

Washington County, Minnesota

Board of Commissioners - Actions

Actions at the Tuesday, April 27, 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.

County will serve as 'conduit' for bonds for senior housing

Washington County will serve as a "conduit" for bond proceeds of \$3.5 million, which will be used by the Washington County Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) to finance a 39-unit affordable senior housing building as part of the Red Oak Preserve redevelopment project in Oakdale.

The Washington County Board of Commissioners agreed to the financial arrangement at its meeting April 27. The HRA will use the bonds to finance the acquisition, preparation of the site and construction of the facilities, four units of which are expected to be housing for homeless seniors. The development will be at 50th Avenue North and Interstate 694, on Hamlet Avenue North in Oakdale. The county will not be responsible for paying back the bonds, should they be in default.

The HRA conducted a public hearing on the proposed issuance of the bonds and the financing for the project. The board also approved the reallocation of the county's allocation of stimulus bonding authority to the HRA, which may use the bonds for the Trailside Senior Housing Project in Forest Lake. The county received an allocation of \$7.77 million in economic development bonding authority due to the federal economic stimulus legislation, but chose to reallocate the authority to the HRA. Again, the county does not have any liability, should the bonds be issued.

County will contribute to purchase of Woodbury land, conservation easement

Property in Woodbury will become parkland, with a conservation easement on its 65 acres, after the Washington County Board of Commissioners approved an agreement April 27 with the City of Woodbury, which will purchase the property. The county will contribute \$1.34 million toward the purchase of the property, which is on the southwest corner of the intersection of Manning Avenue and Hudson Road. It is across Manning from Afton.

The funds from the county are part of the county's Land and Water Legacy Program, approved by voters in 2006 to raise not more than \$20 million to pay for open space and clean water preservation in the county. The site is heavily wooded and contains a wetland.

The city will grant a conservation easement to the county over the entire property. A conservation easement protects important land resources by compensating landowners who voluntarily limit or prohibit certain uses of the land, such as future development. In turn, landowners receive compensation for the value of the rights that they gave up to the land. As part of the conservation easement, the county must approve a management plan for the recreational use and natural resource management of the site. The city will provide public access to the area, and there is a long-term plan to provide for handicapped accessibility.
