

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA
MARCH 24, 2009

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 were Commissioners Hegberg, Pulkrabek, Peterson, Weik, and Kriesel. Absent none. Board Chair Peterson presided. Also present were James Schug, County Administrator; Molly O'Rourke, Deputy Administrator; George Kuprian, Assistant County Attorney; Linda Krafthefer, Assistant County Attorney; Lowell Johnson, Director of Public Health and Environment; Kevin Corbid, Director of Property Records and Taxpayer Services; Kay McAloney, Human Resources Director; Don Theisen, Public Works Director; Keith Potter, Facilities Manager; Dan Papin, Community Services Director; Richard Backman, Community Services Division Manager; Mjyke Nelson, Information Technology Director; Barbara Fritsche, Information Technology Supervisor; Milan Tomaska, Information Technology Supervisor; Sheriff Bill Hutton; Chief Deputy Sheriff Mike Johnson; Tom Adkins, Community Corrections Director; and David Brierley, Public Information Coordinator.

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Laurie Arco, 15581 Afton Blvd. South, Afton – Ms. Arco presented a list of home schooled students and students who go to non-public schools in the county and indicated that many of them benefit from 4-H. She thinks the 4-H program is beneficial.

Gary Houle, 29200 Forest Blvd., Stacy – Mr. Houle addressed the social and economic impacts of funding or not funding 4-H. He feels that the social benefit is the most important issue. In sports, many young women and men feel disenfranchised by the sports system. It is also costly to be involved in sports. 4-H is different, it gives young women and men an opportunity to be involved in community events, competition and it brings pride to them. That doesn't go away because they have reached the pinnacle of their physical capability; in 4-H they don't get cut. The economic impact of the 4-H program for him is great. A lot of the 4-H men and women will spend money at his two stores. If the Board decides to totally cut 4-H, there will be an economic impact and it will affect his bottom line. He feels the economic impact is less important than the social impact. He urged the Board to not totally cut the 4-H program.

Fran Miron, Mayor of Hugo – Mayor Miron stated that the City of Hugo submitted a resolution in support of the 4-H program and continued funding through 2009. There is also a resolution from the Washington County Farm Bureau asking the County Board to continue funding 4-H through 2009. He stated there is a tradition of the county supporting 4-H; so, he asked the County Board to support, to some extent, a continuation of the program for this year so relationships and collaborative efforts could be developed and can succeed long term.

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Alex Enter, 1400 North Owens, Stillwater – Mr. Enter stated he has been a member of the St. Croix Clovers 4-H club for the last five years. Outside of 4-H he has participated in many school sports, VAA sports and other activities. He feels none of these experiences have made the same difference in his life that 4-H has made. 4-H allows him to choose what he wants to learn about. He has made many friends of different political, religious and social backgrounds; but he has learned that they can accomplish great things when they work together. He asked the County Board to invest in a positive, character building opportunity for the youth of the county. 4-H teaches the leadership skills, life skills, and the social skills that youth need to succeed and become outstanding leaders in their community. He asked the Board to save the Washington County 4-H program; it has made a huge difference in his life and the lives of over 800 children.

Laura Reinke, 10310 Jody Avenue North, Grant – Ms. Reinke stated her goal is to explain Washington county's role and standing in the state and urge the Board's support of funding for 4-H programs. She is 16 and has been in 4-H for 10 years. She is one of Washington County's two members on the Minnesota 4-H State Ambassador Team. Over the past 15 years, Washington County has had a representative on this 29-member team, which she stated is remarkably high. Washington County's standing and reputation as one of the strongest counties with the most active and accomplished youth, shows what can be accomplished with hard work. For many years, the county has asked 4-H to cut back and they have complied by reducing funding and increased fundraising events. She hopes that at this year's State Fair, she will still be able to greet visitors by saying "My name is Laura Reinke, and I'm from Washington County".

Allison Hansen, 11260 50th Street North, Lake Elmo – Ms. Hansen distributed a handout addressing the following items related to 4-H: Community Service – 16,000 hours of community service provided in 2008 worth \$289,000; Tufts Youth Development Study – decision making influences, community contribution, 4-H comparison to other out-of-school activities; Outcomes – 4-Hers got better grades and were less likely to display risk behaviors; What 4-H means for Washington County – more volunteers to do projects in the county; more successful youth, the future leaders of business owners in Washington County; less juvenile crime, less juvenile court cases, and less money needed for the juvenile justice system.

