



Records related to the establishment
of the Minnesota Valley National
Wildlife Refuge

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STATE OF MINNESOTA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

ST. PAUL 55155

WENDELL R. ANDERSON
GOVERNOR

September 9, 1975

Ms. Elaine Mellott and
Ms. Marialice F. Seal
The Lower Minnesota River
Valley Citizens Committee
9801 Pillsbury Avenue South
Bloomington, Minnesota 55420

Dear Elaine and Marialice:

The Trail Staff of the Division of Parks and Recreation would welcome a chance to meet with your committee and Federal officials concerning the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Discussion on how this proposal compliments the existing state plans for the Minnesota River Valley Trail and industrial development in the area in addition to funding requirement would be beneficial.

Please feel free to set up a meeting at a time and place convenient to your committee members.

With warmest personal regards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wendell R. Anderson".

Wendell R. Anderson

WRA:skr

September 10, 1975

Mr. James Ross, Editor
Minnesota Outdoors
790 Cleveland Avenue South
St. Paul, Minnesota 55116

Dear Mr. Ross:

I am advised that you may have an interest in the proposed Minnesota River Valley Wildlife Refuge Recreation area. For your information enclosed are 1) a proposal prepared by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service for a 6,600 acre refuge in the valley between Jordan and Fort Snelling, Minnesota; and 2) legislation introduced July 11, 1975, in the U. S. Senate by Senators Mondale and Humphrey for a citizen-proposed 9,500 acre refuge and a 7,500 acre recreation area. Of this 17,000 acres in the floodway, approximately 4,500 acres are already in public ownership.

Several concerned major land holders in the area favor this proposal. It provides for comprehensive land use planning and is a unique opportunity in the United States to preserve scenic values, wildlife refuge and wildlife nature-oriented recreational lands in a metropolitan area.

We hope you will want to publish articles on this proposal in Minnesota Outdoors. Other background materials are available. We would be pleased to meet with you on this subject.

I will telephone you soon to discuss this concept. Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely yours,

THE LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER VALLEY CITIZENS COMMITTEE

Elaine M. Mellott
Co-Chairman

DMM/dlh

Enclosures (2)

September 11, 1975

Representative Tom Hagedorn
325 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Hagedorn:

Thank you for both letters I received from you last month. Your action to contact Congressman Peter Rodino on the financial and lobby disclosure legislation is appreciated.

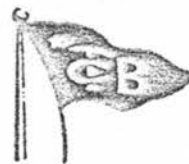
I am writing this letter in regard to the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Recreation Area proposed for the Lower Minnesota River Valley. I write the column "Valley Without Borders" for a number of valley newspapers and in today's column I took the liberty to quote you from the August 25 letter I received from you. I now have information that you may soon be the principal sponsor for this legislation in the House of Representatives. When this takes place I would appreciate receiving your press release so as to include full credit of such sponsorship in another of my articles. I am enclosing a copy of today's column for your information.

Thank you very much for your support of this exciting plan for the Minnesota River Valley!

Sincerely,



Tyrone L. Steen
Rt. 1
St. Peter, MN 56082



Twin City Barge & Towing Company

1303 RED ROCK ROAD — P.O. BOX 3032 — ST. PAUL, MINN. 55165

TELEPHONE:
ST. PAUL 612-735-5440

September 17, 1975

Ms. Gail Harrison
Office of Senator Walter F. Mondale
443 Old Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Gail:

It was most appreciated that the Senator had the interest to send you on a fact finding mission, regarding the Minnesota River Valley problem.

However, I am left with the sensation that all we did was verify the existence of an impossibly confusing situation.

A veritable flood of Federal legislation has granted broad overlapping authority to various Federal agencies in the area of water resources. In exercising their obligations under these Congressional mandates, the Federal agencies have prevented local units of Government, such as the Lower Minnesota Watershed District and the St. Paul Port Authority, from implementing their responsibility under the law.

All of this leads me back to the old refrain you have heard me repeat so often in recent years: The Congress, in a rush to create a balance between industrial--economic and environmental concerns, has in fact unbalanced the system to such an extent that the Federal agencies have been able to bring a virtual halt to all development or expansion.

From my own research, here are some of the legislative mandates from which the Federal government has drawn this unparalleled right to do land use planning--regardless of the needs or desires of local government:

The Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1970
and 1972 Amendments

The Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act

The Marine Protection Research and Sanctuaries
Act of 1972

The Endangered Species Act

The Water Resources Planning Act of 1962

The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969

The Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956.

S. 2097 does not necessarily add to the problem. But, neither does it clarify the lack of a balanced approach to societies' overall needs. Perhaps this Bill cannot correct the stagnation of industrial and commercial development which Congress has created. But some sort of remedial legislation is obviously necessary to correct the existing agency mentality that industry must be thwarted to protect the environment. Congress must restore the balance which they sought to create.

I will contact the Senator prior to my next trip to Washington so that we might discuss the matter.

Sincerely,

TWIN CITY BARGE & TOWING COMPANY

John W. Lambert
President

mas

cc: Congressman William Frenzel
Mr. Ray Haik
Mr. Andrew Nelsen

BILL FRENZEL
THIRD DISTRICT, MINNESOTA

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
1026 LONGWORTH BUILDING
202-225-2871

STAFF DIRECTOR
RICHARD D. WILLOW

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

DISTRICT OFFICES:
MRS. MAYBETH CHRISTENSEN, MANAGER
120 FEDERAL BUILDING
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55401
612-725-2173
MISS SANDRA KLUG, MANAGER
3601 PARK CENTER BOULEVARD
ST. LOUIS PARK, MINNESOTA 55416
612-925-4540

September 18, 1975

Ms. Elaine Mellott
2516 W. 98th St.
Bloomington, MN 55431

Dear Elaine:

Since you last visited me in my office in Minneapolis, I have had a good deal of other comment on the Preserve, and I have discussed it with my colleagues here along with members of their staffs. I can't find anybody who does not want a wildlife preserve, but I do get the impression that the matter is far more complicated than I had been led to believe earlier. There simply are too many unanswered questions relating to the draft bill. I think we are going to have to do quite a bit of redrafting to move that bill along. I am still receiving information from various parties. Soon, however, I would like to get together with you again and review some of the matters that have arisen. I don't see any of these problems as being fatal, but I do think that we will probably have to alter the bill to take some of them into account.

Best regards,



Bill Frenzel
Member of Congress

BF:pce

BOB BERGLAND
SEVENTH DISTRICT, MINNESOTA

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
1414 LONGWORTH HOB
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
TELEPHONE: (202) 225-2165

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE
(CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
CONSERVATION AND CREDIT)
SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

September 23, 1975

DISTRICT OFFICES:
IRENE MARING, SECRETARY
920 28TH AVENUE SOUTH
MOORHEAD, MINNESOTA 56560
TELEPHONE: (218) 236-5050
BOB KINSMAN, DISTRICT REP.
BOX 390
THIEF RIVER FALLS, MINNESOTA 56701
TELEPHONE: HOME (218) 681-4509
JACK DRESSEN, DISTRICT REP.
BROWERVILLE, MINNESOTA 56438
TELEPHONE: (612) 594-2738
CLIFF OUSE, DISTRICT REP.
ROTHSAY, MINNESOTA 56579
TELEPHONE (218) 867-2226

Ms. Elaine M. Mellott
Ms. Marialice F. Seal
Co-Chairmen
The Lower Minnesota River Valley
Citizens Committee
9801 Pillsbury Avenue, South
Bloomington, Minnesota 55420

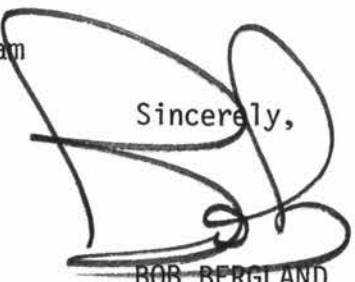
Dear Ms. Mellott and Ms. Seal:

My thanks for your recent letter, along with the copy
of Governor Anderson's letter approving the Minnesota River Valley
Wildlife Recreation Area proposal.

I appreciate your taking the time to advise me of your
efforts, and I hope you will continue to bring me up to date on
your activities.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,



BOB BERGLAND

BB:rk

September 25, 1975

The Honorable Thomas Hagedorn
325 Common House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Hagedorn:

On Tuesday, September 30 our committee and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service will present a slide-tape program on the proposed Minnesota River Valley Wildlife Recreation Area at two separate meetings at Mankato State University. The first program will be at 2:00 p.m. in Trafton Science Center (room to be announced). The second program is at 7:30 p.m. in Trafton Science Center, Room C-121. We wish to invite you and Vern Neppel to attend one or both of these meetings. The evening meeting is being sponsored by the Sierra Club and is open to the public. For information call the Environmental Institute at 389-6454.

On September 7 Mr. Neppel indicated you wished us to arrange for a public meeting in Burnsville on October 15 at which you would meet the public for a briefing-listening session on the refuge proposal. We have not been contacted further on finalizing preparations for this meeting. Please advise me soon as to your intentions in this regard. We need more than two weeks for this task in order to have adequate time for press release and invitation preparation.

We continue to receive support for the proposal. Within the last two weeks the Minnesota Conservation Federation, the Richfield Bloomington Conservation Club (including membership from Congressional District 2) and the Bloomington Chamber of Commerce have passed resolutions of support.

We are looking forward to further contact with you and your staff on this proposal. Thank you again for your continued interest.

Sincerely,

THE LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER VALLEY CITIZENS COMMITTEE

E. M. Mellott
Co-Chairman

cc: Mr. Vern Neppel
210 Post Office Bldg.
Mankato, MN 56001

ENM/dlh



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Federal Building, Fort Snelling
Twin Cities, Minnesota 55111

October 6, 1975

Dear Friend:

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Lower Minnesota River Valley Citizens' Committee, at the request of Congressman Thomas Hagedorn, are extending an invitation to you and any other members of your organization and friends to join him in an information meeting on the proposed Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Recreation Area.

This meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 15, beginning at 7:30 PM in the cafetorium at Joseph Nicollet Junior High School, 400 E. 134th Street, Burnsville (use 134th Street entrance). A map showing the location of the school is attached. For further information you may contact Ed Crozier or Tom Follrath of the Fish and Wildlife Service at 725-3570.

Congressman Hagedorn is interested in hearing the various viewpoints of those concerned about the future of the Lower Minnesota River floodplain.

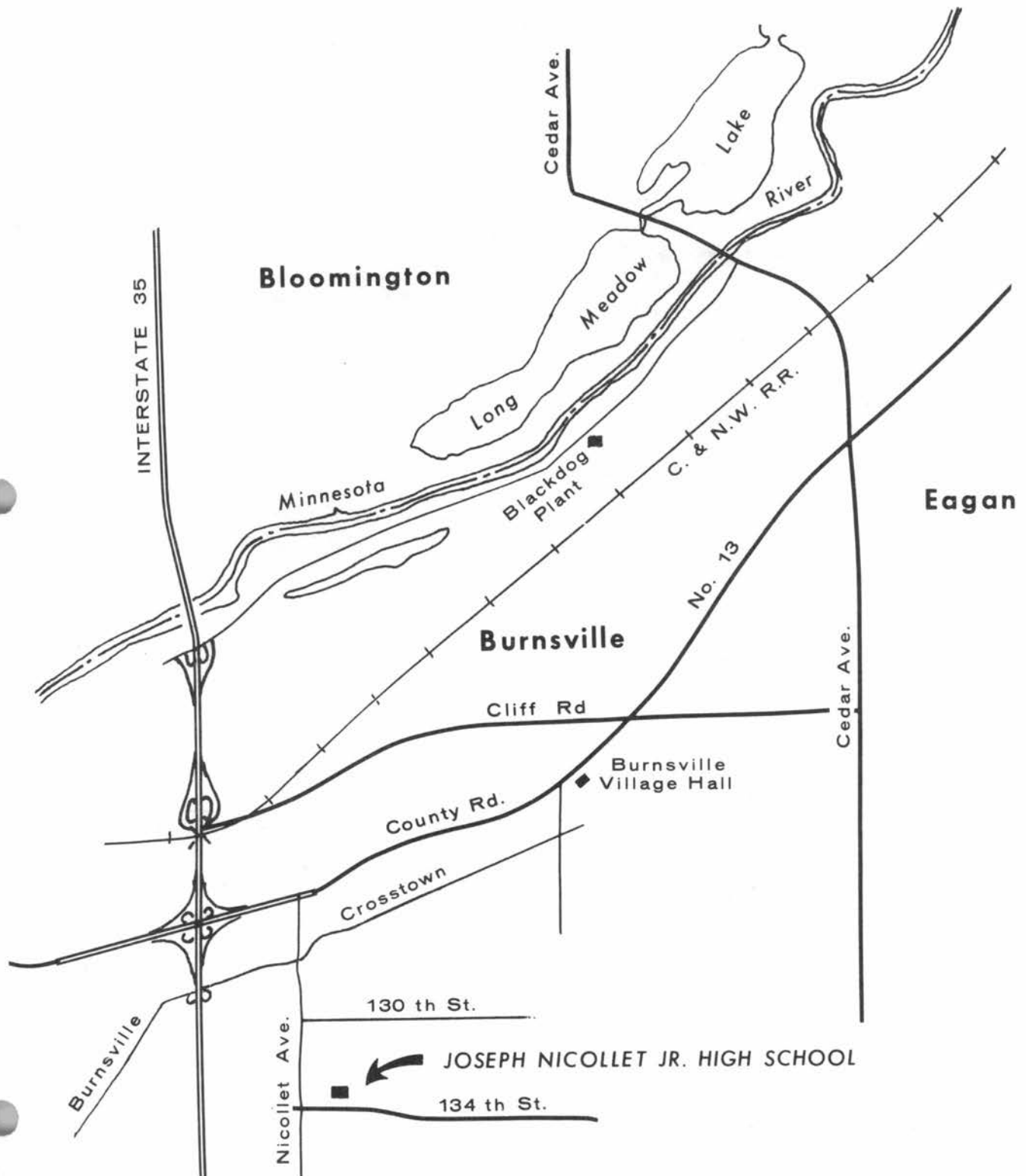
Sincerely yours,

Jack C. Humphill
Regional Director

Attachment



MINNESOTA VALLEY INFORMATION MEETING
JOSEPH NICOLLET JR. HIGH SCHOOL
(Cafetorium)
7:30 PM



October 12, 1975

Elaine Mellott
2516 W 98th
Bloomington, MN 55431

Dear Elaine,

I am enclosing copies of your September 30 presentation writeup from the Mankato FREE PRESS for your growing file on the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Recreation Area. Thanks to you our Big Bend Group was able to schedule an exciting worthwhile program, but more important than that are the thanks you, Ed, and Jerry deserve for the time and effort you are giving for the future of the Lower Minnesota River Valley!

