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Date: Nov. 22, 2016
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 Nov. 22, 2016, Washington County Board of Commissioners meeting at the Government Center in Stillwater, Minnesota

Washington County recognizes Adopt-A-Highway participants

The Washington County Board of Commissioners recognized groups that help clean the county's roadways through the Adopt-A-Highway program Nov. 22.

The program, which began in 1991, now has 125 groups which have "adopted" 262 miles of county highways. More than 1,100 bags of trash and litter were collected in 2015 and 2016, along with other items such as tires, metal doors, carpet, and a couch. The value of the donated time that the volunteers contribute is more than \$80,000 annually.

Eleven groups celebrated 10 years of service to the county, and were recognized Nov. 22. They are:

- Coldwell Banker;
- Norman Quack's Chophouse;
- BrightWines and Dave Kuennen;
- Circle C Ranch;
- Mahtomedi High School Interact Club;
- The Stollers;
- Spirit of Life Bible Church;
- Paul Alsidesells;
- Bethlehem Lutheran Church;

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- Newport Lutheran Church; and
- Friends of Jerry Vick.

Nine groups were recognized for 20 years of service Nov. 22. They, their representatives, and their section of roadway are:

- Muske Community Support Foundation, Tony Randall, County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 2 (Broadway Avenue) between West County Line and Interstate 35;
- New Life Church, Glen Weeks, CSAH 8 (Frenchman Road) between Elmcrest Avenue and Finale Avenue;
- Stillwater Knights of Columbus, Don Klatt, CSAH 12 (75th Street) between Keats Avenue and CSAH 15 (Manning Avenue);
- The Majeski Family, David Majeski, CSAH 15 (Manning Avenue) between 110th Street and CSAH 7 (Square Lake Trail);
- The Jason Gorman Real Estate Team, Jason Gorman, CSAH 13 (Radio Drive) between Afton Road and Interstate 94 ramp;
- Kootenia Homes, David Frosch, CSAH 19 (Woodbury Drive) between CSAH 18 (Bailey Road) and CSAH 16 (Valley Creek Road);
- St. Mary's Episcopal Church – Basswood Grove, Larry Crockett, CSAH 21 (St. Croix Trail South) between CSAH 22 (70th Street) and River Road;
- Zion Lutheran Church, Jim Borofka, CSAH 22 (70th Street) between St. Paul Park Road and CSAH 13 (Hinton Avenue); and
- Oltman Middle School, Teresa Willkom, County Road 75 (Grey Cloud Island Drive) between 105th Street and Third Street).

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

HDR Engineering will design, coordinate improvements to CSAH 24

HDR Engineering will do preliminary design engineering and project coordination for the County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 24 pavement management and safety improvement project after the Washington County Board of Commissioners agreed to a \$246,137 contract with the firm Nov. 22.

The project is intended to improve operations and safety along the CSAH 24 corridor from 50th Street North in the southern part of Oak Park Heights north to 65th Street North, or Orleans Street, in Stillwater by evaluating intersection options, capacity, lane configuration, pavement surface, drainage, and sidewalk/trail options to accommodate current and future traffic and pedestrian levels. The roadway has poor pavement and a lack of drainage north of Highway 36, along with inadequate pedestrian facilities that are poorly delineated, inconsistent, not accessible, and with unsafe crossings. Also, traffic congestion and a lack of turn lanes pose safety concerns.

HDR will do project coordination, public engagement, and analyze the traffic, intersections and drainage along the roadway. The firm will also do a preliminary design.

The goal of the roadway reconstruction will be to:

- improve traffic operations;
- improve the quality and life of pavement;
- improve pedestrian accessibility and safety;
- evaluate the need for additional turn lanes; and
- improve the traffic signal and realign 62nd Street.

The project will be paid for with state aid money.

It is expected that the preliminary design will be done by next spring, with a final design done during the latter part of next year. Construction would be in the summer of 2018.

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

County will receive grant to support its Citizens Review Panel

The Washington County Board of Commissioners accepted a \$3,000 grant Nov. 22 to support the county's Citizen Review Panel.

The grant is from the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS).

Since 1999, the Washington County Child Protection Citizen Review Panel has been an advisory committee to the County Board. The panel operates under the authority of the Minnesota Legislature, jointly with the DHS. The panel provides a citizens' perspective on child protection services. Some of the panel activities include assisting with selected case reviews, critiquing services and programs, and promoting the prevention of child abuse.

DHS awards an annual grant of \$3,000 to assist with the cost of the committee.

Contact: Sarah Amundson, Community Services Division Manager, 651-430-6597

AXIS Healthcare will provide case management for those with disabilities

AXIS Healthcare, LLC, will provide case management for Washington County residents who have care through community access for disability inclusion or brain injury programs after the County Board approved a contract with the agency Nov. 22.

Washington County is responsible for providing case management services to approximately 480 people through these programs. The case management for these individuals is performed by social workers or nurses from the county or by contracted case managers.

AXIS Healthcare, LLC, is an agency that provides contracted case management services for county clients. It has a history of providing quality services, and has been providing case management services through a host county contract with Ramsey County since 2011.

AXIS Healthcare now manages approximately 25 cases in Washington County and this number will be increased to approximately 75 cases to help offset the increasing number of referrals that are being received by the county.

The programs are paid for with state and federal funds.

Contact: Kathy Mickelson, Community Services Division Manager, 651-430-6532

DNR will install groundwater observation wells in Big Marine Park Reserve

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will install four groundwater observation wells and one water table well in Big Marine Park Reserve to gather geologic and hydrologic information after the Washington County Board of Commissioners gave its consent Nov. 22.

The four groundwater observation wells will be installed southeast of the park contact station and one near Big Marine Lake. The DNR's observation well network is in place to monitor groundwater levels in the aquifers that underlie the 11-county metropolitan area. These wells provide data to the DNR for assessing groundwater availability, pumping impacts, and the interactions between groundwater and surface waters.

At termination, the wells are to be sealed according to state regulations. The DNR will pay any costs that might be associated with restoring the sites to their original condition.

Contact: Dan MacSwain, Natural Resources Coordinator, 651-430-4323