

SUPPORT FOR CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (CREP)

WHEREAS, the Lower Mississippi River Basin in southeastern Minnesota includes 11,000 miles of streams, of which more than 700 miles are designated trout streams, which need protection and restoration, and

WHEREAS, the presence of fractured limestone bedrock just below the topsoil in southeastern Minnesota creates a very high potential for ground and surface water contamination from nitrate nitrogen and other contaminants, and

WHEREAS, agriculture trends are resulting in soybeans replacing hay on thousands of acres of steep hillsides, which greatly increases the potential for erosion and threatens soil productivity, and

WHEREAS, buffers are an important and effective practice for improving and maintaining water quality, reducing peak stream flows and reducing soil erosion; and

WHEREAS, CREP allows flexibility to design practices that address the specific natural resource needs of the program area, and

WHEREAS, the CREP is a voluntary program allows landowners to implement buffer practices in areas that provide for the greatest environmental benefit while providing the landowner with compensation for land taken out of production; and

WHEREAS, this effort will step up the efforts to implement local priorities in the Lower Mississippi Basin in Minnesota.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District supports the efforts of the Basin Alliance of the Lower Mississippi in Minnesota (BALMM) to submit a CREP application to the United States Department of Agriculture.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District supports legislation that will fund the Reinvest In Minnesota Program at a level to meet the demand of landowner requests giving priority to projects that will best be able to obtain leverage from federal sources.

Rick Hansen, Chair
Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District

Date