Amy Enter, 1400 North Owen, Stillwater – Ms. Enter believes that funding the 4-H program in Washington County is a wise investment. She feels the power in the 4-H program is the mentorship opportunities made possible because of the taxpayer dollars that are spent. She grew up in Farmington, Minnesota and stated that Dakota County has a better 4-H program. They have convinced their commissioners that this is an excellent prevention program. She thanked the Board for taking the time to listen to the youth. She closed by saying that the 4-H program has been around for over a 100 years. She asked the Board for its funding and to not let this fine program die on its watch.

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CONSENT CALENDAR

Commissioner Pulkrabek moved, seconded by Commissioner Hegberg to adopt the following Consent Calendar:

1. Approval of the March 10, 2009 Board meeting minutes.
2. Approval to appoint Russell Williams, Cottage Grove, to the Workforce Investment Board representing Governmental Agency, to a two year term expiring June 30, 2011.
3. Approval to appoint Mark Frazer, Woodbury, to the Groundwater Advisory Committee, to a first term expiring December 31, 2010.
4. Approval to reappoint Donald Pereira, Cottage Grove, to the South Washington Watershed District Board of Managers, to a term expiring May 1, 2012.
5. Approval to suspend the distribution of savings from the 2008 budget allowed by the Mission Directed Budget Policy No. 2202.
6. Approval of amendment to add adult psychosexual assessments to the services provided by Human Services, Inc. Contract No. 5048, not to exceed \$22,500.
7. Approval of Amendment No. 1 to the 2009 contract with Human Services, Inc, reducing the amount of the Children's Mental Health Action Collaborative Funds by \$42,500.
8. Approval to accept \$73,223.71 from the Minnesota Department of Human Services for Children's Mental Health Crisis and Stabilization Services and Infrastructure grant.
9. Approval of Amendment No. 4 to the 2008 contract with Human Services, Inc. to reimburse HSI for the provision of Children's Mental Health Crisis and Stabilization Services.
10. Approval to accept \$281 from the Woodbury American Legion Post #501 for Community Services Veterans Services Emergency Assistant Fund.
11. Approval to establish County Policy No. 3004 for back-up and restoration of computer data.
12. Approval of revisions to County Policy No. 3001, Acceptable Use for Utilizing Information Technology Resources.

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13. Approval of Web Hosting with back-up amendment with Vector Internet Services, Inc.
14. Approval of the following contracts with Vanguard Appraisals, Inc. for computer aided mass appraisal (CAMA) services for the calendar year 2009: extended service contract (web site), consolidated extended service contact, and service PLUS contract.
15. Approval to renew two-year agreements with the cities of Cottage Grove and Mahtomedi to provide individual sewage treatment system inspection services.
16. Adoption of **Resolution No. 2009-021** as follows:

Final Payment on 2007 Bituminous Road Overlays-South to
Hardrives, Inc.

WHEREAS, the Washington County Board of Commissioners, on May 1, 2007 approved a bid award to Hardrives, Inc. and signed a contract with said company for overlays on CSAH 18 (St. Croix Tr.), from 2790' North of CSAH 21 in the City of Afton to 7th St. South in the City of Lakeland; CSAH 21 (St. Croix Tr.), from 1400' South of 45th St. to 600' North of River Road in the City of Afton; CR 71 (Neal Avenue North) from I-94 to CSAH 10 in West Lakeland Township; and

WHEREAS, Hardrives, Inc. has satisfactorily completed all work in accordance with the terms and conditions of the contract.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Hardrives, Inc. be paid in full for the said contract work in the amount due indicated on the final payment voucher which is attached herewith and is hereby a part of this resolution.