The two enclosed resolutions (Big Bend Group and Nicollet County DFL Central Committee) have been sent to Senators Mondale and Humphrey, Rep. Hagedorn and Governor Anderson. I am sending you the originals in case you wish further duplication and distribution. Do as you see fit.

I have received the notification for Wednesday's meeting with Rep. Hagedorn. I will be unable to attend, but will be looking for his public endorsement and wish you all well on the 15th.

Thanks again for the September presentation and for all the information you brought along for my personal projects.

Sincerely,



Tyrone L. Steen
Chairman, Big Bend Group
Sierra Club

Rt. 1
St. Peter, MN 56082

CONTROL DATA CORPORATION
Inter-Office Memorandum

October 15, 1975

To: N. R. Berg
From: E. M. Mellott

For your information this is the guest list for Congressman Hagedorn's Tour 10/15/75.

- Congressman Tom Hagedorn, U. S. 2nd District
- Vern Neppel, Aid to Congressman Hagedorn, Mankato office
- Gail Harrison, Aid to Senator Mondale, Washington, D.C.
- ~~Robert Hurner~~ " " " Minneapolis, MN
- ~~Roger Nelson~~, Aid to Congressman Quie, Minneapolis, MN
- Gordy Hanson, Fish & Wildlife Service, Land Management
- Ed Crozier, Fish & Wildlife Service, Land Management
- Tom Follrath, Fish & Wildlife Service, Realty
- Barry Johnson, Fish & Wildlife Service, Realty
- Senator William Kirchner, Richfield - *Bloomington*
- James Kelley
- Mary Alice Seal, Citizens Committee
- Elaine Mellott, Citizens Committee
- Mattie Peterson, Izaak Walton League.
- Norb Berg

Ron Seymour - B.O.R. Ann Arbor, Michigan
Senator Kirchner is ~~not yet~~ confirmed for dinner.

Elaine M. Mellott

/dlh

MEMO

CONTROL DATA
CORPORATION

TO:	Elaine Mellott	LOCATION:	HQW12L	FROM:	Mary Jane McKeon 5356	LOCATION:	HQS14D
SUBJECT:	Dinner Meeting -- 10/15/75 -- Decathlon Athletic Club					DATE:	10/10/75

Thought I would give you the final arrangements that I made for your dinner next Wednesday.

I've made reservations in Javelin I-A for thirteen people. The catering department is aware that you will be arriving at 6:10 P.M. and dinner will be served at 6:20 P.M. I've chosen the following menu.

Fresh Florida Fruit Cup
Olympia Salad
Prime Rib
Baked Potato
Asparagus Hollandaise
Creme de Menthe Parfait
Beverage

If there are any changes, I'd appreciate it if you would let me know.

Thanks much,

Mary Jane

P.S. NRB is aware that you will be using the Board Room at 5:45 P.M.

*Check ad Desk
to be sure
board room is open.*

John Thomas
Raymond
Joe Lee
John Wright

C. Johnson
many to purchase
nobody on
anyway
of spending
of spending
all of
John
for 0.00
#2.2

CONTROL DATA CORPORATION
Inter-Office Memorandum

July 1, 1976

To: N. R. Berg HQS14D
From: E. M. Mellott HQN12Q

On Thursday, July 8, Congressmen James Oberstar (MN) and Robert Leggett (CA) will conduct a "Refuge" field hearing in Minneapolis. They want to see the Valley. I have asked for the Board Room from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. to brief them. I would like to have you and Mr. Norris meet them if you wish. Would you please advise Mr. Norris of this.

These congressmen are on the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee. Congressman Leggett is Chairman of the Fisheries, Wildlife and Environment Subcommittee.

Unless we are able to have someone from the White House (OMB) view the area later, I believe this kind of activity is complete. It is invaluable toward our goal.

Elaine Mellott

CONTROL DATA CORPORATION
Inter-Office Memorandum

June 17, 1976

To: N. R. Berg HQS14D
From: E. M. Mellott HQN12Q

The push is on to get House action on the Minnesota River Valley Refuge bill. Congressmen Oberstar (Minnesota) and Leggett (California) - Chairman, Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee, Wildlife Conservation Subcommittee, will hold a field hearing in Minneapolis on July 8 at my request.

Monday, June 21, Nathaniel Reed - Assistant Secretary, Fish, Wildlife and Parks, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C., and George Wills - President and Executive Director of the National Land Trust, a new branch of the Nature Conservancy, are to tour the Minnesota River Valley Refuge and the Mississippi north of St. Paul. I have asked for the Board Room to show them the film and view the area at 9:30 a.m. I would like to have you and Mr. Norris join us and meet them if you wish.

You may recall that Mr. Reed has not given this project as much support as we would like. We tried to have him take this tour last November, but an aid arrived instead. This was because newly-appointed Secretary of the Interior, Kleppe, asked Reed to stay in Washington to brief him. The project currently has a low priority funding status with this department and the White House Office of Management and Budget. A favorable meeting with Reed might help improve this position with respect to House action on the bill which we desire before Congress adjourns this year.

These men are to meet with other corporate executives regarding other land acquisitions in the state (Pillsbury is one example that I know of).

Mr. Greenwall, National Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and his staff were favorably impressed by their visit to our facility and agreed to help further the proposal any way they could.

Also, the June 10 meeting with Ellerbe Co. seemed to go well. Messrs. Nelson, Jacobson, some of the Board of Directors and Division Heads attended (12 persons). They made no commitment, but were anxious to explain they had already dedicated the lower 15 acres of their property to scenic easement and felt the valley was a valuable wildlife resource. They were very friendly.

Thanks again for your helpfulness.

June 24, 1976

TO: W. C. Norris HQS14A
N. R. Berg HQS14D

FROM: E. M. Mellott HQN12Q

SUBJ: Minnesota Valley Wildlife Refuge

This is to advise you that the Monday meeting with Nathaniel Reed, Assistant Secretary, Parks, Fish and Wildlife U.S. Department of the Interior was very positive. To date the official position of the Department was to oppose Senator Mondale's bill, feeling that it should not receive Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund priority. This position has impeded our progress.

After viewing the refuge area and film, careful questioning and talking to you, Secretary Reed was very enthusiastic. He agreed to re-evaluate the Department's position in time for a July 8th House field hearing on the bill in Minneapolis. And, to testify himself if possible. This hearing will be conducted by Congressman James Oberstar (Mn.) and Robert L. Leggett (Calif.) Chairman of the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee at my request.

I want to thank you for your help and support with this matter. It is very important to me and many other persons. The preservation of this resource will stand as testimony to your vision.

Elaine

EMM/jb

CONTROL DATA CORPORATION
Inter-Office Memorandum

May 7, 1976

To: N. R. Berg
From: E. M. Mellott

On June 2 and 3 the U.S. Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Lynn Greenwall, and the six U.S. Regional Directors including Alaska are to meet in Minneapolis. On Tuesday, June 2, 3:00-4:00 p.m., I have arranged to have them view the wildlife refuge from the board room as well as to view our refuge film. I would very much like to have you meet these gentlemen and help me welcome them if your schedule permits.

Elaine M. Mellott

/dlh

MEMO

CONTROL DATA**CORPORATION**

TO:	Elaine Mellott	LOCATION:	HQW12L	FROM:	N. R. Berg	LOCATION:	HQS14D
SUBJECT:						DATE:	7/1/75

I read the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge proposal and actually I am sending it to Mrs. Norris to look at because she is interested in that type of thing. I heartily endorse it contingent on just what is meant by, "hunting will be encouraged on a controlled basis" or "limited type of hunting". Somebody would have to explain to me exactly what is meant by that before I could completely endorse it.

-- N. R. Berg

NRB/js

CONTROL DATA CORPORATION
Inter-Office Memorandum

September 10, 1975

To: N. R. Berg HQS14D
From: E. M. Mellott HQW12L
Subject: Minnesota River Valley Wildlife Refuge Recreation Area

On Wednesday, September 17, 1975, between 9:45 and 10:00 a.m., Assistant Secretary Reed, U. S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C., will meet Senator Kirchner, Mr. J. Kelley and myself in the board room to view the valley. Please join us if you can. We plan to show him the slide-tape show describing the refuge and to discuss the proposal. Mr. Reed holds a very high position in the department. He is the top decision maker as far as recommendations for funding and approval of projects from the Department of the Interior are concerned.

If you cannot be present, perhaps you would want to have a representative from Public Relations or Marketing present to welcome Mr. Reed to CDC.

Elaine M. Mellott

EMM/dlh

5-16-77

To: W. R. Berg

Fr: E. M. Mellott

I was disappointed not to be able to meet you and Pat as planned. Information you may need on Wildlife Refuge activity is as follows:

1. The refuge designation is official as of 7/1/77. Money to buy land will be available then. There is a 6 year acquisition period.
2. It is important that your group has ~~an~~ a written agreement (lease) with Central Data and any other involved parties that grants the right to hunt whether or not land is sold and for the time those rights are wanted. This lease has to be dated prior to 7-1-77.
3. That item 2 concurs with Bloomington City ordinance-attached.
4. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service probably will not be in any ~~hurry~~ hurry to buy COC land even though they may ask to. They would have to honor any lease agreements. As long as a lease exists they will only interfere if hunting creates public problems - in such a case they might want to buy such a lease.

E. Mellott

10/76

If you ever wish to consider optional sites some promising ones are -
optional sites: ① 210 acres now owned by Cargill
N $\frac{1}{2}$ Sec 31, T27N, R24W

② N $\frac{1}{2}$ Sec. 8 - T27N R23W B.M. Storey Jr.
parcel 3084 16 acres
3087 17 "
3086 A+B 32.30 acres

③ N $\frac{1}{2}$ Sec. 10, T115N R23W 2 lakes
near Charles
North of railroad Charles A. Wellens

5-10-77

Per Tom Folbrath, Chief of Realty USFWS

Status of Land Acquisition - Refuge only.

1) Plan to have ~~the~~ preliminary title contractor bids complete by mid June. Then prepare to begin appraisal & negotiating. Will start land sales by 10/1/77.

Attachments: Bloomington Hunting and Trapping Ordinances
House congressional records 4/30/76
Official Refuge map
1958 Map Fort Snelling to Charles showing wetlands.



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Federal Building, Fort Snelling
Twin Cities, Minnesota 55111

LM-RE - Minnesota
Minnesota Valley

OCT 21 1975

Ms. Elaine Mellott
Co-Chairman of the Lower Minnesota
River Valley Citizens Committee
9801 Pillsbury Avenue South
Bloomington, Minnesota 55420

Dear Elaine:

We wish to express our appreciation for your help in organizing and presenting the information session with Congressman Hagedorn. The success of the session was largely dependent on your prior planning and coordination of many aspects of the session. Thank you again.

Sincerely yours,

Walter B. Butenbaugh

Acting Regional Director



September 26, 1975

The Honorable Tom Hagedorn
325 Cannon Building

Dear Tom:

Per our discussions on the floor this week, I hope that we will be able to move ahead with the wildlife preserve in the lower Minnesota Valley, but, as we both agreed then, there are a number of questions which must be resolved. I know that a number of people in your district have raised objections and that counties and municipalities have passed resolutions of objection. It will obviously take some time and some work to cover those bases.

I agree with you that some kind of bridge easements must be written into the bill. I also believe that some assurances must be given so that public bodies will receive the same fair market value for land that private owners will. And, as you know, I am interested in seeing that the wildlife refuge concept is not used as an excuse to ban or disrupt navigation or other commercial development in the area.

I believe all of these interests can be accommodated reasonably and responsibly, but I know it is going to take a while. I have written to all the other interests, including the communities, the watershed district and commercial, that I can think of in my area. I am trying to meet with each group as the schedules permit. I hope that you will do likewise.

I have made a tentative agreement to meet with some of the local sponsors from my district during the Thanksgiving recess. By that time I hope to have at least some beginning information from each of these groups. I know you will be doing the same thing and look forward to sharing information and opinions with you and your constituents.

Again, I would like to restate that I feel a strong commitment to the project and believe we can accommodate the various interests in the area. However, it is likely to take some careful drafting to do so. I understand you may have a meeting sometime during the next recess. If possible I would like a staff member to attend that meeting and am anxious to help in any way I can to move this project along.

cc. Elaine Mellott
Mike Casey
Fritz Rahr
Hon. Al Quie
Hon. Walter Mondale

Best regards,

Bill Frenzel
Member of Congress

TOM HAGEDORN
2ND DISTRICT, MINNESOTA

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE
PUBLIC WORKS AND
TRANSPORTATION

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

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325 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-2472

210 POST OFFICE BUILDING
MANKATO, MINNESOTA 56001
(507) 388-4563

GEORGE L. BERG, JR.
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

October 28, 1975

Mr. Tyrone L. Steen, Chairman
Big Bend Group, Sierra Club
Route 1
St. Peter, Minnesota 56082

Dear Mr. Steen:

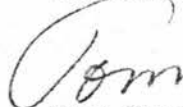
I wish to acknowledge receipt of the resolution recently adopted by the Big Bend Group of the Sierra Club expressing support for the establishment of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Area.

It will interest you to know that I recently met with representatives of the Fish and Wildlife Service to tour the proposed site of the refuge. Congressman Frenzel and I have discussed the proposal, and we are in the process of ironing out some of the technicalities of this legislation. We plan to have legislation prepared and ready to be introduced in the near future.

You may be assured that I will do everything I can to see that this legislation is enacted soon.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely yours,



Tom Hagedorn
Member of Congress

TH:jf



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Federal Building, Fort Snelling
Twin Cities, Minnesota 55111

IN REPLY REFER TO:

000.75

Congressman Tom Hagedorn
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Hagedorn:

In reply to your letter of October 2, 1975, we would be most pleased to work with the Minnesota Valley Citizens' Committee in making arrangements for your tour, briefing and public meeting concerning the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and Recreation Area.

As we have discussed with Mr. Vern Neppi and Nedra Connelly of your Mankato office, the tentative schedule is as follows:

- 3:15 Meet at Basco Aviation, Flying Cloud field, Eden Prairie, Minnesota (map attached) for a one-hour helicopter tour of valley.
- 4:15-5:15 Auto tour of valley area from Flying Cloud to Shakopee, Savage, Burnsville and Bloomington.
- 5:15-5:45 On-site visit to Long Meadow Lake Unit of proposed wildlife refuge area.
- 5:45-6:00 View Long Meadow Lake Marsh from 14th floor of Control Data headquarters.
- 6:10-7:10 Dinner at Decathlon Club, Bloomington.
- 7:30-9:30 Attend public meeting at Joseph Nicollet Junior High School, 134th Street and Nicollet Avenue, Burnsville, Minnesota.

