



WASECA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
November 5, 2024 - 9:30 AM
East Annex Public Meeting Room
300 North State Street – East Annex · Waseca, Minnesota 56093

The Waseca County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Tuesday, November 5, 2024, in the Commissioners' Room, 300 North State Street, Waseca, Minnesota. Members present were Chair Brian Harguth, DeAnne Malterer, Doug Christopherson, Brad Milbrath and Brad Krause.

Other members present were Michael Johnson, County Administrator; Beth Weimert, Administrative Coordinator; Rachel Cornelius, County Attorney; Sheriff Jay Dulas; Chris Howard, Land and Water Resources Manager; Chris Hinton, Veterans Service Director; Tina Wilson, Community Development Coordinator; Jim Kollar, Public Works Director/County Engineer

Present via online platform: Shelley Hyatt, Land Use Planning Assistant; Maame Quarcoo, Senior Land Use Planner; Leah Cameron, Public Health Business Manager

Others present: Deb Bentley, Waseca County Pioneer; Andrew Deziel, Waseca County News

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Harguth called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. A roll call was taken and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Introduction of new staff - Rachel Cornelius introduced Mariah Nickel, Assistant County Attorney, who is the newest staff member in the County Attorney Office.

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the amended agenda, tabling the UCare Contract Revision, Waseca County Board of Commissioners agenda by Commissioner Milbrath, seconded by Commissioner Christopherson. Motion carried 5-0.

3. Ditch Authority

a. Initiating Redetermination of Benefits for CD 18, CD 33, CD 40, & CD 42

Action on draft findings and order to initiate a redetermination of benefits and damages, appoint viewers, and appoint an engineer for CD 18, CD 33, CD 40, and CD 42. Since the last determination of benefits and damages, the land use, drainage practices, and land values have changed within the CD 18, CD 33, CD 40 and CD 42 watersheds. A redetermination of benefits and damages is needed to update the land values in the CD 18, CD 33, CD 40 and CD 42 watersheds that do not reflect present day.

Motion to accept the presented draft findings and order to initiate a redetermination of benefits and damages, appoint viewers, and appoint an engineer for CD 18, CD 33, CD 40 and CD 42 by the following roll call: Commissioner Milbrath - aye; Commissioner Krause - aye; Commissioner Malterer - aye; Commissioner Christopherson - aye; Commissioner Harguth - aye. Motion carried 5-0.

b. Approval of Minutes from 9-20-24 Final Hearings

It was noted that an addendum needs to be made to the attendance for the September 20, 2024, minutes. Add Rick Schultz to the list of attendees.

Motion to approve the September 20, 2024, minutes with the addition of Rick Schultz to the minutes by Commissioner Christopherson, seconded by Commissioner Malterer. Motion carried 5-0.

c. Resolution 2024-34 Municipal Airport Construction Agreement

A section of County Tile 45 has been covered by the runway at the Waseca Municipal Airport. When the runway was constructed, the statutory easement and right of way were not recognized and avoided. The FAA has recommended that the City of Waseca as the owner must administer the construction contract for the repair to be eligible for Federal funding. The City of Waseca and the Drainage Authority may enter into a cooperative construction agreement and complete the repair with CD45 reimbursing the City of Waseca up to \$30,000.00 for the cost of the project.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2024-34 and enter into the Cooperative Construction Agreement with the City of Waseca by

Resolution 2024-34

**COOPERATIVE CONSTRUCTION AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE CITY OF WASECA AND THE WASECA COUNTY DRAINAGE AUTHORITY
FOR THE WASECA AIRPORT CD 39/45 TILE REPLACEMENT PROJECT
(CITY PROJECT NO. 2024-16)**

THIS AGREEMENT is made and entered into this _____ day of November 2024 (the "Effective Date") by and between the City of Waseca, a municipal corporation organized under the laws of the State of Minnesota, (hereinafter referred to as "City"), and the Waseca County Drainage Authority, organized under the laws of the State of Minnesota (hereinafter referred to as "County").

