

Washington County, Minnesota

Board of Commissioners - Actions

Actions at the Tuesday, June 28, 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.

Committee appointments with expiring terms receive reappointments

The Washington County Board of Commissioners reappointed and made appointments of several county residents June 28 to the county's Citizen Review Panel and the Workforce Investment Board. Many of the residents are serving terms that were to expire June 30.

The residents who were reappointed to the committees are:

- Melissa Charley, Woodbury, Child Protection Citizen Review Panel;
- Martha Gerkey, Stillwater, Child Protection Citizen Review Panel;
- Sue Lewis, Stillwater, Child Protection Citizen Review Panel;
- Guy Sederski, Oak Park Heights, Child Protection Citizen Review Panel;
- Margaret Hart, Oak Park Heights, Child Protection Citizen Review Panel;
- Jane Klein, Oakdale, Workforce Investment Board;
- Janelle Schmitz, Woodbury, Workforce Investment Board;
- Duane Gatzke, representing labor, Workforce Investment Board;
- Russell Williams, Cottage Grove, representing governmental agency, Workforce Investment Board.
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The Citizen Review Panel provides opportunities for members of the community to have an integral role in ensuring that Child Protection Service Systems are protecting children from abuse and neglect and are meeting the permanency needs of children, and helps the child protection department determine how it is fulfilling its responsibility. The responsibility of the Workforce Investment Board determines the most effective designation of administrative entities, grant recipients and program operators for the Workforce Service Area.

Residents appointed to Citizen Review Panel

The Washington County Board of Commissioners made two appointments to the county Citizens Review Panel at its meeting June 28. Laurie Aaronson, Oakdale, and Gina Kuchenmeister, Oakdale, were appointed to the panel.

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Heuer appointed to Historic Courthouse Advisory Committee

Kenneth Heuer, Oakdale, was appointed to the Washington County Historic Courthouse Advisory Committee by the County Board June 28. The appointment was recommended by Commissioner Bill Pulkrabek, District 2.

The advisory committee reviews current operation and long-range plans of the Historic Courthouse in building use and restoration within the context of the mission statement adopted by the Washington County Board of Commissioners for the Historic Courthouse, which is in Stillwater.

Fraud prevention program will continue in county

The Washington County Community Services Department will continue to work with the Sheriff's Office to provide fraud prevention investigation, after the Washington County Board of Commissioners agreed to a contract with the state for the needed funds June 28.

In 2010, 205 investigations were completed and \$233,650 in public program dollars were saved or recouped. The Community Service Department paid the Sheriff's Office \$89,104 last year for investigator services relating to the program.

The Fraud Prevention Investigation (FPI) program is a partnership involving county public assistance program staff and Sheriff's Office investigators to ensure that appropriate public assistance benefits are issued to people who are eligible to receive them. The program's focus is to quickly identify and resolve instances where applicants are receiving undeserved benefits. That helps ensure that federal, state, and county funding can be saved as well as made available to eligible families and individuals.

Washington County operates a state-funded FPI program, and the state requires the county to update its fraud prevention plan for each biennium and the submission of a new grant application.

New site for adult day training could be added in Oakdale

The Washington County Board of Commissioners gave its approval June 28 to send a request to the state Department of Human Services to allow East Suburban Resources (ESR) to develop a new adult day training and habilitation program site in Oakdale.

Day training and habilitation services for individuals with developmental disabilities are mandated by the state after graduation from high school at age 21. ESR is a licensed provider of training and is requesting approval for a new program site in Oakdale because it is at or close to licensed capacity at its other sites.

Washington County continues to need these services for new graduates and eligible people moving into Washington County. ESR will expand the new program in Oakdale by providing specialized services to adults with autism. Families who have young adults with autism have been asking for a specialized program focusing on the unique needs of these individuals. The programs are funded by federal, state and county levy funds.

2 organizations to have games at county fair

A Lions Club will have bingo and a ladies auxiliary will have pull-tabs at the Washington County Fair, after the Washington County Board of Commissioners granted permission June 28.

