



Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community

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April 14, 2021

Representative Angie Craig
2442 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Fiscal Year 2022 Community Project Funding
City of Shakopee, MN Riverbank Stabilization and Cultural Corridor

Dear Representative Craig,

The Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (SMSC) is a federally recognized Indian tribal government. The SMSC has its roots along the Minnesota River for hundreds of years. We lived in harmony with the natural environment provided by the river including fishing from the river and hunting game on the prairies and in the river woodlands. Along these banks of the lower Minnesota River, leaders of the Eastern Dakota including Sakpe, Mazamani, Caske and Wambditanka established villages.

Today, the riverbank area contains burial mounds built by our ancestors. In the 18th century, Sakpe of the Mdewakanton Dakota established his village, Tinja Otunwe on the east end of this area near the water. This area is threatened by the long-term erosion of the riverbank.

The SMSC has partnered with the City of Shakopee, Scott County Historical Society, Scott County, and Three Rivers Park District, to provide an interpretive framework for our history along the Minnesota River. Preserving and stabilizing the riverbank is essential to also preserving the history and archeological resources of our community.

The SMSC would like to express our support of the application for Fiscal Year 2022 Community Project Funding for the City of Shakopee request for stabilization of the Minnesota Riverbank and creation of a cultural corridor in your district.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Tribal Administrator Bill Rudnicki at 952-496-6145 or bill.rudnicki@shakopeedakota.org.

Sincerely,

Keith B. Anderson
Chairman

April 14, 2021

Representative Angie Craig
2442 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Craig,

The Scott County Historical Society (SCHS) wishes to wholeheartedly endorse the City of Shakopee's request for Fiscal Year 2022 Community Project Funding for stabilization of the Minnesota Riverbank and creation of a cultural corridor.

The Minnesota Riverfront in downtown Shakopee is a crucial part of European-American history in this region, as well as the homeland of Dakota people for thousands of years. Just as for the Dakota, the river was a source of food, commerce, and transportation for European-American immigrants from 1850 to the present. The river brought these families to the area by steamship—the last major port of call was in Shakopee, at the site known today as The Landing. The river allowed these communities to develop major industries—milling, ice harvesting, and brickmaking have all been possible because of proximity to the Minnesota River. Finally, the river is also the place that has brought the community together from its earliest days to the present day. It is the site of community gatherings for generations, from summer festivals, from concerts by the Cadet Band of Shakopee in 1901 to the Shakopee Diversity Alliance International Festival in 2021.

To preserve this region from erosion and to create a destination experience that engages and shares this history with the thousands of visitors using our trail network, SCHS is proud to have partnered with the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community, Three Rivers Park District, the City of Shakopee and Scott County administrations. Together we are developing a Visitor Experience Plan that will guide development of the waterfront cultural trail over the next several years. Fiscal Year 2022 Community Project Funding would be crucial to making this vision a reality.

Please contact SCHS Executive Director Heather Hoagland, hhoagland@scottcountyhistory.org or (952) 445-0378, with any questions at all. I would be more than happy to talk more about this vital project with you.

Sincerely,



Heather Hoagland