WHEREAS, the County desires to replace a failing section of County Ditch (CD) No. 39/45 tile which travels through Waseca Municipal Airport property as the Waseca Airport CD 39/45 Tile Replacement Project (the "Project"); and
WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the Waseca Municipal Airport and the County for the City to administer this Project on behalf of the County; and

WHEREAS, the City intends to fund a portion of the Project with State and Federal airport entitlement grant funding (the "Grant"); and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of both Parties to enter into a written agreement regarding Project construction, administration, and cost.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants and promises contained herein, it is hereby agreed by and between the Parties as follows:

Purpose. The Parties enter into this Agreement for the purpose of jointly constructing, administering, and funding the Project in the manner provided for herein.

Term. Notwithstanding the date of the signatures of the Parties, the term of this Agreement shall commence on the Effective Date and, unless earlier terminated pursuant to this Agreement, shall terminate on the date that the Project has been completed and all other obligations of this Agreement have been fulfilled.

Duties of the City and County.

The City shall be responsible for providing Project plans and specifications meeting Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and County standards.

During Project construction, the City and County shall jointly provide any necessary engineering, surveying, and observation services.

The City shall be responsible for airport runway closure, providing runway closure notification, and obtaining all necessary permits and other approvals necessary for construction.

The City will be responsible for administering the Project. Administrative services shall include, without limitation, obtaining quotes, generating partial and final payments, and Project close-out. The City will also, with written approval from the County, prepare and sign all work orders, change orders, and supplemental agreements relating to the Project. All Project administration and construction oversight costs relating to the Project shall be the sole responsibility of the City.

The estimated construction cost of the Project is \$114,575. The City shall be responsible for all payments associated with the Project and the City shall invoice the County for all Project costs that exceed reimbursable Grant funding. The total amount invoiced to the County by the City shall not exceed \$30,000. The County shall pay the City's invoices within sixty (60) days of the City sending the invoice.

The City shall process all contractor payment requests and will approve or deny the requests as appropriate, pursuant to the terms of the contract. The City will apply for, and directly receive, all Grant reimbursements.

The County will retain jurisdiction over the Project improvements and shall be solely responsible for all ongoing maintenance and any future repairs, replacement, or reconstruction.

General Provisions.

This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement and understanding of the Parties with respect to the subject matter hereof and supersedes all prior and contemporaneous agreements, documents and proposals, oral or written, between the Parties with respect thereto. Any amendment or modification to this Agreement shall not be valid unless such amendment or modification (i) is in writing and signed by authorized representatives of both Parties and (ii) references this Agreement. The terms and conditions of the exhibits are integral parts of this Agreement and are fully incorporated herein by this reference.

The Parties agree to cooperate in the use of resources to the extent feasible and to the extent permitted by law. The Parties further agree to cooperate in the administration of the contract and completion of the Project, including cooperating in resolving any disputes the Parties may have with the contractor(s) both during the Project and following completion of the Project.

This Agreement may be terminated by either Party at any time, with or without cause, upon not less than thirty (30) days written notice delivered by mail or in person to the other Party. If notice is delivered by mail, it shall be deemed to be received five (5) days after mailing. Such termination shall not be effective with respect to any solicitation of quotes or any purchases of services or goods, which occurred prior to such notice of termination. The County shall pay its pro rata share of costs which the City incurred prior to such notice of termination.

Any notices required or permitted to be given under this Agreement shall be delivered personally or sent by certified mail to the other Party as follows:

To the City: Attn: Director of Engineering

Waseca City Hall
508 South State Street

Waseca, MN 56093

To the County: Attn: Land & Water Resources Director

Waseca County

900 3rd St NE

This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of Minnesota. For the purpose of resolving conflicts related to, or arising out of, this Agreement, the Parties expressly agree that the venue shall be exclusively within the County of Waseca, Minnesota.

