

*Friday March 17, 2023 HF616 companion bill SF867*

Good Afternoon Chairman Lee, Vice Chair Reyer, Representative Urdahl, and Capital Investment Committee members. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HF 616 the bill that Representative Kresha has submitted on behalf of the Morrison County Historical Society. My name is Camille Warzecha, Morrison County Historical Society board President.

The Morrison County Historical Society, organized in 1936 by a membership that elects its board of directors, is a private non-profit which operates The Charles A. Weyerhaeuser Memorial Museum located in Little Falls, Minnesota. We are on South Lindbergh Drive, the Great River Road just North of the Pike Creek Bridge across the street from Lindbergh State Park and South of the Lindbergh home. It's an idyllic natural setting that is deeply important to Native people.

The museum building was designed by noted architect Foster Dunwiddie one of the founders of Miller Dunwiddie, which worked on the State Capital restoration projects. Built as a memorial to Charles A. Weyerhaeuser in 1975 it was designed to house and share the history of Morrison County. The building is in need of all the repairs and upkeep that come with a soon to be 50 year old building, but our biggest concern is the erosion to our Mississippi Riverbank. Massive rain events in 2015 then again in 2020 have caused major parts of the bank to fall into the river along with many mature trees. One corner of the museum building is only 20 feet from the edge of the bank. We are concerned that huge amounts of sediment entering the Mississippi is affecting the drinking water at St Cloud the first city to take its drinking water from the Mississippi as well as destroying habitat for the many species of fish valued by fishermen and women.

Link to riverbank erosion pictures Riverbank Washouts from Large Storm Threaten Weyerhaeuser Museum – Morrison County Historical Society ([morrisoncountyhistory.org](http://morrisoncountyhistory.org))

We have been working on funding for the repair and stabilization of the riverbank since the 2015 event working with Morrison County Soil and Water to find a solution and with their direction, putting in a berm along the bank to divert the water as a short term measure.

In March of 2022 with the help of the City of Little Falls and Morrison County Commissioners we were able to hire an Engineering company to develop a design plan to repair and stabilize the bank and provide habitat structure at the rivers edge.

We have a "**Shovel Ready**" environmentally friendly plan ready to go when our bill is successful. Bids on the job will be advertised and we expect local company's will be eligible to do the work required.

We need your support in getting our Bonding Bill HF 616 passed. An appropriation from the State Legislature will help us stabilize the riverbank, stop degrading drinking water downstream and safeguard the capacity of the Weyerhaeuser Museum to preserve Morrison County history into the future.

***Thank you for considering this investment in Morrison County's history infrastructure***

# Bonding Bill H.F. 616 / S.F. 867

to appropriate \$1,561,000 for the care & expanded capacity of

## **The Charles A. Weyerhaeuser Memorial Museum**

owned & operated by the

### **Morrison County Historical Society**

in Little Falls, Minnesota



### **History of MCHS & the Weyerhaeuser Museum**

- Founded in 1936 to preserve & share Morrison County's history - an outgrowth of an oral history project through the Works Progress Administration
- First home in the basement of the Historic Morrison County Courthouse
- Quickly ran out of space due to expanding collection
- Organization revitalized in mid-1960s after death of second director
- With donation from Weyerhaeuser family, built The Charles A. Weyerhaeuser Memorial Museum on the high bank overlooking the confluence of the Mississippi River & Pike Creek
- Building designed by architect Foster Dunwiddie with direction from MCHS Building Design Committee to include Morrison County history in structure - includes wood for milling industries, slate floors for slate at Little Falls Dam, & Little Falls yellow brick reclaimed from St. Adalbert's Church - Greek Revival style is that found in early Morrison County buildings, including original courthouse & Officers' Quarters at Fort Ripley
- Museum opened in 1975
- Early 1980s - Planned additions of Archives and Collections Rooms 1 & 2 built
- The museum has begun the process for application to the National Register of Historic Places, for which it will be eligible in 2025. This includes a phase 1 archaeological survey of the site

(over)

