

# Washington County, Minnesota

## Board of Commissioners - Actions

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### Actions at the Tuesday, March 22, 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.

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

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### Lavold, Madigan named to South Washington County Watershed District

Jack Lavold, Cottage Grove, and Michael Madigan, Woodbury, were named to the South Washington County Watershed District by the Washington County Board of Commissioners at its meeting March 22. Their nominations were submitted by the communities which they will represent. They will both serve three-year terms expiring May 1, 2014.

Watershed districts are required by state law. Their purpose is to carry out conservation of the natural resources of the state through land utilization, flood control and other needs based upon sound scientific principles for the protection of the public health and welfare and provident use of natural resources.

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### Plan being written for Point Douglas Regional Trail

The Washington County Board of Commissioners gave its approval March 22 to the completion of a plan that will outline a 2 1/2-mile trail that will traverse an abandoned rail bed along the Mississippi River in Denmark Township purchased by Washington County in 2005.

The plan will look at ways to connect this trail to Point Douglas Park, the planned St. Croix Valley Regional Trail, and the planned Hastings bridge bike trail. When complete, the trail will become eligible for Metropolitan Council funding. In February, Washington County requested proposals to complete the Point Douglas Regional Trail Master Plan Study, and the lowest cost proposal received was \$28,350.

It is proposed that the funding for the Point Douglas Regional Trail Master Plan Study come partially from \$8,000 in State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) grant funding.

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### Service Centers will be open to accommodate Passport Day

The Washington County service centers in Stillwater, Forest Lake and Woodbury will have extended hours Saturday, April 9, to help promote Passport Day.

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved the extended hours at its meeting March 22. The centers will be open from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. that day; they are usually open 8 a.m. to noon Saturdays.

This is the third year the U.S. Department of State is sponsoring a Passport Day in the United States to publicize current passport requirements. This year, the passport day is scheduled to occur on Saturday, April 9. In 2009, on the Friday prior to, and on the Saturday of the Passport Day event, the county license centers accepted 267 passports and took 418 photos. Last year, on just Saturday, the centers accepted more than 115 passports and took 126 photos. Both of those years, the county offered extended Saturday hours.

In addition, the service centers will lower the cost of a passport photo to \$5 for all customers on Friday, April 8, and Saturday, April 9, in each location. Usual cost for the photo is \$15. The lower cost for photos will be available on Friday as well as Saturday because the Cottage Grove Service Center does not have Saturday hours. The county offered this same fee reduction during passport day in 2009 and it was very successful.

Woodbury License Center is at 2150 Radio Drive in Woodbury, (corner of Valley Creek and Radio Drive), telephone 651-275-8600; Stillwater License Center is at 1520 W. Frontage Road in Stillwater, (Valley Ridge Mall on Highway 36), telephone 651-275-7000; Forest Lake License Center is at 19955 Forest Road N. in Forest Lake, (south of 202nd Street off Highway 61), telephone 651-275-7333; Cottage Grove Public Service Desk, 13000 Ravine Parkway S. in Cottage Grove, (on County Road 19 and 90th Street), telephone 651-430-4075. Call 651-430-6175 for more information on Washington County locations and passport services.

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## **Public may comment on housing block grant funding**

A draft of the 2011 Annual Action Plan for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnership Programs (HOME) for Washington County is available for public comment until April 22. The Washington County Board of Commissioners reviewed the plan March 22, and approved its release for the public comment period.

A public hearing was held in conjunction with the HOME Consortium Partners, Washington, Ramsey, Dakota, and Anoka counties and the City of Woodbury March 10 at Roseville City Hall. Any public comments will be incorporated in the plan and the plan will come before the board for final approval in early May, prior to being sent to the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The 2010-2014 Consolidated Plan establishes the strategies and funding priorities for the CDBG and HOME programs for July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2015. Annual grant funds for CDBG and HOME programs are used to fund high and medium priority activities identified in the Consolidated Plan.

