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

**Date:** Oct. 24, 2017  
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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

The following actions were taken at the Oct. 24, 2017, Washington County Board of Commissioners meeting at the Government Center in Stillwater, Minnesota

#### **Programs identified for county mission directed budget funding**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved county projects Oct. 24 that will be funded with the county's mission directed budget funds.

The county's Mission Directed Budget (MDB) savings program identifies 25 percent of the unassigned year-end revenues over expenditures to be used for projects of countywide benefit that increase efficiencies and support the county's mission and goals. Twelve projects totaling \$750,200 were submitted by departments for consideration by the county administrator. Of those, five were recommended for approval, with costs of \$224,000. Those include:

- Community Corrections probation system review, \$50,000;
- Library digital literacy area, \$45,000;
- Library strategic planning equipment, \$15,000;
- Information Technology auditing tool, \$62,000; and
- Sheriff's Office field radio technology, \$52,000.

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

#### **Mason will join family homelessness prevention, assistance citizen advisory committee**

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Equal Employment Opportunity / Affirmative Action

Kristine Mason will join the Washington County Family Homelessness Prevention and Assistance Citizen Advisory Committee, after the County Board made the appointment Oct. 24.

Mason will serve as an emergency shelter representative during a partial term expiring June 30, 2019. She is a case manager for the St. Andrew's Community Resource Center.

The purpose of the Advisory Committee is to provide public input and increase the accountability of the Family Homelessness Prevention and Assistance Program in Washington County. This advisory committee is established under state law.

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

### **County will continue to work with Tree Trust on outdoor projects**

Washington County will continue to work with Tree Trust, a youth work program, after the County Board approved a three-year contract with the organization Oct. 24.

The \$330,000 contract will provide services for the next three summers.

The county's Workforce Center receives funding from state and federal sources to provide employment and training services to dislocated workers, adults, youth, and seniors. One such program is the Summer Youth Employment Program. Each summer, the Workforce Center serves at-risk and low-income youth by providing career readiness training, specialized employment opportunities, and support in achieving educational credentials. Workshops held throughout the summer help youth learn about budgeting, employer expectations, and how education connects to work. In addition, youth work on supervised crews completing a variety of significant landscaping projects that improve the community environment and help build youth competencies.

This is a renewal of a prior contract with Tree Trust, a nonprofit organization that has partnered with the county for many years. Tree Trust determines the worksites each summer. Previous worksites have included Pine Tree Pond Park, Carver Lake Park, Lake Elmo Park Reserve, St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park Reserve, and more. By participating in these programs, youth gain job skills, increase confidence in their abilities, and have the opportunity to earn elective academic credit in partnership with Northeast Metro 916 Area Learning Center.

**Contact: Robert Crawford, Workforce Center Division Manager, 651-275-8600**

### **Plat in Maywood Township approved**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a plat in May Township Oct. 24.

It is a five-lot plat, called Maywood Estates.

**Contact: Nancie Schwintek, Property Records and Taxpayer Services Division Manager, 651-430-6758**

### **County will receive grant for pole barn renovation in St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park**

A pole barn in St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park will receive a renovation, after the Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a \$705,097 grant from the Metropolitan Council Oct. 24.

The grant is funded through the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment's Parks and Trails Fund Grant Program.

The existing pole barn is more than 20 years old and is used to store park maintenance equipment. Because the structure is undersized for the equipment, many pieces of equipment are being stored outside and exposed to weather, reducing the life of the equipment.

In addition to the design, engineering, and construction of a new pole shed, the grant will fund the installation of a backup generator for the park and an update to the campground electrical systems. Construction will begin in 2018.

The \$705,097 grant is included in the proposed 2018 budget.

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

### **County Board conducts public hearing on buffer ordinance**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners conducted a public hearing on the county's buffer ordinance Oct. 24, and then adopted the ordinance.

No residents spoke at the hearing; some written comments were received, and shared at the hearing. The Minnesota Buffer Law was signed into law in 2015, with revisions made in 2016 and 2017. The law requires primarily agricultural landowners to implement vegetative buffer strips along public waters and public drainage systems, to protect or improve water quality.

The County Board elected local jurisdiction for enforcement of the buffer law in June, and notified the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR).

The buffer ordinance puts in place the required local controls to enforce the ordinance. The ordinance applies countywide to all waters, including public drainage systems, shown on a buffer protection map prepared by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and available on its website at [www.dnr.state.mn.us/buffers/index.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/buffers/index.html). The proposed county ordinance closely mirrors the model ordinance provided by BWSR, and should be in place by Nov. 1.

The basic buffer requirements in the ordinance are a 50-foot average and 30-foot minimum buffer requirement for public waters on the DNR buffer map, and a 16.5-foot minimum for public drainage systems on the DNR buffer map. The ordinance includes information on exemptions and alternative practices as allowed by state law.

Determining compliance will be done through a partnership between the Washington Conservation District (WCD) and the county. Enforcement options for noncompliant landowners include criminal and administrative penalties.

To date, the WCD has identified 120 parcels owned by approximately 85 landowners who may be required to install a buffer under the buffer law. These parcels, which are adjacent to an applicable waterway, have been identified via desktop analysis to potentially contain bare soil. All other parcels adjacent to applicable waterbodies have been found to be in compliance and have allowable perennial vegetation, or are exempt from the buffer law. All directly affected landowners received communication from the WCD last fall or this fall. As of Oct. 12, 51 percent of those parcels were in compliance, have a plan to come into compliance, or were removed from the DNR list. Of the remaining parcels, several landowners have contacted the WCD for site visits.

Property owners with questions about compliance with the ordinance should contact the Washington Conservation District at 651-330-8220.

**Contact: Lowell Johnson, Public Health and Environment Director, 651-430-6725**

### **Washington County will apply for road improvement funds for Bailey Road**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners agreed Oct. 24 to apply for Local Road Improvement funds for proposed center left turn lanes on County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 18, or Bailey Road, between Pioneer Drive and Wellington Lane in Woodbury.

The Minnesota Department of Transportation announced the solicitation of the program, which assists cities, towns, and counties in paying the local share of trunk highway projects. The Bailey Road project would be part of a larger project for pavement and safety improvement on CSAH 18, which carries 8,100 vehicles per day, and is expected to carry 13,600 vehicles per day in 2040. It links East Ridge High School, Health East Sports Complex, and shopping areas.

The estimated cost of the project is \$1.5 million, including construction and right-of-way. The project is scheduled for construction in 2020.

Approximately \$25.3 million is available for a statewide solicitation to fund projects from the MnDOT programs.

**Contact: Nathan Arnold, Engineer II, 651-430-4384**

### **County Board accepts donations to county**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners accepted gifts to the county that were received in the third quarter of 2017 Oct. 24.

The Sheriff's Office received \$250, to be used for community engagement, and the library received \$355 in donations. The parks department received \$1,431 during the quarter, much of which came from the ice cream social conducted in July at the Historic Courthouse, with the rest coming from general or exhibit donations. Parks also received more than \$2,000 in in-kind donations to support the ice cream social, and the Nooks and Crannies Tour.

Community Corrections received \$100 in gas gift cards for the adult recovery program.

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