

# Washington County, Minnesota

## Board of Commissioners - Actions

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### Actions at the Tuesday, Feb. 1, 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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### Saltz will serve on homeless prevention committee

Nathaniel Saltz was named to the Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Citizen Advisory Panel for Washington County, by the Washington County Board of Commissioners Feb. 1.

Saltz will serve as a representative of a provider of emergency shelter. His term will expire June 30, 2013.

The advisory panel's purpose is to provide public input and increase the accountability of the Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program (FHPAP) in Washington County. Its establishment is required by state statute for any county that receives grant money to prevent homelessness. The advisory panel follows the county's vision to prevent homelessness, or minimize days of homelessness, and work to eliminate repeat homelessness through innovative efforts of local governments, non-profits, faith-based organizations and citizens.

**Contact: Pat Raddatz, Administrative Assistant, 651-430-6014**

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### County plans 6 household hazardous waste collections in communities

Washington County will continue its program of local household hazardous waste collection in 2011 by having six remote weekend collection events in the coming year.

The collections are "remote" as they are conducted in addition to the regular collection program at the county's Environmental Center in Woodbury.

The collections will be:

- April 23, Hugo Public Works;
- May 7, Cottage Grove Public Works;
- May 14, Stillwater at the Lily Lake Ice Arena;
- June 4, Forest Lake Transit Center;
- Sept. 10, Forest Lake Transit Center;
- Sept. 24, Hugo Public Works.
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In addition to the remote-site collections, the Washington County Environmental Center, 4039 Cottage Grove Drive in Woodbury, provides residents with a free and convenient disposal option for household hazardous waste, electronics, and recyclables all year round. It is open Tuesday noon to 7 p.m., Thursday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The center accepts household hazardous waste, electronics and recyclables. The center also has a Reuse Room, where residents may browse the shelves and take home previously-owned products such as paint, stain, automotive products, household cleaners, and other products. All products brought into the Environmental Center are inspected to determine if

they are usable products.

**Contact: Jeff Travis, Public Health and Environment Program Manager, 651-430-4033**

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## **County provides comment for MPCA permit on 3M wastewater treatment**

Washington County sent comments to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) regarding a permit for the 3M wastewater treatment facility in Cottage Grove, after the Washington County Board of Commissioners approved the comments Feb. 1.

The MPCA is seeking comments on the reissuance of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System/State Disposal System Permit for the wastewater plant. The permit is renewed every five years.

This permit addresses discharge limits and monitoring requirements for many contaminants. The permit also includes authorization of increased groundwater pumping at the 3M Cottage Grove site as part of the previously approved remediation activities. The groundwater that is pumped will be treated with a granular activated carbon filter that will reduce the amount of PFOS being discharged to the Mississippi River to a level well below drinking water standards. Additional perfluorochemicals (PFCs) that will be discharged, including PFOA, PFBA, and PFBS, are not required to meet the Health Risk Limits or Health Based Values as set by the Minnesota Department of Health.

This permit authorizes the discharge of groundwater from the extraction wells at the Cottage Grove facility that is being used to keep track of how the groundwater is responding to the remediation activities taking place. A temporary granular activated carbon filtration system will treat the water for PFOS prior to being discharged to the Mississippi River.

Additionally, the permit also proposes a temporary granular activated carbon filter at the Woodbury remediation site. This permit does not affect 3M's ability to accept additional hazardous wastes for incineration at this facility. This will be addressed through air quality and hazardous waste permits and additional public hearings at a later date.

The county's comments on the permit requested that the filtration system remain in place as long as the water is being pumped out of the ground and discharged into the Mississippi River. The county also asked the MPCA to set limits for the discharge of additional PFC contaminants in the water. The county also stated that it encourages better use of the water that is pumped out and treated, such as use for community public water supplies, or in irrigation at agricultural, commercial or residential sites. The county also encourages 3M to allow the water to flow back into the local aquifers to recharge the groundwater, rather than pumping it into the river.

The MPCA permit is available for public comment until Feb. 2.

**Contact: Amanda Strommer, Public Health and Environment Program Manager, 651-430-6744**

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## **County will begin to investigate energy-saving possibilities**

Washington County will enter the next phase of investigating how best to retrofit county buildings to make them energy efficient, after the Washington County Board of Commissioners agreed to continue with an energy-efficiency program Feb. 1.

The county is participating in the Public Buildings Enhanced Energy Efficiency Program (PBEEEP), which is funded by the U.S. Department of Energy and the Minnesota Department of Commerce: Office of Energy Security. The goal of the program is to reduce energy consumption in county buildings by 10 percent.

The program, in which the county was chosen to be a participant in the pilot phase for local government units, has four phases. The first phase is screening, which has been completed in the county. Through that screening phase, 19 facilities were analyzed, and 14 facilities were recommended to move into the investigation phase.

The potential energy savings for those facilities were identified. The costs for the screening were all covered through the program.

The second phase, investigation, will cost \$166,529, of which 70 percent will be funded by PBEEEP. The remaining 30 percent, or \$49,959, will be funded by utilizing Energy and Efficiency Conservation Block Grant dollars awarded to the county under the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, also known as stimulus money. Information will be gathered and analyzed to review heating, cooling and ventilation systems, energy management system programming, and electrical and lighting systems. Findings should identify any need for different equipment, and processes for operating that equipment to be more energy-efficient.

While there are two additional phases of the program – implementation and verification – there is no commitment required by the county to continue to the next phases.

**Contact: Greg Wood, Public Works Division Manager, 651-430-6225**

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