



**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA
MARCH 9, 2021**

WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS CONVENES

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: Commissioner Fran Miron, District 1
Commissioner Stan Karwoski, District 2, via WebEx
Commissioner Gary Kriesel, District 3
Commissioner Wayne Johnson, District 4
Commissioner Lisa Weik, District 5

Also Present: Kevin Corbid, County Administrator
Susan Tice, County Attorney Civil Division Chief, via WebEx
Stephanie Kammerud, Administrative Assistant

Board Chair Lisa Weik announced that because of the COVID-19 Pandemic and Emergency Declaration issued by Minnesota Governor Tim Walz, and the Declaration of Emergency issued by the Washington County Board of Commissioners on March 17, 2020, some or all of the County Board members may participate by telephone or other electronic means, and the Board meeting will be conducted pursuant to and in compliance with Minnesota Statute 13D.021. Members of the public can attend the meeting in person, or view/monitor the meeting electronically from a remote location via live web stream.

Noted for the record:

1. That either the Washington County Board Chair or the County's chief Administrator has determined that an in-person meeting of the entire County Board may not be practical nor prudent because of the existing Pandemic and Emergency.
2. All County Board members participating in this meeting, whatever their physical location, can hear one another and can hear all discussion and testimony.
3. All members of the public present here today at the regular meeting location, if any, can hear all discussion and testimony and all votes of the members of the County Board.
4. At least one member of the County Board or the Chief Administrator of the County is physically present at the regular meeting location.
5. Each member of the County Board participating in this meeting by telephone or other electronic means is considered present at the meeting for purposes of determining a quorum and participating in all proceedings.
6. Proper notice of this meeting has occurred.
7. All votes will be conduct by roll call.

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.



COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Board Chair Weik asked for comments from the public; none were heard.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Commissioner Johnson moved, seconded by Commissioner Karwoski, to adopt the Consent Calendar as follows:

- A. Approval of the February 16, 2021, County Board meeting minutes.
- B. Approval of an application for renewal of an On-Sale and Sunday Liquor License for Keystone Weddings and Events LLC, located in May Township.
- C. Approval of an application for renewal of an On-Sale and Sunday Liquor License for Stoneridge Golf Club Inc., located in West Lakeland Township.
- D. Direct the Planning Advisory Commission to review and consider amendments to the Washington County Development Code to enable coordination of membership between the Planning Advisory Commission (PAC) and the Board of Adjustment and Appeals (BAA).
- E. Approval of **Resolution No. 2021-028** as follows:

**AGREEMENT NO. 1045378 WITH THE STATE OF MINNESOTA,
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

WHEREAS, Washington County will enter into Agreement No. 1045378 for federal participation in construction with the State of Minnesota, Department of Transportation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to Minn. Stat. Sec. 161.36, the Commissioner of Transportation be appointed as Agent of Washington County to accept as its agent, federal aid funds, which may be made available for eligible transportation related projects.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chair and the Administrator are hereby authorized and directed for and on behalf of the County to execute and enter into an agreement with the Commissioner of Transportation prescribing the terms and conditions set forth and contained in “Minnesota Department of Transportation Agency Agreement No. 1045378”, a copy of which said agreement was before the County Board and which is made a part hereof by reference.

- F. Award bid and authorize execution of Contract No. 13967 in the amount of \$214,926.00 with A-1 Excavating, Inc. for replacement of Bridge 90743 (box culvert) on County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 21 (St. Croix Trail).

- G. Award bid and authorize execution of Contract No. 13968 in the amount of \$168,886.00 with Fahrner Asphalt Sealers, LLC for replacement of 2021 Crack Seal work on various county roads.

The motion was adopted 5-0 with a Roll Call vote as follows: Ayes, Commissioners Miron, Kriesel, Johnson, Karwoski, and Weik. Nays, none.

