



**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA
MAY 4, 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
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 conducted 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 Miron moved, seconded by Commissioner Kriesel, to adopt the Consent Calendar as follows:

- A. Approval to reappoint Edward Marchan, West Lakeland, to a fourth term as Manager on the Valley Branch Watershed District, expiring November 13, 2023.
- B. Approval to appoint Cole Williams, Cottage Grove, to a first term as Manager on the South Washington Watershed District, expiring May 1, 2024.
- C.
 1. Approval of Change Order No. 3 to Contract No. 13475 with Veit and Company Inc. in the amount of \$89,263 for the Cottage Grove Ravine Lower Landing Facility.
 2. Approve permanent use of fund balance in an amount not to exceed \$30,000 from the Parks Capital Projects Fund 415 to complete the Cottage Grove Ravine Lower Landing Facility.

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

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Resolution Recognizing May 2021 as Mental Health Month in Washington County

Social Services Supervisor Connie Tanner presented a resolution proclaiming May 2021 as Mental Health Month in Washington County.

Throughout the year, Washington County Community Services and Public Health & Environment Departments fight stigma, provide mental health services, engage communities, and educate the public. Staff spend countless hours serving people, breaking down barriers to accessing services, and offering hope to those in need. Each year, the county joins the national movement to highlight May as a time to continue efforts to reduce stigma and raise awareness about mental health.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound impact on the mental health of people of all ages. Now, more than ever, it is critical to reduce the stigma surrounding mental health, build awareness of mental health services, and open doors to the people in Washington County.



Commissioner Karwoski moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2021-059** as follows:

MENTAL HEALTH MONTH IN WASHINGTON COUNTY

WHEREAS, many national organizations that provide advocacy for and services to clients with mental illness have observed the month of May each year as Mental Health Month; and

WHEREAS, mental wellbeing is important for people of all ages, races, social classes, and walks of life; and

WHEREAS, mental illnesses are real and prevalent in our nation where 1 in 6 children and 1 in 5 adults will experience mental health concerns in their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, all individuals and communities are impacted by mental illness through family, friends, and coworkers; and

WHEREAS, collectively, Washington County departments and services identify mental health as a priority concern for residents and its workforce; and

WHEREAS, County departments and human service organizations are collaborating to work with health providers, employers, schools, and residents to reduce mental health stigma, raise awareness for suicide prevention, and promote wellbeing and resilience during COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Washington County 24/7 Crisis Response Unit (CRU) and Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) Team will provide individualized person centered mental health services during this time; and

WHEREAS, the Washington County Local Advisory Council on Mental Health utilizes the knowledge of diverse groups of individuals in order to improve mental health services for Washington County residents by reviewing, evaluating, and making recommendations about the local health delivery system to the County Board; and

WHEREAS, the County supports employee wellness program activities that improve stress management, employee engagement, and wise consumer use of health benefits, including employee assistance programs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners hereby recognize the role that health promotion and awareness plays in achieving mental wellness of all residents by recognizing the month of May as “Mental Health Month.”



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.

PUBLIC HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT

Approve Grant Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Health for COVID-19 Response

Public Health & Environment Deputy Director David Brummel presented Grant Agreement No. 14067 with the Minnesota Department of Health for COVID-19 response and vaccine implementation, in the amount of \$1,315,950, receivable for the period of April 1, 2021, through December 31, 2021. The purpose of this grant is to reimburse local health departments in the rapid administration of COVID-19 vaccinations. This grant will reimburse Washington County Public Health for staff salaries and fringe benefits, vaccine administration and related costs, such as supplies, equipment, clinic costs, and community engagement.

Mr. Brummel reported that current work includes a new vaccination clinic in Stillwater at the former Herberger's building, mobile vaccination efforts, creation of translated materials, interpreter services, vaccine safety videos in multiple languages, community engagement sessions with cultural liaisons, and transportation options.

