

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Mississippi River Draws Foundations Together

Communities across the country are realizing the great benefits of the natural resources surrounding them. In Central Minnesota, this is especially true as it relates to the Mississippi River.

The “St. Cloud Urban Area Mississippi River Corridor Plan” will be the topic of a kick-off event on **Thursday, May 20th at the St. Cloud Civic Center from 11:00-1:00 at the cost of \$15 per person.** The luncheon features Steve Apfelbaum, President of Applied Ecological Services and Benny Lendermon III, Executive Director of the Memphis Riverfront Development Corporation. Both speakers specialize in river front planning and development.

Two local foundations, the Initiative Foundation and the Central Minnesota Community Foundation each have received a \$10,000 allocation from the Funders Network and have awarded those funds to support the St. Cloud Urban Area Mississippi River Corridor Plan.

The foundations are part of a group of 19 community foundations that have joined the River Partnership of Community Foundations, a multi-year effort to improve the environmental health and economic vitality of rivers and communities in the 10-state Mississippi River region. The River Partnership is funded by the Funders’ Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities, a national foundation located in Coral Gables, Florida.

The City of St. Cloud and its neighboring jurisdictions are set to begin a regional Mississippi River corridor master planning process. The “St. Cloud Urban Area Mississippi River Corridor Plan” is intended to establish a community based vision and implementation strategies to maintain the Mississippi River as a regional asset through appropriate stewardship and utilization of our urbanized areas’ riverfront. The project partners include the cities of St. Cloud, Sauk Rapids, and Sartell, and the two counties of Stearns and Benton along with other groups interested in the River.

The Initiative Foundation and the Central Minnesota Community Foundation have partnered on several Mississippi River activities in the past and are interested in the protecting and enhancing the riverfront as a community asset that improves quality of life and aids in business recruitment and retention.

Please RSVP for the May 20th luncheon meeting by using the reservation form at www.ci.stcloud.mn.us. Mail reservation form and payment by Friday May 14th to: City of St. Cloud, Community Development, 400 2nd Street South, St. Cloud, MN 56301. For more information, contact planner@ci.st.cloud.mn.us.