Regional Director Jack Hemphill will be attending a meeting out of town on that date so Mr. Gordon Hansen, Supervisor of the Division of Land Management, will be his representative. He and several other members of our staff will accompany you on the helicopter ride and automobile tour.

At Control Data there will be representatives from Control Data Corporation, other landowners, other interested organizations and the Co-chairmen of the Citizens' Committee.

Following the Control Data stop you will be hosted for dinner with the group at the Decathlon Club, Bloomington.



The public meeting will be chaired by Ms. Elaine Mellott of the Citizens' Committee. She will open the meeting and ask you for brief remarks. Then members of our staff will conduct the briefing. Following the presentation, Ms. Mellott and our staff will answer any questions except those the public may ask of you. Ms. Mellott is a very capable chairman so the meeting should go smoothly.

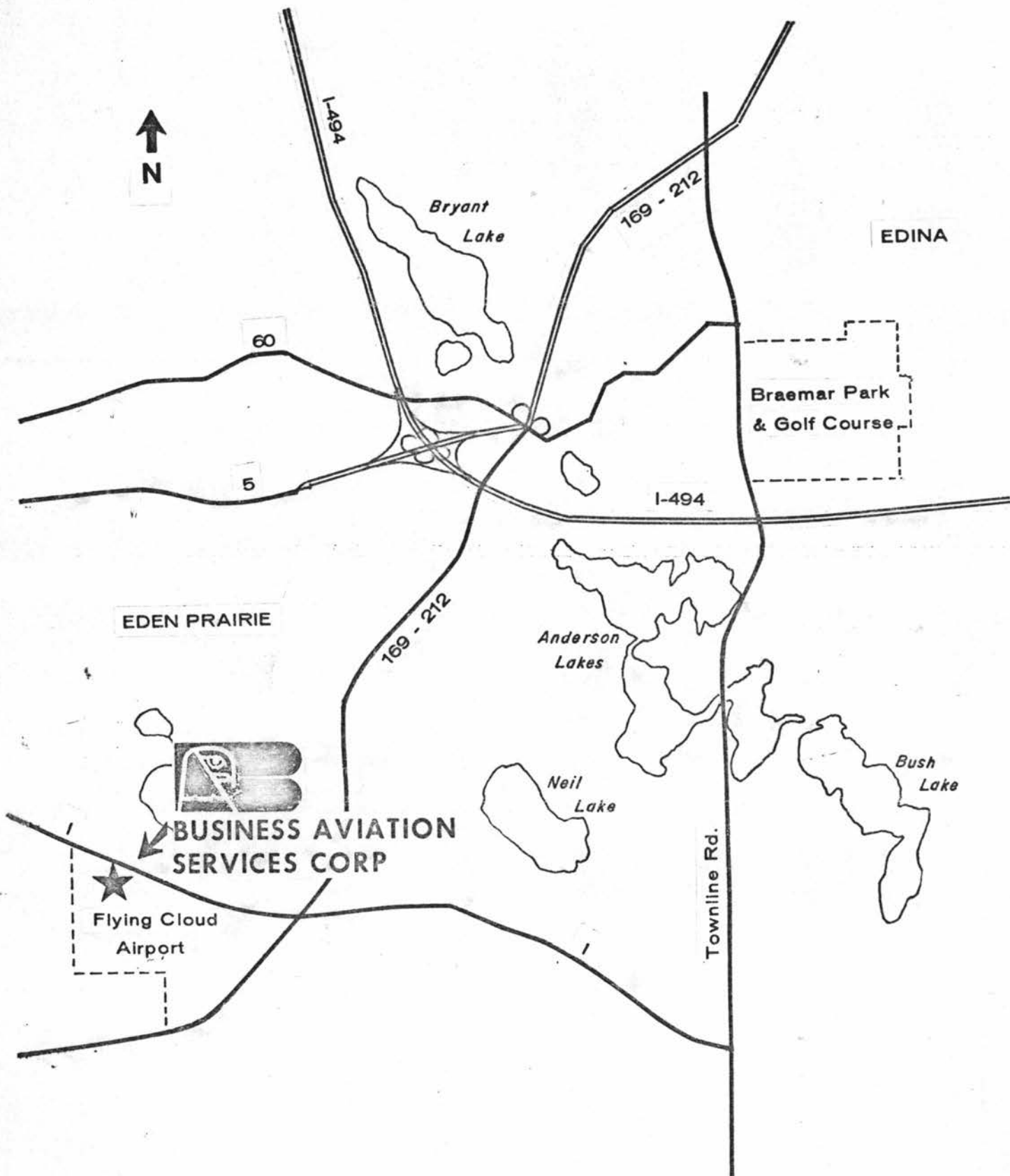
Following the meeting we can provide transportation to your next destination or you may wish to have your own transportation from that point on.

Sincerely yours,

Regional Director

Attachment

LOCATION MAP



Minneapolis, Minn., November 10, 1975.

Senator WENDELL FORD,

Chairman, Subcommittee on Environment, Senate Commerce Committee, 5202 Dirksen Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR FORD: If man had invented the flood plain, he would have proclaimed himself a genius. Except under the extreme conditions of the rare super-flood, the floodplain absorbs flood water like a gigantic sponge, and releases it slowly, with little or no damage resulting from the high water.

But man did not invent the floodplain, and does not seem to be able to recognize why it is there or how it works. He builds where water has historically flowed over the plain, and then is appalled by the "disaster" if his buildings get wet. He covers the floodplain marsh with a landfill, and then can't understand why flood waters are so much deeper upstream from this restriction. Man ditches wetlands and straightens streams, getting water off the land as quickly as he can, rushing it downstream between high levees "protecting" the former flood plain, and yet can't understand why downstream floods are so often record-breakers.

There are few rivers, especially near urban centers, where a natural floodplain still exists. It is a wonder that substantial lengths of the Minnesota River Valley floodplain are still intact within the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Area. The beauty, wildlife and educational value of this lovely valley are all *bonus*; they accompany the flood protection of this great "sponge."

There is an opportunity now to protect this unique area, and the arguments for its protection are so overwhelming they should result in that protection. The establishment of the *Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and Recreation Area* should be assured by a study of the area and of the convincing reasons for its preservation.

As a naturalist who has lived near the proposed refuge for twenty-two years, and has been a member of two metropolitan bodies considering proper use of this valley during four years of frequent meetings and many field trips, I feel qualified to offer these good reasons for its preservation:

1. The most obvious reason is that flood control is best accomplished by leaving a flood plain in its natural state. I joined many volunteers filling sandbags in a futile effort to keep the Carver County Courthouse and Chaska homes dry. If these buildings had not been built on the floodplain, there would have been no damage.

2. The valley is extremely rich in wildlife and floodplain vegetation. Well over 200 species of birds frequent its varied habitats each year. Among the 175 species I have seen here, I was fortunate enough to observe 17 rare bald eagles at one time below Flying Cloud Airport, and 103 common egrets and 72 great blue herons from one point on Rice Lake. I have either seen or recorded the presence of numerous whitetail deer, beavers, mink, coyotes, otters, bobcats, weasels and many more native mammals.

3. There are all too many bad uses of floodplain land in the valley, notably in Burnsville, where "grandfather clauses" have allowed landfill long after it was proven that such practice causes greater floods both upstream and downstream. The bad and the good are both here for floodplain study.

4. Recreational and educational uses of this magnificent valley will be possible during all times of the year except during high water. Enough trails and observation points can be established to satisfy the needs of many thousands of users, and yet large, wild areas can be set aside for wildlife to nest, den and "do their thing" without disturbance.

5. The valley contains a concentration of places important in Minnesota history. These would either border, or be within, the proposed facility. Think how exciting history can be, studied *on the site*, with the land still in its natural state, as it was when the historic events took place!

6. All of this is but minutes by car or school bus, and some of the finest of it is available by public transportation, to the two million people in the metropolitan area. This is an almost unique situation, and its value is inestimable.

If we do nothing, private owners will demand the right to "use" their land profitably, and destroy the beauty and wisdom of nature now present on the valley floor.

If we, you, the committee, encourage the establishment of The Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and Recreation Area, you will be thanked by

educators, nature enthusiasts, and thousands of families who will be able to enjoy wholesome days together hiking, biking, picnicking and appreciating the beauty and wildlife of this very special place.

I have been asked to include the Christmas Bird Count of the Minnesota River Valley Audubon Club, of which I am a charter member, and to convey to you the wishes of its five hundred plus members, that this region so loved by us all, be preserved for the enjoyment of all people for all time to come.

Thank you for considering this statement.

LES BLACKLOCK,
Wildlife Photographer.

LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT SUGGESTIONS FOR CHANGES IN
AMENDMENT No. 1023 TO S. 2097

In order to clearly insure that the bill for establishment of the Refuge will contain adequate provisions for mitigation of the impact of the refuge on existing public uses and contractual obligations, the following language is offered for consideration:

(c) The Secretary shall provide for the *maintenance of the navigation channel and for the Minnesota Valley Trail Corridor*, authorized by Minnesota Statute, 1969, Section 85.198, as an integral part of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and Recreation Area.

On page 4, strike lines 9, 10, 11 and 12 and insert the following: (e) The United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the United States Corps of Engineers shall assist appropriate local authorities in the *disposal of dredge material and/or in the designation of sites for deposit of material* so as to minimize the disruption of wildlife, scenic, and recreational values consistent with the need to ensure the continuation of navigation on the riverway. The Fish and Wildlife Service shall be authorized to expend not more than ——— per centum of the funds appropriated for acquisition and operation of the Refuge to assist in the *disposal of dredge material and/or in the purchase of alternative sites for deposit of material* as may be necessary outside the boundaries of the refuge and recreation area.

The foregoing changes will reflect the ongoing and continuing nature of the obligations imposed upon the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District by the United States Government at the time of the authorization of the nine-foot channel improvement project.

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PROPOSED CONCEPT OF THE MINNESOTA VALLEY
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE AND RECREATION AREA

Whereas, interested citizens have requested through their United States Congressmen that a plan be prepared for acquiring land and developing a National Wildlife Refuge and Recreation Area in the Lower Minnesota River Valley; and

Whereas, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service of the U.S. Department of the Interior has prepared a plan which would provide for wildlife and waterfowl production and maintenance, open space, environmental education, recreational trails and natural flood control for 6000 acres of the Minnesota River valley; and

Whereas, these uses are compatible with the goals of the Izaak Walton League and with the maintenance of the highest quality of this environment; and

Whereas, efforts need to be made to protect the natural habitats for wildlife in the Minnesota River Valley; and

Whereas, the citizens have augmented this plan in proposed legislation by adding provisions for the creation of a National Recreation Area and requesting that the refuge consist of 9,540 acres; and

Whereas, legislation incorporating the U.S. Fish & Wildlife plan and citizen concepts to establish a National Wildlife Refuge and Recreation Area in the lower Minnesota River valley was introduced in the U.S. Senate (Bill No. S. 2097) July 11, 1975 by Senators Mondale and Humphrey; and such legislation needs to be introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives and enacted by the U.S. Congress.

Now therefore be it resolved by the Executive Committee of the Minnesota Division of the Izaak Walton League of America that the proposed plan and legislative concept for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and Recreation Area is agreed with and recommended to the Izaak Walton League of America and all its U.S. Divisions for their support; to the Governor of the



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Federal Building, Fort Snelling
Twin Cities, Minnesota 55111

October 29, 1975

Dear Friend:

Senator Walter F. Mondale has asked the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to inform you that the Senate Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on the Environment will hold a field hearing November 10, 1975 on S. 2097, a bill to create a Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and Recreation Area. The hearing to be chaired by Senator Wendell Ford will take place at the Oxboro Community Library, 8801 Portland Avenue South, in Bloomington at 9:30 a.m., on November 10.

Under consideration will be both the original Mondale proposal and a series of amendments introduced by the Minnesota Senator on October 28 at the request of state and local government units. The purpose of the hearing is to give local citizens an opportunity to explain their views on the proposal and amendments to protect the scenic and wildlife values of the Minnesota River Valley between Fort Snelling and Jordan, Minnesota.

Individuals wishing to submit written statements to be included in the hearing record should send them to Kathi Korpon, Sub-committee on the Environment, Senate Commerce Committee, 5202 Dirksen Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. Those interested in testifying in person at the hearing should contact Ms. Korpon at the Sub-committee address or by phone at 202-224-9351 not later than Thursday, November 6. A copy of the Mondale bill and amendments can be obtained through the Senator's Minneapolis office at 110 South Fourth Street, 612-725-2041.

Sincerely yours,

Jack E. Hemphill
Regional Director





United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

In Reply Refer To:
FWS/LS

DEC 3 1975

Memorandum

To: Legislative Counsel

Through: Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

From: Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

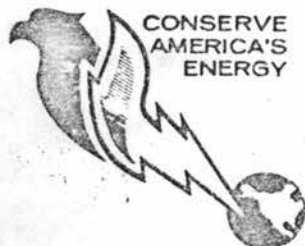
Subject: S. 2097 - "To provide for the establishment of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Recreation Area."

The Fish and Wildlife Service recommends enactment of S. 2097 if modified as herein described. Our comments will also address amendment No. 1023 to S. 2097.

Some eleven thousand years ago, vast melting waters of a retreating glacier formed an inland sea called Lake Agassiz. The only outlet for this inland water carved the wide valley that is today known as the Minnesota River Valley. In the lower stretches of the river valley there is an abundance of seeps and springs. This water, trapped by a natural levee adjacent to the river channel, has resulted in the formation of a series of marshes and lakes, ideal habitat for an abundance of living natural resources.

The valley bluffs were once populated by great herds of buffalo and elk. The river bottom with its lakes and marshes provided nesting, resting and feeding areas for thousands of ducks and geese, as well as deer, fish, turtles and a variety of small fur-bearing mammals. While the buffalo and elk have long since disappeared, the extensive marshlands and valley bluffs are still important habitat for a wide variety of animals.

During spring migration tens of thousands of waterfowl use the lower Minnesota River floodplains. Some 275 species of migratory birds have been identified in this area. White-tailed deer use the valley



Save Energy and You Serve America!

continuously with the largest concentrations occurring in winter. Minks, muskrats, raccoons, gray and red foxes, beavers and woodchucks are but a few of the small mammals inhabiting the area. While fish in the shallow floodplain lakes are frequently winter killed, carp, pike, sunfish, drum, catfish, shad and gar are abundant in the larger lakes and marshes.

