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Date: Oct. 25, 2016
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The following actions were taken at the Oct. 25, 2016, Washington County Board of Commissioners meeting at the Government Center in Stillwater, Minnesota

County receives assistance to purchase land at Big Marine Park Reserve

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved an agreement Oct. 25 with the Metropolitan Council to receive reimbursement for the purchase of land on May Avenue that is included in the Big Marine Park Reserve.

The Met Council grant will pay 75 percent of the cost of the \$317,190 purchase, made in May 2016. The county used Land and Water Legacy Program funds to pay its share of the purchase.

Contact: Wayne Sandberg, County Engineer, Deputy Public Works Director, 651-430-4339

Boy Scouts will receive traffic signal boxes to make food storage containers

The Boy Scouts of America, Northern Star Council, will receive a gift of 20 of Washington County's old traffic signal boxes to recondition for use by campers to store food away from wildlife in Boy Scout camps throughout northern Minnesota and Wisconsin.

The County Board approved the gift, which is valued at less than \$100, Oct. 25.

State law allows the county to give or sell personal property to another public corporation for public use. In the past, the county donated computers to Minnesota Computers for Schools and office furniture to the Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District.

Contact: Wayne Sandberg, County Engineer, Deputy Public Works Director, 651-430-4339

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County gears up for Grey Cloud Island project with purchase of right-of-way

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved the acquisition of right-of-way Oct. 25 for the reconstruction of the County Road 75 bridge and roadway approaches as part of the Grey Cloud Island Water Way restoration project.

The Grey Cloud Island Water Way Restoration Project is part of the county's road construction program for 2017, to address the infiltration and erosion caused during spring flooding and other high water events.

The right-of-way cost estimate is about \$41,000, and is funded by the South Washington Watershed District through a cooperative agreement approved by the County Board in 2015.

Contact: Grant Wyffels, Consultant, Public Works, 651-430-4349

County will purchase new human resources information system

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a contract Oct. 25 with High Line Corporation to purchase a new human resources information system for the county.

The contract is for \$1.2 million.

Washington County has been using its current Human Resources Information System (HRIS) since 1988. While this legacy system is working, a new HRIS will help the county integrate with new technology and applications, allow for easier use and navigation, and provide more efficient reporting capabilities.

The purchase cost includes the High Line Personality software, software implementation, and five years of software maintenance and hosting. High Line has experience with the public sector, and with other Minnesota counties in particular. References for the company emphasized strong customer service and support.

Work on the system will begin during the next few months, with completion expected by the end of 2018.

Contact: Jan Webster, Human Resources Director, 651-430-6075

Kimley-Horn will provide traffic management design for Lake Elmo Park Reserve

Kimley-Horn will provide traffic management design for Lake Elmo Park Reserve, after the Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a \$97,330 contract with the company Oct. 25. As more people use the park reserve, the demand for park facilities exceeds the space and staff availability to safely and effectively handle all the park traffic. Areas of particular concern include the parking lots for the Swim Pond and boat launch, and the inability to assess current conditions of these facilities from the park's Contact Station.

The contract will provide for the design of three traffic management cameras and two electronic message signs, which can be programmed by park staff. These systems will allow staff to assess congestion at the boat launch and other facilities, prevent overcrowding of facilities, reroute visitors based on parking availability, and advise incoming visitors of safety or event information.

The electronic message signs will be designed to fit within the visual context of the park.

The money for the project will come from county program aid. The plan is to have the devices operational for the 2017 summer season.

Contact: Wayne Sandberg, County Engineer, Deputy Public Works Director, 651-430-4339

Central Roofing Company will reroof Woodbury Service Center

Central Roofing Company will reroof the Washington County Woodbury Service Center, after the County Board approved a \$232,050 contract with the company Oct. 25.

This capital repair project consists of the total removal and reinstallation of the synthetic rubber roofing membrane at the Woodbury Service Center, including all roof insulation, protection boards, roofing, blocking, flashing, and sealants, and replacement of the existing translucent plastic panel clerestories.

The building has its original roof, which was built in 1987, with a life expectancy of 15 to 20 years.

The roof is 10,000 square feet, and is expected to take two months to replace.

Contact: Joe Welter, Building Services Project Manager, 651-430-6226

County will acquire land in Grant for conservation through LWLP

Washington County will acquire land in Grant near the headwaters of Brown's Creek for conservation purchase, as part of the county's Land and Water Legacy Program.

The County Board approved the purchase Oct. 25. The land is 13 acres, with 2.4 acres of wetlands, and will cost \$254,400. The purchase will be made in conjunction with the Brown's Creek Watershed District (BCWD), which will reimburse the county for half the cost, and will own and manage the land.

The county and the BCWD received a letter of interest from the landowners in December 2015 regarding the potential purchase of their property for conservation purposes. The undeveloped parcel holds 1,300 feet of Brown's Creek, and is within a high-priority area for the Land and Water Legacy Program and the BCWD. Its purchase will protect Brown's Creek headwaters from development and address impairments that affect the trout stream.

The offer made to the landowner was based upon an appraisal, and a purchase agreement was negotiated. A conservation easement will be placed on the property, and the BCWD will develop a management plan for the property.

Contact: Kevin Corbid, Deputy Administrator, 651-430-6003