies to pay such Project expenditures.
5. This Declaration is intended to constitute a declaration of official intent for purposes of the Reimbursement Regulations.
5. Approve the 2026-2028 Tentative Agreement with AFSCME Council No. 5 Non-Exempt Employee Unit.
6. Approve the 2026-2028 Tentative Agreement with AFSCME Council No. 5 Exempt Employee Unit.
7. Approval to set a public hearing for July 7, 2026, to consider a new off-sale intoxicating liquor license.



8. Approval of **Resolution No. 2026-062** as follows:

**ACCEPTANCE OF A DONATION FROM THE KUESTER
FAMILY FOR INSTALLATION OF A CEDAR BENCH WITH
COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE AT COTTAGE GROVE
RAVINE REGIONAL PARK**

WHEREAS, Washington County gratefully accepts donations, gifts, and bequests from public and private sources to enhance the programs and services it provides; and

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. 375.26 authorizes the county board to accept gifts, donations and bequests on behalf of the county; and

WHEREAS, Washington County Parks has a wide array of donation opportunities for individuals and groups to provide support for the park system; and

WHEREAS, The Washington County Parks - Park Bench Program allows an individual or group to donate funds to install and maintain a bench to be used on a trail or near a park facility; and

WHEREAS, For a donation of \$2,500, a cedar park bench with commemorative plaque may be placed along a turf trail and will be guaranteed for a minimum of five (5) years; and

WHEREAS, The Kuester Family wish to place a cedar park bench at Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park, commemorating Cameron Kuester.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners does hereby accept a donation in the amount of \$2,500 from the Kuester Family for installation of a cedar park bench at Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park with commemorative plaque; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Washington County will maintain the bench site, including repair and replacement of the bench and plaque for a period of five years; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that after five years, Washington County has the option to dispose of, replace, or relocate the bench and plaque as needed.

9. Approval of **Resolution No. 2026-063** as follows:

**ACCEPTANCE OF A DONATION FROM TEDDY'S HEART
FOR A SAVESTATION TOWER AED TO BE INSTALLED
AT COTTAGE GROVE RAVINE REGIONAL PARK**



WHEREAS, Washington County gratefully accepts donations, gifts, and bequests from public and private sources to enhance the programs and services it provides; and

WHEREAS, the Minn. Stat. 375.26 authorizes the county board to accept gifts, donations and bequests on behalf of the county; and

WHEREAS, Washington County Parks has a wide array of donation opportunities for individuals and groups to provide support for the park system; and

WHEREAS, Washington County Parks is committed to promoting public health, safety, and emergency preparedness within regional parks; and

WHEREAS, the SaveStation Tower is a free-standing outdoor cabinet that houses an Automated External Defibrillator (AED); and

WHEREAS, AEDs are recognized as life-saving devices that can significantly improve survival outcomes during sudden cardiac arrest when promptly and properly used; and

WHEREAS, the installation of an outdoor-access AED at Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park will strengthen emergency response capabilities and provide an added measure of safety for the community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners does hereby accept a donation from Teddy's Heart for a SaveStation Tower to be installed at Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park.

10. Approval of **Resolution No. 2026-064** as follows:

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMITTAL OF APPLICATIONS
TO THE METROPOLITAN COUNCIL FOR FUNDING UNDER
THE 2026 REGIONAL SOLICITATION, ACTIVE
TRANSPORTATION, AND HIGHWAY SAFETY IMPROVEMENT
PROGRAMS**

WHEREAS, the Regional Solicitation, Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP), and Active Transportation grant processes all seek to fund transportation projects that have regional benefits; and

WHEREAS, eligible project sponsors wishing to receive grants for a project shall submit an application first with the appropriate metropolitan planning organization (MPO); and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Council and the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) act as the MPO for the seven county Twin Cities region and



have released the Regional Solicitation and HSIP for federal transportation funds for 2030 and 2031 and Active Transportation regional funds for 2027, 2028, or 2029; and

WHEREAS, Washington County is an eligible project sponsor for Regional Solicitation, HSIP, and Active Transportation funds; and

WHEREAS, Washington County is proposing to submit grant applications to Metropolitan Council as part of the 2026 grant process for the following projects:

Regional Solicitation

1. County Highway 18 (Bailey Road) Reconstruction
2. Trunk Highway 61 Corridor Improvement Project
3. Highway 120 and Highway 36 Interchange
4. County Highway 15 (Manning Avenue) and CR 64/McKusick Rd N Intersection and Trail Connections

