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

Date: April 10, 2018
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The following actions were taken at the April 10, 2018, Washington County Board of Commissioners meeting at the Government Center in Stillwater, Minnesota

Hoffman will serve on Minnesota Extension Committee

Vicki Hoffman, Woodbury, was appointed to the Minnesota Extension Committee by the Washington County Board of Commissioners April 10, to serve in the District 5 position to a partial term expiring Dec. 31, 2020.

By law, each county in Minnesota must establish and appoint members to an extension committee. The committee must have nine members, with two members being county commissioners appointed by the County Board. Six members of the committee are appointed at-large and serve three-year terms.

The Washington County Extension Committee is authorized by state law to discern the particular needs of the county and to implement a program fulfilling the goals of the people of the county and of the Minnesota Agricultural Extension Service. County Extension Work encompasses educational programs and services provided by extension agents in agriculture, economic and human development, community leadership, and environment and natural resources. The Washington County Extension Committee works with the Washington County Board of Commissioners through the Department of Public Health and Environment.

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

County Board recognizes the 9-1-1 public safety dispatchers for National Public Safety Telecommunicators week

The Washington County 9-1-1 public safety dispatchers were recognized by the County Board April 10 in honor of National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week.

In 1994, a presidential proclamation was made to designate the second week in April as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week. The week honors all those who help those in need through the use of telecommunications.

The County Board thanked and honored the men and women who serve every day as public safety dispatchers in Washington County by adopting a resolution proclaiming the week of April 8 - April 14 as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week in Washington County.

Contact: Sheriff Dan Starry, 651-430-7601

County Board honors employees for exemplary service

The Washington County Board of Commissioners celebrated the county's fourth annual Employee Recognition Awards honors for exemplary performance April 10.

Employees were honored in the areas of customer service, employee engagement, innovation, teamwork, and excellence in county government. Throughout 2017, county employees were invited to nominate fellow employees for the service awards. The nominations were reviewed by a panel of employees, before recommendations were sent to county administration and the County Board.

The recipient of the Customer Service Award is Rachel Willey. The award honors an individual or team whose performance exemplifies the county value of ensuring services delivered to the public are up to the organization's highest standards and consistently meets or exceeds the needs of external customers.

Willey was nominated for her work with the Community Services donation program. Following the retirement of a long-time staff member, Willey was informally handed the role of "donation coordinator," a role she added to her full case load and normal work tasks. Throughout the year, Community Services' employees contact the "donation coordinator" to request specific items for clients. These items include clothing, furniture, housewares, etc. Willey has embraced this role and has worked tirelessly to make connections and get help to those who truly need it.

The Employee Engagement Award honors an individual or team who encourages and promotes an environment within the county where all employees are committed to the mission of the organization and motivated to work hard and perform their best. The recipient of the Employee Engagement Award is Amy Stenftenagel. Stenftenagel was nominated for her work in launching the library's strategic initiatives work that innovates the way the library serves its customers. Every employee in the library joined a team to tackle the implementation of these initiatives. This level of involvement provided employees with ownership in the library's future. By tapping into the creativity, brainpower, and input of all library employees, Stenftenagel's work has demonstrated to employees that they bring value to the organization. Stenftenagel has provided well-planned opportunities for engagement and development for each staff member. Her skill in "connecting the dots" with library employees repeatedly demonstrates her leadership and commitment to employee engagement.

The Innovation Award honors innovation and creativity in delivering services in a more efficient or effective manner. The recipients of the Innovation Award are members of a workgroup from Community Corrections. The Community Corrections workgroup was nominated for its work in creating efficiencies in the intake process and court coverage in the Adult Division. The workgroup surveyed processes in other counties, attended county-sponsored training, and used strategies learned to map and assess current processes and develop solutions for inefficiencies. Innovative ways of accomplishing the same tasks were adopted. An analysis of the data compiled before and after the changes were implemented indicate the Community Corrections department will save approximately 166 hours of staff time each month. The result of this workgroup's efforts and innovative solutions is more efficient services delivered to clients and stakeholders. The team is made up of Jessica Reeves, Jill Nasvik, Jessica Berghorst, Sharon Currier, Kristen Anderson, Janet Simonson, and David Fink.