**Call 320-632-4007 or visit [morrisoncountyhistory.org](http://morrisoncountyhistory.org) for more info.**

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Goals - To expand the collections capacity of the Weyerhaeuser Museum & improve the collections environment

- To nominate the museum to the National Register of Historic Places - the museum will be eligible for nomination in 2025

- To use the Weyerhaeuser Museum as a regional example of how to care for historic properties

### Services & Reach of MCHS

MCHS provides genealogical & county history resources to researchers around the world. Our collection contains tens of thousands of items, including area newspapers, photographs, original probate files, WPA biographies & Family Files, District Court & Sheriff's records, business history & ledgers, family collections, church, school & cemetery records, and three-dimensional artifacts.

We also provide exhibits, programs & classes, tours, written histories (books, monographs, newsletter articles), a robust website, and research services, as well as advice on historic preservation issues related to structures and how to preserve artifacts & documents.

MCHS has regional and statewide reach through its continual involvement with other organizations & agencies. MCHS is currently involved in the following:

- Little Falls Heritage Preservation Commission
- Partnering with St. Cloud State University through the permanent loan of Little Elk Heritage Preserve archaeological collection to provide students with hands-on learning
- Partnering with Benton, Stearns & Sherburne Historical Societies on Exploring History & Culture in Central MN series
- Citizen's advisory for One Watershed One Plan

Past associations (often in a founding role) include:

- Institute for MN Archaeology, Bicentennial Commission, Morrison County Arts Association & Great River Arts, Preservation Alliance of Minnesota, Little Falls Convention & Visitors Bureau, Region 5 History Coalition, Great River/Great People, West Side Improvement Association, State Historic

Records Advisory Board, American Association for State Local History Small Museums Committee, Legacy Strategic Agenda Collaborative, Morrison County's Sesquicentennial celebration, State Review Board for the National Register of Historic Places, Minnesota Council of Nonprofits, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Sustainable Building Group

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### Use of Appropriated Funds

Appropriated funds will be used for the following improvement projects at the Weyerhaeuser Museum:

- Mitigating riverbank erosion
- Repaying HVAC Loan
- Repairing/replacing exterior doors
- Replacing roof
- Repairing windows
- Repairing front porch
- Replacing damaged siding & repainting
- Bringing entrances & bathrooms up to current accessibility standards
- Installing high-density mobile shelving
- Reupolstering library furniture
- Expanding library into hall
- Adding storage in Work Room
- Renewing parking lot
- Performing gazebo maintenance

