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Contact: Yvonne Klinnert, Public Information Manager
Phone: 651-430-6026, after hours 952-807-3723
E-mail: yvonne.klinnert@co.washington.mn.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The following actions were taken at the July 2, 2019, Washington County Board of Commissioners meeting at the Government Center in Stillwater, Minnesota

County Board approves agreement to build equipment storage building at St. Croix Bluffs

The Washington County Board of Commissioners agreed July 2 to pay \$1.3 million to construct an equipment storage building at St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park in Denmark Township.

The agreement is a purchase order with Kraus-Anderson construction to do the work. The county worked through a system called Sourcewell, a joint-powers purchasing alliance authorized by the state Legislature. The program meets state and county buying laws, and eliminates bid discrepancies due to market changes.

The new building will accommodate the needs of both St. Croix Bluffs and other county parks in the southern portion of the county. It will have space for large and small equipment storage, as well as space for working on and washing equipment.

Funding for the project will come from Metropolitan Council grants for metropolitan regional park improvements.

Contact: Allan Brandt, Engineer II, 651-430-4348

County Board approves contracts for new Wildwood Library

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved contracts July 2 for building a new Wildwood Library in Mahtomedi.

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The new library will be built on the current library site; the library will close July 20, and be closed for about a year for construction.

A total of 124 bids were received in 24 different work divisions. The planned 12,800 square foot building includes a children's room and teen space, a patio, a large meeting room, three small study rooms, and space for outdoor programs. The new library will have improvements to Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility, greater energy efficiency, expanded library program spaces, and an upgraded layout aimed to improve staff efficiency.

Construction will begin in August with completion scheduled for June 2020. The library is funded with \$7.205 million in tax exempt bond proceeds to be issued by the county in 2019.

A portion of the project includes a storm water drainage route from the pond on the north portion of the Wildwood Library lot to a main storm sewer along County State Aid Highway 12 to improve stormwater drainage in the area. This portion of the project will be paid for by the City of Mahtomedi, and the County Board agreed to how the costs will be shared.

During the library closure, Washington County Library will offer services to the community at the Mahtomedi District Education Center (DEC), 1520 Mahtomedi Ave. Library users may pick up holds and check out other materials from a small collection during the DEC's business hours, Monday to Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Wildwood Library patrons may also visit nearby Washington County Library branches, including Lake Elmo, Oakdale, and Hardwood Creek in Forest Lake.

Residents who would like construction updates may sign up for periodic email updates online at WashCoLib.link/WildwoodUpdates or in person at Wildwood Library. Residents may also view project updates on the library's website at WashCoLib.org/Future, or by following the library on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram at @WashCoLib.

Contact: Mandy Leonard, Building Services Project Manager, 651-430-6236

County Board approves agreement with Lake Elmo for Hudson Boulevard traffic lights

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved an agreement with the City of Lake Elmo July 2 to oversee traffic signal construction at County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 19 and Hudson Boulevard.

The area northwest of Interstate 94 and CSAH 19 is rapidly adding commercial and retail buildings. Housing constructed north of the intersection is increasing traffic, which prompted the installation of the traffic signal.

Washington County did the preliminary design for the project. After completing the preliminary design, it was determined that, due to the large portion of the project along Hudson Boulevard, which is a city street, the City of Lake Elmo was determined to be best equipped to lead the final design and project construction.

The project is expected to cost \$2.76 million, with the county paying \$477,500, which will be paid for with highway state aid funding. Work should begin on the project later this month.

Contact: Kevin Peterson, Engineer II, 651-430-4330