

City of Hinckley
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November 1, 2017

Representative Jason Rarick
431 State Office Bldg.
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Re: Grindstone River Dam

Dear Representative Jason Rarick,

The City of Hinckley would greatly appreciate your continued support in our efforts to work with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to replace the dam on Grindstone River within the Hinckley Aquatic Management Area (AMA). I, along with other members of the City staff and Council attended the DNR's open house on September 26, 2017. Their presentation regarding the Dam's history, analysis of the condition of the Dam and current ecological state of the Grindstone River made it clear that the DNR is proposing to remove the dam and restore the river to its pre-dam state.

At the open house, the City supported the installation of a rock ladder, or fish ladder. This would meet the stated goal of the DNR, which is to reintroduce eradicated fish species upriver. This solution would also meet the preferred outcome for the City, which is to keep the reservoir and the recreational uses it provides. Council has offered to partner with the DNR and the local fisheries office to improve the recreational area at the dam by clearing some of the over growth and installing picnic tables to increase the usability of the area.

The City of Hinckley would encourage the DNR to seek a solution that can work for all parties involved. The installation of a fish ladder that maintains the reservoir while allowing for the free passage of fish along the river would accomplish the goals of both the City and the DNR, while increasing the recreational use of the AMA. The City looks forward to continued discussion regarding the future of the Grindstone River Dam.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kyle Morell'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Kyle Morell
City Administrator/Clerk
City of Hinckley