The Parties shall maintain complete and accurate records with respect to costs incurred and services performed under this Agreement for a period of at least six (6) years after the termination of this Agreement. Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 16C.05, Subd. 5, each Party shall allow the other Party, the State Auditor, or their authorized representatives access to the books, records, documents, and accounting procedures and practices relevant to the subject matter of the Agreement, for purposes of audit.

All data created, collected, received, stored, used, maintained, or disseminated for any purpose in connection with this Agreement is governed by the Minnesota Data Practices Act, as well as other State and Federal rules and regulations relating to data privacy.

Neither Party shall assign its rights or delegate its duties under this Agreement without receiving the prior written consent of the other Party.

Each Party will be solely responsible for its own acts and omissions and the results thereof, to the extent authorized by law. The Parties mutually agree to indemnify and hold harmless each other from any claims, losses, costs, expenses, or damages resulting from the acts or omissions of the respective officers, agents, or employees relating to activities conducted by either Party under this Agreement. Minnesota Statutes Chapter 466 and other applicable laws govern the Parties' liability.

In the event that any portion of this Agreement shall be held to be invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the validity of the remainder of this Agreement.

4. Approval of County Board Minutes

a. Waseca County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes October 15, 2024

Motion to approve the Waseca County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes of October 15, 2024, by Commissioner Krause, seconded by Commissioner Christopherson. Motion carried 5-0.

5. Consent Agenda

Motion to approve the consent agenda as presented by Commissioner Milbrath, seconded by Commissioner Malterer. Motion carried 5-0.

a. Approval of Bills

The following bills were audited and allowed:

A.H. HERMEL COMPANY	403.81
ACUMEN PSYCHOLOGY	3,000.00
ADVANCED CORRECTIONAL HEALTHCARE INC	337.50
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	2,087.69
AMAZON PH	508.46
ANCOM COMMUNICATIONS INC	1,011.75
ASSOC OF MN COUNTIES	175.00
BLUE EARTH CO	4,680.00
BLUE EARTH CO HUMAN SERVICES	603.25
BOCKS SERVICE INC	248.45
BOMGAARS SUPPLY	66.17
BOMGAARS SUPPLY	363.40
BOMGAARS SUPPLY	998.42
BRAYDEN BERG	353.60
BRITTON PLUMBING & HEATING LLC	232.92
CAPITAL ONE	74.71
CARDINAL HEALTH 110, LLC	96.79
CHRISTOPHER LLOYD OSTERLOH	91.39
COLE PAPERS INC	296.15
CREATIVE AD SOLUTIONS INC	43.46
CRYSTEEL TRUCK EQUIPMENT	547.80
DATAWORKS PLUS LLC	688.96

DENNIS-STEFFEL-OMTVEDT FUNERAL & CREMATION SERVICE	1,240.00
EJL PUBLICATIONS	192.00
ELECTION SYSTEMS & SOFTWARE LLC	5,968.48
FREMAREK INC	191.21
GALLS, LLC	111.44
GARCIA CLINICAL LABORATORY	99.50
GBALER USA INC	95.32
HOUSTON ENGINEERING INC	4,000.00
INFORMATION SYSTEMS CORP	17,052.00
INNOVATIVE OFFICE SOLUTIONS LLC	1,081.34
JAMES BROTHERS CONSTRUCTION INC	1,681.25
JETTER CLEAN INC	755.00
KEZIA SMITH	300.00
KWIK TRIP INC	4.41
KYLE ROMAN MURRAY	956.54
L&D AG SERVICE, INC	335.20
LENZ LAWN CARE INC	10,253.35
LINDA LARES	100.00
M & W BLACKTOPPING LLC	15,500.00
MATT HARRINGTON	98.49
MESSICK LAW PLLC	600.00
MIDWEST MONITORING & SURVEILLANCE	2,324.90
MINNESOTA GIS/LIS CONSORTIUM	375.00
MJB HANSEN FAMILY LP	1,826.01
MN ASSOC FOR CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH	1,500.00
MN DEPT OF CORRECTIONS STS	473.75
M-R SIGN COMPANY INC	3,113.85
NICOLE KALOW	9.00
NOW MICRO	1,030.00
OFFICE OF MNIT SERVICES	2,250.65
PATRICK SICHENEDER	391.00
PEMBERTON LAW PLLP	50.00
PERRY MORTENSEN	12,349.70
PREMIER BIOTECH	1,388.68
PRIMADATA, LLC	4,500.00
REGENTS OF UNIVERSITY OF MN	25,628.63
RICE CO SOLID WASTE DEPT	1,311.61
RIVER BEND BUSINESS PRODUCTS	338.02
RS EDEN	94.45
RUSSELL J FREDERICK	84.15
SANOFI PASTEUR INC	9,236.93
SF ENTERPRISES LLC	6,254.00
SIGN SOLUTIONS USA	2,727.84
STATE OF MN BUREAU OF CRIM APPREHEN CJIS	2,040.00

