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Date: April 25, 2017
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The following actions were taken at the April 25, 2017, Washington County Board of Commissioners meeting at the Government Center in Stillwater, Minnesota

Lavold, Madigan to serve on South Washington Watershed District

Jack Lavold, Cottage Grove, and Michael Madigan, Woodbury, will serve three-year terms on the South Washington Watershed District, expiring April 30, 2020.

The Washington County Board of Commissioners made the appointments April 25.

Watershed district governance, required by state law, helps to control or alleviate damage by flood waters; improves stream channels for drainage or navigation; reclaims or fills wet or overflow lands; oversees water supply for irrigation; regulates the flow of streams; diverts or changes water courses; provides and conserves water supply; and provides for the protection of groundwater and regulation of groundwater use.

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

County Board asks that state pay for workforce development board costs

The Washington County Board of Commissioners asked that the state fully fund the Metro Regional Workforce Development Board.

The board made the request by resolution April 25.

The Greater Metro Workforce Council has served as the regional governing body implementing the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), which passed in 1998. The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity

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Act (WIOA) replaced that act in 2014 to consolidate all Job Training Programs under WIA into a single funding stream. WIOA also allowed the state to establish regional Workforce Development Areas in the state and to provide innovative workforce development opportunities to those most in need of employment and training services. Six regions were established.

The County Board approved the Workforce Development Area (WDA) designation and the establishment of the Metro Region in June 2015.

The Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development is requiring the creation of an expanded and more formal Metro Regional WorkForce Development Board. In the resolution, county commissioners expressed support for full state funding for the creation and functioning of the board to advance the County Board's efforts to protect local property taxpayers from further cost shifts.

Contact: Robert Crawford, Workforce Center Division Manager, 651-275-8660

Board approves labor agreement with probation officers

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a tentative labor agreement with the county's probation officers April 25.

The labor bargaining unit is represented by Teamsters Local 320. The two-year agreement extends to Dec. 31, 2018.

The agreement provides for a 2.5 percent general adjustment in the beginning of both 2017 and 2018. The contract also sets out the county's contributions for health insurance for employees.

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

Minnesota Boat Club will use Lake Elmo Park Reserve boat launches Aug. 10-12

The Minnesota Boat Club will use public boat launches in the Lake Elmo Park Reserve Aug. 10-12 for its 114th Annual North Western International Rowing Association Championship Regatta on Lake Elmo.

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved the boat launch closures April 25 to allow for their use for the regatta.

The boat club will pay \$500 per day for a permit, and will provide a certificate of insurance. This will be the fourth time that the lake is used for the rowing championship.

The club estimates there will be 450 competitors from the United States and Canada participating in 52 rowing events. Other area rowing clubs in St. Paul, Eden Prairie, Minneapolis, and Long Lake, as well as the University of Minnesota and St. Thomas, will assist the Minnesota Boat Club in hosting the rowing event.

The County Board has allowed the boat launch to be used for boating events on other occasions. County parks staff is working with the Sheriff's Office and the state Department of Natural Resources to assure all safety and park ordinances are being followed. This includes notification to the residents of the City of Lake Elmo by the club, and any park visitors during this time of the boat launch closure and no wake zones.

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

County Board conducts public hearing on refinancing note

The Washington County Board of Commissioners conducted a public hearing April 25 on providing host approval for the refinancing of a note issued by the City of White Bear Lake for the benefit of Northeast Residence, Inc.

No residents spoke at the hearing.

Northeast Residence, Inc., a Minnesota nonprofit corporation, owns and operates multiple supervised living services facilities for developmentally disabled persons throughout Washington and Ramsey counties. In 2010, the City of White Bear Lake issued its Revenue Note to refinance certain facilities of Northeast Residence, Inc. The agency proposed refunding the outstanding note, and finance the acquisition, construction, renovation, and equipping of an additional facility in White Bear Lake to allow Northeast Residence, Inc., to continue serving those with developmental disabilities in the community.

Northeast Residence, Inc., requested that the City of White Bear Lake issue another tax-exempt revenue obligation for \$6 million. To do this, the city requested that the county grant "host approval" for the issuance of the bond, which is required by state and federal law. Under state law, a municipality is not authorized to issue revenue obligations for projects located in other municipalities

unless the other municipalities consent to the issuance of the revenue obligations to finance such projects, which the counties did in 2009.

Northeast Residence, Inc., shall pay the county for any costs incurred by the county; by granting host approval, the county is not assuming any liability for the debt issued.

Contact: Tabatha Hansen, Accounting and Finance Director, 651-430-6027

Forest Lake Contracting, Inc., will put in new gates at Lake Elmo Park Reserve

Forest Lake Contracting, Inc., will reconstruct the front gate at the Lake Elmo Park Reserve main entrance, and install a security gate at the north entrance of the reserve, which is used by employees.

The contract was approved by the Washington County Board of Commissioners April 25.

The park's main entrance gate is 30 years old, has been repaired numerous times, and is beyond its useful life expectancy. In addition, currently unauthorized vehicles can enter the park through the north entrance. Installation of a security gate will direct park visitors to enter through the main entrance.

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

Marine on St. Croix roadway project will be done by Forest Lake Contracting, Inc.

Forest Lake Contracting, Inc., will complete the County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 4 roadway project planned for Marine on St. Croix this summer, after the Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a \$1.99 million contract with the company April 25.

The CSAH 4 Corridor Management and Safety Improvement Project includes rehabilitation of the pavement on Ostrum Trail (CSAH 4) from the railroad bridge to Broadway Street, and reconstruction of the Broadway Street/Maple Street roadway from Ostrum Trail to Highway 95. The goal is to address the need for improved stormwater drainage and treatment, and improve pedestrian accessibility along the roadway while preserving the historic character of the area.

