
Our Mission: Providing quality services through responsible leadership, innovation and the cooperation of dedicated people

Date: Feb. 7, 2017
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 Feb. 7, 2017, Washington County Board of Commissioners meeting at the Government Center in Stillwater, Minnesota

County Board makes appointments to advisory boards

The Washington County Board of Commissioners made several appointments to county advisory boards Feb. 7.

- Theresa McCormick, Woodbury, was appointed to the Minnesota Extension Committee, representing Commissioner District 5. The extension committee is required by state law. McCormick will serve a first term expiring Dec. 31, 2020. The committee has input on educational programs and services provided by Extension agents in the areas of agriculture, economic, and human development, community leadership, and environment and natural resources.
- Tammy Lewis, Cottage Grove, was also named to the Minnesota Extension Committee to a first term expiring Dec. 31, 2020.
- Robert Bankers, Woodbury, was appointed to the Historic Courthouse Advisory Council, representing Commissioner District 5. He was appointed to a third term, which will expire Dec. 31. The council reviews current operational and long-range plans of the Historic Courthouse building use and restoration within the context of the mission statement adopted by the Washington County Board of Commissioners for the Historic Courthouse.

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- Ryan Collins, Stillwater, was appointed to the Historic Courthouse Advisory Council to fill a vacancy as a representative of the Washington County Historical Society. Collins will serve a first term ending Dec. 31, 2020.
- Kent Grandlienard, Baytown Township, was appointed to the Groundwater Advisory Board, to fill a vacancy for a representative of a local government unit. He will serve a first term expiring Dec. 31, 2020. Established by state law, the advisory board is to advise the Washington County Board of Commissioners on matters relating to the development, content, implementation, and periodic review and revision of the Washington County Groundwater Management Plan.

Contact: Yvonne Klinnert, Public Information Manager, 651-430-6026

BI, Inc., will provide home monitoring services for county

BI, Inc., will provide electronic home monitoring (EHM) services to Washington County after the County Board approved \$100,000 for a 2017 agreement with the company Feb. 7.

Services include EHM, Global Positioning Satellite Tracking, and electronic alcohol monitoring, called Sober Link. The services will be used by juvenile and adult probation staff. In 2016, the county saw a 70 percent increase in the number of days that offenders used electronic monitoring. As a result, the county has added \$25,000 to the 2017 contract over the 2016 contract.

Contact: Terry Thomas Jr., Community Corrections Deputy Director, 651-430-6951

County's Law Enforcement Center will get energy 'brains' update

The Washington County Law Enforcement Center on the Government Center campus in Stillwater will receive an update to the equipment that manages the heating and air conditioning system, after the County Board approved a contract for the work Feb. 7 with Metropolitan Mechanical Contractors, Inc.

The contract is for \$683,700. The building houses the county's Sheriff's Office, jail, County Attorney's Office, and the Information Technology and Accounting and Finance departments.

The project will update the “brains” of the building’s heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system, which is critical to achieving optimal energy efficiency. The system provides the ability to monitor and control the systems remotely, and provides emergency notifications for critical equipment issues.

The original system was installed in 1992, and received updates in 2002. The standard life expectancy of the system is 15 to 20 years. The project, which has an opportunity for an Xcel Energy rebate, is expected to take nine months, and will include the installation of a Honeywell system that matches other systems used by the county.

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

Manning Avenue project will proceed without environmental impact statement

An environmental assessment worksheet (EAW) will be adequate to oversee the rebuilding of Manning Avenue (County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 15) from Hudson Boulevard in West Lakeland Township and the City of Lake Elmo to Stillwater Boulevard (CSAH 14) in Baytown Township. The findings were presented to the Washington County Board of Commissioners Feb. 7.

The project includes construction of a center median, turn lanes at intersections, and trails from Hudson Boulevard to 10th Street North (CSAH 10); expansion of Manning Avenue to a four-lane divided roadway from 10th Street North to Stillwater Boulevard, including turn lanes at intersection roadways; and realignment of Stillwater Boulevard to the south to intersect with Manning Avenue at 40th Street North.