Commissioner Johnson moved to approve Grant Agreement No. 14067 with the Minnesota Department of Health in the amount of \$1,315,950 for COVID-19 response and vaccination implementation. 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.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

State Legislative Update

Deputy County Administrator Jan Lucke reported that 14 days remain until the constitutional end to regular Legislative Session. All major policy bills have now been passed by the respective chambers, and conference committees have begun to sort out the differences. This week, conference committees are scheduled to meet every day to start reviewing each chamber's positions, adopt "same and similar" provisions, and start negotiating those items on which they are at odds. Those negotiations could prove difficult to advance until House and Senate leadership decide on universal spending targets for all major budget areas.

Senator Karla Bigham has been appointed to the transportation conference committee. This is a key appointment for Washington County as there are several provisions in the transportation funding bill that could have significant impacts on the county, both positive and negative. Ms. Lucke will be meeting today with Senator Bigham, and Larkin Hoffman state lobbyists Margaret Vesel and Judy Cook to work on the county's strategy for conference committee.

Ms. Lucke presented a draft letter to the Washington County legislative delegation to pass along concerns that have been shared with the County Board about a potential change in law related to charitable gambling. This was discussed with Margaret Vesel on Friday. Ms. Vesel noted there are strong opinions on this issue on multiple sides, and she suggested a letter could be sent from the board that passes along the concerns being heard from the business community. In the interest of time, staff recommends sending a letter via email later today. Commissioners discussed a few changes to the letter and were in agreement to distribute the letter as soon as possible.

Federal Legislative Update

Ms. Lucke reported that last week, U.S. House members posted community project and transportation funding requests.

U.S. Rep. Angie Craig posted the St. Croix Bluffs Boat Launch Project as 1 of 3 projects she is submitting to Congress for Community Project Funding.

U.S. Rep. Betty McCollum posted the Central Greenway multi-use trail as 1 of 9 projects she is submitting to Congress for Community Project Funding. Rep. McCollum also posted the multi-use trail connection between County State Aid Highway 5 and Brown's Creek Trail, and the interchange at Highway 36 and Lake Elmo Avenue as 2 of 8 projects she is submitting for transportation funding.

U.S. Rep. Pete Stauber, has posted improvements to Highway 8 as 1 of 8 projects he is submitting to Congress for Community Project funding. Rep. Stauber's request includes the short segment of Highway 8 in Forest Lake, which is in Washington County and in U.S. Rep. Tom Emmer's district. County staff is in close communication with staff at Rep. Emmer's office to lend support to that request.

Ms. Lucke noted that each of these House members received hundreds of requests. It is a strong sign of the supportive relationship that the Washington County Board has with its federal delegation that Washington County has such a strong presence on this list.

U.S. Senator Tina Smith released her form and process for reviewing and selecting community projects and U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar is expected to release hers this week. This will be more competitive as they are representing the entire state. However, county staff is already in contact with legislative staff to see how projects in Washington County could align with interests and priorities.

Last, Ms. Lucke reported that the county is still awaiting guidance from the U.S. Treasury for expenditures from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).



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

No board correspondence was received.

EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION – HUMAN RESOURCES

Commissioner Kriesel moved to move to an Executive (closed) Session, the time being 10:35 a.m. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion and it was adopted unanimously.

The Board met in Executive Session with Human Resources staff to discuss strategy for negotiations with bargaining units with contracts that expired at the end of 2020. Present for the Executive Session were Commissioners Weik, Kriesel, Karwoski, Johnson, and Miron, Kevin Corbid, Jan Lucke, Jennifer Wagenius, Angie Nalezny, and Paula Graff.

The County Board reconvened at 11:50 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Miron 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 11:52 a.m.

BOARD WORKSHOPS WITH PUBLIC WORKS

The Board met in workshop session for an update on the METRO Gold Line project. Present for the workshop were Commissioners Miron, Karwoski, Johnson, and Weik. Also present were Kevin Corbid, Jan Lucke, Jennifer Wagenius, outside agencies, residents, and county staff.

The Board met in workshop session to review a potential policy for county-owned property naming. Present for the workshop were Commissioners Miron, Karwoski, Johnson, and Weik. Also present were Kevin Corbid, Jennifer Wagenius, and county staff.

Attest:

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Kevin Corbid
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Kevin Corbid
County Administrator

DocuSigned by:
Lisa Weik
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Lisa Weik
County Board Chair