Today the lower Minnesota River is located in the midst of a metropolitan area of some two million people. As would be expected for any navigable waterway in the vicinity of a large urban population, the river has been channalized, diked, filled and otherwise modified for agricultural, industrial and recreational development. The floodplains are extensively farmed and a complex system of roadways run parallel to and across the valley. Frequent flooding, numerous springs and local citizen efforts, however, have helped to maintain natural areas in several locations that are extremely worthy of protection.

The national recreation area concept contained in S. 2097 first came to our attention in 1973. Some citizens, alarmed with continued destruction of this urban natural resource, organized to protect the river floodplain. Their efforts led to a Congressional request that the Fish and Wildlife Service investigate the possibility of establishing a national wildlife refuge in the valley. Subsequent studies found certain areas well worth preservation, but in total not of sufficient benefits to migratory birds to rank high in national priority in relation to other critical habitat acquisition needs funded through the Migratory Bird Conservation Account.

S. 2097 would establish a national wildlife refuge consisting of nine units totaling 9,540 acres along the lower stretches of the Minnesota River between Carver and Fort Snelling. The bill authorizes establishment of a State and locally administered recreation area consisting of some 8,000 acres of which 4,000 acres would be preserved by donation, easements or acquisition with Land and Water Conservation Fund Act money.

In our studies we identified some 6,600 acres along a 25 mile section of the river valley between Carver and Fort Snelling as principal wildlife habitat. The additional 2,900 acres proposed as a refuge in S. 2097 are marginal from a national wildlife habitat standpoint. We therefore suggest that S. 2097 be amended as follows:

Sec. 2(a)--strike all on lines 24 and 25 of page 2 and lines 1 through 5 on page 3, and insert in lieu thereof the following:

"prise approximately six thousand, six hundred acres within four units to be known as the Long Meadow Lake Unit (2,100 acres), Grass Lake Unit (2,500 acres), Chaska Lake Unit (400 acres) and Louisville Swamp Unit (1,600"

Section 4--strike the words "four thousand" before the word "acres" on page 5, line 19, and insert in lieu thereof the words "six thousand nine hundred".

Of the 6,600 acres proposed for a refuge, approximately 1,450 acres are meandered water and 5,150 acres are patented land requiring acquisition in fee title. Approximately one-third of this patented acreage is marshland on which the migratory bird resource is directly dependent. The remaining land--some 3,500 acres--is upland and ideally suited to wildlife related recreational and educational pursuits. It is our judgment that the portion of the 6,600 acre area having substantial waterfowl values be acquired with Migratory Bird Conservation Fund Account money over a four year period. The remaining refuge acreage would be acquired with funds obtained through the Federal program of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act. We therefore suggest the following amendments:

Section 2(b)--strike the period following the word "exchange" on line 15, page 3, and insert in lieu thereof the following:

"provided that funds authorized pursuant to the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act shall not exceed 67 percent of the total cost of acquiring such lands, waters and interests therein within the boundaries of the refuge."

We estimate the cost of the acreage for the proposed refuge at \$6.3 million with some \$4.2 million coming from Land and Water Conservation Fund Act money and \$2.1 million from duck stamp receipts supplemented by advance authority of the Wetlands Loan Act.

Extension of the advance loan authority is presently pending before the Congress. Repayment of the loan with duck stamp receipts commences in fiscal year 1977. In the absence of Congressional action to excuse repayment of the loan, we would anticipate that acquisition of the prime waterfowl habitat with \$2.1 million from the Migratory Bird Conservation Account would be spread over a period of eight years rather than four.

The refuge established by this bill, if enacted, would be managed in concert with other natural resource units in the river valley that are or will be managed by the State or local governmental organizations. Together, much of the Minnesota River floodway will be preserved and continue to function as a natural system for the benefit of wildlife and people. We endorse the multi-governmental approach to preserving natural areas as contained in S. 2097. We do however oppose the provision in section 4 of the bill which changes the current ratio of Federal financial assistance to States under the Land and Water

Conservation Fund Act. All State assistance provided from the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act is set at 50 percent of project cost according to statute. We see no substantive reason to vary this percentage for an individual project. We therefore suggest the following amendment to section 4.

Section 4--strike all after the word "exceed" on line 18, page 5, through the word "acres" on line 19, page 5, and insert in lieu thereof "the per centum prescribed in the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act."

In this regard a conforming amendment is necessary in section 5.

Section 5--strike all after the word "shall" on line 4, page 6, through the word "disposal" on line 8, page 6, and insert in lieu thereof "be undertaken in a manner consistent with the provisions of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act."

In addition, section 6 as rewritten in amendment No. 1023 would authorize use of the Federal portion of Land and Water Conservation Fund Act money to finance State and local acquisition of the recreation area. We oppose this variation in use of LWCF Act funds. Any change in the Federal portion of the Fund and the State portion should not be accomplished by this bill unless the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act itself is amended. Therefore, all of section 6 as written in amendment No. 1023 (page 3, lines 11 through 15) should be struck.

We suggest a new section 6 be added to the bill to provide for an authorization of appropriation to carry out the purpose of the Act other than land acquisition. Such an authorization is necessary to fund the comprehensive plan called for in section 3(a) and for development, operation and maintenance of the refuge. We therefore propose the following new section 6:

"Sec. 6. There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act other than acquisition of land, water or interests therein for establishment of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge."

We estimate refuge development costs at \$5 million over a six year period as described below. Initiation of such development would depend upon the length of time needed for land acquisition.

<u>FY-1</u>	<u>FY-2</u>	<u>FY-3</u>	<u>FY-4</u>	<u>FY-5</u>	<u>FY-6</u>
\$500,000	\$750,000	\$2,150,000	\$1,000,000	\$400,000	\$200,000

Operation and maintenance costs for the initial four years are estimated at \$160,000 annually and would increase to \$450,000 annually upon completion of major visitor use and interpretive facilities.

The presence of wildlife in an urban setting such as exists in the Minnesota River Valley will provide an exceptional opportunity for wildlife and wildlands observation and education. While the refuge would be managed primarily to protect and enhance migratory bird resources, visitors would be assisted to enjoy wildlife through programs and facilities specifically designed for that purpose. Foot trails would be developed, in conjunction with the existing Minnesota River Valley Trail System, to lead people to wildlife observation points. Outdoor study areas--in short supply in the Twin Cities metro area--could be developed where outdoor programs in natural science and environmental education can be conducted. Fishing sites can be developed which would be easily accessible by both public and private transportation. Because of its urban location, the refuge could provide excellent opportunity for scientific research studies by a multitude of educational institutions.

Field hearings were held on S. 2097 by the Senate Commerce Committee, Subcommittee on the Environment, in Minneapolis on November 10, 1975, and the Committee has requested the Department's position on the bill. We urge favorable consideration of the legislation with the amendments herein described.

'Sed) Lynn A. Greenwalt

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL
Suite 300 Metro Square Building, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101

MEMORANDUM

December 8, 1975

TO: Environmental and Transportation Committee

FROM: Arlie Reagan

SUBJECT: Proposed Establishment of a Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge
- By the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior
- Referral No. 2743

Project Description

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior is planning to undertake the Federal project described below on or about 1977.

The project involves the establishment of a Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge which would consist of approximately 6,600 acres in four units situated in the Minnesota River Valley in Hennepin, Carver and Scott Counties. (See attached map.)

- Unit No. 1 - (Long Meadow Lake area consists of 2,100 $\pm$ acres.)
- Unit No. 2 - (Grass Lake/Rice Lake area consists of 2,500 $\pm$ acres.)
- Unit No. 3 - (Chaska Lake Area consists of 400 $\pm$ acres), and
- Unit No. 4 - (Louisville Swamp Area consists of 1,600 acres.)

This proposed National Wildlife Refuge would become part of a National network of lands and waters sufficient in size, diversity and location to meet people's needs for areas where the entire spectrum of human benefits associated with migratory birds, other wild creatures and wildlands are enhanced and made available. The Minnesota Valley Refuge would keep in public trust in an urban location, part of an important natural floodplain that contributes to the wildlife and wild lands heritage of the nation.

While public discussions were being held on this proposal, Senator Mondale introduced a bill in the U. S. Senate to provide for the establishment of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Recreation Area (S.2097). The Senator's proposal inclusive of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposal, includes all of that land bounded by the floodway of the Minnesota River from Fort Snelling to the Louisville Swamp, south of Carver. This amounts to a total of approximately 17,500 acres (see attached map). The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Refuge proposal must be viewed in the light of Senator Mondale's refuge and recreation proposal for this includes all of the land in the original proposal. Both proposals will require legislative action.

Authority

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service has submitted the subject proposal in accordance with Section 401 of the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act of 1968. The Metropolitan Council is authorized to review the project in accordance with the Office of Management and Budget, Circular A-95, Revised Part II.

Notification

Notification of Metropolitan Council review of the subject proposal was sent to the following communities and other interested groups:

Cities: Bloomington
 Carver
 Chanhassen
 Chaska
 Eden Prairie
 Louisville Township
 Shakopee

- County Offices: Carver County Public Works
Hennepin County Administration
Hennepin County Public Works
Hennepin County Park and Reserve District
Scott County Administration
Scott County Highway Department
Scott County Zoning Administrator
- Others: Lower Minnesota River Watershed District
Riley-Purgatory Watershed District
Minnesota Highway Department
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
U. S. Corps of Engineers
- Meetings: Bloomington City Hall, June 19, 1975. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service presented a slide show "Wild Things in Wild Places," which described the proposal and acted as a focus for public discussion. The slide show was made available to all interested groups and governmental agencies.
- On August 11, the Minnesota Valley Citizens Committee sponsored a briefing and listening session at the Hennepin County Technical Center with Senator Mondale discussing a bill (S.2097) he sponsored which expanded the subject proposal.
- Phone calls were made by the Metropolitan Council staff to all affected groups seeking to identify issues and encourage cooperative efforts for their solution.
- On November 11, 1975, the U. S. Senate Commerce Committee's subcommittee on the environment held a field hearing in Bloomington relative to Senator Mondale's bill with its added amendments.

Discussion

The original proposal of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service contained 4 separate units of land, totalling 6,600 acres in all. The program and site development included the following elements:

- Wildlife Production and Maintenance
- Wildlife and Wildlands Appreciation
- Environmental Education
- Fishing and Hunting
- Research and Scientific Studies
- Open Space for Controlled Public Use
- Natural Beauty Enhancement
- Historic Preservation

Differential development will take place on the 4 units depending on location and physical features.

Unit No. 1 will be developed with a combination administration and visitor center building. It will be the center of refuge interpretative and environmental education activities. The other three units will each have a developed access point for visitor information, parking, rest areas and control gates. Structures will be provided for people for interpretive educational and wildlife oriented public use programs. Observation towers and photography blinds will be provided along four miles of walking trails.

Detailed development plans are not yet worked out and interested municipalities and agencies are seeking answers to some of the questions and problems that they foresee. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement in the near future.

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife proposal would protect important wetlands in the floodway of the Minnesota River. These wetlands have been identified as important to the wildlife of the river valley as well as the migratory birds passing over the Metropolitan Area.

The preservation of these areas would insure that the land in the floodway will remain in a use undisturbed by flooding and also prevent obstruction to the passage of the flood. The proposed wildlife refuge will also provide substantial additional acreage to the open space system of the Metropolitan Area.

The proposal is very much in accord with the adopted policies of the Metropolitan Council as established in the Protection Open Space, Water Resources Chapters of the Metropolitan Development Guide and those in the Regional Recreation and Open Space Policy Plan. Moreover, the proposal is in accord with the Council's Development Framework policies.

While Senator Mondale's bill for the creation of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Recreation Area (S.2097) does not fall under the normal review process of the Council, it is necessary to review this bill as it, to some extent, supersedes the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposal, the object of this review.

Since the purpose of the bill is the same as that of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposal, staff finds the concept in conformance with the Metropolitan Development Guide.

However, it should be noted that Senator Mondale's proposal has caused some concerns to be aired.

Concerns identified by local groups in the wider context of the Mondale proposal are as follows; these are already being resolved by cooperative efforts:

(1) Transportation

- (a) Right of way acquisition by Minnesota Highway Department for the Cedar Avenue Bridge (TH 36) might involve "replacement land" if the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service were to acquire lands in this corridor.
- (b) TH 18 Bridge - local units of government want to advance construction priority.
- (c) TH 41 Bridge - corridor identification requested by local governments before U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service acquisition of land.

These concerns are being taken care of; a letter of cooperation between the Minnesota Highway Department and the Service in regard to mutual involvement in planning and land acquisition has been received.

(2) Minnesota Trail System

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) emphasizes continuity and multiple use of the trails. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service has indicated that there was to be no motorized vehicular use of the trails within the refuge. A compromise relating to trail location has been suggested to help resolve these mutual concerns.

(3) Hunting and Fishing

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources supports wildlife management in the refuge and would also like continued hunting of upland or resident game and deer. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service will permit restricted hunting; excluding ducks and geese. Further cooperative efforts are assured so that multiple uses can be maintained at satisfactory levels.

Findings and Conclusions

- (1) Both Senator Mondale's bill and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposal are in conformance with the Metropolitan Development Guide. The Senator's proposal is preferred as it provides for the management of a greater part of the floodplain.
- (2) The U. S. Fish and Wildlife proposal has strong local support and very little opposition to its eventual implementation.
- (3) Senator Mondale's bill receives some conditional support from other communities
 - Subject to corridor identification and plans for a bridge over the Minnesota River near Shakopee.

- (4) The State Highway Department and the Department of Natural Resources have expressed some concerns but support the proposals as a result of:
 - (a) Letter of cooperation between U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Minnesota Highway Department. (Land acquisition and highway maintenance)
 - (b) Cooperation between the DNR and U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding mutual concerns about multiple use satisfied. (Vehicle use on trails and hunting with agreeable protective restrictions)

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- (1) The Committee finds the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposal for the establishment of a Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge in conformance with the Council's adopted policies contained in the Development Framework, Protection Open Space, Water Resources Guide Chapters and the Regional Recreation and Open Space Policy Plan.
- (2) The Committee approves the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposal.
- (3) The Committee finds the proposal contained in Senator Mondale's bill also consistent with the Metropolitan Development Guide.
- (4) The Committee expresses its support and its preference for the Senator's proposal as it provides for the management of a greater portion of the Minnesota River floodplain.
- (5) The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service includes the Metropolitan Council in its negotiation with the Minnesota Highway Department for the delineation of corridors, and in its negotiation with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources regarding areas and trail use.