Copies of the draft 2011 Annual Action Plan will be available for review at the Washington County Workforce Center, 2150 Radio Drive, Woodbury; the Washington County Government Center, 14949 62nd St. N. in Stillwater, Room 200; at each county library, and online at [www.co.washington.mn.us/info\\_for\\_residents/community\\_services/housing](http://www.co.washington.mn.us/info_for_residents/community_services/housing). Written comments must be submitted or postmarked by Friday, April 22, and must be sent to Washington County Community Services, Attn: Karin Reinert, 14949 62nd St. N., P.O. Box 30, Stillwater, MN 55082, by fax at 651-430-6639, or by e-mail to [Karin.Reinert@co.washington.mn.us](mailto:Karin.Reinert@co.washington.mn.us). Other communications may be through MN Relay Service 800-627-3529 or Speech-to-Speech Relay 877-627-3848.

As of now, the federal 2011 program award amounts are preliminary; however, based on conservative projections, \$850,000 will be available to the Washington County CDBG and HOME programs for 2011. Recommended use of the funds includes four competitive projects, owner-occupied rehabilitation programs located throughout Washington County, public services and administration. In response to the Request for Proposal for the competitive projects, Washington County Community Services staff and the CDBG Citizens Advisory Committee received five proposals, and recommend the following uses of CDBG and HOME funds for 2011:

- Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity, scattered sites, new single-family construction (HOME funds), \$98,000;
- Washington County HRA, John Jergens Senior Apartments Improvement Project (CDBG funds), \$40,000;
- Charter Oaks, LLC, Charter Oaks Townhomes (CDBG funds), \$232,500;
- Two Rivers Community Land Trust (HOME funds), \$100,000;
- Washington County Owner Occupied Rehab Program (CDBG funds), \$150,000;
- Washington County Public Services, \$97,500;
- Administration (CDBG and HOME, including Dakota County's program), \$152,000.

## **Event planned to promote positive parenting**

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month, and an event to promote positive parenting, including the many benefits of reading to young children, will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 9, at the Woodbury Central Park Amphitheatre. The Washington County Board of Commissioners received information about the event at its meeting March 22. Families with young children are encouraged to attend.

The Citizens Review Panel, along with the Washington County Library, the Washington County Community Services Department, and the Parent Connection (formerly Child Abuse Prevention Council), are sponsoring the event. The purpose of the event is to help build healthy families through reading. Participants may listen to a reading by children's author Connie Von Hoven, get a library card, pick up bookmarks, learn about literacy skills and discover library resources for families.

Federal funds from the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act of \$400 will be used to pay for the event. The Woodbury Central Park Amphitheatre is at 8595 Central Park Place, Woodbury. For more information about the event, call 651-430-6631.

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## **Washington County will be part of economic development partnership**

Washington County will become part of the Minneapolis-Saint Paul Regional Economic Development Partnership, after approval of the membership by the Washington County Board of Commissioners March 22.

The Minneapolis-Saint Paul Regional Economic Development Partnership is the culmination of the Job Growth Task Force of the employer-led alliance known as the Itasca Project. The Itasca Project is composed of leaders representing more than 50 businesses, public sector agencies, academic and charitable organizations, and is dedicated to raising the economic competitiveness and quality of life and eliminating disparities across the Twin Cities Region by generating quality job growth, advancing a comprehensive and aligned transportation system, and improving the region's education system. The Minneapolis-Saint Paul Regional Economic Development Partnership will be focused on sustainable, quality job creation through nonpartisan public-private partnership.

To compete successfully in the world economy, communities and companies across the 13-county metropolitan area need to work more collaboratively to leverage local assets to attract, retain and expand business opportunities. This is best accomplished by regional economic development efforts that provide a one-stop shop for site selectors and businesses seeking to relocate or expand. Without a single organization charged with this sole purpose, companies must approach the various communities and economic development organizations independently.

With a concerted effort by a regional organization, the Minneapolis-St. Paul (MSP) region can more successfully compete with peer regions across the nation.

Several counties within the 13-county metropolitan area and more than a dozen cities are expected to constitute the founding membership, along with more than 60 private businesses, academic and foundation members. A mix of 70/30 private/public stakeholders will serve as the governing board. The county expects to pay \$50,000 for its membership in 2011.

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