STEELE CO DETENTION CENTER	460.00
STREICHERS	762.99
TESCH SERVICE CENTER INC	45.00
THE SHOP LLC	972.24
TINA WILSON	88.41
US VENTURE INC	632.00
WASECA CO PIONEER	43.00
WASECA GLASS	127.46
ZIEGLER INC	835.38
	160,789.86

b. Transfer Funds - Wheelage Tax

Transfer of \$218,738.59 from the Wheelage Tax - Assigned Fund (13.000.000.2853) to the county construction expense account (13.320.000.6280). This transfer of funds is for those expenses programmed and incurred on the CR No. 103 pavement rehabilitation project.

6. Action Items

a. IT Transfer Request

Staff is making a request to transfer \$27,500.00 from Compliance fund 25-105-6450 and \$27,500.00 from 01-061-061-6450 to IT assigned fund 01-000000-2822. This is for the Assessor mobile module to be purchased in 2025.

Motion to approve the transfer of \$27,500.00 from Compliance fund 25-105-6450 and \$27,500.00 from 01-061-061-6450 to IT assigned fund 01-000000-2822 by Commissioner Krause, seconded by Commissioner Malterer. Motion carried 5-0.

b. IT Transfer Request

Staff is making a request to transfer \$28,400.00 from Compliance fund 25-105-010-6905 and transfer in to IT 01-061-061-5910 for ESRI/GIS Software maintenance. Staff is making a request to transfer \$16,000 from Tech fund 25-104-010-6905 and transfer into IT 01-061-061-5910 for ISC Assureon and App Xtender software maintenance.

Motion to approve the transfer of \$28,400.00 from Compliance fund 25-105-010-6905 and transfer in to IT 01-061-061-5910 for ESRI/GIS Software maintenance and transfer \$16,000.00 from Tech fund 25-104-010-6905 and transfer into IT 01-061-061-5910 for ISC Assureon and App Xtender software maintenance by Commissioner Milbrath, seconded by Commissioner Christopherson. Motion carried 5-0.

c. Riparian Fund Recommendation contracts

Chris Howard, Land & Water Resources Manager, presented two cover crop practice contracts prepared and approved by the Waseca County SWCD staff. One project is in Janesville township section 24 and is within one half mile of a County Drainage Ditch. The second project is in section 15 of Alton Township and is located within one half mile of a County Drainage Ditch. The combined acreage of the two contracts is 99.92 acres with a combined cost of \$3,997.80.