MINNESOTA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE



PROPOSED:
4 SITES
(TOTALING 6,600 ACRES)



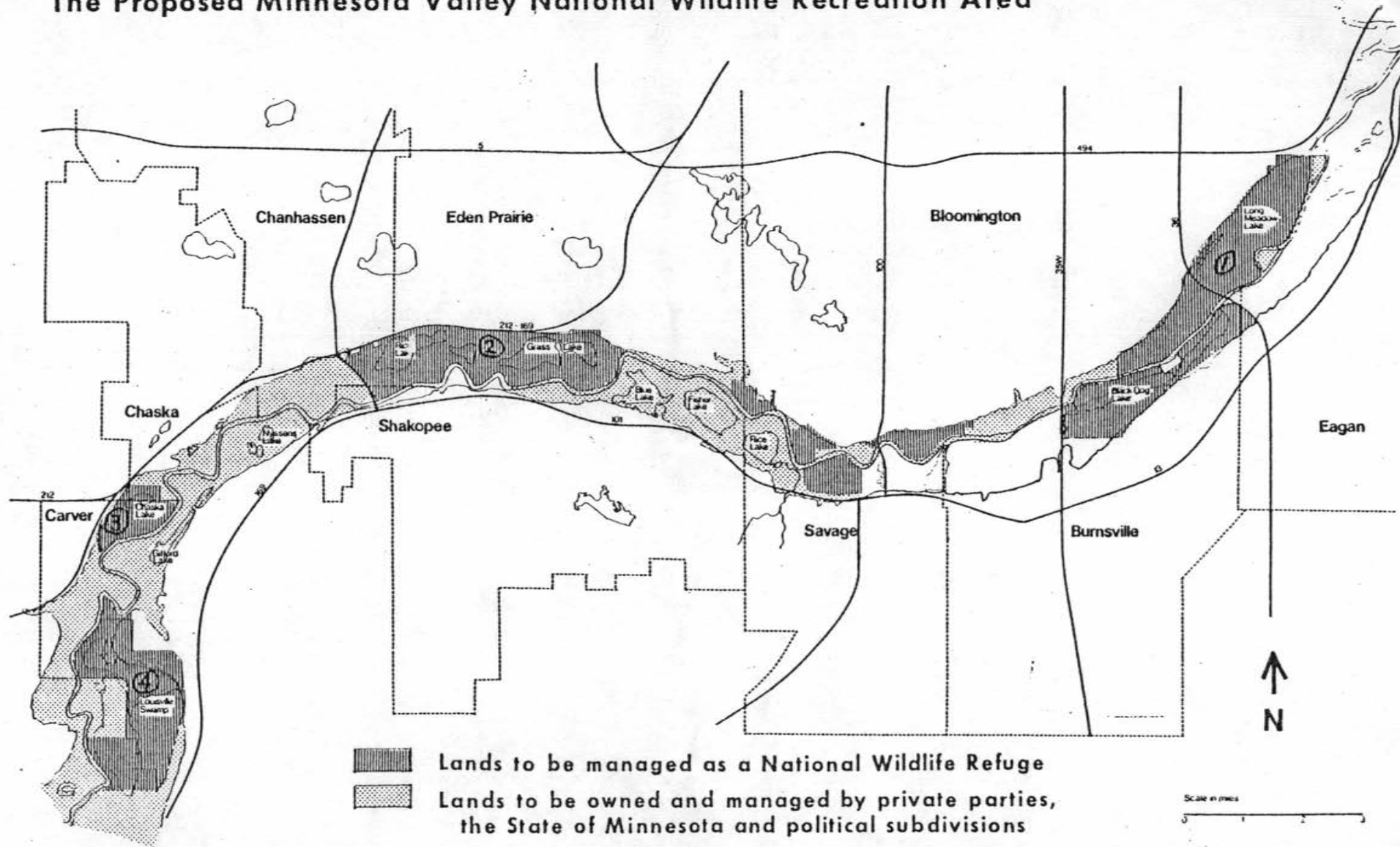
TWIN CITIES METROPOLITAN AREA Political Boundaries, 1975

- | | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1 SPRING PARK | 9 VICTORIA | 17 FALCON HEIGHTS | 25 GEN LAKE |
| 2 OROHO | 10 ROBINSDALE | 18 MENDOTA | 26 BIRCHWOOD |
| 3 MINNETONKA BEACH | 11 SPRING LAKE PARK | 19 LILYDALE | 27 WHITE BEAR |
| 4 TONKA BAY | 12 U. S. GOVT. | 20 GREY CLOUD | 28 BAYPORT |
| 5 EXCELSIOR | 13 HILLTOP | 21 LANDFALL | 29 WILLERNIE |
| 6 GREENWOOD | 14 COLUMBIA HEIGHTS | 22 DELLWOOD | 30 OAK PARK HEIGHTS |
| 7 WOODLAND | 15 ST. ANTHONY | 23 PINE SPRINGS | 31 LAKELAND SHORES |
| 8 MEDICINE LAKE | 16 LAUDERDALE | 24 MAHOMETI | 32 ST. MARY'S POINT |

ANOKA — County Boundary
ORONO — Municipal Boundary
CAMDEN — Township Boundary

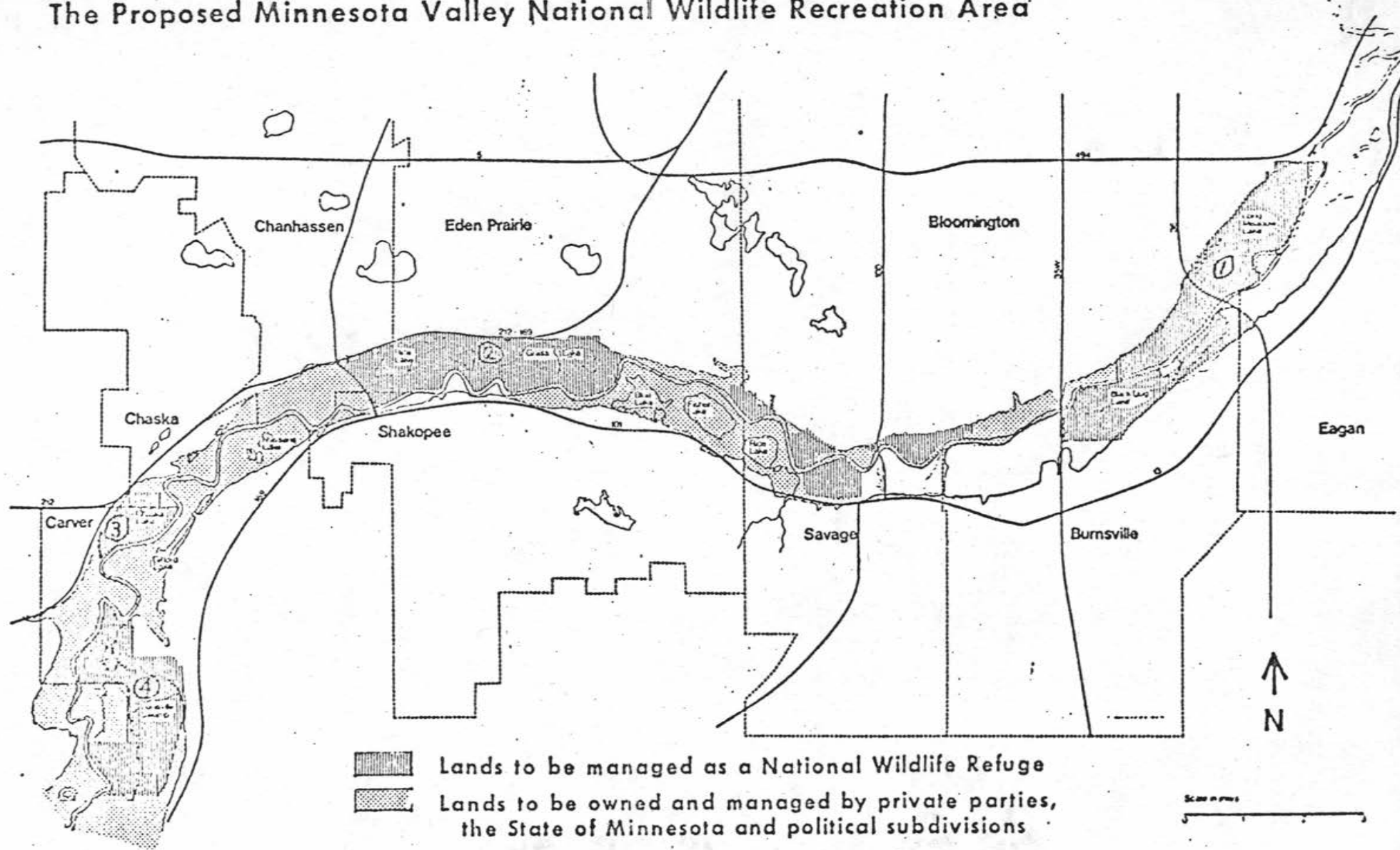
Ref. No. 2743

The Proposed Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Recreation Area



REF. No. 2743

The Proposed Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Recreation Area



REF. No. 2743

To all House members

January 19, 1976

The Honorable Richard M. Nolan
1107 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Nolan:

We are very happy to inform you that Representatives Frenzel and Hagedorn have introduced Bill No. HR11323, concerning the establishment of a Wildlife Refuge and Recreation Area in the Lower Minnesota River Valley, into the House. It is gratifying to have a companion bill to Senate Bill S2097 moving at this time.

The local support for this measure is still building. We have new endorsements from a dozen groups representing large numbers of members, including the State League of Women Voters.

We hope that you are maintaining your interest in this project and will assist the legislation as you are able. We will continue to be available to help in any way we can.

Very truly yours,

THE LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER VALLEY CITIZENS COMMITTEE

E. M. Mellott
M. F. Seal
Co-Chairmen

/dlh



CARVER COUNTY PARK COMMISSION

Monique
You & I are going
the evening of the
28th - maybe we
can attempt to see if
should both go - this one
is important.
Elaine

January 23, 1976

The Carver County Park and Open Space Commission will be holding a public meeting on The Proposed Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Recreation Area. The meeting will be held on January 28th, 1976, in the Chaska City Hall, beginning at 8:00 P.M.

The meeting is being called to get your comments and recommendations on the proposal. On February 4th, the Carver County Park and Open Space Commission will be preparing a recommendation on the acceptability of the project to the Carver County Board. The County Board will consider the recommendation on February 10th.

We are looking forward to your input and hope you will take this opportunity to meet with us.

If you have any questions please call me.

William J. Dilks
William J. Dilks,
Environmental Programs Coordinator
Carver County
448-3435, Extension 226

WJD:er

JAMES L. OBERSTAR
8TH DISTRICT, MINNESOTA
ROOM 323
CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
(202) 225-6211

DISTRICT OFFICE:
ROOM 231
FEDERAL BUILDING
DULUTH, MINNESOTA 55802
(218) 727-7474

COMMITTEES:
PUBLIC WORKS AND
TRANSPORTATION
MERCHANT MARINE AND
FISHERIES

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

May 12, 1976

Ms. Elaine M. Mellott
Lower Minnesota River Valley
Citizens Committee
9801 Pillsbury Avenue South
Bloomington, Minnesota 55420

Dear Ms. Mellott:

Thank you for writing to urge that field hearings be held on my bill to establish a wildlife refuge in the Minnesota River Valley.

My Subcommittee on Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation and the Environment is planning to hold a hearing on this bill this summer, but has not yet scheduled a date. I will let you know just as soon as a date is established.

I greatly appreciate your kind offer of assistance, and hope you don't mind if I call on you in the effort to get this long overdue legislation approved by Congress.

With every good wish.

Sincerely,


James L. Oberstar, M.C.

JLO/bac

WALTER F. MONDALE
MINNESOTA

Berg
N. R. BERG
United States Senate MAY 17 1976

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

May 12, 1976

N. R. BERG

Cham
Mr. William C. Norris
President
Control Data Corporation
8100 34th Avenue South
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55440

RECEIVED
MAY 17 1976
W. C. NORRIS

Dear Bill,

I thought you'd like to know that the Senate Commerce Committee yesterday approved the Minnesota Valley Wildlife Recreation Area bill. It was adopted unanimously by the Committee and ordered reported to the Senate floor.

Once again, I'd like to thank you for your cooperation with the tour and the hearings on this bill.

With warm personal regards,

Sincerely,

W. F. Mondale
Walter F. Mondale

May 24, 1976

Nathanial P. Reed
Assistant Secretary of Fish, Wildlife and Parks
U. S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Reed:

I would like to obtain information regarding Department of the Interior's position on the proposed Minnesota River Valley National Wildlife Refuge (Senate Bill S2097). We are particularly interested in receiving a copy of the field report prepared in November, 1975, as well as the formal report submitted by the Department to the Senate Committee on Commerce. We would appreciate receipt of this material as soon as possible in preparation for work on Senate correspondence and House hearings.

Sincerely yours,

THE LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER VALLEY CITIZENS COMMITTEE

Elaine M. Mellott
Co-Chairman

EMM/dlh

May 24, 1976

Ms. Cathy Korpon
Secretary for the Senate Committee on Commerce
Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Cathy:

I would like to request a copy of the Congressional Record for the field hearing held in Bloomington, Minnesota on Senate Bill S2097. I have been remiss in not ordering this from the committee and would appreciate your forwarding this request to the proper place.

Also, I am informed that Senate Bill S2097 was unanimously approved by the Senate Committee on Commerce on May 12. We are extraordinarily pleased with this news and wish to thank you for your efforts in preparing testimony on the bill as well as your other efforts in behalf of it.

Please call on us if we can be of any further assistance as the bill proceeds through the Senate.

With warmest regards,

THE LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER VALLEY CITIZENS COMMITTEE

Elaine M. Mellott
Co-Chairman

EMM/dlh



THE LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER VALLEY CITIZENS COMMITTEE

9801 PILLSBURY AVE. SO. • BLOOMINGTON, MN. 55420 • PHONE 888-7267

To: President Gerald Ford
Senators; Fritz Mondale, Hubert Humphrey and Wendell Ford
Representatives; Frenzel, Oberstar, Leggett and Hagedorn

Dear Sirs:

President Ford, the Lower Minnesota River Valley Citizens Committee wishes to express it's gratitude to you for signing into law the Minnesota Valley Wildlife Refuge and Recreation Area Bill. Congressmen, we thank you for shepherding this bill through your respective houses. We appreciate the hours you gave to hearings and research on this bill, as well as your testimony and support in committee's and on the floor.

