

Washington County, Minnesota

Board of Commissioners - Actions

Actions at the Tuesday, April 26, 2011 Board Meeting

This page is a brief view of the actions taken by the Washington County Board of Commissioners. For further information, please telephone 651-430-6001.

Washington County's mission is to provide quality public services in a cost-effective manner through innovation, leadership, and the cooperation of dedicated people.

County receives donations during first quarter of the year

The Washington County Board of Commissioners accepted gifts given to the county during the first quarter of the year at its meeting April 26.

Those gifts were from people across the county, some cash memorials for tree donations, donations to help support the Sheriff's Office Explorer Program and crime prevention, almost \$1,300 to purchase library materials, donations to support services for veterans, and several undesignated donations. Participants in the Stillwater Bridal Affair, which is a fundraiser for ongoing restoration work at the Historic Courthouse in Stillwater, contributed \$3,275 of in-kind donations to the event.

County recognizes volunteers who serve on advisory committees, boards, commissions

The Washington County Board of Commissioners took the opportunity of national volunteer recognition month to thank the approximately 200 Washington County volunteers who participate on various county advisory committees, commissions and boards in the county.

Volunteers give their time and provide assistance, knowledge, dedication and service to the County Board and county departments throughout the year. The county conducted a reception at the Historic Courthouse the afternoon of April 26 in recognition of the volunteers.

County applies for federal grant to pay for corrections post

The Washington County Community Corrections Department has applied for a grant to pay for the services of a staff member to work with adult offenders who are at high risk of re-offending and who are chemically dependent. The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved the application submission at its meeting April 26. In 2009, the Community Corrections Department applied for and was granted funds through the Office of Justice Programs, Minnesota Department of Public Safety, to implement the Offender Recovery Program (ORP). These funds are part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The grant funds were available over a two-year period beginning Jan. 1, 2010, for \$187,425. Additional funds have become available for calendar year 2012. The application is for \$90,103 to cover the cost of the probation officer through Dec. 31, 2012.

Staff from the Community Corrections Department have worked with the other departments in the county that deal with criminal justice issues to create the Offender Recovery Program. Initial program results have been positive as it relates to the percentage of offenders completing chemical dependency treatment, having clean drug tests, and remaining crime free.

Washington Conservation District will provide services to the county

The Washington County Board of Commissioners agreed to purchase services from the Washington Conservation District (WCD) for 2011 at the commissioners' meeting April 26.

The WCD is a local unit of government that has provided local expertise on water quality, erosion control and natural resource information through partnerships with individuals, local government units, organizations and agencies to meet its mission of the protection, conservation, and enhancement of natural resources.

The services the county will purchase from the district include work for the Transportation Division (project design review, assistance in culvert replacement, conservation technical assistance), the Parks Division (farmland management and inspection, erosion control review, assistance with identification, planning and implementation of new parks projects), Land Management (attend Plat Commission meetings, review drainage plans, review mining plans, assist in other zoning and planning efforts) and Building Services (improve storm water management practices on new building projects, assist in design and construction of new facility projects).

The cost of the agreement, which runs through 2011, is not to exceed \$29,000 and is included in the Public Works 2011 budget.

City of Forest Lake will maintain traffic signals

The City of Forest Lake will maintain two of the traffic signals in the city included in the Broadway Avenue project after the Washington County Board of Commissioners approved an agreement with the city April 26.

Washington County will install traffic signals at the intersections of Broadway Avenue and Interstate 35 and Broadway Avenue and 12th Street Southwest as part of the Broadway Avenue reconstruction project in Forest Lake. The agreement delegates responsibility for maintenance and electricity for the signals among Washington County, the Minnesota

Department of Transportation, and the City of Forest Lake. The City of Forest Lake has already approved the agreement.

Washington County, St. Croix County law enforcement will work together

Washington County Sheriff's Office deputies in Washington County and deputies in St. Croix County in Wisconsin across the St. Croix River will be able to act with all the arrest and peace officer authority in each other's counties, after the Washington County Board of Commissioners ratified an agreement with the Wisconsin county April 26.

When requested, in the event of a law enforcement emergency, disaster, or threats to public health and safety, this agreement gives deputies of the Washington County Sheriff's Office authority of deputies of the St. Croix County Sheriff's Office while within the boundaries of St. Croix County, and vice versa.