Highway Safety Improvement Program

1. Trunk Highway 61 and CSAH 32 Improvement Project
2. County Highway 15 (Manning Avenue) and CR 64/McKusick Rd N Intersection and Trail Connections

Active Transportation

1. County Highway 10, 17, and 17B Intersection Improvements
2. Hardwood Creek Regional Trail Extension
3. County Highway 13 (Radio Drive) Trail and ADA Improvements between Hudson Road and Seasons Parkway
4. County Highway 96, 55, and 5 Trails
5. CSAH 13 Trail from Helmo Avenue to Olson Lake Trail; and

WHEREAS, the projects will be of mutual benefit to the Metropolitan Council, Washington County, Ramsey County and the Cities of Forest Lake, Grant, Hugo, Lake Elmo, Mahtomedi, Newport, North St. Paul, Oakdale, Stillwater, Woodbury, and the Township of Stillwater; and

WHEREAS, Washington County is committed to providing the county share of the costs if the projects are selected as part of the 2026 Regional Solicitation, HSIP, or Active Transportation; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Washington County is requesting funding through the Metropolitan Council's 2026 Regional Solicitation, HSIP, and Active Transportation programs and the county is



committed to completing the projects identified above and providing the county share of funding.

11. Approval for the Sheriff's Office to auction two patrol boats valued at over \$15,000 each.
12. Approve Mutual Aid Joint Powers Agreement No. 18280 between the State of Minnesota, Department of Corrections, Minnesota Correctional Facility Oak Park Heights, and Washington County for a period of two years.
13. Approve Mutual Aid Joint Powers Agreement No. 18279 between the State of Minnesota, Department of Corrections, Minnesota Correctional Facility Stillwater, and Washington County for a period of two years.
14. Approval to submit a grant application for the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) FY25 De-escalation and Crisis Response Training Program.

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 Opioid Settlements Council Appointments

Commissioner Clasen requested that staff provide a brief review of the process for the recruitment, selection, and recommendation of the appointees. Rolando Vera, Senior Public Health Program Manager in the Department of Public Health and Environment, provided a summary of the process. Existing appointees being removed are Deb Chiemeski, Denise Lasker, Jamie Steber, Rose Kosin and Suzy Oswald, and new members appointed are Crysil Dougherty, Bryce Andersen, Julie Marie Hanna, Jennifer Fox and Christie Lea Thompson.

Commissioner Cox moved to approve the removal of existing appointees and appointment of new members to the Washington County Opioid Settlements Council. Commissioner Clasen 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.

OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATION

Resolutions for Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District Appointments

County Administrator Kevin Corbid presented three resolutions, appointing three people to the Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District, and provided background on the interview process, which included 10 applicants.

Commissioner Cox moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2026-065** as follows:

RESOLUTION APPOINTING MARK DONEUX TO THE CARNELIAN MARINE ST CROIX 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, except 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 he 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 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 Mark Doneux to a first term on the Carnelian Marine St Croix Watershed District, to begin on June 22, 2026, and end on June 21, 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.

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

Commissioner Miron moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2026-066** as follows:

**RESOLUTION APPOINTING KIMBERLY HOUGH TO THE
CARNELIAN MARINE ST CROIX 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 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 Kimberly Hough to a first term on the Carnelian Marine St Croix Watershed District, to begin on June 22, 2026, and end on June 21, 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.

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; Nay, Commissioner Clasen.

Commissioner Cox moved to adopt a resolution appointing Sam DiVita, City of Scandia, to a first term beginning June 22, 2026, and expiring June 21, 2029, as Manager on the Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District. Commissioner Bigham seconded the motion.

Commissioner Miron moved to amend the resolution to strike appointing Sam DiVita and insert reappointing Ann Warner, May Township, to the Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District. Commissioner Clasen seconded the motion.

Chair Bigham asked for a vote on the amendment to reappoint Ann Warner. The motion failed 3-2 as follows: Ayes, Commissioners Miron and Clasen; Nays, Commissioners Karwoski, Cox, and Bigham.

Commissioner Cox moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2026-067** as follows:

RESOLUTION APPOINTING SAM DIVITA TO THE CARNELIAN MARINE ST CROIX 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 he 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 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 Sam DiVita to a first term on the Carnelian Marine St Croix Watershed District, to begin on June 22, 2026, and end on June 21, 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.

