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

**Date:** March 27, 2018  
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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The following actions were taken at the March 27, 2018, Washington County Board of Commissioners meeting at the Government Center in Stillwater, Minnesota

### **County Board appoints Lavold to serve as District 4 commissioner**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners appointed Jack Lavold March 27 to serve as the District 4 commissioner until after the November election.

It is expected that he will be sworn in at the board's April 3 meeting.

County Commissioner Karla Bigham from District 4 was elected to the State Senate in a special election Feb. 12, and resigned her seat on the county board effective Feb. 20. By law, the County Board is able to consider an appointment to fill the vacancy because less than one year remained on Bigham's term.

Lavold, a resident of Cottage Grove, will serve until a new commissioner is elected in the November General Election. Lavold has served on the Cottage Grove Public Works Commission and the Washington County parks and planning commissions. He has served as a member of the South Washington Watershed District for more than 20 years, a post that he will resign to be sworn in as county commissioner. He has also been a member of the South Washington County Telecommunications Commission. He worked for NSP, now Xcel Energy, and 3M during his career. During discussion, board members commented on the pool of excellent candidates who expressed interest in serving on the board, and said that either applicant interviewed would add value to the board. The board selected Lavold due to his extensive experience and knowledge of water issues, given the significant water issues needing to be addressed in the southern part of the county.

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At its Feb. 20 meeting, the County Board set a public hearing to consider an appointment to fill the vacancy in District 4. As required by law, the county notified local officials in the district. The board also directed individuals who were interested in being considered for the appointment to send a letter of interest to the county administrator by March 7. Eleven individuals submitted letters of interest and were deemed eligible to be appointed. Two individuals withdrew their names from consideration prior to the identification of individuals to be interviewed.

The County Board met in a workshop March 13 to review the letters of interest and identified three applicants to be interviewed. One of the three individuals identified withdrew his name from consideration.

The board conducted the public hearing March 20, interviewed the applicants, and heard from any other applicants who wished to speak and took testimony from the public on the qualifications of the prospective applicants.

**Contact: Molly O'Rourke, Administrator, 651-430-6002**



**Photo: Washington County commissioners with Jack Lavold, Gary Kriesel, District 3, Fran Miron, District 1, Lavold, Lisa Weik, District 5, and Stan Karwoski, District 2.**

### **County Board approves grant from MPCA for recycling development**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a \$227,585 grant from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency March 27, which will be used to encourage new or enhanced recycling programs in the county.

The county uses the funds for recycling grants to cities and townships, and other assistance. The county has received the grant for many years. The grant also requires a report of county activities funded by the previous year's grant that also serves as the county's application for the next year's funding. Funds from the County Environmental Charge are used for the local match for this grant.

The money assists the county in meeting the 75 percent combined recycling and organics composting goal set by the state Legislature.

**Contact: Nicole Stewart, Environmental Resource Supervisor, 651-430-6713**

### **Sheriff's Office will receive boat, water safety grant from DNR**

The Washington County Sheriff's Office will receive a \$46,712 Boat and Water Safety Grant from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, after the County Board approved the grant March 27.

These funds will be used to cover the full-time and seasonal personnel costs associated with boat and water safety activities. The grant is for Jan. 1 through June 30, 2019.

**Contact: Sheriff Dan Starry, 651-430-7601**

### **County Board approves changes to CDBG block grant, HOME programs**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved changes to the 2016 and 2017 action plans for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and the HOME Investment Partnerships programs March 27.

Washington County's uses the CDBG and HOME Investment Partnerships funds for annual programs. From time to time, it is necessary to amend those plans when more funds become available or when designated activities do not move forward in a timely manner. Amendments that result in cancelled activities, new activities within a program year, or budget changes greater than \$100,000 are considered substantial and require public input and approval by the County Board.

As described in its Citizen Participation Plan, Washington County provides a comment period of 30 days to hear feedback on proposed amendments to the plans.

The 2017 Annual Action Plan included \$214,767 of HOME funds to the Two Rivers Community Land Trust for the Ivy Estates Project, which the Land Trust has decided to not move forward. The 2017 Annual Action Plan shall be amended to cancel the HOME-funded Two Rivers Community Land Trust Ivy Estates Project, the construction of six homes in Forest Lake, and create the HOME-funded Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity Generation Acres Project construction of four townhomes

in Hugo, with a budget of \$180,000; and create the HOME-funded Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity Scattered Site Project, which is the acquisition, rehabilitation, and resale of four single-family homes in Washington County, with a budget of \$34,767.

