

HENNEPIN COUNTY

MINNESOTA

August 11, 2021

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 grant application 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 contributions 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 two years. City and county staff met with the neighborhood on the project at a public meeting in June 2020, attended by over 55 interested landowners. County staff completed nearly 50 field visits that year to assess erosion severity, prioritize projects, and prepare an engineer's report to guide riverbank stabilization in this area through the proposed project, and for years to come. After last year's unsuccessful application, we sought feedback from BWSR staff, worked with additional partners to strengthen the plan connections and increase match contributions to the project, held another neighborhood meeting with landowners to keep them informed on the status of the project, completed additional field visits with 5 additional landowners, and verified and reaffirmed interest from landowners in the target area of this proposal. 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 2022 budget in December 2021).

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



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 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

612-348-2027 (office) | 612-235-0712 (mobile)

Karen.Galles@hennepin.us