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

Commissioner Clasen moved to recess for a short break. Commissioner Karwoski seconded the motion, and it was adopted 5-0. The County Board recessed at 10:25 a.m.

The County Board reconvened at 10:35 a.m.

Chair Bigham asked for a motion to postpone agenda item 9A, Legislative Update, to the June 16 County Board meeting. Commissioner Miron moved to postpone the legislative update to the June 16 meeting. Commissioner Karwoski seconded the motion, and it was adopted 5-0.

OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATION

Resolution for Pride Month

Pride Employee Resource Group (ERG) Co-chairs Lizzy Grover and Carrie Genereux presented a resolution proclaiming June 2026 as Pride Month. The Pride ERG will be hosting an event “Camp Pride” on June 4 to celebrate, reflect, create, and reimagine yourself as you experience the joy of summer camp through an LBGTQIA2S+ lens.

Commissioner Clasen moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2026-068** as follows:

2026 PRIDE MONTH RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the month of June is designated as Pride Month in recognition of the Stonewall Uprising of June 1969, which is recognized as the start of the LBGTQIA2S+ rights movement, and numerous events have been organized around the country to commemorate that event; and

WHEREAS, the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual, 2 Spirit, Plus (LBGTQIA2S+) 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 written 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 full civic engagement, principles we are still striving to reach; and



WHEREAS, Washington County is dedicated to fostering acceptance of all community members and eliminating discrimination based on sexual orientation, physical characteristics, 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 community members, all of whom contribute to a vibrant community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Washington County Board of Commissioners do hereby proclaim June 2026 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 LGBTQIA2S+ community members and renew our commitment to protecting and strengthening the rights of everyone.

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.

Resolution for Land and Water Legacy Program Voter Approval

Emily Jorgensen, Planning Manager in the Office of Administration, presented a resolution authorizing the Washington County Board to hold an election to request voter approval to issue and sell its general obligation bonds of \$40 million over 20 years to fund the Washington County Land and Water Legacy Program.

Ms. Jorgensen reported that in 2006, Washington County voters approved a \$20 million land and water protection referendum, creating the county's Land and Water Legacy Program (LWLP), which purchases land or land interests to preserve its natural condition. The county has now expended the majority of authorized referendum funds to complete a total of 53 projects. All remaining funds allocated to the LWLP are allocated for projects that will be completed in the coming months.

Ms. Jorgensen reported that in 2025, the county contracted with Trust for Public Land (TPL) to provide recommendations for the potential of a 2026 bond referendum. On March 10, 2026, TPL presented a completed Feasibility Report to exploring funding options available and the potential 2026 bond referendum. On May 19, 2026, a workshop was held to review the referendum process to date and explore recommended referendum ballot language for the November 2026 general election. The recommendation is to issue general obligation bonds of \$40 million to improve the water quality of rivers, lakes, and streams, including the St. Croix and Mississippi Rivers, protect drinking water sources, preserve



wetlands and woodlands, protect land along water bodies from development and preserve natural areas, purchase parklands, and protect wildlife habitat.

Ms. Jorgensen provided examples of cost estimates for residents. A residential homestead would cost approximately \$24.60 per year for 20 years, for a home with the median estimated market value of \$420,900. Agricultural homestead would cost approximately \$3.00 per \$100,000 of taxable market value for the portion of the land that is agricultural (excluding the home). Agricultural non-homestead would cost approximately \$6.00 per \$100,000 of taxable market value for non-homestead agricultural land.

Commissioner Karwoski moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2026-069** as follows:

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE WASHINGTON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TO HOLD AN ELECTION TO
REQUEST VOTER APPROVAL TO ISSUE AND SELL ITS
GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS TO FUND THE WASHINGTON
COUNTY LAND AND WATER LEGACY PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, 2026 marks the 20th anniversary of the Washington County Land and Water Legacy Program; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, Washington County voters approved a \$20 million bond referendum, initiating the creation of the county's Land and Water Legacy Program, which purchases land or land interests to preserve its natural condition; and

WHEREAS, the program is ongoing and has used collaborative partnerships to invest over \$53 million in protection, conserving over 1,300 acres of high-quality natural lands; and

WHEREAS, the Washington County Board of Commissioners, has chosen to continue its land conservation initiatives to improve the water quality of rivers, lakes, and streams, including the St. Croix and Mississippi Rivers, protect drinking water sources, preserve wetlands and woodlands, protect land along water bodies from development and preserve natural areas, purchase parklands, and protect wildlife habitat; and