The Teamwork Award honors a team of employees who have worked collaboratively to deliver exceptional services or bring about a new program, process, procedure, or method of service delivery. The recipients of the Teamwork Award are members of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) workgroup from Community Services. Staff from Community Services were nominated for improving the Expedited SNAP (food support) process, a critical service provided by the county. When the state adopted a new performance measurement system in 2014, the county was under-performing. In response, the SNAP workgroup was formed to improve the process and increase

performance. The group identified inefficiencies and developed initiatives to increase performance, including implementing a new workflow. Since implementation of the workgroup, performance has improved drastically. Timeliness has increased from 42.6 percent in 2014 to 64.7 percent as of September 2017, and the percentage of missed deadlines has decreased from 60.8 percent missed in 2015 to 41 percent missed in 2017.

The SNAP team members are Amy Shillings, Kristyn Stephens, Michelle Schoeder, Anna Owens, Anne Gelhar, Catherine Nelson, Jacqueline Robinson, Jennifer Krauth, Leah Schellinger, Lisa Samuel, Paula Barclay, Shelley Novak, Tamara Belland, Wendy Hoover-Carpentier, Paula Williams, and Amber Frascone.

The Excellence in County Government Award honors an individual or group of individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to Washington County and contributed to meeting the county's vision as a great place to live, work, and play...today and tomorrow.

The recipient of the 2018 Excellence in County Government Award is Teresa Lee. Through her years of service, Lee has performed a variety of technical roles, provided leadership within Information Technology, and implemented numerous technological changes. Her technical and customer service skills have been instrumental in enabling the Information Technology department to develop custom software applications that meet specific business needs, create request for proposals that identify core business functions and requirements, collaborate with project stakeholders to ensure enhancements and training are provided for systems, assist management in mentoring employees, and provide project management on the implementation of major systems. Currently, Lee is working with the Sheriff's Office to implement the TriTech records management system that will replace the custom Law Enforcement Records System that she helped develop early in her career. Lee's continued dedication to supporting the Sheriff's Office and her personal work ethic are the reasons she was selected for the Excellence in County Government Award.

Contact: Kirsta Sanchez, Public Information Specialist, 651-430-6008



The Washington County Board of Commissioners presented a series of Employee Recognition Awards April 10, including the one presented to Teresa Lee, the 2018 Excellence in County Government Award. The award was presented with Molly O'Rourke, county administrator, Commissioner Fran Miron, District 1, Lee, Commissioner Stan Karwoski, District 2, Sheriff Dan Starry, commissioners Gary Kriesel, District 3, Lisa Weik, District 5, and Jack Lavold, District 4, and Renee Heinbuch, Information Technology director.

County Board approves grants to prevent spread of AIS

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved grants to local organizations April 10 to be used to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS).

The funding for the grants is provided to the county by the State of Minnesota.

The county has been awarding AIS prevention aid awards since 2015, assisting a diverse range of projects throughout the county, focusing on watercraft inspections, education and outreach, public

water access improvements, the control of existing infestations, and planning. Some of the challenges to the program are the free flow of watercraft across the state and new species of concern, such as starry stonewort and spiny waterflea.

The proposals that will receive funds focus on eight lakes in the county, 24 trailered water access points, St. Croix River marinas, and communities throughout the county. Those receiving a portion of the \$135,500 in grants will be:

- Big Marine Lake Association, \$7,000 for Eurasian watermilfoil control;
- Clear Lake Association, \$7,000 for Eurasian watermilfoil control;
- Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District 1, \$8,000 for flowering rush management and \$16,500 for watercraft inspections;
- Forest Lake Lake Association, \$7,000 for Eurasian watermilfoil control;
- Lake Demontreville and Olson Association, \$7,000 for Eurasian watermilfoil control;
- Lake Elmo Lake Association, \$7,000 for Eurasian watermilfoil control;
- Lake Jane Association, \$7,000 for Eurasian watermilfoil control;
- St. Croix River Association, \$1,000 for marina outreach; and
- Washington Conservation District, \$68,000 for public awareness and education, watercraft inspections, and early detection and rapid response coordination.

Contact: Colin Kelly, Senior Planner, 651-430-6011