The St. Paul East Parks Lions Club will conduct the bingo at the fair, which will be Aug. 3 through Aug. 7 at the Washington County Fairgrounds in Baytown. The Ladies Auxiliary VFW Post 323 from Stillwater will have pulltabs at the fair.

Sheriff's Office will use funds to start work on CodeRed Emergency notification system

The Washington County Sheriff's Office will use \$8,000 in its fund balance from its 911 Fund to pay for some of the

start-up costs for the county's new CodeRed Emergency Notification System. The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved the fund use at its meeting June 28.

The CodeRed Emergency Notification System allows users to place prerecorded telephone calls at high speed to call recipients. The county will use geographic areas, such as city boundaries, or various risk areas, listed databases, or a customized mapped area at the time of an emergency. The service is designed to be active 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

County will help communities with census challenges

Washington County will assist communities in the county which have challenges to the U.S. Census findings. The County Board gave its approval to submit challenges at its meeting June 28.

The Census Bureau's 2010 Census Count Question Resolution Program provides state, local, and tribal officials a process to challenge the census counts of housing units and group quarters. The three types of challenges accepted by the program include boundary challenges, geocoding challenges, and coverage challenges. Geocoding is the process of finding associated geographic coordinates; coverage is over or under counting due to processing errors.

Washington County found boundary and geocoding issues to challenge within the county. Two of the challenges affect West Lakeland Township and Lake Elmo's boundary and geocoding, and Baytown Township and Oak Park Heights' boundary and geocoding. In an effort to be efficient, the county will submit a challenge on behalf of those four communities involved, and each community has provided correspondence of support.

Approval by the Census of the county's challenge will result in the issuance of new official 2010 Census counts beginning in December 2012. The Census Bureau will not make any changes that affect redistricting counts.

County will purchase easement on land in Lake Elmo with Land and Water Legacy funds

Washington County will receive an easement over 40 acres of land owned by Thomas Armstrong in Lake Elmo, after the Washington County Board of Commissioners agreed to the purchase at its meeting June 28.

The easement will be purchased with \$505,000 from the county's Land and Water Legacy program, a voter-approved fund designed to purchase land in the county to preserve wetlands and woodlands; protect drinking water sources; and improve water quality of rivers, lakes and streams.

The landowner responded to the county's 2007 request for proposals for land protection projects to be completed through the Land and Water Legacy Program. The project is one of the eight projects recommended by the Parks and Open Space Commission that received concept approval by the County Board in 2007. The county conducted an appraisal and received a sale offer from the landowner.

The landowner has agreed to the following conditions:

- donation of fee title to the easternmost 75 feet of a parcel along Inwood Avenue owned by Tom Armstrong, Sr., for future use for road expansion and recreational trail;
- donation of fee title to the easternmost 75 feet of a parcel along Inwood Avenue owned by Tom Armstrong, Jr., and Jodi Armstrong for road expansion and recreational trail;
- donation of permanent trail easement along the north border of the property running from Inwood Avenue to the pond, the trail to be constructed by the county at a future date when planned connecting trails in the area are constructed; and
- conversion of the cropland to a natural condition in accordance with a restoration plan agreed to by the county and the landowner; a portion of the funds are to be paid upon completion of the restoration work.
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The purchase agreement is contingent on satisfactorily working out the details of the conservation easement and the required management plan and the county's successful acquisition of the permanent trail easement and the rights-of-way.

The Armstrong parcel subject to the conservation easement is 40 acres of woodland, wetland and cropland along Farney Creek in Lake Elmo. The parcel is immediately adjacent to the Lake Elmo Regional Park with Farney Creek flowing from the property into Eagle Point Lake within the regional park. This parcel connects the regional park to 180 acres of private land that is already protected by a perpetual conservation easement, thereby completing a natural corridor that extends from the regional park southward to 10th Street and on to the Oak Marsh Golf Course south of 10th Street. A portion of the parcel is within a wellhead protection area and the Lake Elmo Special Wellhead Construction Area. The conservation easement extinguishes 18 development rights.