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. Sec. 475.52, Subd. 3 authorizes counties to issue bonds to purchase land for park purposes and conservation easements under Minn. Stat. Ch. 84C; and

WHEREAS, the Washington County Board of Commissioners has chosen to use its authority under Minn. Stat. 475.52, Subd. 3 to issue bonds for the acquisition of land and interests in land for said conservation initiative; and

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. Sections 375.20 and 475.58, Subd. 1 require Washington County to hold an election and obtain the approval of a



majority of the electors voting on the question of issuing the bonds prior to issuing and selling the bonds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that at the next general election, a ballot question be submitted to the voters requesting approval for the county to issue and sell its general obligation bonds in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$40 million to acquire and improve land and interests in land in furtherance of its land conservation initiatives.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners adopts the attached language to include on the general election ballot on November 3, 2026, and directs the County Auditor to post, and direct the clerk of each municipality in which the election is to be held to post, and publish notices of the election in the manner required by law, including Minn. Stat. Sec. 475.59, Subd. 1 and Sec. 204D.22 Subd. 3.

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; Nay, Commissioner Clasen.

LIBRARY

Resolution for Summer at Your Library

Library Director Jacquie Kramer presented a resolution proclaiming June 1 through August 15, 2026, 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 Clasen moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2026-070** as follows:

SUMMER AT YOUR LIBRARY 2026 PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, libraries are at the heart of their cities, counties, and communities, providing free and equitable access to books, technology, and 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 local organizations to maximize resources and expand access to essential services, strengthening the entire community; and

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



WHEREAS, library staff regularly engage with the community outside the library, going to places where neighbors meet to build connections and provide free library tools and resources to all community members; and

WHEREAS, from June 1 through August 15, 2026, 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, engagement with summer library programs can neutralize summer learning loss and encourage participants 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 provide opportunities for all members of the community to create new stories and memories at their local library this summer.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim June 1 to August 15, 2026, as Summer at Your Library.

Commissioner Bigham 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.

PROPERTY RECORDS AND TAXPAYER SERVICES

Resolution for Mapping Prejudice

Tom Hauer, Property Records Division Manager, presented an update on the Mapping Prejudice Project and related resolution for consideration. Mr. Hauer reported that the Mapping Prejudice Project is a University of Minnesota initiative, which researches and maps racial covenants throughout the Twin Cities region and beyond. In 2021, Washington County partnered with the Mapping Prejudice Project by providing access to historic property records from 1910-1968. The review and research of the property records is now complete.

Mr. Hauer reported that racial covenants are clauses inserted into property deeds to prevent people who are not white from buying or occupying land. The United States Supreme Court ruled that these racial covenants are unconstitutional in 1948. The Minnesota Legislature following up in 1953, making racial covenants illegal. The Fair Housing Act in 1968 rendered the covenants legally unenforceable. In 2019, legislation was passed allowing owners to discharge racial covenants on their property.



Mr. Hauer reported that there are 741 properties found in Washington County that contain or are impacted by racial covenants. Mr. Hauer reported that the county is partnering with Mapping Prejudice and its Associate Director Michael Corey to provide information for county staff. Staff will send letters to residents impacted by racial covenants, and they will be able to file (free of charge) a discharge of restrictive covenants affecting protected classes.

Commissioner Miron moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2026-071** as follows:

MAPPING PREJUDICE IN WASHINGTON COUNTY

WHEREAS, for generations, discriminatory racial covenants were written into property deeds across Washington County and throughout the United States. These covenants explicitly barred people of certain races, religions, and ethnic backgrounds from owning or occupying property, and their language still exists in many public land records today, and

WHEREAS, these practices helped create and reinforce residential segregation, limiting access to homeownership, wealth-building, lending opportunities, and investment in communities of color. The impacts of these policies continue to shape disparities in property values, neighborhood investment, and generational wealth, and

WHEREAS, through the work of the Mapping Prejudice initiative, more than 740 properties in Washington County have been identified as containing discriminatory covenants. In response, residents and policymakers have taken steps to acknowledge this history and provide legal pathways to remove or disavow these covenants from property titles, and

WHEREAS, state and federal laws now prohibit housing discrimination, and Minnesota law allows property owners to formally discharge discriminatory covenants from their records at no cost. Recognizing this history is an important step toward addressing the lasting harm caused by these practices and affirming Washington County's commitment to equitable housing and equal opportunity for all residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Commissioners of Washington County, Minnesota disavows the past practice of racial covenants, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners recognizes, accepts, and supports the efforts being made to educate, disavow, and discharge racial covenants.