Motion to approve approval of contracts RF-2024-09 and RF-2024-10 by Commissioner Malterer, seconded by Commissioner Krause. A discussion was held. Motion carried 5-0.

d. UCare Contract Revision

Motion to table UCare Contract Revision until the second meeting in November by Commissioner Christopherson, seconded by Commissioner Milbrath. Motion carried 5-0.

e. Contract No. 812407 Final Acceptance

Jim Kollar, Public Works Director/County Engineer, noted Crane Creek Asphalt has completed the stabilized full-depth reclamation and bituminous resurfacing project on CR No. 103, between MN TH No. 13 and CSAH No. 4, per Contract No. 812407 requirements. The project included pavement milling, stabilized full-depth reclamation with cement, bituminous paving, pavement markings, and appurtenances. The original contract amount was \$463,618.70. No contract changes were executed. The final amount of work certified is \$437,477.16, which equates to 94.4% of the original contract. Final payment in the amount of \$27,078.76 is due to Crane Creek Asphalt. This project is funded with Wheelage Tax and Local Option Sales Tax monies.

Motion to accept the work and authorize final payment in the amount of \$27,078.76 to Crane Creek Asphalt by Commissioner Krause, seconded by Commissioner Christopherson. Motion carried 5-0.

f. Contract No. 812403 Final Acceptance

Kollar noted Ti-Zack Concrete, LLC has completed the concrete pavement rehabilitation project on CSAH No. 5, between CSAH No. 19 and MN TH No. 13, per Contract No. 812403 requirements. The project included dowel bar retrofit, joint & crack repairs, partial-depth & full-depth repairs, pavement replacement, concrete grinding, and pavement markings. The original contract amount was \$1,498,446.68. No contract changes were executed. The final amount of work certified is \$1,480,727.16, which equates to 98.8% of the original contract. Final payment in the amount \$14,807.27 is due to Ti-Zack Concrete, LLC. This project is funded with Regular CSAH-Construction monies.

Motion accept the work and authorize final payment in the amount of \$14,807.27 to Ti-Zack Concrete, LLC, by Commissioner Malterer, seconded by Commissioner Milbrath. Motion carried 5-0.

g. Contract No. 812402 Final Acceptance

Kollar also discussed Ulland Bros. Inc., has completed the bituminous mill and overlay on CSAH No. 33, between CSAH No. 4 and CSAH No. 9, per Contract No. 812402 requirements. The project included pavement milling, bituminous surfacing, aggregate shouldering, pavement markings, signage, and appurtenances. The original contract amount was \$2,058,601.32. A number of change orders were necessary to resolve a significant change in the character of work. During the milling operations, transverse cracks in the remaining pavement deteriorated rapidly under construction traffic loading. As a result, the milling depth was reduced from 4" in thickness to 2.5". This resulted in less RAP being available to the contractor for re-use in the bituminous mixture, which was replaced with material sourced by the contractor. In addition, patching of the remaining pavement at the degraded transverse cracks was a necessary operation in front of paving operations. This was completed with equipment and labor not in the original scope of work. Finally, after completion of the base course, it was evident that the necessary patching resulted in a pavement smoothness that would not be sufficiently corrected with the final wear course. Therefore, a leveling course was added and the wear course thickness reduced. In total, an additional 0.5" of bituminous pavement was added to CSAH No. 3, over the planned design, to correct smoothness and add additional strength. The total contract change amount executed to address the degradation of the existing bituminous pavement was \$181,435.00. The final amount of work certified is \$2,082,579.13, which equates to 101% of the original contract. Final payment in the amount of \$20,825.79 is due to Ulland Bros., Inc.

Motion to accept the work and authorize final payment in the amount \$20,825.79 to Ulland Bros., Inc. by Commissioner Christopherson, seconded by Commissioner Malterer. Motion carried 5-0.

h. Land Lease Bid Results & Agreement

Waseca County has been leasing tillable acres on and near the Solid Waste & Recycling Center property for several years. The current lease terminates at the conclusion of the 2024 crop year. Authorization to solicit bids for a new three-year lease (2025-2027) was approved at the October 1, 2024 Waseca County Board meeting. An advertisement for bids was published in the official county newspaper, the Waseca County Pioneer, on October 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th. Bids were received at the office of the county engineer until 3:00 pm, Friday, October 25th. Four (4) bids were received, and the results are tabulated on the attached bid summary. Kent Joecks is the high bidder with an annual bid amount of \$32,032.00 for the 112 +/- tillable acres.