PUBLIC WORKS

Appointments to the Lake Elmo Airport Advisory Commission

Public Works Director Don Theisen reported that the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) invited Washington County to participate as a member of a newly-formed Lake Elmo Airport Advisory Commission. This Commission will support the ongoing efforts to engage the stakeholders of the Lake Elmo Airport community. This Commission will provide an open and balanced forum for strengthening relationships between MAC, airport users, stakeholders, and the community. The proposed membership consists of representatives from surrounding cities, townships, Washington County, airport businesses, pilots, and the Experimental Aircraft Association. The role of the commission members will be to participate in discussions about matters concerning the Lake Elmo Airport, as well as share information with the respective communities about the airport. The first meeting is anticipated to be held during the second quarter of 2021, with quarterly meetings the remainder of the year.

Mr. Theisen is requesting approval to appoint Commissioner Gary Kriesel, District 3, to the Lake Elmo Airport Advisory Commission as the County Representative, and himself, Don Theisen, Public Works Director, as Alternate.

Commissioner Miron moved to approve the appointments as stated. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion and it was adopted 5-0 with a Roll Call vote as follows: Ayes, Commissioners Miron, Kriesel, Johnson, Karwoski, and Weik. Nays, none.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Legislative Updates

County Administrator Kevin Corbid reported on state and federal legislative updates. Mr. Corbid reported that last Thursday, Commissioner Lisa Weik testified against House File 1027, along with the board chairs from Anoka, Hennepin, and Ramsey counties. This bill shifts operational and capital maintenance costs for transit in a dedicated guideway onto counties. It is a bill that counties will continue to fight, and are awaiting a hearing in the Senate, which is expected to happen this week.

Late Thursday, Senator Susan Kent presented Washington County's 4th Street legislative request to the Senate Transportation Committee. Senator Kent presented all the key points and it was well received.

The Operation and Maintenance bill (House File 1874/Senate File 1798) for the Regional Parks and Trails system was introduced last week by Rep. Patty Acomb and Senator Scott Dibble.

Mr. Corbid reported that over the weekend, the Senate passed a \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan COVID-19 response package. The House is expected to vote tomorrow. As previously reported, this package includes \$350 billion in support for state and local governments. The most recent analysis from the National Association of Counties estimates approximately \$47.4 million would come to Washington County. The Office of Administration and Accounting and Finance Departments are speaking regularly with the county's financial advisors and external partners to understand the opportunities and limitations of the funds. Staff is encouraged because it appears the funds can be used for lost revenue over several years, but nothing is certain until the bill is signed by President Biden.

As mentioned at last week's board meeting, Mr. Corbid reported that a new federal funding opportunity has emerged called Community Project Funding. U.S. Rep. Betty McCollum has requested a list of project ideas from Washington County by this Friday, March 12th, seeking projects smaller in scope and with broad community support/engagement.

Three projects were lifted directly from the state legislative platform:

- The Washington County Historic Courthouse total rehabilitation project is expected to cost \$5 million. The county is asking for up to \$1 million in federal assistance.
- A multi-modal trail connection between County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 5 and Brown's Creek Trail to increase safety and reduce erosion from this heavily used access point. The total project cost, including roadway improvements, is estimated to be \$5.75 million. The county is asking for \$1 million in federal assistance for this project.
- The St. Croix Bluffs Boat Launch will provide easy and equitable access to this beautiful and popular segment of the St. Croix River. The total cost of this project is estimated at \$1.5 million. The county is asking for \$1 million in federal assistance for this project.

A fourth project has not been subject to a state or federal funding request in the past, but has the characteristics of a project that could be competitive in this funding opportunity. The Central Greenway, developed through a robust master planning process, adopted by this board and approved by the Metropolitan Council, travels through the heart of the county, with a vision to connect three regional parks – Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park, Lake Elmo Park Reserve, and Big Marine Park Reserve. Many segments have already been constructed toward this vision. This funding request is for the segment that will travel through Lake Elmo Park Reserve and provide connectivity between the cities of Lake Elmo and Woodbury. The total cost of this project is estimated at \$3.3 million. The county is asking for \$1 million in federal assistance for this project.

After much internal discussion and reports from a meeting that Mike Erlandson of Downs Government Affairs had with Rep. McCollum's staff, Mr. Corbid presented four projects with resolutions of support for the board's consideration.

