

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD  
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA  
MAY 12, 2020**

**WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS CONVENES**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners met in regular session remotely at 9:00 a.m.

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

Also Present: Kevin Corbid, County Administrator  
                  Susan Tice, County Attorney Civil Division Chief  
                  Stephanie Kammerud, Board Clerk

Board Chair Fran Miron announced that because of the COVID-19 Pandemic and Emergency Declaration issued by Minnesota Governor Walz and the Declaration of Emergency issued by the Washington County Board of Commissioners on March 17, 2020, the County Board will not be conducting this meeting at the regular location of the Washington County Government Center. Instead, County Board members will participate in this meeting by phone 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 view/monitor this meeting electronically from a remote location via live web stream from the county's public website.

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 County Board is neither 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 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. 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 Miron asked for comments from the public; none were heard.

## CONSENT CALENDAR

Commissioner Kriesel moved, seconded by Commissioner Weik, to adopt the Consent Calendar as follows:

- A. Approval of a Land and Water Legacy Program conservation easement for the Goodwin property in Stillwater Township.
- B. Approval of an application for renewal of an On-Sale and Sunday Liquor License for Cenco Farms Inc., Afton Apple Orchard, in Denmark Township located at 14421 S. 90<sup>th</sup> St., Hastings, MN.
- C. Approval of **Resolution No. 2020-055** as follows:

### **RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING CONVEYANCE OF TAX FORFEITED LAND BY CONDITIONAL USE DEEDS TO THE CITY OF ST. MARY'S POINT**

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes 282.01, Subd. 1a, para. (e) provides for the conveyance of tax forfeited land by the Minnesota State Department of Revenue to a local governmental subdivision of the state for no compensation or consideration by conditional use deed upon favorable recommendation of the county board, and

WHEREAS, a request has been received from the City of St. Mary's Point for conveyance of tax forfeited land by conditional use deed for authorized public use, and

WHEREAS, the parcel has been classified as non-conservation, and

WHEREAS, the request from St. Mary's Point meets the definition of authorized public uses as defined in M.S. 282.01, Subd. 1a, para. (e) as described below.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners recommend to the Commissioner of Revenue that the following conveyance by conditional use deed be approved as submitted by the governmental agencies below.

City of St. Mary's Point

1. Parcel 14.028.20.13.0016, City of St. Mary's Point, Use #3 – trails for walking, bicycling, snowmobiling, or other recreational purposes, along with a reasonable amount of surrounding land maintained in its natural state.

D. Approval of **Resolution No. 2020-056** as follows:

**RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING THE SALE OF TAX FORFEITED  
LAND TO WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
AGENCY FOR AN AUTHORIZED PUBLIC PURPOSE**

WHEREAS, the Washington County Community Development Authority has requested four parcels of tax forfeited land to be sold to them for an authorized public purpose, and

WHEREAS, the parcels have been classified as non-conservation, and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statute provides that non-conservation tax forfeited land may be sold by the county board, for their market value to a governmental subdivision of the state for any public purpose.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners hereby determines the appraised value of parcels 12.027.22.43.0104, 12.027.22.34.0156, 12.027.22.43.0112 and 12.027.22.34.0158 to be \$10,000.00.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Washington County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the sale of parcels 12.027.22.43.0104, 12.027.22.34.0156, 12.027.22.43.0112 and 12.027.22.34.0158 to Washington County Community Development Agency for the appraised value of \$10,000.00 plus extra costs of \$409.00.

- E. Approval of Contract No. 13413 in the amount of \$118,020 with Traffic Marking Service Inc. for latex pavement marking striping on various county highways and local streets within Washington County during the year 2020.
- F. Approval of Cooperative Agreement No. 13405 with the South Washington Watershed District to control buckthorn re-growth and reduce the abundance of garlic mustard in order to establish native plants that hold the soil and support wildlife species.

