



February 1, 2021

Board of Managers
Bois de Sioux Watershed District
704 Highway 75 South
Wheaton, MN 56296

RE: Letter of Support for Extension Request From the Lessard-Sam's Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) Regarding the Fiscal Year 2015/ML 2014 Proposal for the "Mustinka River Fish and Wildlife Habitat Corridor Rehabilitation"

Dear Board of Managers:

Please accept this letter of support acknowledging the Red River Watershed Management Board's (RRWMB's) support for an extension from the LSOHC for the Fiscal Year 2015/ ML 2014 Proposal for the "Mustinka River Fish and Wildlife Habitat Corridor Rehabilitation" Project, which was proposed and submitted to the LSOHC by the Bois de Sioux Watershed District (BdSWD). This Project will provide habitat, water quality, and Flood Damage Reduction (FDR) benefits to the residents of the BdSWD, Red River Basin, and Minnesota and the Project directly aligns with the vision and mission of the RRWMB.

In addition, the RRWMB is a member of the Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group (FDRWG) and the RRWMB has significant interest in supporting projects that seek to achieve Natural Resource Enhancements (NRE) such as the Mustinka River Fish and Wildlife Habitat Corridor Rehabilitation Project in accordance with the 1998 Red River Basin Flood Mediation Agreement. The stream corridor habitat restoration components of the Redpath Project are consistent with objectives of the FDRWG to incorporate habitat and water quality NRES within FDR projects.

The RRWMB has authorized funding assistance for the Redpath Project in the amount of \$5,667,000.00 and supports this extension request to advance our efforts to utilize comprehensive approaches for NRE's and FDR in the Red River Basin.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John M. Finney".

John Finney
President, RRWMB



March 26, 2021

Legislative Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources Members
c/o Director Becca Nash
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
State Office Building, Room 65
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Support for Legislative Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) 2022
Proposal – Bois de Sioux Watershed District (BdSWD) Mustinka River Fish and Wildlife Habitat
Corridor Rehabilitation Project

Dear LCCMR Members:

Please accept this correspondence acknowledging the Red River Watershed Management Board's (RRWMB) support for the application of LCCMR funds by the BdSWD for the Mustinka River Fish and Wildlife Habitat Corridor Rehabilitation Project as part of the Red Path Flood Damage Reduction Project. When fully constructed and operational, both the Red Path and Mustinka River Fish and Wildlife Habitat Corridor Rehabilitation Project will help further meet the RRWMB vision and mission for habitat, water quality, and flood control in the Red River Basin (RRB) of Minnesota.

Projects such as this are critical in meeting Natural Resource Enhancement and flood damage reduction goals of the 1998 RRB Flood Mediation Agreement that is implemented by the Flood Damage Reduction Work Group. These Projects are complimentary and collectively will also meet habitat and water quality goals set by state and federal agencies and will provide a large habitat area for migrating waterfowl, fish species, and upland game in an agricultural setting.

In addition, the Project will include many acres of vegetation, that can also prove critical pollinator habitat. The RRWMB has disbursed \$5,667,000.00 towards the Red Path Project for land acquisition and the RRWMB has a vested interest in ensuring that the Red Path and Mustinka River Fish and Wildlife Habitat Corridor Rehabilitation Project are completed. The BdSWD and RRWMB have made significant financial and in-kind contributions towards these efforts, and these local funds are now being leveraged with several other funding sources. Projects such as this provide benefits locally, regionally, and at the state level.



Both these Projects and associated habitat, water quality, and flood reduction components are consistent with objectives of the Flood Damage Reduction Work Group and the RRWMB to incorporate Natural Resource Enhancements within flood damage reduction projects in the RRB. The RRWMB has helped co-fund 60 flood projects within the RRB of Minnesota. As each Project is completed and becomes fully operational, the base of natural resources and habitat lands in the RRB of Minnesota increases for the benefit of its citizenry.

Thank you for considering the Mustinka River Fish and Wildlife Habitat Corridor Rehabilitation Project being developed by the BdSWD.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert L. Sip", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Robert L. Sip
Executive Director,

CC: BdSWD
RRWMB Managers