Resolutions of Support for Community Project Funding

Historic Courthouse

Commissioner Kriesel moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2021-029** as follows:

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING SUBMITTAL OF A WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORIC COURTHOUSE RESTORATION PROJECT IN CONSIDERATION FOR APPROPRIATIONS IN FEDERAL COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDING FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022

WHEREAS, the United States House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations is accepting Member requests for Community Project Funding in appropriations bills for fiscal year 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Washington County Historic Courthouse is the oldest standing courthouse in the state of Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, the structure has defined the skyline and bluffline of Stillwater, Minnesota and inspired civic pride for over 150 years; and

WHEREAS, the Historic Courthouse was added to the National Historic Register in 1975; and

WHEREAS, the building has served generations of residents and visitors in the Saint Croix River Valley, and holds a unique architectural, historical, and cultural significance; and

WHEREAS, the County has invested in improvements in the building, creating a space used for public events and engagement, and a history museum drawing almost 10,000 visitors a year; and

WHEREAS, Washington County commissioned a complete building and site assessment for the Historic Courthouse, which identified repairs to the exterior, roof, and iconic dome as immediately necessary; and

WHEREAS, local partners, agencies, and the general public have provided comments supporting the need for restoration and repairs to the Historic Courthouse.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Washington County Board of Commissioners seek the support of up to \$1 million in Federal assistance for the proposed Washington County Historic Courthouse Restoration Project, which has a planned total cost of \$5 million.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Washington County Historic Courthouse Restoration Project be submitted to the Congressional House Committee on Appropriations Community Project Funding for Fiscal Year 2022 for consideration.

Commissioner Miron seconded the motion and it was adopted 5-0 with a Roll Call vote as follows: Ayes, Commissioners Miron, Kriesel, Johnson, Karwoski, and Weik. Nays, none.

Central Greenway Regional Trail

Commissioner Johnson moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2021-030** as follows:

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING SUBMITTAL OF CENTRAL GREENWAY REGIONAL TRAIL PROJECT IN CONSIDERATION FOR APPROPRIATIONS IN FEDERAL COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDING FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022

WHEREAS, the United States House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations is accepting Member requests for Community Project Funding in appropriations bills for fiscal year 2022; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Central Greenway Regional Trail is a planned multiuse trail that will eventually connect three regional recreational destinations across Washington County: Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park, Lake Elmo Park Reserve, and Big Marine Park Reserve; and

WHEREAS, the community engagement process for the Central Greenway Regional Trail project included public engagement events and meetings that provided the opportunity for input from partner agencies and public stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, the planning process demonstrated the need for the proposed improvements to the Central Greenway Regional Trail, including new trail segments, pavement rehabilitation, and trailhead improvements; and

WHEREAS, the project will provide improved regional and local pedestrian and bicycle connectivity to Lake Elmo Park Reserve and other community destinations, improving accessibility, safety, and environmental conditions; and

WHEREAS, the project will be of mutual benefit to local partners and agencies, including: Washington County, Minnesota Department of Transportation, City of Woodbury, and the City of Lake Elmo.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Washington County Board of Commissioners seek the support of up to \$1 million in Federal assistance for the proposed Central Greenway Regional Trail project, which has a planned total cost of \$3.3 million.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Central Greenway Regional Trail project be submitted to the Congressional House Committee on Appropriations Community Project Funding for Fiscal Year 2022 for consideration.

Commissioner Miron seconded the motion and it was adopted 5-0 with a Roll Call vote as follows: Ayes, Commissioners Miron, Kriesel, Johnson, Karwoski, and Weik. Nays, none.

County Highway 5 and Brown's Creek Trail

Commissioner Kriesel moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2021-031** as follows:

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING SUBMITTAL OF COUNTY HIGHWAY 5
AND BROWN'S CREEK STATE TRAIL PROJECT IN
CONSIDERATION FOR APPROPRIATIONS IN FEDERAL
COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDING FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022**

WHEREAS, the United States House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations is accepting Member requests for Community Project Funding in appropriations bills for fiscal year 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Brown's Creek State Trail is a 6 mile multiuse trail connecting downtown Stillwater with the Gateway State Trail and has proven to be one of the most popular state trails in Minnesota. There is no existing access to the Brown's Creek State Trail from County Highway 5; and