You gentlemen have helped us preserve this beautiful resource, and proved once again that when people show they care to, we can live with our earth rather than on it.

We wish also to thank State Senator Bill Kirchner for his total and untiring support of this bill, and his help in shepherding this committee through many meetings with State, County and local officials as well as the public. We had only to ask and he was there.

We wish you gentlemen continued success in your careers and know that your efforts to help us all come to terms with our earth and ourselves will continue.

Very truly yours,

Elaine Mellott
Marialice Seal

Co-Chairmen, Minnesota River Valley Citizens Committee



May 24, 1976

The Honorable Robert L. Leggett
Chairman, Subcommittee on Fisheries and
Wildlife Conservation and the Environment
U. S. House of Representatives
Longworth Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Leggett:

We understand that Congressman Oberstar of Minnesota has introduced a bill to create a National Wildlife Refuge in the Minnesota River Valley within the Minneapolis/St. Paul area. I understand there is a possibility that a field hearing could be held by the committee on this bill. We wish to request that you, or members of your committee, consider doing so. We feel this is of particular importance since it would be difficult for many of the citizens who feel strongly about this bill to travel to Washington to express the reasons such a refuge should be created. There is strong interest within the state as well as nationally on this bill.

Please notify me of the committee's decision regarding hearings here or in Washington. We wish to offer any assistance we can to aid you and the House staff in preparation of such hearings. We sincerely hope that House action will occur during 1976 and look forward to working with the committee on this bill.

Very truly yours,

THE LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER VALLEY CITIZENS COMMITTEE

Elaine M. Mellott
Co-Chairman

EMM/dlh

May 24, 1976

The Honorable Wendell Ford
Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Congressman Ford:

Senator Mondale's office has advised us that Senate Bill S2097 was unanimously approved by the Senate Committee on Commerce on May 12, 1976. We were extraordinarily pleased to receive this news, and wish to convey to you our deepest thanks for your work on this bill.

We particularly appreciate your having conducted the field hearing in Bloomington, Minnesota and your thoughtful comments on the bill in the Senate Committee hearings. If we can be of further assistance during the subsequent procedures, please call on us.

With warmest regards,

THE LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER VALLEY CITIZENS COMMITTEE

Elaine M. Mellott
Co-Chairman

EMM/dlh

WARREN G. MAGNUSON, WASH., CHAIRMAN

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J. GLENN BEALL, JR., MD.
LOWELL P. WEICKER, JR., CONN.
JAMES L. BUCKLEY, N.Y.

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

MICHAEL PERTSCHUK, CHIEF COUNSEL
S. LYNN SUTCLIFFE, GENERAL COUNSEL
MALCOLM M. B. STERRETT, MINORITY COUNSEL

June 9, 1976

Ms. Elaine M. Mellot
Co-Chairman
The Lower Minnesota River Valley
Citizens Committee
9801 Pillsbury Avenue South
Bloomington, Minnesota 55420

Dear Elaine:

Enclosed per your request is a copy of the proceedings of the Senate Commerce Committee's field hearing on S. 2097.

As you know, the Committee approved the bill on May 12, and its report should be filed shortly. When I receive printed copies of the report, I shall forward several to you as well.

In my conversations with the staff of the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee, which is handling similar legislation, I understand that they should be scheduling hearings on their bill in the near future. We are hoping that they will move expeditiously so that this measure can be signed into law before the end of this session of Congress.

Again, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for all of your help, particularly the help you gave us in putting together the field hearing. Due to your efforts, it was a great success.

With best wishes.

Sincerely yours,



Kathleen A. Korpon
Professional Staff Member

KAK:j11

Enclosure

P.S. After this letter was typed, the report came in. Thus, five enclosed copies of it, as well.

NEWS RELEASE

From Senator Walter F.

MONDALE

443 OLD SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-5641



CONTACT: Skip Loescher or Richard Kimball
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 1976

MONDALE URGES APPROVAL OF MINNESOTA RIVER VALLEY REFUGE AND RECREATION AREA

WASHINGTON, D.C. July 8--Senator Walter F. Mondale (D-Minn.) today urged a House Committee to approve legislation comparable to his Senate bill to designate a National Wildlife Refuge and Recreation Area in the Minnesota River Valley.

Mondale, in a statement submitted at a field hearing of the House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries in Minneapolis today said, "There is no metropolitan area in America today that contains an urban wildlife resource with qualities comparable to the Minnesota Valley."

The Senator pointed to the abundance of waterfowl and other forms of wildlife, and to the scenic, historic and scientific and educational value of the valley as evidence of its importance to the public. "While each of these qualities could be enhanced by the creation of the proposed wildlife-recreation area, there is a danger that they may be permanently lost if no action is taken," he warned.

The Mondale bill would establish a 17,000 acre federally protected zone in the Minnesota Valley between Fort Snelling and Carver, Minnesota, to be administered in cooperation with units of state and local government. Within this zone, 9,000 acres in lands on both banks of the river would be protected as a federally-owned wildlife refuge. An additional 8,000 acres would be administered by state and local governments, subject to an overall master plan, with federal cost sharing to be made available for acquisition of lands and interests in lands that are not now in public ownership.

Without legislation, the Senator warned that up to 50 per cent of the floodplain between Burnsville and Shakopee could be commercially developed within the next decade. "The lower Minnesota River floodplain currently contains the largest segment of undeveloped lands in the Twin Cities region," he said, adding, "with the increasing demand for such land close to the metropolitan area, small businesses, warehouses and industrial parks are expected to develop in the area."

"Under existing law, there is no guarantee that state floodplain management guidelines and local zoning can withstand the substantial commercial pressures that may be applied for future development," Mondale maintained.

The Senator's statement concluded, "Particularly at a time when we are celebrating the blessings of our national legacy, there is nothing more appropriate we can do than to protect a part of America's heritage for future generations."



BUREAU OF SPORT FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE
INTER-OFFICE TRANSMITTAL

Handwritten: 1-2 Cont
AF-1
OP

☐ Director, _____		☒ Regular Mail <i>RE</i>
☒ Regional Director, <u>Twin Cities, Minnesota</u>		☐ Air Mail <i>IRP</i>
☐ Project Leader, _____		☐ Action
☐ _____		☐ Information
From WF-Planning (Dick Eichhorn)	Office Washington, D. C.	Date 6/21/76

Subject

The letter to Ms. Mellott and a copy of her letter is attached. We have furnished a copy of the transmittal for enclosure in her letter but are leaving the copy of Asst. Secretary's memo to your discretion as whether it should be sent to her also.



ADDRESS ONLY THE DIRECTOR,
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

In Reply Refer To:
FWS/RF

JUL 8 1976

Ms. Elaine M. Mellott
Co-Chairman, The Lower Minnesota
River Valley Citizens Committee
9801 Pillsbury Avenue, South
Bloomington, Minnesota 55420

Dear Ms. Mellott:

This responds to your May 24 letter concerning the proposed Minnesota River Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

I have enclosed a copy of the Secretary of the Interior's letter of January 15, 1976, reporting the Department's position on the proposed refuge to the Senate Committee on Commerce.

I am not sure what field report you had reference to that was dated November 1975. I suggest you contact Mr. Jack Hemphill, Regional Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Federal Building, Fort Snelling, Twin Cities, Minnesota 55111, since all field reports would come through his office.

Sincerely yours,

(10-2) Walter H. McMaster
Director

Enclosure

RD, Twin Cities





THE LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER VALLEY CITIZENS COMMITTEE

9801 PILLSBURY AVE. SO. • BLOOMINGTON, MN. 55420 • PHONE 888-7267

May 24, 1976

Nathanial P. Reed
Assistant Secretary of Fish, Wildlife and Parks
U. S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Reed:

I would like to obtain information regarding Department of the Interior's position on the proposed Minnesota River Valley National Wildlife Refuge (Senate Bill S2097). We are particularly interested in receiving a copy of the field report prepared in November, 1975, as well as the formal report submitted by the Department to the Senate Committee on Commerce. We would appreciate receipt of this material as soon as possible in preparation for work on Senate correspondence and House hearings.

Sincerely yours,

THE LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER VALLEY CITIZENS COMMITTEE

Elaine M. Mellott
dlh

Elaine M. Mellott
Co-Chairman

EMM/dlh

VE

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11

11



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

November 4, 1975

Memorandum

To: The Secretary

Through: Assistant Secretary Kyl

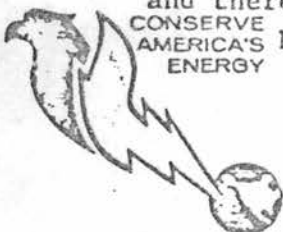
From: Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

Subject: Proposed Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge

Deputy Assistant Secretary Wheeler advised me of his meeting with you in connection with Senator Mondale's proposal for the establishment of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Recreation Area (S .2097). I have had the pleasure of visiting the area and was impressed with it as a unique natural area, also because of its proximity to the city of Minneapolis.

The proposed legislation has been the subject of study in the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation and the Fish and Wildlife Service. I have reviewed the proposal with my Bureau Directors and recommend to you that we adopt the following as the Department's position and, with your concurrence or modification, that the position be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget for consideration:

1. The Department should support the efforts to protect the entire 17,500 acres of the Minnesota Valley area so that it will be available for appropriate conservation and recreation uses.
2. The Department should support the establishment of a 6,600 acre wildlife refuge rather than the 9,500 acre proposal in S. 2097. The 6,600-acre area contains the principal marsh habitat of value to waterfowl and other wildlife according to a Fish and Wildlife Service evaluation. The additional 2,900 acres proposed as a refuge in S .2097 are marginal from a national wildlife habitat standpoint.
3. The Department should oppose the provision "granting not to exceed 60 percent Federal financial assistance" proposed in Section 4 of S .2097 for the acquisition of lands in the wildlife recreation area. All State assistance provided from the Land and Water Conservation Fund is set at 50 percent of project cost according to statute, and there would appear to be no substantive reason to vary the percentage for a particular project of this type.



✓
FWS - Director Greenwalt

Save Energy and You Serve America!

With regard to how the funding should be handled, I recommend that the portion of the 6,600-acre area having substantial waterfowl values be financed from the Migratory Bird Conservation Account, which is made up of duck stamp receipts and supplemented by an advance authority which has been used most beneficially in recent years. The extension of the advance authority is the subject of pending legislation which passed the House unanimously. The Senate has held hearings on the proposal; although it would be difficult to predict a date, I am reasonably confident that the legislation will be enacted.

The remainder of the land proposed for Federal acquisition that has recreational and educational values should be financed out of the Federal program of the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

The 6,600 acres in the core wildlife area are estimated to cost \$6,325,000. In my judgment the appropriate allocation of area for wildlife would be 33 percent and 67 percent for recreation. Thus my recommendation is that \$2.1 million come from the Migratory Bird Conservation Account Advance Authority over a period of four years. In the absence of the advance authority, I recommend that the \$2.1 million be spread over a period of eight years because of the higher priority of other wetland acquisition needs.

The remaining \$4,225,000 for the wildlife related recreational and educational areas would constitute a legitimate and worthwhile use of the Federal program portion of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, to be budgeted over a period of four years.

I endorse the idea of the Minnesota Valley area and particularly the multi-governmental approach to preserving the land and water resources here. In my opinion it is a splendid example of an imaginative way of assuring the protection of the area.

I will be pleased to discuss my recommendations with you.

(Sgd) Nathaniel P. Reed

Nathaniel P. Reed

cc: FWS - Director Greenwalt

June 23, 1976

Mark Wexler, Senior Editor
National Wildlife
534 North Broadway
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202

Dear Mark:

Thank you very much for the opportunity to preview the enclosed article. I have made three changes. The article is well done and I do appreciate your interest in doing it. National Wildlife's commitment to the environment has made a very real difference to the quality of life worldwide. I know of no other vehicle that is so effective.

I would like to ask for your assistance with another aspect of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. As you will recall Senators Mondale and Humphrey (D.Mn.) and Congressman Hagedorn and Frenzel (R.Mn.) introduced bills to create this Refuge last year. The House bill has been superseded by a new bill HRL3374 introduced by Congressman James L. Oberstar (D.Mn.). A field hearing will be held in Minneapolis on HRL3374 July 8, 1976. Both the Senate Bill 52097 and HRL3374 should come up for a vote early this fall. Mention of this activity in the August-September National Wildlife magazine would be timely and help put that vote in a national perspective. Any assistance you could provide will be appreciated. Thank you again for your phone call and the considerate manner in which you have proceeded.

Sincerely yours,

Elaine M. Mellot, Co Chairman
2516 West 98th Street
Bloomington, MN 55431



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Federal Building, Fort Snelling

Twin Cities, Minnesota 55111

IN REPLY REFER TO:

RECEIVED

JUN 29 1976

JUN 24 1976

N. R. BERG

Mr. William C. Norris, President
Control Data Corporation
P. O. Box 0
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55440

Dear Mr. Norris:

Lynn Greenwalt, Director of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and I wish to thank you and your staff for the gracious hospitality that you have provided to the Fish and Wildlife Service on numerous occasions over the past year. The opportunity to participate in briefings on the proposed Minnesota Valley Wildlife Refuge and the opportunity to view Long Meadow Lake from your Board Room have certainly been appreciated.

Everyone, including Senators Mondale and Ford, Congressman Hagedorn, Assistant Secretary Nathaniel Reed and the Fish and Wildlife Service's Directorate have been very much impressed with the scenic and wildlife values of the river from that vantage point.

We especially appreciate invitations from Elaine Mellott and all the hard work that she has done to preserve the natural values of the Minnesota Valley.

Sincerely yours,

Jack E. Hemphill
Regional Director



JAMES L. OBERSTAR
8TH DISTRICT, MINNESOTA
ROOM 323
CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
(202) 225-6211

DISTRICT OFFICE:
ROOM 231
FEDERAL BUILDING
DULUTH, MINNESOTA 55802
(218) 727-7474

COMMITTEES:
PUBLIC WORKS AND
TRANSPORTATION
MERCHANT MARINE AND
FISHERIES

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

June 25, 1976

Dear Friend:

My Subcommittee on Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation and the Environment will hold a field hearing July 8, 1976 on H.R. 13374, my bill to create the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. The hearings will begin at 1:00 p.m. in Room 2400A of the Hennepin County Government Center, 300 South Sixth Street, in Minneapolis.

Because of your interest in the creation of a wildlife refuge in the area between Fort Snelling and Jordan, I encourage you to testify in person at the hearing, or to submit a written statement for the record, if you would prefer.

