Technical Memorandum

To: Nick Tomczik, District Administrator
Rice Creek Watershed District

Cc: Tom Schmidt
John Kolb

From: Chris Otterness, PE

Subject: Partial Anoka County Ditch 55 Transfer Petition to City of Lino Lakes - Engineer's Report

Date: January 22, 2026

Project: 5555-0082 Phase 012

I hereby certify that the attached plan, specification, or report was prepared by me or under my direct supervision and that I am a duly registered Professional Engineer under the laws of the State of Minnesota

Reg. No. 41961 January 22, 2026

INTRODUCTION

The City of Lino Lakes (City) submitted a petition to the RCWD as the drainage authority for Anoka County Ditch 55 (ACD 55) to transfer management authority of portions of ACD 55 from RCWD to the City under M.S. 103E.812. The specific portion requested for transfer is Branch 8.

The RCWD Board of Managers appointed Houston Engineering to review the proposed transfer and prepare a report and recommendations for the Board's review and consideration. The purpose of this report is to identify and describe considerations in evaluating whether the petitioned transfer is necessary for the orderly management of storm, surface, or floodwaters, including for water quality purposes.

CONSIDERATIONS

ACD 55 Branch 8 Location

The segment of ACD 55 proposed for transfer (Branch 8) lies entirely within the City of Lino Lakes. It generally drains west from the NE quarter of the NE quarter of Section 24, Township 31, Range 22, Anoka County, MN, crosses Interstate 35E, and terminates with its connection to the Main Trunk of ACD 55 . The total length of the proposed transfer is approximately 4,600 feet (**Exhibit 1).** In addition to potions of Sections 13 and 24 in Lino Lakes, the tile receives surface water from a portion of the City of Hugo in Washington County. However, all of the benefits allocated in the original establishment of ACD 55 were within Anoka County. There is no record of a redetermination of benefits.

The system is currently 100% drain tile, but due to impending development, the alignment of the system is likely to be changed and its makeup converted from drain tile to urban stormwater infrastructure, including storm sewer, open channel, and ponds.

As-Constructed and Subsequently Improved Condition

The as-constructed and subsequently improved condition (ACSIC) of ACD 55 was detailed in the Houston Engineering, Inc. report *Anoka County Ditch (ACD) 55 Historical Review* dated August 7, 2012. This report identified the alignment, tile size, and grade of each system component, include Branch 8. An excerpt of this report showing the ACSIC grade of Branch 8 is provided in **Exhibit 2**. The ACSIC within this report was adopted as the corrected record of the drainage system on December 12, 2012 via RCWD Resolution 2012-46.

Approximately 3,000 feet of Branch 8 is 10-inches in diameter, with the remaining 1,600 feet consisting of 8-inch tile. The originally constructed tile was of clay construction; however, portions of Branch 8 have been repaired using smooth-wall polyethylene pipe. Branch 8 tile provides a maximum capacity of roughly 0.9 cubic feet per second, though degradation of the tile decreases this efficiency.

The establishment of the drainage system by Anoka County likewise established a right-of-entry (i.e. drainage easement) over the ACD 55 system. The transfer of the system from Anoka County to the RCWD in 1973 likewise transferred this drainage easement. The extent of this established drainage easement is not described within any recorded documents, but is generally considered to be 40 feet centered on the alignment of the tile.

In 2022, an easement was recorded over a portions of Branch 8 a condition of RCWD permit issuance on the property, as follows:

- Document 2346632.001: Parcel 24-32-22-11-0005 in the NE ¼ of the NE ¼ of Section 24, Township 31, Range 22

Drainage System Management Authority

While the RCWD as both a drainage authority and a watershed district has wider-ranging water management authority than the City, those additional authorities are not necessary to provide for the orderly management of the segment of ACD 55 being considered under this petition.

Conversely, the City of Lino Lakes as a municipal water management authority has some additional flexibilities in management not afforded to the RCWD as a M.S. 103E drainage authority. In particular, the City may engage in improvements and other drainage system modifications outside of the M.S. 103E petition process. This flexibility aids in the speed and viability of land development which is impending in the area.

The proposed transfer is consistent with the letter *Ditch Authority Transfer Petition for ACD 55 Branch 8,* dated December 11, 2025 by WSB. This letter identifies the orderly stormwater management practices necessary to accommodate changing land use in locations of the City that

drain to ACD 55 Branch 8. Necessary management includes the replacement of the remaining tile portions of the public drainage system to accommodate the stormwater management infrastructure. The report identifies the need to transfer remaining portions of the tile system, consistent with prior transfers of portions of the system from RCWD to the City, to facilitate the necessary modifications to the system.

Urban Stormwater Infrastructure

The City and/or private developers will likely replace most of the segment in question with urban stormwater infrastructure (storm sewer, open channels, and ponds) to accommodate future development in the area. The design of the new stormwater infrastructure will be in adherence to the Comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan (CSMP) prepared by the City and approved by the RCWD in 2018.

The City is currently responsible for operating and maintaining an extensive amount of storm sewer, ponds and other stormwater infrastructure in its jurisdiction. Because of the City's extensive urban stormwater management program, the City has necessary equipment, staffing, experience, and procedures in place to inspect these systems and promptly address inadequacies. The City's management objectives of their existing storm sewer systems and pond and associated maintenance practices are consistent with the needs of drainage systems managed by RCWD.