17. Approval of comments on West Lakeland Township and the City of Afton's Draft Comprehensive Plans.
18. Approval of Amendment No. 1 to the Joint Powers Mutual Aid Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Corrections, Minnesota Correctional Facility – Oak Park Heights to correct a typographical error.
19. Adoption of **Resolution No. 2009-022** as follows:

Resolution Authorizing Execution of Agreement for
the Federal Boating Safety Supplement Grant Agreement

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington County Sheriff's Office is hereby authorized to enter into a grant agreement between the Washington County Sheriff's Office and the State of Minnesota Federal Boating Safety Supplement Grant Agreement.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Sheriff William M. Hutton is hereby authorized to execute such agreements that are necessary to implement the project on behalf of the Washington County Sheriff's Office.

The foregoing Consent Calendar was adopted unanimously.

Commissioner Weik thanked the Woodbury American Legion Post #501 for its donation to the Community Services Veterans Services Emergency Assistance Fund, which was approved on today's Consent Calendar.

PUBLIC WORKS

Commissioner Hegberg moved to approve Change Order #13 to contract with People's Electric, Inc. in the amount of \$239,071. Commissioner Weik seconded the motion and it was adopted unanimously.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Public Health and Environment – Minnesota Extension for 4-H Youth Development Program

Lowell Johnson, Director of Public Health and Environment, reviewed the University of Minnesota Extension Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) and the proposed budget reduction. Three options were presented for the Board to consider:

Option 1 – Provide 90 day notice to terminate agreement effective July 1, 2009 – Budget impact: Savings of \$64,900;

Extension Advisory Committee Recommendation Option 2 – Modify MOA by continuing 1 FTE full time through December 31, 2009 and continue 1 FTE full-time through July 31, 2009 – Budget impact: Savings of \$27,044; and

County Staff Recommendation Option 3 – Modify (terminate) MOA by continuing 2 FTE full-time through September 15, 2009 – Budget impact: Savings of \$37,684.

Commissioner Pulkrabek moved to approve Option 3, to modify the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the University of Minnesota Extension by continuing 2 FTE full-time through September 15, 2009 at which time the MOA would be terminated. Commissioner Hegberg seconded the motion.

The County Board discussed this motion.

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Commissioner Pulkrabek indicated that this option would give 4-H assistance in the two positions they currently have through the county and state fairs and it will also give them time to look at new funding options, fund raising, restructuring of fees and maybe some business partnerships.

Commissioner Hegberg stated he is in support of the site-based programs and it would continue those through the summer. He noted that Washington County does face a severe economic situation. With levy limits and an eroding tax base they are backed into a corner that is difficult to deal with. He feels this will continue through 2010 and 2011 and the county faces difficult times. He asked for 4-H's help in figuring out a way to live through this. The county funds the Youth Service Bureaus and they have looked at a reduction in their contracts also. He thanked the 4-H members for the passion they showed and the dignified manner in which they presented their case. He is sure they will come forth with changes and recommendations that the county can live with.

Commissioner Weik stated she attended part of the Extension Advisory meeting last week. She supports Option 2. She is concerned that youth would start to leave the programs right at a time when the county would need them to develop a new business model. She is committed, along with Commissioner Kriesel, to look at a new funding formula, or new business model, use of Face Book or other exciting technologies, grow membership and be able to self-sustain the program. She is not asking that Washington County discontinue 4-H, this Board feels it is a wonderful program. She encouraged all of the cities and townships, the Farm Bureau who presented resolutions of support, to also give monetary pledges. She respectfully stated that resolutions that come in that do not have financial backing are all whistle and no train.

Commissioner Kriesel stated that this Board had 4-H in its budget, but because of the cut that came down from the State this Board was forced to consider what funding level it would provide to Extension. He is encouraged by the amount of support, not only the business community but other local elected officials have expressed for 4-H. He believes that will ultimately be the solution to sustain funding for that program. Virtually all of the input he has received speaks highly of 4-H's educational value in youth development. He also believes that those educational components should be funded through the State and he feels they have the wherewithal to make 4-H a mandated State program that the county could certainly participate in and administer. The Board recently met with its legislative delegation and posed that opportunity and challenge to them, they expressed interest in that. When the State Capitol takes back \$1.5 million that the county had coming, and through program aid cuts the county has to find \$3.2 million—it's a clear message to counties that the State is going to force counties to focus on core and essential services and let the rest reside on their plate. The challenge will be to harness this type of energy so that at the end of the year 4-H and everybody else has an understanding how this program will be sustained into the future. He is concerned about the membership which has declined from 700 in 1999 to about 500. The Fair Board is also facing difficulty and he has had discussions with Fair Board members on how to support 4-H and the county fair. He will be calling on the business community and the elected officials of the communities that sent in resolutions of support; he wants them to be part of the solution.