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.

PUBLIC WORKS

WTS Minnesota Woman To Watch Award

Director Wayne Sandberg introduced Andrea Rehm, Public Works Transportation Planner, who has received the 2026 WTS Minnesota Woman to Watch Award. 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. The Women to Watch Award honors women who are early to mid-career and have already made a real and lasting impact.

Mr. Sandberg reported that Ms. Rehm was nominated for this award by her team. Ms. Rehm's portfolio spans corridor planning, regional trail plans, grant writing, legislative requests, and fleet process improvements. Ms. Rehm's grant work and advocacy helped the county secure multiple congressionally-directed spending requests and millions of dollars in federal transportation funding.

In less than two years, Ms. Rehm has moved from a support role, to leading complex regional planning efforts, building strong working relationships across civil design, traffic, safety, environmental, and accessibility disciplines. Ms. Rehm also serves as co-chair of the American Planning Association Minnesota Women in Planning Committee, creating opportunities for connection and professional growth for women across the planning profession.

County State Aid Highway 11 (Fairy Falls Road) Improvement Project

Engineer Mike Kline presented a contract to provide preliminary design services for the County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 11 (Fairy Falls Road) Improvement Project, from CSAH 96 (Dellwood Road) to CSAH 5 (Stonebridge Trail). This project is in the City of Stillwater and Stillwater Township, and is identified in the Capital Improvement Plan as #RB-2683.

Mr. Kline reported that CSAH 11 descends steeply as it approaches Boom Road, where the combination of challenging grades, steep embankments, and erosion creates safety concerns and complicates stormwater management. The design contract will include intersection, drainage, and pavement improvements. Mr. Kline reported that six proposals were received for project coordination and design services, and Stonebrooke Engineering was selected. This project will be funded by Local Contributions and State Aid.

Commissioner Cox moved to approve Contact No. 18284 with Stonebrooke Engineering Inc. in the amount of \$446,583.00 to provide preliminary design services for the CSAH 11 (Fairy Falls Road), from CSAH 96 (Dellwood Road) to CSAH 5 (Stonebridge Trail) Improvement Project. Commissioner Miron seconded the motion, and it was adopted 5-0.

CSAH 16 (Valley Creek Road) Pavement Preservation Project

Engineer Sydney Arkell presented a contract amendment and budget amendment for the CSAH 16 (Valley Creek Road) Pavement Preservation Project, from I-494 to Bielenberg Drive in the City of Woodbury. This project is identified in the Capital Improvement Plan as #RB-2204-01.

Ms. Arkell reported that the original scope of this contract included roadway and trail resurfacing, traffic signal system replacement, storm sewer restoration and replacement, and signing and striping. Preliminary design engineers revealed conditions requiring a more comprehensive approach, including full depth reclamation of pavement, utility conflicts, and full replacement of curb and gutter, trails, catch basins, and storm sewer pipes. This will be funded by Wheelage Tax and Transportation Advancement Account (TAA) Preservation.

Commissioner Karwoski moved to approve Amendment No. 1 to Contract No. 17152 in the amount of \$294,780.00 for final design services for the CSAH 16 Pavement Preservation Project. Commissioner Bigham seconded the motion, and it was adopted 4-1 as follows: Ayes, Commissioners Miron, Karwoski, Cox, and Bigham; Nay, Commissioner Clasen.

Commissioner Karwoski moved to approve a budget amendment to increase consultant costs and wheelage tax revenue by using the pavement preservation fund. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion, and it was adopted 4-1 as follows: Ayes, Commissioners Miron, Karwoski, Cox, and Bigham; Nay, Commissioner Clasen.

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, Board Chair Bigham adjourned the meeting at 12:41 p.m.



BOARD WORKSHOPS – MANDATES AND CORE FUNCTIONS

The board met in workshop session to discuss the 2026 Mandates and Core Functions for the Library. 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.

The board met in workshop session to discuss the 2026 Mandates and Core Functions for the Property Records and Taxpayer Services Department. 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.

BOARD WORKSHOP WITH PROPERTY RECORDS AND TAXPAYER SERVICES

The board met in workshop session for an update on County Service and License Centers. 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