The 2016 Annual Action Plan included \$220,000 of CDBG funds to the Two Rivers Community Land Trust for the Stay Project, which the Land Trust has decided not to move forward. It is proposed to cancel and re-allocate the CDBG funds to the City of Landfall, which will use \$150,000 for sewer drain improvements, and the St. Andrew's Emergency Shelter project, which will use it for the acquisition and rehabilitation of an emergency homeless shelter using \$70,000.

The proposed amendments were released for public comment and published on the Washington County Community Development Agency's website with instructions on how to comment. Notice of the public comment period was published in the Stillwater Gazette. The public comment period ended March 26. No public comments have been received to date. Upon county approval, the amendments will be submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

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

### **County Board supports Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners endorsed the President of the United States' proclamation March 27 that April 2018 is Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month.

Each year in April, the President of the United States issues a proclamation to announce National Child Abuse Prevention Month. States and local governments are encouraged to support such proclamations to encourage public awareness of child abuse and neglect, recommit state and local resources to the cause, and promote community involvement through state and local activities.

National Child Abuse Prevention Month is a time to acknowledge the importance of families and communities working together to prevent child abuse and neglect, and to promote the social and emotional well-being of children and families. During April, and throughout the year, communities are encouraged to share child abuse and neglect prevention awareness strategies and activities, and promote prevention across the country.

National Child Abuse Prevention Month is also a time to celebrate the good things communities do to promote healthy child development, as well as a time to reflect on the work that still remains.

Everyone has a role to play in healthy child development, and a goal this April is to help others recognize that role and the ways in which everyone can maximize their impact. Research suggests that many people are already playing a role in preventing child abuse and creating great childhoods in their communities, they just don't realize it. A study commissioned by Prevent Child Abuse America shows that only 27 percent of Americans report that they are engaged in prevention. However, that same study showed that 80 percent of Americans reported donating goods, money, or time to an organization supporting children and families, 70 percent reported volunteering with children through places of worship, schools, and sports or academic clubs, and 56 percent provided mentorship to a child in their family, neighborhood, or community.

The Washington County Board of Commissioners endorses the observance of National Child Abuse Prevention during April 2018 and thanks and honors all of its employees who work every day to help parents and families counter the problem of child maltreatment and abuse.

**Contact: Sarah Amundson, Community Services Division Manager, 651-430-6597**

### **Washington County Citizens Review Panel delivers annual report**

The Washington County Child Protection Citizens Review Panel delivered its annual report to the County Board March 27.

The State of Minnesota has a federal mandate to operate citizen review panels (CRP) for child protection. Counties are not mandated, but encouraged to participate in a CRP. There are five Minnesota counties, in addition to Washington County, that host a CRP. The mission of the CRP is "Citizens partnering with child protection services, advocating to keep children safe." Each year, an annual report is compiled to highlight activities and projects that the CRP has completed over the past year.

The group has 11 members. The CRP met most months in 2017. The informational part of the panel's work included learning about Foster Care Re-Entry review, and a preview of a presentation that county employees presented at a national CRP conference. The group received a presentation from a representative of Big Brothers Big Sisters, an update from a youth services coordinator from Tubman who works with victims of sex trafficking, and a presentation on child protection permanency, which

works with children who are in out-of-home placement to place them in a permanent home. The group also had ongoing training.

Special projects during 2017 included working with foster care recruitment, a foster care re-entry file review, a review of permanency guidelines, and building a framework for mentorship resources.

In the coming year, the group intends to visit county staff meetings to note Social Worker Appreciation Month, do community outreach during Child Abuse Prevention Month, and have a presence at the Washington County Fair in August to share resources.

**Contact: Sarah Amundson, Community Services Division Manager, 651-430-6597**

### **County Board supports legislation to provide funding for HERO Center**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners stated its support March 27 for proposed legislation making its way through the Minnesota House and Senate for funding for the Health and Emergency Response Occupation (HERO) Center in Cottage Grove.

The proposed bills would appropriate \$9.9 million dollars from bond proceeds to the Commissioner of Public Safety for a grant to the City of Cottage Grove to construct, furnish, and equip the center. The County Board's resolution noted that the east side of the Twin Cities metropolitan area has been identified as a region that lacks public safety training facilities; and many Washington County and East Metro departments are using private facilities that do not fully meet their training needs and are traveling long distances to accomplish their training.

In 2009, the Minnesota Department of Public Safety conducted a Training Facility Needs Assessment that stated "the state should only consider funding multi-purpose, regional facilities that many public safety disciplines and organizations can use" and the Minnesota Department of Public Safety identified the East Metro as a region that lacks adequate public safety training facilities.

The planned HERO Center would provide training facilities to meet training needs in the areas of de-escalation, crisis intervention, firearms, and realistic scenario-based training.

**Contact: Sheriff Dan Starry, 651-430-7601**

