

# HENNEPIN COUNTY

## MINNESOTA

August 10, 2020

Board of Soil and Water Resources  
520 Lafayette Road  
St. Paul, MN 55155

**RE: Letter of Support – Mississippi River Shoreline Stabilization Project**

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in support and as a partner to the City of Brooklyn Park's Clean Water Fund Projects and Practices proposal titled "Mississippi River Shoreline Stabilization Project." Hennepin County has worked closely with the City of Brooklyn Park to develop this proposal. If funded, we plan to continue to support this project with in-kind staff time as well as financial a contribution to the implementation of projects.

County staff have been meeting with City staff and relevant residents to develop this partnership and prepare this proposal for nearly a year. City and county staff met with the neighborhood on the project at a public meeting in June of 2020 attended by over 55 interested landowners. County staff completed nearly 50 field visits to assess erosion severity, prioritized projects, and prepared an engineer's report to guide riverbank stabilization in this area through the proposed project, and for years to come. If this proposal is successful, Hennepin County will continue to coordinate engineering and design services for planned bank stabilization projects (estimated \$20,000 value provided as match to the grant), and has budgeted up to \$50,000 for project installation costs (pending county board approval of 2021 budget in December 2020).

I have been incredibly impressed by the City of Brooklyn Park as a partner and am eager to deepen and build upon our partnership by completing this project. In particular, I believe that the insight of city staff that landowner match contributions could be assessed over time via property taxes (and city council's willingness to do so) is a true innovation that could be applied anywhere to reduce financial barriers to conservation participation. I'm excited to test this system, and, if successful, look for other places that it could be a key to increasing conservation adoption.

**Hennepin County** Environment & Energy  
701 Building, 701 Fourth Avenue South, Suite 700  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55415-1842  
[www.hennepin.us/environment](http://www.hennepin.us/environment)



This proposal is the result of truly collaborative work on the part of the City and the County, addresses a well-substantiated need for the Mississippi River, and has the well-documented cooperation and commitment from private landowners upon whom this project depends. All of the elements for success are firmly in place, and this project is well-positioned to have substantial impact reducing sediment and phosphorus load to the Mississippi River. I am pleased to support the project, and hope you will too!

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Karen Galles', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Karen Galles

Supervising Environmentalist

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