Manning Avenue, a primary north-south arterial roadway, is part of the regional transportation system. As such, it will need to support future growth and development in the area. It provides access to several neighborhood, residences, schools, and businesses.

Project goals for rebuilding the roadway are to manage traffic demands resulting from expected growth and development, identify planned transportation improvements, maintain viability for commercial and residential growth, balance access needs versus mobility along the corridor, and improve safety for those driving on the roadway.

The project includes construction of a traffic signal at the Stillwater Boulevard/40th Street North/Manning Avenue intersection and the construction of stormwater ponds. A mandatory

Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) was prepared according to state law to evaluate the project's potential social, environmental, and economic impacts, and mitigation measures. The primary purpose of the EAW is to determine if an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is needed for the project. A copy of the EAW is on the project web page on the county website for review. The EAW was distributed in November 2016 to the appropriate agencies in accordance with state laws, and copies of the EAW were made available for public review. The county prepared responses to the comments received on the EAW and the information is included in the project's Record of Decision.

A number of public houses were conducted on the project, and county staff attended a number of city council and planning commissioner workshops in communities along the project path. No formal comments were received on the EAW, and no comments requested an environmental impact statement for the project.

The project will be done in three phases:

- Phase 1: CSAH 15/10th street intersection, completed in 2016;
- Phase 2 Realignment of CSAH 15/CSAH 14, to be completed in 2018; and
- Phase 3: Widening to four lanes, 2023.

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

Work begins on Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park upgrades

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved contracts Feb. 7 to begin work on the construction of roadways, trails, and parking lots in Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park.

The project includes a new park circulation road, four parking lots, and associated pedestrian improvements and trails into the park, as well as the stabilization of the ravine that runs through the park. The park will be closed March 1 and remain closed until 2018 to allow for the work.

Tree removal is required before roadway and trail construction can begin. To mitigate concerns by the Army Corp of Engineers regarding the Northern Long Eared Bat, all trees must be cut down prior to the end of March while the bats are inactive.

S & A Land Clearing, Inc., will do the tree removal for \$119,641, which is below the engineer's estimate. The tree removal project is funded from county bond funds and through a cooperative agreement with the South Washington Watershed District (SWWD).

The SWWD is leading a project to stabilize the ravine running the length of Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park, which will be done this summer. The goal is to protect the ravine against erosion from local flash floods and water overflow while maintaining park use.

An agreement between the county and the SWWD outlines the plan for the SWWD's ravine improvement and tree removal project. As provided by the cooperative agreement, all park improvements will be entirely funded by county bonds of \$73,138 and all ravine improvements will be funded by SWWD local funds of \$39,007.

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

Landwehr Construction, Inc., will build new crossing to Grey Cloud Island

Landwehr Construction, Inc., will rebuild the roadway connection to Grey Cloud Island on County Road (CR) 75, after the Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a \$1.6 million contract with the company Feb. 7.

The board also approved a cooperative agreement with the South Washington Watershed District (SWWD) for work on the project.

The project includes replacement of the earthen causeway connecting upper Grey Cloud Island with a new crossing on CR 75, which will also improve water quality east of the main channel of the Mississippi River.

A bridge has connected the mainland to Grey Cloud Island since the early 1900s, when a wooden bridge was built. Culverts replaced the bridge in 1923. In the 1960s during flooding, an emergency road was built, and it is believed that the culverts were buried at the time.

The project will build a bridge across the outlet to the Mississippi River, which should address water quality in the area. The project should also improve the pavement and guardrails, as well as the safety and sightlines near the bridge.

The Grey Cloud Crossing Project is funded from three separate revenue sources, the county gravel tax, the agreement with SWWD, which provides \$1 million, and Clean Water Grant funds, which will

provide \$520,000 for the project. The county will pay \$500,000 toward the bridge project, and \$157,383 toward pavement preservation around the bridge. After it is built, the bridge will be owned and maintained by the county.

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