*The Morrison County Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.*

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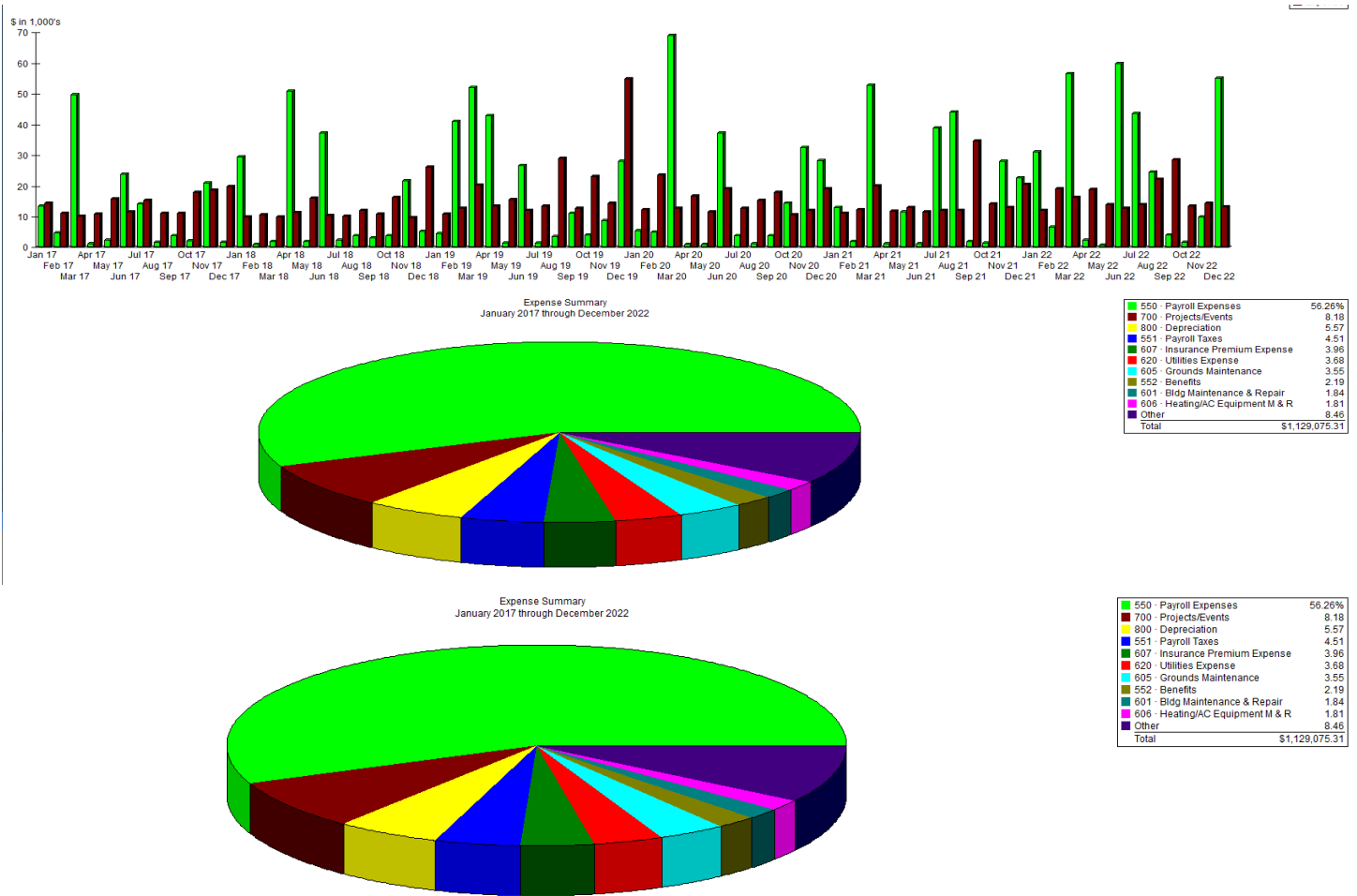
in Little Falls, Minnesota

## Financial Information

The Morrison County Historical Society’s annual budget is approximately \$193,600 per year. Its income comes from a variety of sources, including an allotment from Morrison County, earnings from endowments, donations, memberships, grants, and research and programming fees. The Charles A. Weyerhaeuser Memorial Museum is open for free to the public.

MCHS employs 2.5 FTE professional staff who provide access to the organization’s research resources and collections year-round. The largest portion of MCHS’s expenses is dedicated to payroll, including payroll taxes. For more information on MCHS’s financial data or to see copies of its IRS 990 Forms, contact Executive Director Mike Worcester at 320-632-4007.