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

## **PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT**

### **Resolution – Recognize May as Mental Health Month in Washington County**

Commissioner Weik moved to approve **Resolution No. 2020-057** 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 our 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 well-being 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 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 Karwoski seconded the motion and it was adopted 5-0 with a Roll Call vote as follows: Ayes, Commissioners Weik, Kriesel, Johnson, Karwoski, and Miron. Nays, none.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

### **Resolution – Support to Submit Regional Park System Addition and Adjustment Proposals to the Metropolitan Council**

Commissioner Karwoski moved to approve **Resolution No. 2020-058** as follows:

#### **RESOLUTION SUPPORTING SUBMITTAL OF REGIONAL PARK SYSTEM ADDITION AND ADJUSTMENT PROPOSALS TO METROPOLITAN COUNCIL**

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Council released an application process to evaluate regional park implementation agency proposed additions and adjustment to the Regional Park System, in accordance to the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan; and

WHEREAS, Washington County, a regional park implementation agency, may propose changes to the Regional Park System through the Metropolitan Council's application process; and

WHEREAS, Washington County staff recommend proposing the following additions and adjustments to the Regional Parks System:

- Pine Point Regional Park – Boundary Adjustment
- Middle St Croix Valley Regional Trail – Search Corridor Adjustment
- Central Greenway Regional Trail – North Segment – Search Corridor Adjustment
- Regional Trail Search Corridors Additions (2)

WHEREAS, Washington County staff believe the proposed additions and adjustments satisfy criteria stated in the 2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Washington County Board of Commissioners support the recommended Regional Park System addition and adjustment proposals.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proposed Regional Park System additions and adjustments be submitted to the Metropolitan Council.

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

### **Approve Contracts for the Cottage Grove Ravine Lower Landing Facility Project**

Commissioner Johnson moved to withdraw the motion he made at last week's May 5<sup>th</sup> board meeting, and Commissioner Miron concurred the motion.

Public Works Deputy Director/County Engineer Wayne Sandberg presented ten contracts for construction on the Cottage Grove Ravine Park Lower Landing Facility project. The total amount of all contracts is \$2,810,112.00. Mr. Sandberg presented an overview of the project including communication and engagement efforts, financial review, architectural components of the building in the era of COVID-19, and overall usage and schedule of this project.

The former shelter was built in 1985. This building was closed to the public since 2018 due to the poor roof conditions and exterior cracking in the masonry. The building was demolished by the county in January 2020 in preparation of a new building. The facility upgrade project has been planned in the county's Capital Improvement Plan (PARK-4004) and has been in design since 2019 as part of Phase 2 for Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park.

The design of this facility has been community driven. Engagement events in 2019 included a pop-up table at the Ravine Park, Bluegrass Festival, City of Cottage Grove Public Works Days, an Open House, and a workshop with the City of Cottage Grove in February, 2020. Letters of support were received this week from cross-country ski coaches and the City of Cottage Grove.

The total project cost is \$3,895,300. This includes construction cost of \$2,810,100 of bids and a 7% construction contingency fund of \$196,700. The project includes design, engineering, and utilities costs of \$873,500, and furnishing and equipment costs of \$15,000. Finances to pay for this include the Washington County 2019 Bond Sale of \$2,462,300, revenue from State and Metropolitan Council Bond of \$500,000, and use of Legacy State Sales Tax of \$933,000.

Several links were included in the presentation on COVID-19 architectural best practices. Themes included automation, hygiene, use of space, and increased access to Parks and Open Spaces. Mr. Sandberg summarized how the county aligns these concepts in the proposed building. Automation includes automated unlocking and locking doors that can be controlled from off site, ADA push buttons on exterior doors, touchless faucets, and touchless hand dryers. Hygiene includes individual restroom stalls, handwashing sinks located outside of restrooms, great room kitchenette sink for easy handwashing and clean up, separate custodian closets in restroom areas and in offices with a mop drain for ease of cleaning, direct outside access from the great room, and security cameras that can be viewed from off site. Use of space includes an open, non-cluttered design, limited seating, simple and easy-to-use surfaces, and flexibility for use. Mr. Sandberg reported that additional features that could be added include kick pulls on doors, automated restroom stall doors, and Plexiglas on the office window.

Mr. Sandberg reported that park usage has increased significantly in the past few years, from 54,650 in 2015, to 122,379 in 2018. If approved, construction would begin this month, and a grand opening celebration would be next summer in 2021.

Commissioner Johnson moved to award contract bids in the total amount of \$2,810,112 for the Cottage Grove Ravine Lower Landing Facility project. Commissioner Karwoski seconded the motion. The motion was adopted 5-0 with a Roll Call vote as follows: Ayes, Commissioners Weik, Kriesel, Johnson, Karwoski, and Miron. Nays, none.