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Commissioner Peterson commented that if 4-H is defined as an educational program, then it is paramount that it seeks funding through K-12 or the University of Minnesota. Her greatest frustration has been with the Extension Department at the University of Minnesota, their inability to deliver facts and data that has not been complete and they have created their own problem by their ineffectiveness in their data delivery system. She suggested that 4-H go forth and find a sustainable business model that does not rely on public dollars. This is a tough economic year, next year will be tougher and the following year will be even more difficult.

The motion to approve Option 3, to modify the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the University of Minnesota Extension by continuing 2 FTE full-time through September 15, 2009 at which time the MOA would be terminated was adopted 4-1 with the vote as follows: Yes, Commissioners Hegberg, Pulkrabek, Peterson, and Kriesel; No, Commissioner Weik.

Amendment to the 2009 Adopted Budget

Jim Schug, County Administrator, presented a brief overview of the proposed 2009 budget reductions in the amount of \$3,087,100. Reductions include: various service contracts, wages, benefits, overtime, professional development, travel, lodging, meals, fuel, repairs, consulting, publishing, advertising, data lines, repairs, various supplies, minor equipment, ALERTS system, K-9, and technology.

Commissioner Pulkrabek moved to approve recommended budget reductions and amend the 2009 adopted budget by \$3,087,100 as presented. Commissioner Kriesel seconded the motion and it was adopted unanimously.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

South Washington Watershed District Enlargement Petition

Commissioner Pulkrabek moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2009-023** as follows:

Resolution Directing the Washington County Attorney's Office to
File South Washington Watershed District Enlargement Petition
with the Board of Water and Soil Resources

WHEREAS, the Washington County Board of Commissioners completed a water governance study to identify and evaluate government structures for water management in Washington County; and

WHEREAS, the Washington County Board of Commissioners approved the findings and recommendations of the Water Governance Study recommending that the number of water management units in the county should be reduced and that local water management units should be watershed districts, not joint powers water management organizations; and

WHEREAS, the Lower St. Croix Watershed Management Organization has adopted a resolution to dissolve the joint powers agreement contingent upon the Board of Water and Soil Resources approval of petitions for the enlargement of the South Washington Watershed District and Valley Branch Watershed District consistent with the plan of division and map incorporated into the Lower St. Croix Watershed Management Organization resolution adopted on March 11, 2009; and

WHEREAS, the four communities that are a party to the Joint Powers Agreement of the Lower St. Croix Watershed Management Organization, namely the Cities of Afton, Cottage Grove, and Hastings and the Town of Denmark, have adopted resolutions that ratify the disbanding of the WMO contingent upon the plan of division and map approved by the Lower St. Croix Watershed Management Organization and have adopted resolutions supporting the county's petition to enlarge the South Washington Watershed District; and

WHEREAS, the petition embodies such watershed expansion plan, and that such plan (a) requires an increase in managers from 5 to 7 and (b) requires the 7 managers be fairly and equitably distributed across the entire newly defined watershed district area.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that for the reasons set forth in the attached petition, the Washington County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Washington County Attorney's Office to file a petition with the Board of Water and Soil Resources to enlarge the South Washington Watershed District.

Commissioner Weik seconded the motion and it was adopted unanimously.

