

DRAFT – October 24, 2013

Mississippi River Parkway Commission of Minnesota

Resolution 2013-01

**Urging the development of proper procedures and regulation in siting and operation of silica sand mining and processing facilities in the Great River Road National Scenic Byway Corridor of southeastern Minnesota**

*Whereas* the statutory role of the Minnesota Mississippi River Parkway Commission (MN MRPC), established under Minnesota Statute 161.1419, is to work toward the planning, construction, maintenance, and improvement of the Great River Road or Mississippi River Parkway and

*Whereas* the MN MRPC mission is to promote, preserve, and enhance the resources of the Mississippi River Valley and to develop the highways and amenities of the Great River Road (National Scenic Byway) and

*Whereas* the MN MRPC promotes, supports, and advances actions, responsibilities, procedures, controls, operational practices, and strategies to maintain the intrinsic archaeological, cultural, historic, natural, recreational, and scenic qualities that support National Scenic Byway designation and

*Whereas* in response to input and requests from stakeholders the MN MRPC passed a motion to draft a resolution related to its mission and byway intrinsic qualities and

*Whereas* there has been an identified need for more guidance in the approval process and oversight in affected counties and local governments and

*Whereas* silica sand operations create concern over potential negative effects; e.g. air & water quality, public health, traffic flow & safety, highway & bridge quality, property value, and aesthetic qualities within the region (all affecting tourism and community quality of life) and the MN MRPC supports the efforts of the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB) and

*Whereas* the potential for silica sand jobs and an economic boom within the Great River Road corridor are significant, there is also the potential for significant adverse economic impacts to the Great River Road's tourism industry and

*Whereas* the value of the land and silica sand resources are significant for owners as are profits for the mining industries

***Therefore be it resolved,*** that

The MN MRPC encourages local units of government to refer to and work with the EQB Silica Sand Technical Assistance Team and

The MN MRPC supports zoning ordinances and other land use practices that protect the archaeological, cultural, historic, natural, recreational and scenic qualities of the Great River Road National Scenic Byway and the Mississippi River.

Adopted \_\_\_\_\_  
Date