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

**Date:** April 3, 2018  
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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The following actions were taken at the April 3, 2018, Washington County Board of Commissioners meeting at the Government Center in Stillwater, Minnesota

### **Lavold sworn in as District 4 commissioner**

Jack Lavold, Cottage Grove, was sworn in as the District 4 commissioner at the April 3 Washington County Board of Commissioners meeting.

Lavold replaces former commissioner Karla Bigham District 4 who 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 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.

The board conducted the public hearing March 20, interviewed applicants for the position, 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**

*A great place to live, work and play...today and tomorrow*



**Washington County Commissioner Jack Lavold, District 4, was sworn in by County Attorney Pete Orput April 3, as Lavold's wife Carol accompanied him. Lavold will serve until November.**

### **County begins right-of-way acquisition for Highway 36/Hadley project**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners began the process April 3 of acquiring right-of-way for the Highway 36 and Hadley Avenue interchange project.

The cost to purchase the right-of-way is estimated at \$3.3 million and is funded by highway state aid.

It is expected that 18 land parcels will be impacted by the construction project. Currently, one is owned by Washington County, one is owned by the City of Oakdale, one is owned by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and five are owned by Mills Fleet Farm, which will donate the land to the project. Four parcels will be acquired, and one private business will be relocated.

The project will remove the existing signalized intersection, which will move Highway 36 closer to being an access-controlled expressway with grade-separated intersections. Project improvements will

include a new bridge, interchange ramps, Gateway Trail grade separation, and other pedestrian enhancements. The intersection will be more efficient and safely manage increasing traffic and pedestrian/bicycle movements in the area.

The intersection sees 30,700 vehicles each day on Highway 36, a number that is expected to increase to 44,300 in 2040; Hadley Avenue sees 14,500 vehicles per day, and traffic is expected to increase to 17,400 vehicles per day by 2040. The crash rate and rate of severity of those crashes is double what is experienced by other roadways in the metropolitan area. The final design for the project will be complete by October, and construction is scheduled to start in early 2019.

**Contact: Kevin Peterson, Engineer II, 651-430-4330**

### **County Board notes April as National Association of Counties month**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners joined county officials around the country April 3 proclaiming April as National County Government Month in appreciation of county government employees who provide services for residents in Washington County.

This year's theme is "Serving the Underserved."

The nearly 1,200 employees of Washington County provide core and mandated services of county government to more than 253,000 residents each day. County services range from public health and environmental services to law enforcement and prosecution, from probation to community services that support those with mental illness, disabilities, or the elderly, from elections to roads and parks, and from libraries to all the internal services needed to deliver any of the county services.

By adopting the resolution, the County Board recognized, congratulated, and thanked all Washington County employees who fulfill the county's mission by providing quality services through responsible leadership, innovation, and the cooperation of dedicated people.

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

### **County Board supports Bayport's application to DNR for grant**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a letter April 3 in support of the City of Bayport's application to the state Department of Natural Resources's Natural and Scenic Area and Outdoor Recreation grant programs for a potential project along the St. Croix River.

The Bayport project would permanently protect, restore, and provide public accessibility to four contiguous properties on 11 acres with 665 feet of shoreline along the St. Croix riverfront near downtown Bayport. Three sets of landowners have come forward together and signed a letter of interest in selling to a public entity for conservation purposes.

The county has been working with the City of Bayport on a potential acquisition and easement project and state matching funds are needed. A potential source of funding for the project is the county's Land and Water Legacy Program. In May 2017, the board approved a similar letter of support for applications for funding from the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR). That grant request was unsuccessful.

The current letter of support for the city's request is for funding from the Natural and Scenic Area and Outdoor Recreation grant programs. These grant programs are administered by the state Department of Natural Resources and may be a better fit for the project as envisioned by the city and county.

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