Valley Branch Watershed District Enlargement Petition

Commissioner Pulkrabek moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2009-024** as follows:

Resolution Directing the Washington County Attorney's Office to
File Valley Branch Watershed District Enlargement Petition
with the Board of Water and Soil Resources

WHEREAS, the Washington County Board of Commissioners completed a water governance study to identify and evaluate government structures for water management in Washington County; and

WHEREAS, the Washington County Board of Commissioners approved the findings and recommendations of the Water Governance Study recommending that the number of water management units in the county should be reduced and that local water management units should be watershed districts, not joint powers water management organizations; and

WHEREAS, the Lower St. Croix Watershed Management Organization has adopted a resolution to dissolve the joint powers agreement contingent upon the Board of Water and Soil Resources approval of petitions for the enlargement of the South Washington Watershed District and Valley Branch Watershed District consistent with the plan of division and map incorporated into the Lower St. Croix Watershed Management Organization resolution adopted on March 11, 2009; and

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WHEREAS, the four communities that are a party to the Joint Powers Agreement of the Lower St. Croix Watershed Management Organization, namely the Cities of Afton, Cottage Grove, and Hastings and the Town of Denmark, have adopted resolutions that ratify the disbanding of the WMO contingent upon the plan of division and map approved by the Lower St. Croix Watershed Management Organization and have adopted resolutions supporting the county's petition to enlarge the Valley Branch Watershed District; and

WHEREAS, the petition embodies such watershed expansion plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that for the reasons set forth in the attached petition, the Washington County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Washington County Attorney's Office to file a petition with the Board of Water and Soil Resources to enlarge the Valley Branch Watershed District.

Commissioner Weik seconded the motion and it was adopted unanimously.

Commissioner Pulkrabek stated he supports the resolutions but if the City of Woodbury still has concerns with this petition, they should bring those concerns to the Board of Soil and Water Resources.

Commissioner Weik concurred with Commissioner Pulkrabek. The City of Woodbury's main concern was that the tributary areas would be expanded to add the St. Croix to the Mississippi Drainage Area. They are concerned about adding a new level of complexity to the work and it could be a distraction from the key issues relative to the Mississippi Drainage ways. She asked that the Board of Soil and Water Resources address those concerns.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

75th Anniversary of the Washington County Historical Society

Commissioner Kriesel moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2009-025** as follows:

Resolution of Congratulations
Washington County Historical Society
on its 75th Anniversary

WHEREAS, the Washington County Historical Society was founded on April 11, 1934, and is celebrating its 75th anniversary during 2009; and

WHEREAS, the Washington County Historical Society coordinates the county's various historical organizations and acts as a community resource for individuals and organizations seeking information on county history; and

WHEREAS, the Washington County Historical Society has accomplished much and has steadily grown in membership over its 75 years of operation including: acquisition of the former Stillwater Prison's Warden's House in

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1941; purchase of the Hay Lake School and Boutwell Cemetery in 1978; acquisition of the Johannes Erickson Log House in the early 1980s; and reconstruction of the Carriage House as a museum building in 1996; and

WHEREAS, the Washington County Historical Society provides many community services and educational programs for schools and the public; publishes original research books on a variety of county history subjects; collects, preserves, and exhibits museum collections at its facilities throughout the county; and provides expertise in research, documentation, and care of artifacts for the public; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners recognizes the many contributions made by the Washington County Historical Society over its 75-year history and commends the Society's work in preserving Washington County history and educating the community on this rich history; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Washington County Board of Commissioners hereby congratulates the Washington County Historical Society's Board of Directors, staff, and members on the celebration of its 75th anniversary to be officially observed at the annual membership meeting on March 26, 2009.

Commissioner Hegberg seconded the motion and it was adopted unanimously.

Legislative Update

Jim Schug, County Administrator, presented a brief legislative update: the House has proposed authorizing counties to impose a half of one percent sales tax throughout the county as a replacement for the county's program aid; there is movement toward the elimination of the short-term offender program; a bill has been authored by Representative Hilstrom that would require the public defender's office to represent the custodial parents and only the custodial parents, and the non-custodial parents if they are made a party to the action; county's would then reimburse the public defender's office \$60 an hour for representation of the non-custodial parent; and, the Governor has released a new budget which would take into account the Federal Stimulus package and also the new February forecast on revenue; a requirement of the Federal Stimulus package is that eligibility could not be reduced for the programs that would be assisted with the Federal funding which means under the Governor's proposal they had to temporarily restore the eligibility for medical assistance and also Minnesota Care that had been originally proposed to be tightened and eligibility reduced.