## **GENERAL ADMINISTRATION**

### **Allow Deferred Compensation Withdrawals**

County Administrator Kevin Corbid reported that a provision of the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) allows persons facing a financial hardship caused by the COVID-19 pandemic to withdraw up to \$100,000 of their retirement savings accounts without penalty or take out a loan against that account.

The county has two carriers for our employees' 457 (b) deferred compensation plans. One of the carriers, Nationwide Retirement Solutions, is allowing participants to take advantage of this provision. The other carrier, Minnesota State Retirement System (MSRS), has not yet decided if it will allow distributions or loans. As the Plan Sponsor, the county must also agree to allow distributions or loans. There has been a request from a county employee to utilize this provision of the federal law. Human Resources is recommending that the county agree to allow these for employees facing a financial hardship. There is no cost to the county as they are strictly the employee's funds in these accounts.

Commissioner Miron moved to authorize the Human Resources Director to sign the documents necessary to allow for the financial hardship withdrawals from deferred compensation accounts as allowed under the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). Commissioner Kriesel seconded the motion and it was adopted 5-0 with a Roll Call vote as follows: Ayes, Commissioners Weik, Kriesel, Johnson, Karwoski, and Miron. Nays, none.

### **State and Federal Legislative Updates**

Margaret Vesel from Larkin Hoffman was present remotely for the board meeting and reported on the legislative session. Ms. Vesel reported the session has less than six days to go and is due to adjourn on May 18. Ms. Vesel reported that Washington County had three proposals brought forward for the bonding bill. The Governor's \$2-plus billion proposed bill included \$8 million for the Recycling and Energy Center, \$2 million for Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park, and \$500,000 to replace the St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park boat launch. The Governor's proposed bill did not include any local projects or transportation projects, and, at that time, there was interest in funding those projects with the gas tax. That was prior to COVID-19, and things have changed dramatically. The Senate DFL came out with its proposal which was more than \$2 billion as well. Washington County was allotted \$3 million for the Highway 36/Manning Interchange project, \$21 million for the Recycling and Energy Center, \$3.5 million for the 4<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge, \$2 million for Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park, and \$500,000 for the St. Croix Bluffs boat launch. The House DFL passed its bill, which was \$2.5 billion. Washington County was allotted \$3 million for the Highway 36/Manning Interchange project, \$8 million for the Recycling and Energy Center, \$3.5 million for the 4<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge, \$1 million for Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park, and no funding for the St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park boat launch. The speaker anticipates voting on that bill on the floor on Saturday. The House Republicans have stated they are not providing votes for the bonding bill in the House unless the Governor ends the peacetime emergency. May 18, the Legislative Session adjourn date, is also the end date of the Governor's Stay at Home Order. Ms. Vesel anticipates three issues that will define success for the Legislature if it can come to an

agreement: the bonding bill, COVID-19 federal funding and how to spend those dollars, and a tax bill.

County Administrator Kevin Corbid received a letter from Congresswoman Betty McCollum regarding a grant through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Mr. Corbid stated the county's federal lobbyist Tom Downs has been reviewing grant opportunities and staff will work with Mr. Downs on that.

Deputy County Administrator Jennifer Wagenius reported the Compromise Election Bill passed the House and the Governor has signed it. Among the provisions, candidate filings are allowed to be submitted electronically. Washington County will continue to accept mail and drop box candidate filings, and there will also be an opportunity to email or fax a candidate filing. The county must be able to accept electronic payments for those candidate filings. This operational issue is being worked on by staff in the departments of Property Records & Taxpayer Services and Accounting & Finance. Once this process is established, the information will be shared with commissioners and posted on the county's website.

### **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](http://www.co.washington.mn.us), under "County Board."

### **BOARD CORRESPONDENCE**

No board correspondence was received.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Weik moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Karwoski, and it was adopted 5-0 with a Roll Call vote as follows: Ayes, Commissioners Weik, Kriesel, Johnson, Karwoski, and Miron. Nays, none. The County Board meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

### **BOARD WORKSHOP WITH ADMINISTRATION**

The Board met in workshop session to review the 2020 operating budget. Present for the workshop were Commissioners Miron, Karwoski, Kriesel, Johnson, and Weik. Also present were Kevin Corbid, Jan Lucke, Jennifer Wagenius, and county staff.



Attest:



Kevin Corbid  
County Administrator



Fran Miron  
County Board Chair