If you would like to testify, please contact Ms. Jackie Wescott of the Subcommittee on Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation and the Environment, 1334 Longworth House Office Building, U. S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515 before July 2. Ms. Wescott can also be reached by calling (202) 225-7307. Written statements for the hearing record may be mailed to the Subcommittee.

I hope to see you at the hearing, and welcome your interest in the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

With every good wish.

Sincerely,


James L. Oberstar, M.C.

JLO/bac

LEONOR K. (MRS. JOHN B.) SULLIVAN, MO., CHAIRMAN

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MATTHEW J. RINALDO, N.J.
DAVID F. EMERY, MAINE

U.S. House of Representatives

Committee on

Merchant Marine and Fisheries

Room 1334, Longworth House Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20515

CHIEF COUNSEL
ERNEST J. CORRADO

CHIEF CLERK
FRANCES STILL

MINORITY COUNSEL
RICHARD N. SHAROOD

June 29, 1976

Ms. Elaine M. Mellott
Co-Chairman
The Lower Minnesota River
Valley Citizens Committee
9801 Pillsbury Avenue, Sq.
Bloomington, Minnesota 55420

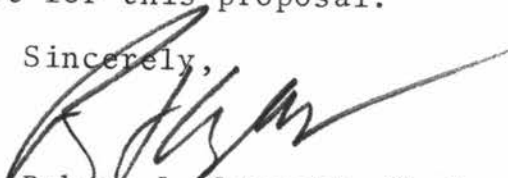
Ms. Mellott:

This will acknowledge your recent letter urging early field hearings on Congressman Oberstar's bill to create a National Wildlife Refuge in the Minnesota River Valley.

H.R. 13263 and a number of identical bills for this purpose are currently pending before my Subcommittee on Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation and the Environment. We plan to hold a hearing on this legislation on Thursday, July 8, beginning at 1:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Board Room, Room 2400A, Hennepin County Government Center, 300 South Sixth Street, Minneapolis. If you or a representative of your organization wishes to testify at these hearings, please notify Ms. Jackie Westcott, Subcommittee on Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation and the Environment, 1334 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C., 20515, Phone: (202) 225-3729, before 5:00 p.m., Friday, July 2, 1976.

Thank you for telling me of your organization's interest in and support for this proposal.

Sincerely,


Robert L. Leggett, Chairman
Subcommittee on Fisheries
and Wildlife Conservation
and the Environment

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON
MERCHANT MARINE AND FISHERIES

ROOM 1334, LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

Subject: Minnesota River Valley Refuge

July 8, 1976

Referred to Elaine Mellott

Testimony given by you before the Committee appears in the attached typewritten print. Please indicate any corrections thereon and *return immediately* so your remarks as revised may appear in the final volume. If no changes are required, it is not necessary to return this print. Changes in diction or expression or in the interest of clarity, brevity, or accuracy, or to correct any errors in transcribing are permitted. If other changes are desired, application must be made to the Chairman.

Please identify by date of hearing, page, and line number on each supplemental item to be included in your testimony. Send a copy of this item to the requesting Congressman and attach a copy to the page where material is discussed. Return the *complete parcel* to the committee *promptly*!

FRANCES STILL,
Chief Clerk.

1 Mr. Leggett. Now we have Elaine Mellott, who was our
2 guide this morning when we look at this marvelous river valley.
3 And Elaine represents the Minnesota River Valley Citizens
4 Committee today. And I suspect you work with Mrs. Seal,
5 right?

6 STATEMENT OF ELAINE MELLOTT, REPRESENTING

7 THE MINNESOTA RIVER VALLEY CITIZENS COMMITTEE

8 Ms. Mellott. That's right, sir.

9 Mr. Leggett. All right.

10 Ms. Mellott. Thank you very much for the opportunity to
11 show you the area and to listen to what the people in this
12 area have to say.

13 The Committee has submitted a written statement. I would
14 also like to mention for the record that copies of a report
15 entitled, "An Economic Analysis of Flood Damage Reduction
16 Alternatives in the Minnesota River Basin," has been forwarded
17 to your Washington office.

18 Mr. Leggett. Boy, have you submitted a statement!

19 Ms. Mellott. Yes. The statement provides an overview
20 of historical perspectives for decision involvement and
21 support for Congressman Oberstar's bill, Congressman Hagedorn
22 and Congressman Frenzel's bill.

23 Mr. Leggett. The statement will appear in our record.

24 (The complete statement referred to follows:)
25

1 Ms. Mellott. Also I would like to submit -- to make a
2 statement for Mr. Lee Somforde.

3 Thank you again. We very much like what you are doing.
4 I cannot emphasize how much support we hope to give to you.

5 Thank you.

6 Mr. Leggett. Thank you very much.

7 We have got a working document here that will be very
8 helpful in reaching a decision.

9 Mr. Oberstar. Mr. Chairman?

10 Mr. Leggett. Mr. Oberstar?

11 Mr. Oberstar. I would like to add, if I may, how
12 impressed I am with the enthusiasm of the Citizens Committee
13 and its splendid work and very detailed work that you have done
14 in initiating the project and carrying through on it. It is a
15 broad-based effort and very, very impressive, indeed.

16 Mr. Frenzel. Mr. Chairman, if I may interject, after you
17 got through all the big shots and all of us who have done
18 nothing and received some credit, you are now getting down to
19 the people who did the job.

20 Mr. Leggett. We are well aware of that and we appreciate
21 their work very much.

22

23

24

25

BLACKLOCK NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY

DRAWER 1, MOOSE LAKE, MINNESOTA 55767

July 21, 1976

Telephone ■ Les Blacklock

218/485/8334

Craig Blacklock

218/485/8335

The Honorable Robert D. Leggett, Chairman
Subcommittee, Fisheries, Wildlife, Conservation and the Environment
1334 Longworth House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Leggett:

If man had invented the floodplain, he would have proclaimed himself a genius. Except under the extreme conditions of the rare super-flood, the floodplain absorbs flood water like a gigantic sponge, and releases it slowly, with little or no damage resulting from the high water.

But man did not invent the floodplain, and does not seem to be able to recognize why it is there or how it works. He builds where water has historically flowed over the plain, and then is appalled by the "disaster" if his buildings get wet. He covers the floodplain marsh with a landfill, and then can't understand why flood waters are so much deeper upstream from this restriction. Man ditches wetlands and straightens streams, getting water off the land as quickly as he can, rushing it downstream between high levees "protecting" the former floodplain, and yet can't understand why downstream floods are so often record-breakers.

There are few rivers, especially near urban centers, where a natural floodplain still exists. It is a wonder that substantial lengths of the Minnesota River Valley floodplain are still intact within the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Area. The beauty, wildlife and educational value of this lovely valley are all bonus; they accompany the flood protection of this great "sponge."

There is an opportunity now to protect this unique area, and the arguments for its protection are so overwhelming they should result in that protection. The establishment of The Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge (H.R. 13374) should be assured by a study of the area and of the convincing reasons for its preservation.

As a naturalist who lived near the proposed refuge for twenty-three years, and has been a member of two metropolitan bodies considering proper use of this valley during four years of frequent meetings and



many field trips, I feel qualified to offer these good reasons for its preservation:

1. The most obvious reason is that flood control is best accomplished by leaving a floodplain in its natural state. I joined many volunteers filling sandbags in a futile effort to keep the Carver County Courthouse and Chaska homes dry. If these buildings had not been built on the floodplain, there would have been no damage.

2. The valley is extremely rich in wildlife and floodplain vegetation. Well over 200 species of birds frequent its varied habitats each year. Among the 175 species I have seen here, I was fortunate enough to observe 17 rare bald eagles at one time below Flying Cloud Airport, and 106 common egrets and 72 great blue herons from one point on Rice Lake. I have either seen or recorded the presence of numerous whitetail deer, beavers, mink, coyotes, otters, bobcats, weasels and many more native mammals.

3. There are all too many bad uses of floodplain land in the valley, notably Burnsville, where "grandfather clauses" have allowed landfill long after it was proven that such practice causes greater floods both upstream and downstream. The bad and the good are both here for floodplain study.

4. Recreational and educational uses of this magnificent valley will be possible during all times of the year except during high water. Enough trails and observation points can be established to satisfy the needs of many thousands of users, and yet large, wild areas can be set aside for wildlife to nest, den and "do their thing" without disturbance.

5. The valley contains a concentration of places important in Minnesota history. These would either border, or be within, the proposed facility. Think how exciting history can be, studied on the site, with the land still in its natural state, as it was when the historic events took place!

6. All of this is but minutes by car or school bus, and some of the finest of it is available by public transportation, to the two million people in the metropolitan area. This is an almost unique situation, and its value is inestimable.

If we do nothing, private owners will demand the right to "use" their land profitably, and destroy the beauty and wisdom of nature now present on the valley floor.

If we, you, the committee, encourage the establishment of The Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, you will be thanked by educators, nature enthusiasts, and thousands of families who will be able to enjoy wholesome days together hiking, biking, picnicking and appreciating the beauty and wildlife of this very special place.

Thank you for considering this statement.

Les Blacklock, Wildlife Photographer
and Consulting Naturalist

JAMES L. OBERSTAR
8TH DISTRICT, MINNESOTA
Room 323
CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
(202) 225-6211

DISTRICT OFFICE:
Room 231
FEDERAL BUILDING
DULUTH, MINNESOTA 55802
(218) 727-7474

COMMITTEES:
PUBLIC WORKS AND
TRANSPORTATION
MERCHANT MARINE AND
FISHERIES

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

July 22, 1976

Ms. Marialice Seal
Ms. Elaine Mellott
The Lower Minnesota River Valley
Citizens Committee
9801 Pillsbury Avenue South
Bloomington, Minnesota 55420

Dear Friends:

I greatly appreciate your letter and your courtesy to Chairman Leggett, the Subcommittee staff and me during the hearing in Minneapolis earlier this month. The success of the hearing was due in large part to your generous assistance in rounding up witnesses, arranging a tour, and other organizational matters.

The Subcommittee intends to markup the legislation within the next few weeks based on the information developed at the hearing. The bill will then be reported to the full Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries. I anticipate favorable floor action within the near future.

The Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge has a very real chance of coming into existence during this session of Congress, thanks to your hard work and the efforts of other concerned Minnesotans.

Again, thanks for your kind assistance, and best regards.

Sincerely,


James L. Oberstar, M.C.

JLO/bac

ALBERT H. QUIE
1ST DISTRICT, MINNESOTA

COMMITTEES:
EDUCATION AND LABOR
STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL
CONDUCT

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2182 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
202-225-2271

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

July 26, 1976

COUNTIES:
DAKOTA RICE
DODGE STEELE
FILLMORE WABASHA
GOODHUE WASHINGTON
HOUSTON WINONA
OLMSTED

DISTRICT OFFICES:
436 FIRST NATIONAL BANK BUILDING
ROCHESTER, MINNESOTA 55901
507-288-2384

520 FEDERAL BUILDING
FORT SNELLING
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55111
612-725-3680

Ms. Mary Alice Seal
Co-chairman
The Lower Minnesota River
Valley Citizens Committee
9801 Pillsbury Avenue South
Bloomington, Minnesota 55420

Dear Ms. Seal:

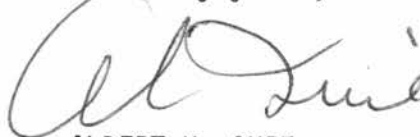
Thank you for your call to my Washington office regarding H.R. 11323 and H.R. 13374, the bills which would establish the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

The Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife Conservation and the Environment has scheduled a mark-up session on H.R. 13374 for Tuesday, July 27. I am pleased to learn that the Committee has decided to act quickly on this measure.

If the opportunity presents itself, I will certainly bring this matter to the attention of the President in an attempt to enlist his aid. Since the Fish and Wildlife Service has given its support to this legislation, there should not be a problem should this legislation reach the President's desk.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,



ALBERT H. QUIE
Member of Congress

AHQ:mrs

File

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

memorandum

DATE:

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: Regional Director, FWS, Twin Cities, MN (ARW)

SUBJECT: Amending P.L. 94-466 (Minnesota Valley
National Wildlife Refuge Act)

RE - Minnesota
Minnesota Valley

TO: Director, FWS, Washington, D.C. (LS)
Attention: Alan Palisoul

In accordance with Legislative Service's request, this correspondence serves to update our February 19, 1981, Faxform concerning a proposed amendment to the legislation that authorized the Minnesota Valley NWR. Since that time, a number of additional changes to the amendment have been identified and are incorporated in the attached draft memorandum to Legislative Council.

Briefly, those changes in order of priority are as follows:

1. Increase the authorization of appropriations for land acquisition of the wildlife refuge portion of the project to \$23.30 million (\$8.3 million originally authorized plus \$15 million authorized by amendment) to accomodate increasing land values and the additional acreage, as well as extend the authorization to expend the monies indefinitely.
2. Increase the authorization of appropriations for development of the refuge, including the interpretative center, to \$9 million and extend it from September 30, 1986, until such time as the monies are expended.
3. Realign the local-state-federal management responsibilities of the refuge-recreational area as per the draft Valley Comprehensive Plan which adds 2,900 acres to the refuge. The Regional Land Acquisition Review Committee approved these changes in boundary on July 27, 1981.

The reasons for these changes are documented in the attached draft memorandum to Legislative Council. We estimate that only 600 to 800 acres of land can be purchased with the remaining \$1.6 million which was recinded. Therefore, unless the funding is increased, it will be impossible to complete acquisition of the refuge.

Summary of Proposed Amendment

Action	Original Legislation (From)	Amendment (To)
Increase Federal Share of Acquisition Funds	\$8.3 million	\$23.3 million
Increase Development Funds	\$6.0 million	\$9 million
Increase Refuge Boundary	9,500 acres	12,400 acres
Extend Authority to Acquire Land	September 30, 1983	Indefinitely
Extend Authority to Develop Refuge	September 30, 1986	Indefinitely

We would like you to be aware of several other issues concerning the Minnesota Valley project that are of interest to the citizens, local government, and various members of the Minnesota Congressional delegation.

Approximately 455 acres of the designated portion of the refuge and 1,655 acres of the proposed additions are owned by local units of government. These local government agencies wish to divest themselves of this wildlife habitat and have it incorporated in the wildlife refuge but wish to be compensated for their interest in these lands.

P.L. 94-466 designated that the 8,000 acre recreation area was to be acquired by the State of Minnesota or its political subdivisions and managed as part of an overall federal, state, and local project. Approximately one-half of the recreation area is already in public ownership with the remaining one-half still to be acquired. Although the original intent of P.L. 94-466 was to assist the state and local governments in this acquisition, no special funds have ever been authorized or appropriated.