The agreement was signed by Sheriff William M. Hutton, and then ratified by the County Board.

Washington County recognizes Adopt A Highway participants

The Washington County Board of Commissioners recognized and thanked community groups that clean the county's roadways, collecting litter and trash along 249 miles of county roads in the county's Adopt A Highway program. The 12 groups that have been active in the program since it began in 1991 were given special recognition by commissioners at the April 26 board meeting.

Washington County began its Adopt A Highway Program in 1991. At that time, an initial 36 groups began collecting litter from 78 miles of county roads. In 20 years, the program in Washington County has grown to 120 groups collecting litter and trash along 249 miles of county roads. In 2010 alone, nearly 800 bags of trash and litter were collected. This work by volunteers saves the county taxpayers more than \$80,000 in maintenance costs annually. In addition to saving

the county money, the program offers volunteers the opportunity to participate in a cooperative effort to create a cleaner, more aesthetically pleasing place in which to live. The Adopt A Highway program also helps to give visitors a positive impression as they travel Washington County roads.

Twelve of the original groups from 1991 are still active in the program. The Washington County Board of Commissioners recognized these groups' 20 years of dedication and commitment to keeping roadsides clean by presenting each group with a Commissioner's Service Award.

They are:

- Scandia Marine Lions, represented by Ron Leslie, who care for three miles along County Highway 3 in Scandia and May Township;
- the Glen Van Wormer/Kraemer families, Glen and Diana Van Wormer, and Mike and Candi Kraemer, who care for two miles of County Highway 12 in Grant and Mahtomedi;
- Boy Scout Troop No. 173 of Scandia, represented by Shawn Otto, and which cares for three miles of County Highway 52 in Scandia;
- Stillwater Sunrise Rotary Club, represented by Mike Schoonover, which cares for three miles of highways 5 and 55 in Stillwater Township;
- Brochman Blacktopping Co. represented by Cheryl Brochman, which cares for three miles of County Highway 64 in Stillwater;
- Keller Families, represented by Lorraine Keller, who care for three miles of County Highway 7 in May Township;
- Stillwater Noon Rotary, represented by Scott Merce, president, and Mike Enright, which cares for two miles of County Highway 14 in Baytown;
- AAUW St. Croix Valley, which was represented by Marjorie Williams, president, which cares for three miles of County highways 14 and 21 in Baytown and Oak Park Heights;
- Scenic Valley Girl Scouts, who were represented by Anne Engdahl, Jeanne Leppicello, and Lindsay West, and who care for two miles of county highways 14 and 21 in Bayport and Baytown Township;
- Tennant Landscaping, represented by Eric Olsen, which cares for two miles of County Highway 21 in Denmark Township;
- Bailey Nurseries Inc., represented by John Bailey, which cares for three miles of County Highway 20 in Woodbury and Newport;
- New Life Academy, represented by Lynn Atkinson, which cares for three miles of County Highway 18 in Woodbury.

Sixteen groups will also celebrate 10 years of service to the program this year and were also recognized. There are about eight miles yet available in the county for groups to adopt through the program.

Bids awarded for Broadway Avenue project

With the coming of spring comes the continuation of the Broadway "mega project" being undertaken in Forest Lake. The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a bid award for the next phase of the project at its meeting April 26. Redstone Construction will do the next phase of the project, which will include grading, aggregate base, concrete and bituminous paving, concrete curb and gutter, water main, sanitary sewer, storm sewer, signing, lane striping, lighting, and traffic signals on County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 2 (Broadway Avenue) from Highway 61 to Interstate 35. It will also include bridge construction over Interstate 35 in Forest Lake.

Redstone's bid of \$16.39 million was the low bid on the project, which was split into roadway construction and bridge construction for the bidding process. The engineer's estimate for the project was \$17.58 million. Funding for the project includes \$11.8 million in federal aid and local funds from the City of Forest Lake; the remainder will be funded with proceeds from the 2011 bond sales.

The County Board also approved a contract with SRF Consulting Group, Inc., for \$955,000 to provide inspection services for the project. The Broadway Avenue "mega" project includes the construction of a new pedestrian overpass of Broadway Avenue on the Hardwood Creek Trail in 2011. Utility companies have begun relocating their infrastructure and the project is ready to begin construction in early May.