WHEREAS, the County Highway 5 and Brown's Creek State Trail project will fill an existing gap in the pedestrian and bicycle trail network within the region; and

WHEREAS, the community engagement process for the County Highway 5 and Brown's Creek State Trail project included public engagement events and meetings that provided the opportunity for input from partner agencies and public stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, the planning process demonstrated the need for a new safe access point to Brown's Creek State Trail in the County Highway 5 corridor; and

WHEREAS, the project will strengthen multimodal transportation for community members and allow users to access the Brown's Creek State Trail, improving accessibility, safety, and environmental conditions; and



WHEREAS, the project will be of mutual benefit to local partners and agencies, including: Washington County, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Stillwater Township, and the City of Stillwater.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Washington County Board of Commissioners seek the support of up to \$1 million in Federal assistance for the proposed County Highway 5 and Brown's Creek State Trail project, which has a planned total cost of \$5.75 million.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Highway 5 and Brown's Creek State Trail project be submitted to the Congressional House Committee on Appropriations Community Project Funding for Fiscal Year 2022 for consideration.

Commissioner Miron seconded the motion and it was adopted 5-0 with a Roll Call vote as follows: Ayes, Commissioners Miron, Kriesel, Johnson, Karwoski, and Weik. Nays, none.

St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park Boat Launch

Commissioner Johnson moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2021-032** as follows:

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING SUBMITTAL OF A WASHINGTON COUNTY ST. CROIX BLUFFS REGIONAL PARK BOAT LAUNCH IMPROVEMENT PROJECT FOR CONSIDERATION FOR APPROPRIATIONS IN FEDERAL COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDING FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022

WHEREAS, the United States House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations is accepting Member requests for Community Project Funding in appropriations bills for fiscal year 2022; and

WHEREAS, the St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park is a 579 acre park located on the wild and scenic St. Croix River in Denmark Township; and

WHEREAS, the Park provides the only public access to a 20 mile stretch of the St. Croix River south of the City of Bayport; and

WHEREAS, the boat launch at St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park is a designated access for first responders and personnel responding to emergency situations and safety enforcement on the St. Croix River; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, Washington County confirmed that the boat launch is beyond its life expectancy due to high use and is in need of reconstruction; and



WHEREAS, improvements to this boat launch will provide easy and equitable public access to this beautiful and popular segment of the St. Croix River; and

WHEREAS, local partners, agencies, and the general public have provided comments supporting the need for improvements at the St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park boat launch.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Washington County Board of Commissioners seek the support of up to \$1 million in Federal assistance for the proposed St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park Boat Launch Improvement Project, which has a planned total cost of \$1.5 million.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park Boat Launch Improvement Project be submitted to the Congressional House Committee on Appropriations Community Project Funding for Fiscal Year 2022 for consideration.

Commissioner Kriesel seconded the motion and it was adopted 5-0 with a Roll Call vote as follows: Ayes, Commissioners Miron, Kriesel, Johnson, Karwoski, and Weik. Nays, none.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioners reported on meetings and other events that they attended. Please see archived web streaming of the board meeting for full commissioner reports at www.co.washington.mn.us, under "County Board."

BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

Board correspondence was received and placed on file.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Johnson moved to adjourn. Commissioner Karwoski seconded the motion and it was adopted 5-0 with a Roll Call vote as follows: Ayes, Commissioners Miron, Kriesel, Johnson, Karwoski, and Weik. Nays, none. The County Board meeting adjourned at 10:22 a.m.

BOARD WORKSHOP WITH PUBLIC WORKS

The Board met in workshop session to review restoration efforts, upcoming projects, and mission statement for the Washington County Historic Courthouse. Present for the workshop were Commissioners Miron, Karwoski, Kriesel, Johnson, and Weik. Also present were Kevin Corbid, Jennifer Wagenius, residents, and county staff.

BOARD WORKSHOP WITH ADMINISTRATION

The Board met in workshop session to discuss 2022 budget development, guidelines, and principles. Present for the workshop were Commissioners Miron, Karwoski, Kriesel, Johnson, and Weik. Also present were Kevin Corbid, Jennifer Wagenius, and county staff.

Attest:

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Kevin Corbid
County Administrator

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Lisa Weik
County Board Chair