## 5-Year Snapshot, Income & Expenses 2017-2022



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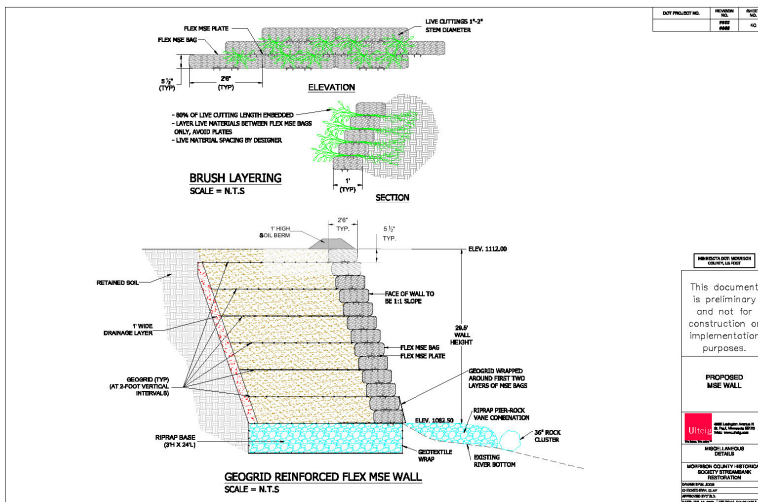
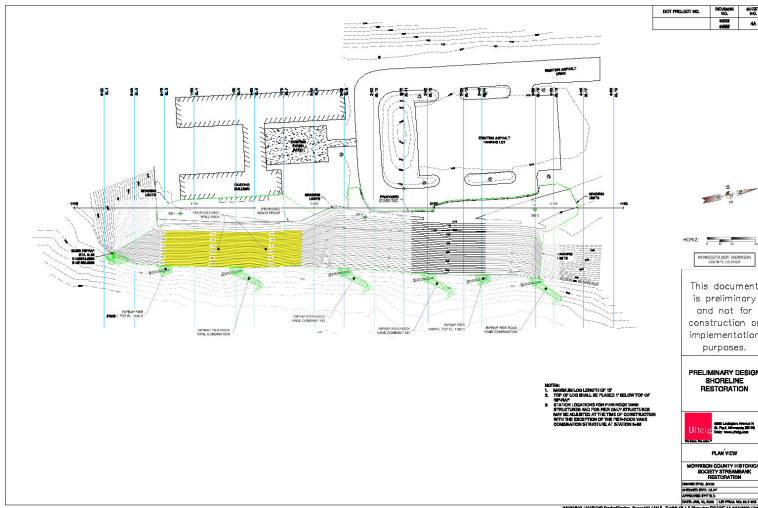
in Little Falls, Minnesota

### Mississippi River Erosion

The Charles A. Weyerhaeuser Memorial Museum is located on the west bank of the Mississippi River in Little Falls, MN, just south of the Charles A. Lindbergh House and Museum and southeast of Lindbergh State Park. The riverbank at this location is approximately 50 feet above the river, providing a scenic overlook of both the Mississippi River and Pike Creek, which flows into the Mississippi River just below the museum.

The museum building is about 20 feet from the top edge of the bank. Due to a variety of environmental factors, the bank is experiencing severe erosion, which will impact the Weyerhaeuser Museum if it is not mitigated. A portion of the funding requested in the bonding bill will be used to mitigate this erosion using the most natural methods possible in order to preserve the scenic landscape.

We currently have a shovel-ready plan with Ulteig Engineers to mitigate this issue, and we will begin the process of seeking funds to allow this project to proceed. The estimated total for this project is \$618,310.



Opinion of Probable Construction Cost

Project: Morrison County Historical Society  
Mississippi River Streambank Protection

