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**Date:** June 7, 2016  
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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The following actions were taken at the June 7, 2016, Washington County Board of Commissioners meeting at the Government Center in Stillwater, Minnesota

#### **Lakeview Hospital, HealthPartners will continue to provide health care to inmates**

Stillwater's Lakeview Hospital and HealthPartners Medical Group will continue to provide medical care to inmates in the Washington County Jail, after the County Board approved a contract with the entities June 7.

The Sheriff's Office operates the Washington County Jail, and works with the county's Department of Public Health and Environment to provide medical services in the jail. The county has contracted with Lakeview Hospital and Stillwater Medical Group for many years to provide medical care to jail inmates, including emergency room care, clinic services, physician and physician assistant services, laboratory services, and physical therapy.

The agreement updates terms of the existing contract, at a cost of \$48,300 for 2016.

**Contact: Jill Timm, Senior Public Health Program Manager, 651-275-7286**

#### **County will apply for DNR funds to maintain cross-country ski trails**

Washington County will request funds from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to maintain the cross-country ski trails in the county parks, after the County Board approved funding agreements with the DNR June 7.

Cross-country skiing is a popular winter sport that contributes to the wellness of the community. The

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DNR's cross-country ski grant-in-aid program supports the maintenance and grooming of cross-country ski trails throughout the state.

Washington County has participated in the program for years and wishes to continue, and is therefore requesting financial assistance for maintaining cross-country ski trails at Pine Point Park, Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park, St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park, Big Marine Park Reserve, and Lake Elmo Park Reserve.

The county applied for \$21,428 for ski trail assistance this year. State funding of the Minnesota Cross-Country Ski Trail Assistance Program can fluctuate from year to year due to snowfall and the resulting ski trail grooming that takes place. The county will budget \$10,000 for 2017, and grant-in-aid funding received in excess of that will be added to the budget.

The county will also request reimbursement under the current grant-in aid program for the past season. Parks staff groomed county ski trails more than 270 hours this past winter, making the county eligible for \$14,175 in reimbursement.

**Contact: Peter Mott, Parks Manager, 651-430-4328**

### **Sheriff's Office will help out during National Sheriff's Association conference**

The Washington County Sheriff's Office will assist Hennepin County with law enforcement during the National Sheriff's Association Conference Exhibit June 22-25 in Minneapolis.

At the request of the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office, the Washington County Sheriff's Office will provide personnel, equipment, and other resources to assist in law enforcement during the conference.

The Washington County Sheriff's Office will provide assistance at no cost to Hennepin County, but will receive complimentary passes to attend the conference. Washington County personnel can take part in seminars and trainings available and visit hundreds of vendors during the conference with the passes.

**Contact: Sheriff Bill Hutton, 651-430-7601**

### **County will apply for additional funds to assist with septic systems retrofits**

Washington County will request funds from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) to continue work to improve septic systems in the county, after the County Board approved the application June 7.

The county will submit an application for Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems (SSTS) grants for \$61,100, of which \$40,000 would be for low-income fix-up grants, \$18,600 would be SSTS base grants, and \$2,500 would be incentive grants for the county having a property transfer compliance inspection requirement for 2017.

The grant funds add to the money from permit fees, which are also used to improve subsurface sewage treatment systems. Since 2013, the county has awarded 12 low-income fix-up grants, totaling \$59,248. Twenty-two loans have been awarded to homeowners since 2014, totaling \$404,276.

The MPCA is seeking grant applications for the grants to support the work of the Clean Water Legacy Act in protecting groundwater and surface water from impacts resulting from the improper design and/or operation of Subsurface Treatment Systems. If awarded, the grants will support SSTS program administration, improve SSTS compliance rates, and assist low-income homeowners with needed SSTS upgrades.

A local funding match is not required for the grant.

**Contact: Girard Groder, Environmental Program Supervisor, 651-430-6768**

### **Hardrives, Inc., will do work on CSAH 12 in Stillwater**

Hardrives, Inc., will do pavement rehabilitation and trail and turn lane work on County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 12 in Stillwater, after the Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a \$3.9 million contract with the company June 7.

The project is 2.5 miles of CSAH 12 from Manning Avenue to Owens Street in Stillwater. The project passes by Rutherford Elementary School, a possible future assisted living center, numerous parks, the Jaycee ball fields, and Stillwater's new fire station. The roadway carries 6,200 to 6,700 vehicle trips each day.