Mr. Schug presented more information on the option for counties to impose a half cent sales tax subject to a reverse referendum. It is believed that this would be used for property tax relief. Washington County currently receives about \$7.4 million in county program aid; and if this were fully enacted in 2010, the estimate is that after offsets were made, the county would end up with a net increase of about \$4.2 million. He is not sure if this would result in a dollar-for-dollar reduction of property tax that would be expected as a result of that additional funding. If the county chose not to enact that half cent sales tax, the county's program aid

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from the State would be reduced by approximately 3.58% of the levy plus county program aid which would compute to about a \$3.3 million reduction in county program aid.

Commissioner Peterson stated that a number of years ago the State had an overall half cent sales tax and it was to subsidize local government aid. She asked what happened to that half cent sales tax.

Mr. Schug stated that was taken over by the State.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS – COMMENTS – QUESTIONS

Commissioner Hegberg reported he attended the Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB). The big item was a resolution on increase funds for the transit district area. He attended the Rush Line Corridor which is still discussing the St. Paul route from Hugo. Forest Lake voted to not join the transit taxing district, and that means that the City of Columbus will not join. Their logic was that the majority of people that ride the bus are not from Forest Lake.

Commissioner Kriesel stated his support for the bus service ends because it was contingent on Forest Lake joining the transit taxing district.

Commissioner Weik asked if that would also affect the Rush Line bus service to St. Paul. Commissioner Hegberg stated it would to a certain extent, because the priorities are for the St. Paul route and Chisago County is willing to fund a portion of that route. He would say that is in jeopardy also.

Commissioner Hegberg reported on the legislative delegation meeting last week and had good discussions. He will be attending the Transportation Alliance Fly-in next week in Washington D.C.

Commissioner Kriesel reported that most of week has been tied up with Extension issues. He did attend the Parks and Open Space Commission with discussion on the de-mapping proposal of Big Marine Park parcels. Also the Land and Water Legacy Lessard money was mostly targeted for outstate Minnesota. A concern that Washington County residents has is they authorized through referendum \$20 million in land and water legacy. He felt it was disappointing that none of the county's projects received funding from the Lessard money. The question is should the county move ahead on those projects without the matching dollars?

Commissioner Peterson thought it interesting that the areas that have the highest population receive the fewest dollars of the land and water legacy funds. She is appalled by that decision.

Commissioner Kriesel stated he was watching the Stillwater Council meeting last week and unfortunately there was misinformation and misguided statements regarding the notice that the various fire departments and communities had to reprogram their warning sirens. The Mayor was troubled with the county and felt

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the county wasn't responding back to them. The county discussed this last year and in November there was a reminder that this work had to be done. He will attend their next meeting and try to mend some fences and provide correct information.

Commissioner Weik reported that on May 2, Woodbury will hold an Earth Day recycling event and are looking for volunteers. She reported there was a good turnout at the mid-session legislative update last Friday. They covered a broad range of topics. Commissioner Kriesel covered the Yellow Ribbon Network and the initiative in the county is still going forward. They want to make sure that the legislators are informed and aware of this initiative. She also heard that the City of Hugo wants to participate as well as the City of Stillwater. She is concerned about the half cent sales tax to the business community. They briefly discussed the lift bridge in Stillwater, a possible endowment fund, and asked for continued focus by the legislature on that item. They discussed 4-H with the State delegation and discussed blended community funding. It was suggested that 4-H as education could be discussed at the capitol in an informational meeting.

Commissioner Weik reported she briefly attended the Parks and Open Space Commission with Commissioner Kriesel. Under the land and water legacy program, conservation plan, they are starting a work group to identify high priority land protection parcels. More grant money is available for land restoration and this is similar to the Green Corridor project of approximately 10 years ago. Parks summer programs will include a new women's only archery program, and a youth intro to archery five-day camp that is free and will be held in Lake Elmo Park. She also attended the Public Health and Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee meeting. The topic was municipalities' preparedness and mini-grant evaluations. Up to \$10,000 was awarded to qualifying cities and townships. The goal of the mini-grants was to assist local units of government in community health emergency preparedness and increase community awareness and personnel and family preparedness. Five municipalities were awarded funds: Cottage Grove, \$900; Newport, \$10,000; Afton, \$9,500; Birchwood Village, \$10,000; and Oak Park Heights, \$10,000.