Motion to accept Kent Joeck's bid and authorize the Board Chair to execute the lease agreement with an annual bid amount of \$32,032.00 for the 112 +/- tillable acres by Commissioner Milbrath, seconded by Commissioner Christopherson. Motion carried 5-0.

i. City of Waseca Lift Station Easement Agreement

The City of Waseca has operated a sanitary sewer lift station in the southeast corner of the County Fairgrounds since the 1950's. The City, in conjunction with the CSAH 13 (8th Ave) reconstruction, has made improvements to the existing lift station. Staff discovered the absence of an easement for the operation and maintenance of the lift station on county-owned property. The attached easement agreement provides for a 40' x 140' easement area for the operation, maintenance, repair, and replacement of the lift station and associated pipes, manholes, and related appurtenances.

Motion to approve the easement agreement and authorize the County Board Chairperson to execute said agreement by Commissioner Milbrath, seconded by Commissioner Krause. Motion carried 5-0.

j. Resolution No. 2024-30: Petition to Make Changes in JD No. 11

Upon filing of the resolution, the Joint County Drainage Authority will fix a time and place for a hearing and to give notice of the hearing by publication. If upon the hearing that it appears to the Joint County Drainage Authority's board that the alteration or change in the public ditch system will not affect or impair the efficiency of the ditch system, the board shall make its order authorizing the county to cause the alteration or change to be made. Upon making the order, the county may proceed to make the changes at the sole cost and expense of the county. Furthermore, JD No.11's detailed survey report, or lack thereof, does not specify a hydraulic capacity. Therefore, MN Statute 103E.525 requires the MN DNR's Director of Ecological and Water Resources approval before the construction of the public bridge/culvert may occur.

Resolution 2024-30 will further direct Waseca County's Land & Water Resources Director to seek such approval, in coordination with the Joint County Drainage Authority and Blue Earth County Drainage Authority staff. Construction year is currently shown as 2026 in the Transportation Improvement Plan. As the plans and grant funding have been approved by the state and presuming the process with the Joint Drainage Authority and MN DNR is completed without significant issues, Public Works intends to move this project into the 2025 construction year. Bridge 88497 on the Waseca/Steele County line and currently programmed for replacement in 2025 will be deferred to 2026 or beyond; partially a result of the Local Bridge Replacement Program funding being depleted as of October 22, 2024, and a project waiting list being started.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2024-30 and direct staff to file the resolution with the Waseca Blue Earth Joint County Drainage Authority and seek director's approval of the hydraulic capacity by Commissioner Malterer, seconded by Commissioner Milbrath. Motion carried 5-0.

Resolution 2024-30 Petition to Make Changes in JD no. 11

WHEREAS, Bridge No. 81509 carries Waseca County Road No. 55 over Judicial Ditch No. 11; and

WHEREAS, Bridge No. 81509, a timber slab span originally constructed in 1973, is load restricted and in poor overall condition; and

WHEREAS, plans for the replacement of Bridge No. 81509 have been prepared and funds programmed; and

WHEREAS, Judicial Ditch No. 11 is a duly established judicial ditch in Waseca County under the jurisdiction of the Waseca Blue Earth Joint County Drainage Authority Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, Waseca County Road No. 55 is directly affected by Judicial Ditch No. 11; and

WHEREAS, this petition by County Board resolution is brought in accordance with Minnesota Statute §§ 163.17 and 103E.525, subd. 1; and

WHEREAS, it is advantageous and desirable in the construction and maintenance of Waseca County Road No. 55 that minor alterations or changes be made in that portion of Judicial Ditch No. 11; and

WHEREAS, the proposed project consists of removal of Bridge No. 81509, construction of Bridge No. 81J26 (box culverts), approach grading and paving, and appurtenances; and