Improvements include pavement rehabilitation of roadway and trails, turn lanes to define corridor intersections and address access spacing guidelines, traffic signal improvements, trail additions, sidewalk improvements, and pedestrian crossing enhancements.

The project is funded by state aid, and funds from the City of Stillwater and Stillwater Area Public Schools.

**Contact: Frank Ticknor, Design Engineer, 651-430-4319**

### **County Board accepts studies to allow reconstruction of Broadway, Maple streets in Marine on St. Croix**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved the Record of Decision, Findings of Fact, and Conclusions, and declared no need for an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the rehabilitation of Ostrum Trail North (County State Aid Highway 4), and the reconstruction of Broadway Street/Maple Street (CSAH 4) in Marine on St. Croix June 7.

The overall goal of the CSAH 4 rehabilitation and reconstruction project is to improve pavement condition, improve drainage and surface water management, and enhance bicycle and pedestrian safety by providing consistent shoulders and a continuous sidewalk.

A Discretionary Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) evaluated the project's potential social, environmental, and economic impacts, and mitigation measures. The purpose of the EAW is to determine if an Environmental Impact Statement is needed for the project.

The EAW was distributed in April 2016 to the appropriate agencies and copies were available for public review. Those commenting on the EAW were sent responses, and the information is included in the Record of Decision document.

The roadway has just more than 1,000 vehicle trips each day, and a number of deficiencies, including steep grades and geometric challenges, stormwater drainage issues, limited pedestrian facilities, and poor pavement condition.

The county staff has worked with residents and city staff from Marine, as well as business owners, and civic groups. The Minnesota Department of Transportation has been involved in the plans, as has the local watershed district, a local church, and private utility companies.

Project goals have included stakeholder involvement, as well as replacement of the deteriorated pavement, increased safety for all, including pedestrians and bicycle riders, and improvement of stormwater drainage in the area. It is also expected that the work should be done while protecting the natural resources in the area and retaining the historic village character of the area.

A number of open houses have been conducted, and the project has gained support from the city and church councils.

**Contact: Frank Ticknor, Design Engineer, 651-430-4319**

### **County will participate in 2016 Performance Measurement Program**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners agreed June 7 to participate in Minnesota's 2016 Performance Measurement Program and to submit a report on 12 standard measures created by the state Council on Local Results and Innovation.

In 2010, the Minnesota Legislature created the Council on Local Results and Innovation, and gave it the task to create 10 measures for cities and 10 measures for counties. The list of measures was reviewed by the council and revised in 2013 to allow additional options for counties and cities to use as part of their programs.

Participation in the standard measures program is voluntary. A county that elects to participate in the standard measures program may be eligible for a reimbursement of 14 cents per capita in county program aid, not to exceed \$25,000.

Washington County has a longstanding commitment to performance measurement and improvement, and therefore, will be able to report the standard set of measures without much additional work.

For 2016 participation, the County Board stated that Washington County has adopted a minimum of 10 model performance measures developed by the council, the county has implemented a local performance measurement system, and the county will report the results of the adopted measures to residents before the end of the calendar year.

Some of the measures reported to the state are residents' ratings on the parks and libraries, the crime rate per 1,000 population and recidivism after a felony conviction, the time it takes to record real estate documents, the general condition of county roads, and the county's bond rating.

The full report is on the county's website at [www.co.washington.mn.us](http://www.co.washington.mn.us) under Performance Measurement.

**Contact: Amanda Hollis, Senior Planner, 651-430-6021**

## **County Board supports funding for conservation easement on Wilder, Warner Nature Center parcels**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved the concept and a letter of support to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund (LSOHF) June 7 for conservation easement funding on Wilder Forest and Warner Nature Center parcels.

Over the past year, discussions, including three recent stakeholder meetings, occurred about conserving parcels on the Wilder Forest and Warner Nature Center properties in May Township. Out of these efforts, a project concept and scope emerged clarifying that the county's Land and Water Legacy Program funds and non-county funding could be used to conserve the parcels.

The county and Minnesota Land Trust staff have since completed a proposal for the state LSOHF, under which the two entities would co-hold an easement. A grant proposal was submitted May 26 to LSOHF for the 2018 grant cycle.

The LSOHF committee will review proposals and make recommendations for funding later this summer. If the proposal is awarded, funds will be available beginning July 1, 2017.

**Contact: June Mathiowetz, Senior Planner, 651-430-6003**