25-Jan-23

Item Number	Item	Quantity	Unit	Unit Price	Total Price
1	2012.602 Traffic Control	1	EA	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
2	2021.501 Mobilization	1	LS	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00
3	2031.502 Field Office Type D	1	EA	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
4	2101.501 Clearing and Grubbing, Tree Removal	0.4	Acre	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
5	2104.503 Remove Fence	300	LF	\$ 3.00	\$ 900.00
6	2104.504 Salvage Wood Rail Fence	30	LF	\$ 30.00	\$ 900.00
7	2104.504 Remove Bituminous Pavement	500	SF	\$ 2.50	\$ 1,250.00
8	2104.607 Salvage Top Soil	50	CY	\$ 5.00	\$ 250.00
9	2105.602 Construct Temporary Driveway	1	EA	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
10	2105.604 Soil stabilization geogrid	1350	SF	\$ 2.50	\$ 3,375.00
11	2106.507 Common Excavation	4550	CY	\$ 7.00	\$ 31,850.00
12	2360.504 Type SP 12.5 Wearing Course Mixture (2,A) 3"0"	500	SF	\$ 9.00	\$ 4,500.00
13	2411.604 Mechanically Stabilized Earth Wall	3600	SF	\$ 98.00	\$ 352,800.00
14	2451.507 Course Filter Aggregate	130	CY	\$ 65.00	\$ 8,450.00
15	2502.503 6" TP Pipe Drain	72	LF	\$ 20.00	\$ 1,440.00
16	2503.503 12" CP Pipe Sewer (Smooth)	90	LF	\$ 60.00	\$ 5,400.00
17	2506.502 Construct Drainage Structure Design Drop Inlet	2	EA	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 2,500.00
18	2511.507 Random Rip Rap (Class I)	310	CY	\$ 70.00	\$ 21,700.00
19	2511.504 Random Rip Rap (Class III)	250	CY	\$ 95.00	\$ 23,750.00
20	2554.603 Install Guardrail	175	LF	\$ 26.00	\$ 4,550.00
21	2557.603 Install Wooded Fence	170	LF	\$ 120.00	\$ 20,400.00
22	2573.503 Floatation Silt Curtain Type Moving Water	450	LF	\$ 30.00	\$ 13,500.00
23	2573.503 SR Fence, Type HI	300	LF	\$ 3.00	\$ 900.00
24	2573.503 Sediment Control Log Type Wood Fiber	300	LF	\$ 3.50	\$ 1,050.00
25	2574.507 Common Topsoil Borrow	300	CY	\$ 16.00	\$ 4,800.00
26	2574.508 Fertilizer Type 1	15	LB	\$ 1.00	\$ 15.00
27	2575.501 Turf Establishment	0.4	Acre	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 720.00
28	2575.508 Seed Mixture Type 35-421	5	LB	\$ 40.00	\$ 200.00
29	2575.508 Seed Mixture Type 35-421	5	LB	\$ 40.00	\$ 200.00
30	2576.523 Erosion Control Blanket Category 3	1350	Sq Yd	\$ 2.00	\$ 2,700.00
31	2577.502 Live Stakes	750	EA	\$ 10.00	\$ 7,500.00
32	2577.502 Root Wood	16	EA	\$ 250.00	\$ 4,000.00
33	2577.503 Wattling	400	LF	\$ 30.00	\$ 12,000.00
Subtotal					\$ 562,100.00
Summary					
10% Construction Contingency					\$ 56,210.00
Total Estimated Construction Cost					\$ 618,310.00



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### Updated Photos of Riverbank Erosion as of July 2022







## MORRISON SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

16776 Heron Road \* Little Falls, Minnesota 56345  
(320) 631-3553 \* [www.morrisonswcd.org](http://www.morrisonswcd.org)

House and Senate Capitol Investment Committee Members

February 22, 2023

Re: Support of HF616/SF867

Dear House and Senate Capitol Investment Committee Members,

Morrison Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is committed to helping the Morrison County Historical Society and the Weyerhaeuser Museum with the erosion problems on the Mississippi Riverbank east of the building.

The importance of stabilizing and restoring this bank has many folds. The water quality that the erosion is impacting continues to be degraded by transporting large quantities of sediment and nutrients downstream. The erosion is continuing to endanger the historical society buildings and infrastructure. The preservation of the river's scenic beauty and the rivers historical value is important to the community.

The erosion first came to the SWCD's attention in the fall of 2015 where it was identified just 15-20 feet from the eastside of the building and parking lot the Mississippi River shoreline was eroding. In the spring of 2016, a private engineer was contacted to obtain an estimate on the restoration and stabilization of the riverbank. This estimate was approximately \$75,000 in design and construction costs.

In 2019 the areas of erosion had expanded and again the SWCD asked for estimates from private engineer firms. These estimates were much higher than the original estimate in 2015 with costs ranging from \$150,000 to \$400,000 for construction and an additional \$40,000 to 50,000 in survey, soil boring, geotechnical, and design cost.

This area continues to degrade with the most drastic being in June of 2020 when a large area failed and slid into the river after an extreme rain event. In the fall of 2020 Morrison SWCD designed and cost shared a division berm to diverting the runoff from the building and parking lot away from the degraded area, but this berm is only a band aid to a much larger problem.