WHEREAS, that attached hereto, showing the minor alterations or changes in Judicial Ditch No. 11, petitioned for herein, are the Plans identified by State Aid Project (SAP) 081-598-019; and

WHEREAS, that said minor alterations or changes will not affect the functioning nor impair the efficiency of said Judicial Ditch No. 11.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Waseca County Board of Commissioners petitions the Waseca Blue Earth Joint County Board of Commissioners, the Judicial Ditch No. 11 Joint County Drainage Authority, to make its order authorizing Waseca County to make said minor alterations or changes as set out herein, and in accordance with the Plans attached hereto and made a part hereof by reference.

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Waseca County Land & Water Resources Director shall coordinate with the Joint County Drainage Authority and Blue Earth County Drainage Authority staff to request approval from the Department of Natural Resources Director of Ecological and Water Resources to construct Bridge No. 81J26.

k. **Resolution 2024-33 Operation Green Light**

Chris Hinton, Veterans Services Direction discussed Resolution 2024-33 Operation Green Light with the Board of Commissioners.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2024-33 Operation Green Light by Commissioner Milbrath, seconded by Commissioner Krause. Motion carried 5-0.

Resolution 2024-33 Operation Green Light

WHEREAS, the residents of Waseca County have great respect, admiration, and the utmost gratitude for all the men and women who have selflessly served our country and this community in the Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, the contributions and sacrifices of those who served in the Armed Forces have been vital in maintaining the freedoms and way of life enjoyed by our citizens; and

WHEREAS, Waseca County seeks to honor individuals who have made countless sacrifices for freedom by placing themselves in harm's way for the good of all; and

WHEREAS, veterans continue to serve our community in the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, religious groups, civil service, and by functioning as County Veterans Service Officers in 29 states to help fellow former service members access more than \$52 billion in federal health, disability and compensation benefits each year; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 200,000 service members transition to civilian communities annually; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 20 percent increase of service members will transition to civilian life in the near future; and

WHEREAS, studies indicate that 44-72 percent of service members experience high levels of stress during transition from military to civilian life; and

WHEREAS, active military service members transitioning from military service are at a high risk for suicide during their first year after military service; and

WHEREAS, the National Association of Counties encourages all counties, parishes and boroughs to recognize Operation Green Light for Veterans; and

WHEREAS, the Waseca County appreciates the sacrifices of our United States military personnel and believes specific recognition should be granted.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with designation as a Green Light for Veterans County, Waseca County hereby declares from November 4th through Veterans Day, November 11th, 2024, a time to salute and honor the service and sacrifices of our men and women in uniform transitioning from active service; therefore.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in observance of Operation Green Light, Waseca County encourages its citizens in patriotic tradition to recognize the importance of honoring all those who made immeasurable sacrifices to preserve freedom by displaying green lights in a window of their place of business or residence from November 4th through the 11th, 2024.

I. **Memorandum of Understanding Between Waseca County and Soil and Water Conservation District**

Michael Johnson, County Administrator, discussed the memorandum of Understanding between Waseca County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Waseca County and Soil and Water Conservation District by Commissioner Christopherson, seconded by Commissioner Malterer. Discussion was held. Motion carried 5-0.

7. Administration

a. **Administration Update**

Michael Johnson, County Administrator, provided administrative updates to the board of commissioners.

b. **Human Resources Announcements**

Michael Johnson, County Administrator, provided updates to the board regarding recent Human Resource announcements.

c. **Community Development Update**

Tina Wilson, Community Development Coordinator, provided updates to the board regarding recent Human Resource announcements.

8. Commissioner Reports

The Waseca County Board of Commissioners in attendance at today's meeting shared commissioner reports.

9. Adjourn

Having no further county board business, Commissioner Krause moved and Commissioner Christopherson seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 11:23 a.m.

Brian Harguth, Chairperson
Waseca County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Beth Weimert, Clerk
Waseca County Administration