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Date: Feb. 21, 2017
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The following actions were taken at the Feb. 21, 2017, Washington County Board of Commissioners meeting at the Government Center in Stillwater, Minnesota

County Board approves comments on Baytown Township draft comp plan

The Washington County Board of Commissioners offered comments Feb. 21 on the Baytown Township Draft 2040 Comprehensive Plan.

All local governments in the seven-county metropolitan area, including Washington County, will be writing new comprehensive plans in the coming year, for review by the Metropolitan Council. Before formally submitting local comprehensive plan updates to the council, local government units must provide adjacent and affected jurisdictions the opportunity to review and comment on the draft plan. Comprehensive plans must be submitted to the council by Dec. 31, 2018. The county offered comments on plans for land use, future housing, use and protection of water resources, and inclusion of trails and open spaces in the plan.

Contact: Colin Kelly, Senior Planner, 651-430-6011

County Board makes appointments to veterans rest camp association board

Tom Bishop, Oakdale, and Arnold Zach, Lake Elmo, were appointed to serve on the Disabled Veterans Rest Camp Association Board by the Washington County Board of Commissioners Feb. 21.

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The board's purpose is to administer and furnish relief and welfare services, as well as to provide certain recreational facilities to men and women who have served or are serving in the Armed Forces of the United States, and to the immediate families of the men and women.

The board also maintains and administers the property owned by the camp for the use of all veterans, and sets rules of use of the camp, which is on Big Marine Lake in northern Washington County.

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

County Board renews liquor license for Point Liquors in Denmark Township

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved an off-sale intoxicating liquor license Feb. 21 for CAP Operations, Inc., which does business as Point Liquors in Denmark Township.

Washington County processes all liquor licenses for the townships within the county. The county is required by state law to review the establishment's insurance. The Sheriff's Office and County Attorney's Office complete compliance checks, and the applicant pays a fee to cover the administrative costs.

Contact: Steve Gransee, Elections Division Manager, 651-430-8272

County Board supports application for grant for watershed planning

The Washington County Board of Commissioners will support a grant application from the Washington Conservation District to the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) for a planning grant under the One Watershed One Plan program

The board offered its support Feb. 21.

One Watershed One Plan is a framework authorized for BWSR to align local water planning on major watershed boundaries with state plans.

The board offered its support and recognition of One Watershed One Plan, welcoming the opportunity to collaborate with others within the Lower St. Croix Planning Boundary.

The County Board expressed support for watersheds to continue to seek efficiencies in watershed planning, which might reduce administrative and financial burdens, as well as ensure that funding

sought under this framework does not supplant other state funding needs, such as local road replacement wetland banking.

The application, which is being led by the Washington Conservation District, will propose to develop a coordinated, major watershed-scale implementation framework among the counties, soil and water conservation districts, and water management organizations within the Lower St. Croix Planning Boundary.

Contact: Stephanie Souter, Senior Planner, 651-430-6701

County will receive money to help with septic system records, well sealing

Washington County will receive money to help maintain county septic system records and to help seal old, abandoned wells after the County Board agreed to accept Clean Water Fund grant money for the projects Feb. 21.

One project, a septic system records project, will use a \$100,000 Clean Water Fund grant to perform a records catalog and countywide risk assessment of subsurface sewage treatment systems in the county. The grant requires a \$25,000 county match, which will be primarily staff time. The project consists of collecting and digitizing historical permit records, and analyzing permit records, after which a risk analysis will be done.

A \$20,000 Clean Water Fund grant, with a \$20,000 county match, will be used to seal approximately 25 additional abandoned and unsealed wells in the county by offering up to 100 percent cost share assistance to residents with wells that supply drinking water or are in areas of known contamination. An already existing 50 percent cost share opportunity for well sealing will remain available to other areas of the county.

Contact: Stephanie Souter, Senior Planner, 651-430-6701

County will continue to rent out house in Marine on St. Croix

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a lease Feb. 21 for a house in Marine on St. Croix for the coming year.

When Washington County acquires land for regional parks, the houses located on the land are typically leased until needed for park purposes. Revenue received from rental of the houses supplements the parks' stewardship fund to help pay for the maintenance of the properties. Washington County acquired the house in Marine on St. Croix in 2008, and the current tenant has been leasing the house since that time. The current rent is \$1,000 per month.

In addition to rent, the tenant pays utilities and sanitation and performs routine maintenance, including lawn care and snow and ice removal.

The lease extension is for 12 months, beginning March 1 and ending Feb. 28, 2018, for total rent revenue of \$12,000.

Contact: Sharon Price, Right-of-Way Specialist/Property Manager, 651-430-4391

County's library will receive \$30,000 from foundation

The Washington County Library will receive a \$30,000 gift from the RAFT Foundation, after the County Board accepted the gift Feb. 21.

The Washington County Library has received donations from the RAFT Foundation for a number of years. In the past, the library has used the donation to purchase material and provide training. This year's gift will be used for staff training.

Contact: Keith Ryskoski, Library Director, 651-275-8501

County will receive \$21,000 for Historic Courthouse Restoration Fund

The Washington County Historic Courthouse will receive \$21,000 from the A.R. Kircher Trust for its Restoration Fund.

The County Board accepted the gift Feb. 21.

A.R. Kircher worked for Citizen's State Bank and was a prominent business man and a longtime resident of Stillwater. Relatives of the donor do not live in the area and were not available to present the gift.

The Historic Courthouse, at Pine and Third streets in Stillwater, was completed in 1870, and is on the National Register of Historic Places.

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

County asks for design change to complete CSAH 13 improvements

Washington County will request a design standards variance from the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) to do improvements on County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 13 in Oakdale and Lake Elmo.

The County Board approved the request Feb. 21.

Washington County is working with the cities along the roadway on plans for the reconstruction of CSAH 13 from CSAH 14 (34th Street North) to 44th Street North and reconstruction of CSAH 13 from 44th Street North to CSAH 35. The plan is to do the work this summer.

The county and cities propose a variance from the minimum parking lane width of 10 feet to eight feet. The reduction of the parking lane width by two feet will minimize construction impacts to the adjacent properties, while achieving a project goal to allow parking along the corridor. If the parking lanes were built out on the additional two feet, it would require additional temporary easements, steeper driveway slopes, additional tree and landscaping impacts, and retaining walls on additional properties.

If the variance is approved, it will allow the county to bid the project early in the spring.

The \$3.47 million roadway reconstruction project will correct existing roadway deficiencies, including pavement in poor condition, poor sight lines, and narrow shoulders. It will also mitigate erosion and capture storm runoff, while providing pedestrian trails. Stakeholders and residents have expressed a desire for adequate on-street parking.

The roadway will have two 11-foot lanes, an eight-foot trail from 44th Street to 50th Street on the west side, a six-foot boulevard, a four-foot shoulder on the west side, and an eight-foot parking lane on the east side, which is what requires a variance. Curb and gutter and a storm sewer will manage drainage.

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