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Date: Jan. 23, 2018
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The following actions were taken at the Jan. 23, 2018, Washington County Board of Commissioners meeting at the Government Center in Stillwater, Minnesota

Karwoski elected as regional rail chair, Weik elected vice chair

Commissioner Stan Karwoski, District 2, was elected as the Washington County Regional Rail Authority chair at its first meeting of the year Jan. 23.

Commissioner Lisa Weik, District 5, was elected vice chair.

The regional rail authority is comprised of the Washington County Board of Commissioners.

Karwoski was elected to the board in November 2016, filling a vacated seat. A native of St. Paul, Karwoski has lived in Oakdale since 1987. He is a retired 38-year employee of Graco, Inc., where he was a principal designer. He holds five design patents. Karwoski served four terms on the Oakdale City Council and was elected mayor in 2014.

Commissioner Lisa Weik was elected to the County Board in a special election in November 2008, and has been re-elected three times since. She has served her community as a parent volunteer for the Woodbury Athletic Association and Woodbury Schools.

Commissioner Weik has a business background in medical device compliance and as a healthcare professional in clinical laboratory medicine.

MZA+Co. will continue to provide communication for Gateway Corridor commission

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Equal Employment Opportunity / Affirmative Action

The Washington County Board of Commissioners, sitting as the Regional Rail Authority Jan. 23, agreed to continue a contract with MZA+Co. to provide professional communications services for the Gateway Corridor.

The contract is for \$130,000, and will extend through 2019. The cost of the contract is split between the Washington and Ramsey regional railroad authorities.

Earlier in January, the Gateway Corridor Commission unanimously approved its 2018 work plan and budget, including a scope of work and budget for strategic communications services. The Gateway Corridor Commission also approved an extension of the MZA+Co contract to provide the services, including project management and strategy; strategic message development; media relations; community and business engagement; social media and website content development; and government relations.

The Gateway Corridor project is in the transition to project development.

Washington County is the fiscal agent for the Gateway Corridor Commission.

Contact: Jan Lucke, Transportation Manager, 651-430-4316

MacSwain will serve as county agricultural inspector

Dan MacSwain, Washington County Parks natural resources coordinator, will serve as the county's agricultural inspector, after the County Board made the appointment Jan. 23.

State laws require county board appointment of the agricultural inspector.

The county agricultural inspector provides assistance to cities, townships, and residents in a variety of duties, including:

- inspect land and work with owners to control and eradicate noxious weeds to keep them from spreading and harming neighboring lands. Some plants are noxious because they can harm people, animals, food, and nature. The state maintains a list of identified and designated noxious weeds.
- assist the Minnesota Department of Agriculture with laws regarding seeds, feeds, fertilizers, pesticides, and plant pests.
- coordinate and communicate with the local weed inspectors.

This appointment transfers the agricultural inspector duties to the Parks Natural Resources Coordinator from Public Health and Environment to better align the work of the agricultural inspector with the work being done in regional parks.

Contact: Don Theisen, Public Works Director, 651-430-4304

County will seek federal assistance to fight drug trafficking

Washington County will apply for federal assistance from the Office of National Drug Control Policy for the second year of federal grant funding in the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) program after the County Board approved the application Jan. 23.

The Washington County Sheriff's Office was awarded a two-year grant from the Office of National Drug Control Policy for participation in the program. The Sheriff's Office received \$117,500 for each year, 2017 and 2018. The grant funds are being used to fund a criminal analyst position including overtime, training, travel, and operational expenses.

The HIDTA program is designed to provide resources to federal, state, local, and tribal agencies to coordinate activities to address drug trafficking in specifically designated areas of the country. The program helps to identify and disrupt/dismantle drug trafficking organizations and money laundering organizations; reduce drug-related crime and violence; and identify and respond to emerging drug trends.

Contact: Sheriff Dan Starry, 651-430-7601

Library receives \$30,000 from RAFT Foundation

The Washington County Library received \$30,000 from the RAFT Foundation, which the County Board accepted Jan. 23.

The Washington County Library has received donations from the RAFT Foundation for a number of years. In the past, the library used the donation to purchase material and provide training. This year, the library is recommending the funds be used for library outreach and communications materials.

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

Commissioners will serve on county canvass board for Senate District 54 elections

Washington County commissioners Stan Karwoski, District 2, and Fran Miron, District 1, will serve on the county canvass board to certify results from the Jan. 29 State Senate District 54 special election primary, and commissioners Karwoski and Lisa Weik, District 5, will serve on the county canvass board to certify the results from the Senate District 54 special general election.

The County Board made the appointments Jan. 23. The primary canvass board will meet at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 30, in Conference Room Lower Level 16 of the Washington County Government Center in Stillwater. The canvass board meeting for the general election will be at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 13, in Conference Room 5599 of the Washington County Government Center in Stillwater.

Gov. Mark Dayton called the special election to fill a vacancy in Senate District 54 in Washington and Dakota counties for Monday, Feb. 12. Based on candidate filings, a special primary is necessary for Monday, Jan. 29.

The membership of the county canvass board is established by state law to include the county auditor, the court administrator of the district court, the mayor or chair of the town board of the county's most populous municipality, and two members of the county board selected by the board from its members who are not candidates in the election. Any member of the canvassing board may appoint a designee to appear at the meeting of the board, except that no designee may be a candidate for public office. Three members constitute a quorum.

Contact: Jennifer Wagenius, Property Records and Taxpayers Services Director, 651-430-6182

Afton Apple Orchard donates money to Sheriff's Office for community engagement

The Washington County Sheriff's Office received \$1,668 from the Afton Apple Orchard for community engagement.

The County Board accepted the gift Jan. 23.

Afton Apple Orchard does annual fundraising to provide the gift to the Sheriff's Office.

Contact: Sheriff Dan Starry, 651-430-7601