

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

**Date:** July 22, 2025  
**Contact:** Tina Elam, Communications Manager  
**Phone:** 651-430-6004 (office), 651-592-5989 (after hours)  
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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

The following actions were taken at the July 22, 2025, Washington County Board of Commissioners meeting at the Government Center in Stillwater, Minnesota.

## **County Board approves off-site gambling application**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved an off-site gambling application July 22 from the Carpenter St. Croix Valley Nature Center.

The off-site gambling application is for conducting a raffle on Sept. 7, 2025, at 12805 St. Croix Trail S. in Denmark Township.

Minnesota state law requires County Board approval by resolution of permits for organizations to conduct off-site gambling within townships. The County Auditor reviewed the application, and the applicant met the requirements to conduct raffle activities. The approved application will now be sent to the State Gambling Board for consideration.

**Contact: Amy Stenftenagel, Property Records and Taxpayer Services Director, 651-430-6182**

## **County receives seven National Association of Counties Achievement Awards**

Washington County received seven Achievement Awards from the National Association of Counties (NACo).

The Washington County Board of Commissioners recognized staff from the winning programs and projects at its July 22 meeting.

The Washington County Office of Administration and Public Health and Environment, Library, Human Resources, and Public Works departments received awards for the following programs and projects:

- Land and Water Legacy Program – Mississippi Dunes Reserve Conservation Easement Project.
- The Washington County 2024-2029 Strategic Plan.
- Community Empowerment in Opioid Settlement Funding.
- Library Extended Access Pilot Program.
- Emerging Leaders Program.
- “Your Career at Washington County Awaits” recruitment videos.
- Improving the Parks Seasonal Hiring Process.

Since 1970, the NACo Achievement Awards have recognized outstanding county government programs and services. Noteworthy programs receive awards in 18 categories that cover a vast range of county responsibilities. Founded in 1935, NACo is an organization that represents county governments in the U.S., advancing county priorities, promoting innovative policies, nurturing leadership skills, and building networks of knowledge and collaboration.

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

**Photos:** <https://wcmn.canto.com/b/KKFKB>

**Cutlines:**

**001:** The Washington County Board of Commissioners recognizes staff for receiving a NACo Achievement Award for the Land and Water Legacy Program – Mississippi Dunes Reserve Conservation Easement Project.

**002:** The Washington County Board of Commissioners recognizes staff for receiving a NACo Achievement Award for Community Empowerment in Opioid Settlement Funding.

**003:** The Washington County Board of Commissioners recognizes staff for receiving a NACo Achievement Award for the Library Extended Access Pilot Program.

**004:** The Washington County Board of Commissioners recognizes staff for receiving a NACo Achievement Award for the Emerging Leaders Program.

**005:** The Washington County Board of Commissioners recognizes staff for receiving a NACo Achievement Award for improving the Parks seasonal hiring process.

**006:** The Washington County Board of Commissioners recognizes staff for receiving a NACo Achievement Award for the “Your Career at Washington County Awaits” recruitment videos.

**006:** The Washington County Board of Commissioners recognizes staff for receiving a NACo Achievement Award for the Washington County 2024-2029 Strategic Plan.

## **County adopts 2025-2035 Groundwater Plan**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved the 2025-2035 Groundwater Plan July 22.

State law allows metropolitan counties to prepare, adopt, and implement Groundwater Plans. Plans are updated every 10 years and are comprehensive documents that lay out technical information, issues, goals, and strategies to address existing and future groundwater topics and concerns. Washington County relies fully on groundwater for drinking water. Challenges to groundwater management include competing interests and groundwater contamination.

Washington County adopted its first Groundwater Plan in 2003. A second-generation plan was adopted in September 2014 and expires in August 2025. The county’s 2025-2035 Groundwater Plan was released for a 60-day public comment period before a public hearing held Feb. 18. Following the public hearing on the draft plan, the County Board approved submitting it for final review by the Metropolitan Council, state agencies, and the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources.

The plan was approved by the Board of Water and Soil Resources June 25.

**Contact: Stephanie Souter, Senior Community/Environmental Health Program Manager, 651-430-6701**

## **County approves contract for Manning Avenue improvements**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a \$4.6 million construction contract with Bituminous Roadways July 22 for the County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 15 (Manning Avenue) Roadway Improvement Project.

The county, in partnership with West Lakeland Township and Valley Branch Watershed District, is leading a project to improve traffic operations and improve the pavement condition along CSAH 15 between CSAH 10 (10th Street) and 30th Street. This section of CSAH 15 sees from 11,255 to 16,869 cars per day and last had a pavement improvement project in 2001. The current roadway Pavement Condition Index (PCI) is 39 (red zone) and requires pavement resurfacing due to deteriorating pavement conditions on the roadway.

The project scope includes adding turn lanes at four key intersections, repaving the roadway, converting 18th Street into a cul-de-sac, replacing highway signs, and pavement striping. Bids were opened on July 8, and four bids were received with Bituminous Roadways as the lowest bidder.

In addition to the construction contract, the County Board also approved a cost-share agreement with West Lakeland Township, a memorandum of understanding with the Valley Branch Watershed District for stormwater treatment permitting, and a budget amendment to fund the contract.

Construction is scheduled to begin in mid-August.

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

## **County Board accepts donations for the second quarter of 2025**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners accepted donations made to the county during the second quarter of 2025 July 22.

The Library Department received \$941.78 in donations from the public during the second quarter.

The Parks Division in the Public Works Department accepted \$791.83 in donations for parks and trail enhancements and the Living Forest program that contributes to reforestation efforts of native trees throughout the parks.

The Sheriff's Office received \$1,150.00 for the K9 unit, the Cops N Kids Fishing event, and food for staff.

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