The City of Marine on St. Croix, Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District, and Washington County are partners in the project. The watershed district cost sharing will pay for stormwater treatment basins and raingardens, and a portion of the design and construction engineering.

The board also approved a cost-sharing agreement with the City of Marine on St. Croix, which will be responsible for \$88,657 of the project, which is half the cost of the retaining wall, railing, and new sidewalk, as well as part of the design and construction engineering. The board also approved a maintenance agreement with the city.

The city and the watershed district have approved their agreements with the county.

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

Park Construction to upgrade CSAH 22 in Cottage Grove

Park Construction will upgrade County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 22 in Cottage Grove after the Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a \$2.8 million contract with the company April 25.

The board also approved a \$292,360 contract with Stonebrooke Engineering for construction administration of the project, which includes monitoring the work of the contractor for conformance with plans and specifications, as well as construction documentation, inspection and surveying/staking.

CSAH 22 is an east-west roadway serving south Washington County. Current traffic volumes are expected to increase as the area develops. A joint city/county feasibility study was completed in 2010 that identified current and projected corridor deficiencies and solutions. This project is an outcome of the study.

The project includes pavement, capacity, safety and pedestrian improvements on CSAH 22 (70th Street South) from Highway 61 to Highway 95 (Manning Avenue South). In addition, the City of Cottage Grove will upgrade and improve underground utilities and infrastructure.

There will be a new trail on the south side of the roadway between Goodview and Meadow Grass avenues, wider boulevards where possible, and wider, more usable shoulders. There will also be right turn lanes at Hardwood and Grenada avenues, and a new steel pole signal at Hardwood Avenue.

The project construction will be paid for with \$2.7 million in county state aid, and \$322,800 from the City of Cottage Grove. The engineering will be paid for with \$267,400 from state aid, and \$25,000 from the City of Cottage Grove.

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

County Board commends DNR on decision not to stock trout in Square Lake this year

The Washington County Board of Commissioners commended the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Fisheries Division April 25 for its decision not to stock trout in Square Lake this year.

Square Lake County Park provides public access to Square Lake, one of the clearest water bodies in Washington County. The DNR's initial plan to stock the lake this spring with rainbow trout was met with concern from local residents, the watershed district and the county. Recent studies have shown a potential connection between the presence of trout in the lake and a reduction in water clarity.

Everyone involved agrees that maintaining the water quality and clarity of Square Lake is a priority. Given questions regarding the current stocking proposal, and the impacts it may have to the lake, the DNR has informed stakeholders that it will not stock the lake with trout this spring, and will continue to gather more information from local partners to help guide future management.

The board will send a letter to the DNR thanking them for listening to local partners in their decision making process.

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

County Board honors retiring Sheriff Hutton

The Washington County Board of Commissioners honored retiring Sheriff Bill Hutton April 25.

Hutton announced his retirement effective April 30, after serving as the county's sheriff for more than 10 years. He will take over as the executive director of the Minnesota Sheriffs' Association.

The County Board has appointed Chief Deputy Dan Starry to fill Hutton's term of office, which runs through Jan. 7, 2019, as will Starry's term. It is expected that Starry will be sworn in to office May 2. Under Minnesota law, an appointment to a vacancy in the Office of Sheriff is made by the County Board for the balance of the exiting sheriff's term.

At the April 25 meeting, the board commended Hutton's 33 years of work in law enforcement, including as a patrol officer, detective, sergeant, and captain in the Oakdale Police Department.

Hutton graduated from the FBI's National Academy, and holds a masters degree from the University of St. Thomas.

The board noted the skilled leadership and vision that Hutton brought to the Sheriff's Office, and the relationships that he has built during his tenure with leaders on all levels of government, as well as colleagues in county departments, the judiciary, and throughout the community. Hutton has been involved in a number of community engagement programs, including the Youth Service Bureau, a youth crime diversionary program, which he has been involved with since 1979.

The County Board thanked Hutton for his service, and wished him the best in his retirement.

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Photo attached: Retiring Washington County Sheriff Bill Hutton was honored with a resolution of appreciation by the Washington County Board of Commissioners April 25. Honoring Hutton was Molly O'Rourke, county administrator, commissioners Stan Karwoski, District 2, and Fran Miron, District 1, Sheriff Hutton, and commissioners Lisa Weik, District 5, Gary Kriesel, District 3, and Karla Bigham, District 4.

County Board appoints attorneys to assist in family court matters

Two attorneys, Amy Senn and John Chitwood, will provide legal representation in children in need of protection or services (CHIPS), termination of parental rights (TPR), and permanency cases after the Washington County Board of Commissioners approved contracts with them April 25.

In 2008, the State Board of Public Defense, facing a financial deficit and under the belief they were not legally required by state law to represent parents in these cases, announced they would no longer accept appointments to these cases. At that time, counties began to contract with attorneys to provide these services and pay these costs even though they believed this was and should be a state cost.

In 2012, the Legislature approved changes that codified the county's responsibility to pay for the representation for the parents in these cases if they were determined to be indigent, and also clarified the county role in selecting and contracting with the attorneys to provide the services.

In 2013, the County Board approved contracts with four attorneys to provide these services. The contracts were renewed on Dec. 8, 2015. Each attorney is being paid \$5,000 per month for all services provided.

In December 2016, the county terminated the contract with one of the four contract attorneys. A Request for Proposal was issued to identify attorneys interested in providing these services, noting that it was the county's intent to contract with two additional attorneys, for a total of five attorneys providing services under contract with the county.

The county received eight responses from interested attorneys, and after interviews, it was determined to contract with Amy Senn and John Chitwood for court-appointed counsel services. The term of the contract will be through the end of 2017, with an option to renew for one additional year, the same term as the three current contracts.

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