

Our Mission: We strive to provide exceptional services that enhance quality of life and promote a safe, healthy, and welcoming community for all.

Date: June 3, 2025
Contact: Tina Elam, Communications Manager
Phone: 651-430-6004 (office), 651-592-5989 (after hours)
E-mail: Tina.Elam@WashingtonCountyMN.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The following actions were taken at the June 3, 2025, Washington County Board of Commissioners meeting at the Government Center in Stillwater, Minnesota.

County Board makes committee, board appointments

The Washington County Board of Commissioners made appointments to the Community Development Block Grant Citizen Advisory Committee and the Workforce Development Board June 3.

The County Board appointed Tracy Maki to the Community Development Block Grant Advisory Council as a nonprofit representative for a partial term starting June 4, 2025, and expiring Dec. 31, 2027.

The County Board also appointed Nicklaus Petrucelle to the Workforce Development Board as a labor representative for a partial term starting June 4, 2025, and expiring Dec. 31, 2027.

Contact: Megan Carlson, Administrative Assistant, 651-430-6001

County Board approves contract for adult and child case management services

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a contract June 3 with Pinnacle Services, Inc. to provide case management services to adults and children with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Case management for these individuals is performed by county social workers or contracted through private agencies. The county completed a request for proposals process to expand contracted case management services, and the county received 17 proposals.

The contract with Pinnacle Services, Inc. begins on the date of signature and extends through Dec. 31, 2026. It is for an amount not to exceed \$40,000 in county-paid funds for the term of the contract.

Contact: Denise Landry, Community Services Division Manager, 651-275-7754

Sheriff's Office accepts camera and forensic equipment donations

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a donation of camera and forensic equipment valued at \$13,592 from OUR Rescue to the Sheriff's Office June 3.

The donation will support the Sheriff's Office's investigative efforts to protect children from sex trafficking and sexual exploitation. The cameras will be used by the East Metro Human Trafficking Task Force to conduct various operations. The forensic equipment will be used to acquire evidence and data from cell phones and other digital devices in real-time.

The County Board also approved a memorandum of understanding that will govern the donation June 3.

OUR Rescue is a nonprofit that collaborates with law enforcement agencies both in the U.S. and abroad to protect children from sex trafficking and sexual exploitation. The donation from OUR Rescue is part of its commitment to empowering domestic law enforcement agencies by providing tools, training, and technology to enhance their abilities to combat child exploitation.

Contact: Chief Deputy Doug Anschutz, Sheriff's Office, 651-430-7846

June proclaimed Pride Month in Washington County

The Washington County Board of Commissioners passed a resolution June 3 declaring June as Pride Month in Washington County.

June is nationally designated as Pride Month in recognition of the Stonewall Uprising of June 1969, widely considered the start of the LGBTQIA+ rights movement. Numerous events have been organized around the country to commemorate that event.

At the county, Washington County's Pride Employee Resource Group works to create a safe, welcoming, and supportive workplace where people of all identities and orientations can be their authentic selves.

The resolution affirms the county's commitment to fostering acceptance of all residents and preventing discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression. It also recognizes the vital contributions that LGBTQIA+ community members make in Washington County.

Contact: Tina Elam, Communications Manager, 651-430-6004 (office), 651-592-5989 (after hours)

County Board proclaims June 1 through August 16 as Summer at Your Library

The Washington County Board of Commissioners passed a resolution June 3 proclaiming this summer as the Summer at Your Library.

The proclamation is in support of Washington County Library's summer learning program for children, teens, and adults, Summer at Your Library, which runs from June 1 through Aug. 16.

The program includes an array of events and activities to encourage community and lifelong learning. These events and activities will bring artists, scientists, musicians, and entertainers to library branches throughout Washington County. Summer at Your Library also seeks to help neutralize summer learning loss for students.

For additional information, including a complete schedule of summer events, visit a Washington County Library branch or connect online at www.WashCoLib.org.

Contact: Kim Ukura, Library Senior Communications Specialist, 651-275-8511

County Board approves design contract for Jamaica Avenue improvement project

LHB, Inc. will provide preliminary design services for the County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 20 (Jamaica Avenue) improvement project. The project extends from CSAH 22 (70th Street) to Military Road in Cottage Grove.

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved the \$319,316 contract with LHB, Inc. June 3.

With recent development on the east side of CSAH 20 and the future Lochridge development on the west side of CSAH 20, the project seeks to make improvements to the stretch of county highway,

including the Military Road intersection. The contract with LHB, Inc. includes project coordination, preliminary engineering, and stakeholder and public engagement services.

The county posted a request for proposals in January and received six proposals. LHB, Inc. was selected as the preferred consultant. Construction of the project is scheduled to begin in 2028.

Contact: Mike Kline, Public Works Engineer I, 651-430-4304

County staff honored with two Minnesota transportation awards

Washington County and its staff were the recipients of two transportation awards from WTS Minnesota at the organization's Scholarships & Recognitions reception this spring.

The Washington County Board of Commissioners recognized staff for the following awards June 3:

- Woman to Watch Award – Erin Clarkowski, Washington County
- Innovative Transportation Solutions Award – METRO Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)

Clarkowski is an engineering project manager at Washington County. Clarkowski began her career at Kimley-Horn, where she worked on the Gold Line BRT design project. She joined Washington County as a project manager in 2022 and continued working on the Gold Line project and leading many other county construction projects. Clarkowski is recognized by her peers for her strong communication skills and reliable follow-through. She is also the co-chair of the Washington County Women's Empowerment Employee Resource Group.

The Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit, Minnesota's first BRT line that operates primarily within bus-only lanes, began service on March 22, 2025. It provides fast and frequent service along the 10-mile route between St. Paul and Woodbury. Funding was made possible by the Federal Transit Administration, Ramsey and Washington Counties, and the State of Minnesota. Not only did Gold Line open on schedule, but it did so under budget. Women held key leadership roles in almost every phase of this project. Senior Planner Sara Allen, Engineer II Erin Clarkowski, Deputy County Administrator Jan Lucke, Deputy County Administrator Jennifer Wagenius, and Public Works Planning Director Lyssa Leitner were instrumental in the delivery of this project.

Contact: Kevin Peterson, Public Works Design Engineer, 651-430-4330

Government Center | 14949 62nd Street North | P. O. Box 6 | Stillwater, MN 55082-0006
P: 651-430-6001 | F: 651-430-6017 | TTY: 651-430-6246
WashingtonCountyMN.gov

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Photo cutline 001: Washington County Engineer II Erin Clarkowski (center) holds the WTS Woman to Watch Award and is joined by the County Board of Commissioners, county staff from Public Works and the Office of Administration, and Metro Transit.

Photo cutline 002: Staff from Washington County and Metro Transit, who worked on the METRO Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit project, were joined by the County Board of Commissioners in recognition of receiving a WTS Innovative Transportation Solutions Award for the project.