Commissioner Weik reported on the Library Board meeting she attended last evening. An update was given on their facilities plan/comp plan/capital plan. A brief overview was given of a report presented by Warren Grahm on how to improve their security. The Library Board passed a motion to seek safety grants from the State of Minnesota for several of the county library branches.

Commissioner Weik appreciated all of the presentation made by 4-H members and families. She urged 4-H to take that energy forward because the Board wants to see their program continue in Washington County. She has commented to some of the leadership and people who have contacted her to have each 4-H youth recruit one member. With the current 500 members that would increase to 1,000 and if fees were increased to \$100 a year that would bring in \$100,000. She is also committed to finding other grants and funding in case they cannot sustain members at 1,000.

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Commissioner Peterson reported that the Transportation Advisory Board had an interesting discussion about using the Federal Stimulus dollars to fund mega projects or small projects. The proposal that was put on the table and passed was the 610 extension and the smaller projects have yet to be determined. The Technical Advisory Committee will make a recommendation on those. MELSA had a joint trustee meeting last Thursday to discuss maintenance of effort. The library directors belong to the Minnesota Library Association (MLA) and county commissioners belong to AMC and there is difficulty in addressing the maintenance of effort issue. The commissioners are somewhat concerned that the MLA will advocate no reduction in maintenance of effort for libraries and AMC is advocating for maintenance of effort removal for libraries.

Commissioner Peterson stated there was a good turn out of legislators at the meeting last Friday and she recommended to staff that they look at the same location if another meeting is scheduled. It seemed to be a good location, good participation and a fruitful discussion.

Commissioner Peterson reported that the three county chairs from Dakota, Ramsey and Washington met to discuss the Federal Stimulus package to find out what the counties were doing and how they might work together.

Commissioner Peterson announced that Tuesday, April 14 is the Wakota Care Annual Community Leader's luncheon and she will be attending. She is not sure what is on the County's agenda, but she will be leaving at 11:20 to attend that luncheon.

Mr. Schug announced that next Tuesday, March 31 is the 5th Tuesday of the month, so there will be no County Board meeting.

BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

Board correspondence was received and placed on file.

EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION WITH THE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATION

The Board met in executive session with the Office of Administration to discuss the possible purchase of conservation easement on the Lilligren Property, Denmark Township, through the Land and Water Legacy Program; the time being 11:10 a.m. Present for the Executive session were Commissioners Hegberg, Pulkrabek, Peterson, Weik, and Kriesel. Also present were Jim Schug, Molly O'Rourke, Jane Harper, Richard Hodsdon, Don Theisen, Sharon Price, and Deb McDonald.

The Board reconvened at 12:00 p.m.

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Hegberg moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Pulkrabek and it was adopted unanimously; Commissioners Weik and Kriesel absent. The Board meeting adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

BOARD WORKSHOP WITH PROPERTY RECORDS AND TAXPAYER SERVICES

The Board met in workshop session with the Department of Property Records and Taxpayer Services to discuss the assessment year 2009/payable 2010 valuations. No business was transacted and the public was welcome to attend. Present for the workshop session were Commissioners Hegberg, Pulkrabek, Peterson, Weik, and Kriesel. Also present were Jim Schug, Molly O'Rourke, Harley Will, Melinda Kirk, Kevin Corbid, Shanna Fulkerson, John Elholm, Amanda Strommer, Lynne Freezy, Alan Labine, Bruce Munneke, and Roland Huber, Jr.

BOARD WORKSHOP WITH THE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATION

The Board met in workshop session with the Office of Administration to discuss the sales tax for the Clean Water, Wildlife, Cultural Heritage, and Natural Areas Constitutional Amendment. No business was transacted and the public was welcome to attend. Present for the workshop session were Commissioners Hegberg, Pulkrabek, Peterson, Weik, and Kriesel. Also present were Jim Schug, Molly O'Rourke, Lowell Johnson, Amanda Strommer, John Freitag, Jessica Collin-Pilarski, John Elholm, Don Wisniewski, Kathy Higgins, Denmark Township, and Jane Harper.

Myra Peterson, Chair
County Board

Attest:

James R. Schug
County Administrator