

Washington County, Minnesota

Board of Commissioners - Actions

Actions at the Tuesday, June 1, 2010 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.

Washington County Regional Rail Authority approves Highway 61 access plan

The Washington County Regional Railroad Authority (WCRRRA) – which is composed of the Washington County Board of Commissioners – adopted a Trunk Highway 61 Access Plan and Memorandum of Understanding June 1.

The plan applies to the section of the state highway that goes from Trunk Highway 97 to 180th Street in Forest Lake. The plan was created by the Minnesota Department of Transportation, Washington County, the City of Forest Lake and the Washington County Regional Rail Authority. The county's 2030 comprehensive plan calls for access management guidelines used to enhance safety and maintain the capacity and mobility in transportation corridors. At the same time, these needs are balanced with the needs to access private property. When standardized guidelines are set, they communicate expectations to all entities which may have an interest in the roadway.

Washington County has an interest in the agreement as the highway is a candidate to be turned back by the state to the county, although no timeline is set for such a turnback. Also, the Rush Line Regional Rail corridor is included in the plan, so the companion request is being made by the Washington County Regional Rail Authority.

Later in the same meeting, the board, now sitting as the Washington County Board of Commissioners, also adopted the plan.

Appointees named to watershed district board

Several appointments to the Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District Board of Managers were made by the Washington County Board of Commissioners June 1.

Those appointed to the board are Kristin Tuenge, Scandia, to a first term expiring June 21, 2013; Jason Husveth, May Township, to a first term expiring June 21, 2012; Thomas Polasik, Stillwater Township, to a first full term expiring June 21, 2013; and John Lennes, Jr., May Township, to a first full term expiring June 21, 2013.

The appointments and reappointments were recommended by commissioners Dennis Hegberg and Gary Kriesel. Watershed districts have the purpose 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.

Lewis named to Parks and Open Space Commission

Melissa Lewis, Grant, was appointed to the Parks and Open Space Commission by the Washington County Board of Commissioners June 1.

Lewis will represent District 1 during a first term, expiring Dec. 31, 2012. The appointment was recommended by Commissioner Dennis Hegberg.

The commission brings citizen perspective to the operation of Washington County Parks by reviewing current operation policies, capital improvement programs, parkland preservation, park development projects, and long-range planning efforts for parkland and facilities for county parks. The commission recommends plans and policy changes to the County Board. Commission members also provide citizens' perspectives on the administration of the Land and Water Legacy Program.

Washington County has agreement to house state offenders

An agreement between the Washington County Sheriff's Office and the State of Minnesota Commissioner of Corrections that allows the county jail to house state offenders was amended and extended by the Washington County Board of Commissioners June 1.

The state agrees to pay a daily rate of \$55 per offender that is housed in the county jail, which is enough to cover operating costs for the jail, but not capital costs. The agreement was also extended through June 30, 2011.

Public hearing will be conducted on Landfall bonds June 22

A public hearing will be conducted June 22 before the Washington County Board of Commissioners to gather comment on the issuance of government housing revenue refunding bonds for the Landfall Terrace manufactured home park in Landfall.

The comments would be on a proposal to refund the bonds to take advantage of lower interest rates, and shorten the remaining term of the bonds from 2028 to 2025.

The county first provided a general obligation pledge in 1997 for the issuance of \$7.2 million of housing revenue bonds for Landfall Terrace to retain affordable housing. The Washington County Housing and Redevelopment Authority holds title to the property, and leases the home park to the City of Landfall, which in turn makes monthly payments to the authority.

The estimated amount of the refunding is proposed at \$4.75 million.

Public hearing on ordinances will be June 22

Changes are proposed to several Washington County ordinances, and a public hearing to take comment on those changes has been set for June 22.

The ordinance changes are being considered by the Department of Public Health and Environment, and pertain to the county's lodging ordinance; manufactured home park, recreational camping area, and youth camp ordinance; and the public pool ordinance.

The proposed changes have been posted on the county's website.
