



Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council

Guiding the Future of Transportation for the Twin Ports Area

February 27, 2023

U.S. Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Special Projects B Competition
FY2023 Workshops and Professional Meetings

To Whom it May Concern:

The Metropolitan Interstate Council is pleased to express our support for the workshop entitled "Identifying Beneficial Use Opportunities for Dredged Material from the Port of Duluth-Superior" being submitted by the University of Minnesota Sea Grant College Program to the U.S. Dept of Commerce National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration "Workshops and Professional Meetings Special Projects Competition".

This workshop will address a particularly timely and urgent need for the Port of Duluth-Superior, an economic driver of our region. The demand for dredged material for habitat restoration projects is expected to decrease rapidly over the next few years due to the expected delisting of the St. Louis River Area of Concern. Dredging operations cannot commence unless a placement option is identified well in advance (two years prior) of dredging contractor mobilization. This workshop and its outcomes are essential to the continued operation of the Port of Duluth-Superior.

As the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Duluth-Superior area, the MIC is charged with transportation planning for the urbanized area. The proposed project supports the goal to ensure the economic and safety goals and identified as a "Short Term" need in the project list of the Duluth-Superior's Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

As a member of the Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council's Dredging Subcommittee (a working group of the Harbor Technical Advisory Committee) and representative of Duluth-Superior MIC, I look forward to working with Minnesota and Wisconsin Sea Grants to plan and implement this important one-day workshop.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ron Chicka".

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cc: Wayne Boucher, MN MIC Policy Board Co-Chair
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