



**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGIONAL RAILROAD AUTHORITY
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA
MAY 9, 2023**

The Washington County Regional Railroad Authority (WCRRA) met in regular session at 9:00 a.m. in the Washington County Government Center, County Board Room. Present were Commissioners Miron, Karwoski, Kriesel, Bigham, and Clasen. WCRRA Chair Karla Bigham presided. Also present were Kevin Corbid, County Administrator; Susan Tice, County Attorney Civil Division Chief; Stephanie Kammerud, Administrative Assistant; and county staff.

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of WCRRA Minutes from February 28, 2023

Commissioner Karwoski moved to approve the WCRRA meeting minutes from February 28, 2023. Commissioner Kriesel seconded the motion, and it was adopted unanimously.

PUBLIC WORKS

Resolution to Grant Easements to the City of Hugo

Property Acquisition Manager Sharon Price presented a resolution to grant easements to the City of Hugo over Washington County Regional Rail Authority property currently being used as the Hardwood Creek Regional Trail.

The City of Hugo, together with the State of Minnesota, through the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), are in the process of making improvements to the intersection at 159th Street and U.S. Highway 61 in the City of Hugo. The improvements require the reconfiguration of the intersection to allow for the construction and operation of a roundabout to address the offset of the 159th Street extension on the east side of U.S. Highway 61.

The roundabout design will necessitate the reconfiguration of the intersection and crossing over the WCRRA property, requiring both permanent and temporary easements for the project. Washington County staff has reviewed the proposed plans, which take into account the safety and mobility of the operation of the current Hardwood Creek Regional Trail that functions within the WCRRA corridor and supports the project.

Commissioner Miron asked how the trail through 159th Street would be impacted during construction. Ms. Price reported that during construction, the trail will shift to the west, and after construction, it will go back to where it is now, and will have a connection to safely cross 159th Street. Commissioner Miron noted the enhancement to the trail by allowing a safe crossing to the other side of U.S. Highway 61.

Commissioner Clasen asked if the Property Management Plan has been updated since its adoption in 2002. Ms. Price said there is currently work being done to update the plan. Ms. Price will follow up on when an updated Property Management Plan may be completed.



Commissioner Miron moved to adopt **Resolution No. RRA-2023-003** as follows:

**RESOLUTION TO GRANT EASEMENTS TO CITY OF HUGO OVER
WASHINGTON COUNTY REGIONAL RAIL AUTHORITY
PROPERTY IN THE CITY OF HUGO**

WHEREAS, the Washington County Regional Railroad Authority (WCRRA) is the owner of an approximately 100 foot wide corridor that extends from 140th Street in the City of Hugo to the Chisago County line; and,

WHEREAS, the corridor is currently improved for trail purposes and is known as the Hardwood Creek Regional Trail; and,

WHEREAS, the WCRRA prepared a Property Management Plan in order to properly manage the corridor; and,

WHEREAS, in 1998 the WCRRA granted an easement to the City of Hugo (City) to cross WCRRA property to access US 61 for a new 159th Street connection; and,

WHEREAS, City is seeking to make intersection improvements at 159th Street and U.S. 61 with the construction of a roundabout; and,

WHEREAS, both City and Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) have taken steps to address the safety and mobility of this improvement project as it impacts the Hardwood Creek Regional Trail; and,

WHEREAS, WCRRA is supportive of the intersection improvements and the reconfiguration of the crossing over the WCRRA property as it relates to the Hardwood Creek Trail; and,

WHEREAS, WCRRA recognizes that this project is for the benefit of the public at large with multiple agencies working together for the common good.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington County Regional Railroad Authority (WCRRA) hereby authorizes its Chair and Administrator to execute on behalf of the WCRRA an easement to the City of Hugo to cross over its property and any other documents necessary for such conveyance as legally described on the attached Exhibit A.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Washington County Regional Railroad Authority (WCRRA) hereby authorizes its Chair and Administrator to execute on behalf of the WCRRA a temporary easement to the City of Hugo for construction purposes and any other documents necessary for such conveyance of the property legally described on the attached Exhibit B.

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

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the WCRRA, Chair Bigham adjourned the meeting at 9:15 a.m.

Attest:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kevin Corbid".

Kevin Corbid
County Administrator

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karla Bigham".

Karla Bigham, Chair
Washington County Regional Railroad Authority