We anticipate Senator Durenberger, with the support of other Congressmen, will introduce legislation to amend P.L. 94-466 to resolve these issues.

We have identified two other possible alternatives of obtaining funds other than direct appropriation for construction of the interpretative center required by P.L. 94-466. The first method would be by introducing an amendment to P.L. 94-466 that would authorize the Service to accept money from a lender and enter into a lease-purchase or other agreement to repay the loan. The National Park Service is considering such an arrangement to provide funding for the Voyageurs National Park's Visitor Center. The attached Regional Solicitor's memorandum dated November 6, 1981, discusses such an amendment to the Voyageurs National Park Act.

The other method would be to allow a concessionaire to build the interpretative center and charge a user fee to the public. The concessionaire would be allowed to recoup his investment over a period of years with the Service using the facility.

If the possibility of direct appropriations to fund the interpretative center appears unlikely, we ask that you consider including one or the other of these alternatives as an amendment to P.L. 94-466.

Attachments

Memorandum

To: Legislative Counsel

Through: Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

Subject: Proposed Legislation to Alter the Boundaries, Increase and Extend the Authorization of Appropriations for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

I. Summary of Legislation:

The accompanying draft legislation will increase the authorization of appropriations for land acquisition for the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge by \$15 million to a \$23.3 million ceiling and increase the development funds authorized from \$6 million to \$9 million. In addition, it will extend the availability of those sums and the sums authorized for development until expended. The project boundary will be altered to expand the refuge from 9,500 acres to 12,400 acres to reflect the boundary changes recommended by the joint local-state-federal draft Minnesota Valley Comprehensive Plan as shown on the attached maps.

II. Reason for Legislation:

Establishment of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge was authorized by Congress in 1976 by Public Law 94-466 (98 Stat. 1993). As defined by that statute, the refuge is to include approximately 9,500 acres in lower Minnesota River Valley and is to be acquired and managed by the Secretary of the Interior. The statute also authorizes the establishment of a wildlife recreation area adjacent to the refuge. This recreation area is to be acquired, developed, and administered by the State of Minnesota. The statute authorizes appropriations of \$14.5 million for acquisition of the refuge-recreation area for the period October 1, 1977, through September 30, 1983, and \$6 million for development of the refuge-recreation area. The legislative history indicates that Congress intended that \$8.3 million of the authorized sums are to be used for refuge acquisition and \$6.2 million to match sums from the state's normal share of the Land and Water Conservation Fund for acquisition of the recreation area.

The total appropriated through Fiscal Year 1982 for refuge acquisition is \$8.3 million, of which approximately \$6.5 million had been obligated through February 1982. Three thousand two hundred (3,200) acres have been purchased, 3,000 acres are state owned since they involve waters and lands within meandered areas, leaving 6,200 acres to be acquired (3,300 acres originally authorized and 2,900 additional acres).

The proposed legislation will increase the estimated funds available for acquisition of the remaining 6,200 acres of refuge lands to approximately \$16.6 million (\$1.6 million appropriated but rescinded plus \$15 million additional funding to be authorized by amending current legislation). The reason for the increased estimated total cost of acquisition of the refuge area is the escalation of real estate values between 1976 and 1982 and the increased size of the refuge. The problem of providing matching funds to the state is not being addressed in this proposed legislation.

The estimated cost to acquire the remaining refuge area is based upon the presumption that the Service will pay fair market value of privately owned lands only. Two thousand one hundred (2,100) acres of the remaining 6,200 acres of the refuge are owned by local units of government. Acquisition of publically owned land will be attempted by cooperative and management agreements, exchanges, and donations.

Development of the interpretive center has been delayed because funds were never appropriated. Due to inflation, the cost of building the interpretive center at a later date will be higher than originally anticipated. For this, we estimate it will be necessary to increase the authorization of appropriation from \$6 million to a ceiling of \$9 million.

In addition to requesting an increase in the authorization, the proposed legislation would extend the time during which the funds would be available for acquisition and development. The Fish and Wildlife Service anticipates protracted negotiations with current landowners due to disagreements on price. In addition, some potential agreements may not be reached because of local knowledge that legislation is needed to provide additional funding to complete acquisition of the refuge.

There are two types of boundary adjustments. The first type involves boundary realignment of lands lying within the designated refuge and recreation area (colored in red) to provide for a more practical state-federal-local management program. The second represents the addition or expansion of boundaries (colored in green) beyond that area authorized by Congress to include sensitive or valuable wildlife areas. As a result of the joint state-federal-local planning process, it is recommended that the official refuge-recreation boundaries be changed as shown on the attached maps to reflect the draft Minnesota Valley Comprehensive Plan.

The project was delineated on an "official map" that accompanied the Act. Boundaries of the map were prepared with the knowledge at hand at the time the legislation was enacted. The Act also gave authority to acquire additional lands for inclusion as determined desirable by the Secretary of the Interior. In several cases, the 1976 version of the "official map" overlooked natural management boundaries and divided valuable ecosystems in such a manner as to promote conflicting management objectives in the same area, such as single wetland basin. This

could lead to attempts to preserve one half of a wetland for its natural values while the other half is being filled for commercial uses. In other cases, small isolated parcels were designated for one agency's management when they were adjacent to another agency's ownership and part of the same ecological community. Transfer of management responsibilities in these cases would increase management efficiency and allow holistic ecosystem management. The recently prepared federal-state draft Minnesota Valley Comprehensive Plan recommends correcting oversights of the original "official map."

III. Alternatives:

There is no alternative to increasing and extending this authorization if the Service is to complete acquisition as mandated by the Act establishing the refuge.

IV. Results of Enactment:

A. Budgetary Impact on the Service

The proposed legislation would authorize an additional appropriation of \$15 million to complete acquisition of the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. The amendment would also increase the funds for development from \$6 to \$9 million. Therefore, the combined budgetary impact would be \$18 million (\$3 million additional for development plus \$15 million for acquisition).

B. Changes in Program Authority/Responsibility

Portions of the recreation area will be administered as part of the refuge due to boundary realignment.

V. History of Service Positions on Similar or Related Legislation:

The Service originally supported legislation establishing the Minnesota Valley National Refuge.

VI. Summary of Legislative Interest:

The Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Act resulted from bills introduced by Representatives James Oberstar, Bill Frenzel and Tom Hagedorn, and former Senators Walter Mondale and Hubert Humphrey. All three of the Congressmen have expressed continuing interest. Representative Frenzel has specifically indicated an interest in the land acquisition funding. Senator Durenberger has become increasingly interested in the refuge and his staff has been in close contact with a citizen's support group called Friends of the Minnesota Valley.

VII. Public Statements:

There is continuing public support for completion and expansion of the refuge/recreation area. The State of Minnesota has and continues to support the area and has currently budgeted funds to acquire land trail rights-of-way within the recreation area. It is anticipated that the state will seek additional acquisition funding for the recreation area. Throughout the master planning process, the public has been supportive of the boundary realignment. A final Environmental Impact Statement covering the boundary readjustments is now being printed.

VIII. Summary of Major Policy Questions:

The major policy question involved is the impact of the proposal on the budget.

IX. Recommendation

We recommend that the attached legislation be forwarded to Congress as an Administration proposal.

BILL FRENZEL
THIRD DISTRICT, MINNESOTA

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
1025 LONGWORTH BUILDING
202-225-2871

STAFF DIRECTOR
RICHARD D. WILLOW

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

DISTRICT OFFICES:
MAYBETH CHRISTENSEN
120 FEDERAL BUILDING
MINNEAPOLIS 55401
612-725-2173

SANDRA KLUG
3601 PARK CENTER BOULEVARD
ST. LOUIS PARK 55416
612-925-4540

September 29, 1976

Ms. Elaine Mellott
2516 W. 98th St.
Bloomington, MN 55437

H.E. Exhibit No. 3
File No. EQL-77-003-W5
W/S Date Oct 5, 76

Dear Elaine:

Attached is a copy of a letter I received from the White House re my previous letter regarding the Wildlife preserve. I have since heard that it is likely that the President will sign the bill and am awaiting confirmation of that statement.

Best regards,

B. Frenzel

Bill Frenzel
Member of Congress

BF:pce



THE LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER VALLEY CITIZENS COMMITTEE

9801 PILLSBURY AVE. SO. • BLOOMINGTON, MN. 55420 • PHONE 888-7267

July 19, 1979

The Vice President of the
United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D. C. 20005

Dear Vice President Mondale:

It's summer in the lower Minnesota River Valley, and it is gorgeous. All kinds of people are working on our Minnesota River Valley Wildlife Refuge and Recreation Area. The Vegetative Survey is completed, and the Archaeological Survey has begun. The Wildlife Inventory is halfway to completion, and surveyors are checking boundaries.

One large site, the Louisville Swamp (2500 acres), and smaller sites (500 acres) have been acquired. Other acquisitions have been delayed because of the need to update the appraisals. Negotiations are underway with the Highway Department, in terms of the headquarters access road, and Northern States Power Company, in terms of management plans for Black Dog Lake. The dredge spoil sites have been designated and submitted for approval by the U. S. Department of the Interior. Progress is good, and people are very excited about the prospects for this beautiful area.

We do have one or two concerns we'd like to mention to you and ask you to have checked on if it seems appropriate. One is the bluff lands you mentioned when you were here. The Eden Prairie overlook has been dedicated, but other highly desirable areas are available, and no way seems to have been found to address them.



The Vice President
page 2
July 19, 1979

The Visitors Center has been sited, but there is no approval to proceed with the plans. This center is extremely important to the commitment we feel toward environmental education. We see the building of this center as a unique opportunity to provide an energy efficient structure enclosing exhibit areas, learning areas and audiovisual facilities. This would enable reaching thousands every year with the message of man's interdependence with his world and its creatures. It would be abrogating our responsibility to this educational goal if we try "make-do" measures with an old structure and false economy in the long run.

The third problem is perhaps related to this second concern. The developmental funds have not yet been appropriated. The time, in terms of the current stage of progress, is now; and if you can determine what is holding up the process, we would be very grateful.

Whatever the time line for planning and development, the dedication plans are in operation. We are aiming for a dedication ceremony on the site of the proposed visitors center, which offers a beautiful overview of the Long Meadow Lake Area. The date has not yet been set as we are hoping you will be able to attend. We will adjust our schedule to fit yours since we are unwilling to contemplate your inability to be here for this second beginning. Please let us know what dates would be most convenient to you as we hope to have time to plan an impressive dedication. We very much want you to be present for it.

Thank you for any attention you and your great staff are able to give to our concerns for the Valley. We are already excitedly anticipating next summer's festivities. It is gratifying to have received your help in conserving this beautiful Valley, we can never thank you enough. It is very special to all of us.

Very truly yours,

Elaine M. Mellott
Elaine M. Mellott

Marialyce Seal
Marialyce Seal



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge

4101 East 78th Street

Bloomington, Minnesota 55420

30 JUL 1979

Honorable David R. Durenberger
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Durenberger:

We are pleased to inform you that the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service has opened a field office for the new Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

The office has been established temporarily in an older home at 3815 East 78th Street in Bloomington, Minnesota. Later this year we will move to a larger residence that is to be renovated at 4101 East 78th Street. Both of these residences were recently acquired from willing sellers of the proposed visitor center site that overlooks Long Meadow Lake in the river valley below. The area is just south of the Fort Snelling Military Cemetery.

The renovated building will also serve on an interim basis as the Wildlife Interpretive Center required by the Minnesota Valley Refuge Act, Public Law 94-466. It will be replaced as a visitor facility when development funds are appropriated and the visitor center is constructed.

There are two of us working full time with the assistance of several part-time college students. We are involved primarily in the initial clean-up and planning of the newly acquired 2,500 acres of land.

Ultimately the federal refuge will consist of 9,500 acres of Minnesota River floodplain. It will be joined by another 8,000 acres of state, county and city land to form the contiguous Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge/Recreational Area. The federal refuge will be managed for wildlife environmental education including energy conservation, wildlife interpretation and wildlands recreation. Hopefully we will be able to offer some public services within the next year--although much of our time will be spent working with the joint federal-state planning team in the development of the Minnesota Valley (Fort Snelling to Jordan) master plan and the related public involvement workshops/meetings.

The master plan is to be completed in late 1980 and we will keep you informed of its developments along with other refuge activities. By the time the master plan is completed, we hope to be fully staffed and funded so we can quickly implement the provisions of the plan. The energy crisis underscores the urgent need for developing accessible recreation facilities in densely populated urban areas and establishing programs to promote energy awareness and conservation.

If you wish to visit the refuge or have any questions about the Minnesota Valley area, please call me or the Assistant Manager for Public Use, Tex Hawkins, at 612/854-5900.

We look forward to working with you in the building of this outstanding wildlife recreation area.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Edward S. Crozier

Edward S. Crozier
Refuge Manager

cc:
Honorable David R. Durenberger
United States Senator
174 Federal Courts Building
Minneapolis, MN 55401

Same letter sent to those on attached list - except following:

1st paragraph of letter to Oberstar:

Since you personally handled the legislation for the Minnesota Valley Refuge Act, we are especially pleased to inform you . . .

bcc: TCAO
ARW
Washington (LS) - ATTN: Russ Fielding

Addresses for letters to Senators & Representatives for MVNWR -

Honorable David R. Durenberger
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Durenberger:

Honorable David R. Durenberger
United States Senator
174 Federal Courts Building
Minneapolis, MN 55401

Honorable Rudy Boschwitz
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Boschwitz:

Honorable Rudy Boschwitz
United States Senator
Suite 210 Bremer Building
419 South Roberts
St. Paul, MN 55101

Honorable Tom Hagedorn
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Hagedorn:

Honorable Tom Hagedorn
Member, United States House of
Representatives
Post Office Building, Box 3148
Mankato, MN 56001

Honorable Bill Frenzel
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Frenzel:

Honorable Bill Frenzel
Member, United States House of
Representatives
110 South 4th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55401

Honorable Bruce F. Vento
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Vento:

Honorable Bruce F. Vento
Member, United States House of
Representatives
544 Federal Courts Building
St. Paul, MN 55101

Honorable Arlen Erdahl
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Erdahl:

Honorable Arlen Erdahl
Member, United States House of
Representatives
Room 435, 1st National Bank Bldg.
Rochester, MN 55901

Honorable Martin O. Sabo
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Sabo:

Honorable Martin O. Sabo
Member, United States House of
Representatives
Room 1166, 110 South 4th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55401

Honorable James L. Oberstar
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Oberstar:

Honorable James L. Oberstar
Member, United States House of
Representatives
Room 231 Federal Building
Duluth, MN 55802