The project has recently been designed after receiving funding support from both Morrison County and the City of Little Falls. The design incorporates criteria which our office supports to not only be structurally sound but also incorporates ecological benefits and gives a natural appearance. The next step, and the reason for HF616/SF867 is to implement the project as it is now estimated to cost \$618,000. The more time that passes the problem becomes larger and ultimately more expensive.



Shannon Wettstein  
District Manager  
Morrison SWCD  
16776 Heron Road  
Little Falls, MN 56345  
(320) 631-3553  
[Shannon.wettstein@morrisonswcd.org](mailto:Shannon.wettstein@morrisonswcd.org)



*Morrison County will provide cost effective, high quality services in a friendly and respectful manner.*

## County Commissioners

Mike LeMieur – 1<sup>st</sup> District

Jeffrey J. Jelinski – 2<sup>nd</sup> District

Randy H. Winscher – 3<sup>rd</sup> District

Robert Kasper – 4<sup>th</sup> District

Greg J. Blaine – 5<sup>th</sup> District

Government Center

213 S.E. 1st Avenue

Little Falls, Minnesota 56345-3196

320-632-2941

Toll Free: 1-866-401-1111

February 21, 2023

Representative Ron Kresha  
329 State Office Building  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Blvd  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Representative Kresha:

On behalf of the Morrison County Board of Commissioners, it is my pleasure to offer a letter of support for The Charles A. Weyerhaeuser Memorial Museum bonding bill request, H.F. 616/S.F. 867.

Morrison County appreciates and depends on the Historical Society to preserve historical records for our community, from prehistoric times to the present. Morrison County Historical Society and Morrison County Government have had a long and congenial working relationship and have supported each other throughout. Not only were they originally housed in our building, they have served as a repository for specific county records, such as Probate files, District Court records, Sheriff's ledgers, property and road ledgers since. The need to preserve our history is great and the proposed appropriation would go a long way in helping advance the important mission.

The Morrison County Board of Commissioners recognizes the Museum's precarious situation in regards to the erosion of the hillside along the Mississippi River, the need to expand the storage capacity to preserve priceless records, and the necessity of upgrades to be in better compliance with ADA requirements. As their presence in Morrison County is a benefit to all residents of the area, the Morrison County Board of Commissioners supports the Bonding Bill request.

Sincerely,

Matt LeBlanc  
County Administrator





February 21, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

I write to share details of the valued connection between Morrison County Historical Society (MCHS) and the St. Cloud State University Department of Anthropology in support of HF 616/SF 867.

Our Department's relationship with MCHS extends back to 2014 and is active now and for the foreseeable future. The earlier (and ongoing) connections include the following:

- When SCSU Department of Anthropology students and faculty conducted an excavation at archaeological site 21MO38 (Little Elk River Mission Site), MCHS staff visited the excavation, shared information and sought information for their own professional development.
- We have had a graduate student from our Cultural Resource Management Archaeology M.S. Program successfully complete an internship at MCHS, where she gained important professional experience and skills. We have discussed the possibility of additional internships with MCHS and look forward to these opportunities for our students.
- Our faculty member Dr. Robbie Mann has given public talks at MCHS and connected through these talks with MCHS staff and with Morrison County residents who are interested in local history.

Our most impactful connection with MCHS involves our stewardship of the Douglas A. Birk Collection, a collection of archaeological and historic artifacts, maps, documents, and other material related to archaeological site 21MO20. Archaeological site MO20 is an 18<sup>th</sup>-century trading post located on the Mississippi River near present-day Little Falls, Minnesota. In 1984 MO20 was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Initially interpreted as the 1752-53 site of the French colonial fur trading post known as Fort Duquesne, ongoing research is currently evaluating a new hypothesis that MO20 may date to the post-1763 British colonial period of Minnesota history.

Our work with the MCHS Staff and Board of Directors has clearly demonstrated their thoughtful commitment to the preservation, study, and public dissemination of information related to Morrison County History. The improvement projects they are seeking through the requested funds are essential for them to continue the important work they do in Central Minnesota. We look forward to partnering with them well into the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Debra L. Gold'.

Debra L. Gold  
Professor and Chair