Current development plans for this location anticipate redirecting stormwater to an existing City-managed trunk system which drains directly to Peltier Lake (bypassing ACD 55). Until and as that occurs, flows to ACD 55 are physically limited by the capacity of the tile crossings under I-35E. The current ACD 55 Main Trunk tile outlet is sufficiently sized to convey the maximum capacity of the two I-35E tile crossings (Main Trunk and Branch 8).

Water Quality

The City is required to follow National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit requirements and limit pollutants entering the storm water conveyance system in their jurisdiction. Given this obligation, the City will adhere to objectives similar to RCWDs for managing the water quality of stormwater runoff. Additionally, the City's obligations and authorities to manage sediment in the future storm sewer ponds along ACD 55 are in alignment with the water quality objectives of the ACD 55 system as a whole.

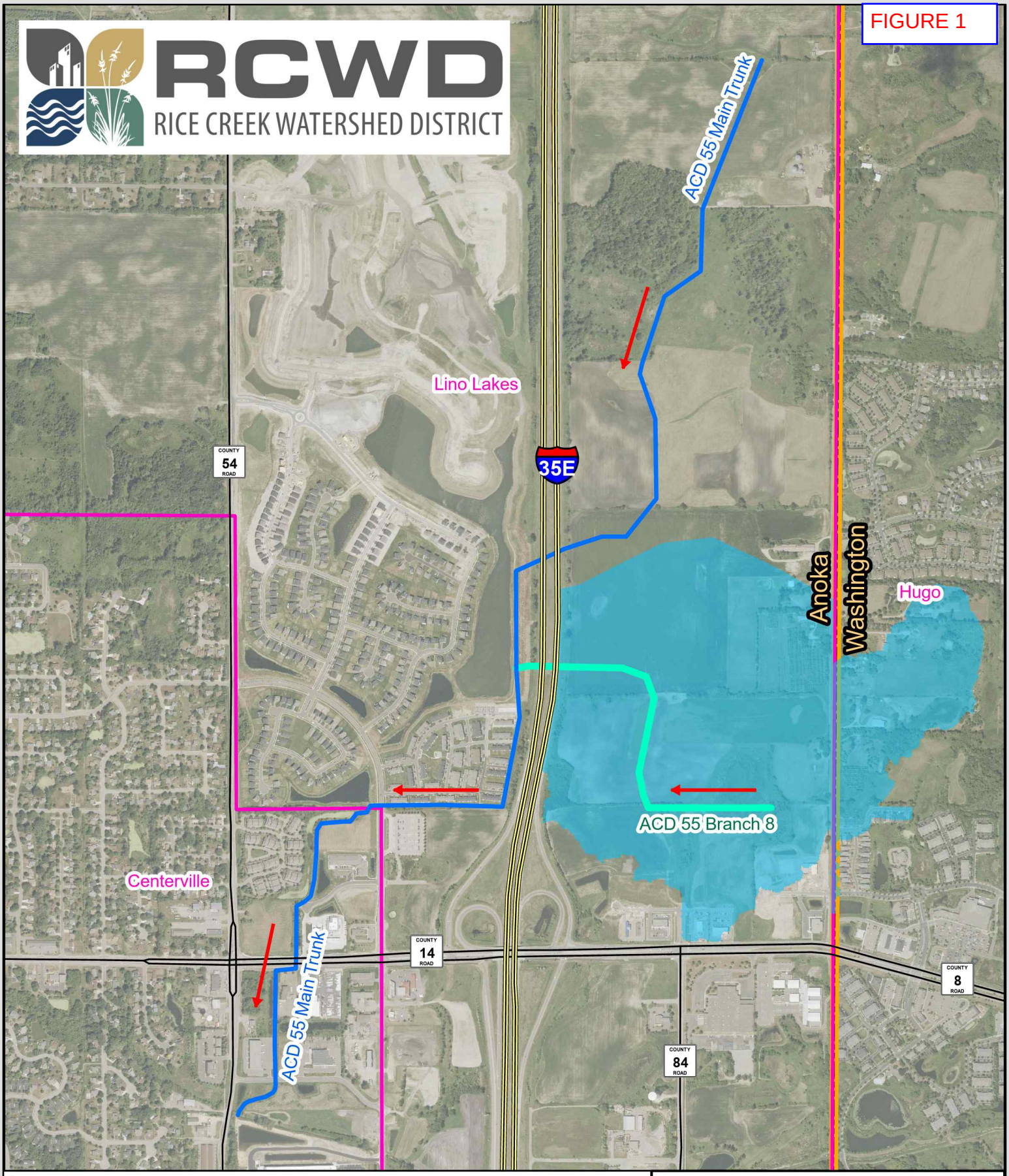
RECOMMENDATIONS

Due to planned land development, stormwater management and routing will evolve as urbanization occurs. The subsequent infrastructure will be managed by the City of Lino Lakes. As the local land use authority, the City is uniquely situated to manage stormwater during this transition period and upon full build-out, and it is in the interest of benefitting lands that the City by transferred the Branch 8 portion of ACD 55. Therefore, HEI recommends that the RCWD transfer authority for portions of

ACD 55 to the City, specifically Branch 8, as shown on **Exhibit 1**. Additionally, the RCWD should coordinate with the City to transfer easements it holds over transferred portions of the drainage system.

FIGURE 1

RCWD
RICE CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT



Legend

- ACD 55 Branch 8
- ACD 55 Main Trunk
- Branch 8 Subwatershed
- City Boundaries
- Counties
- Flow Direction

N
W E
S

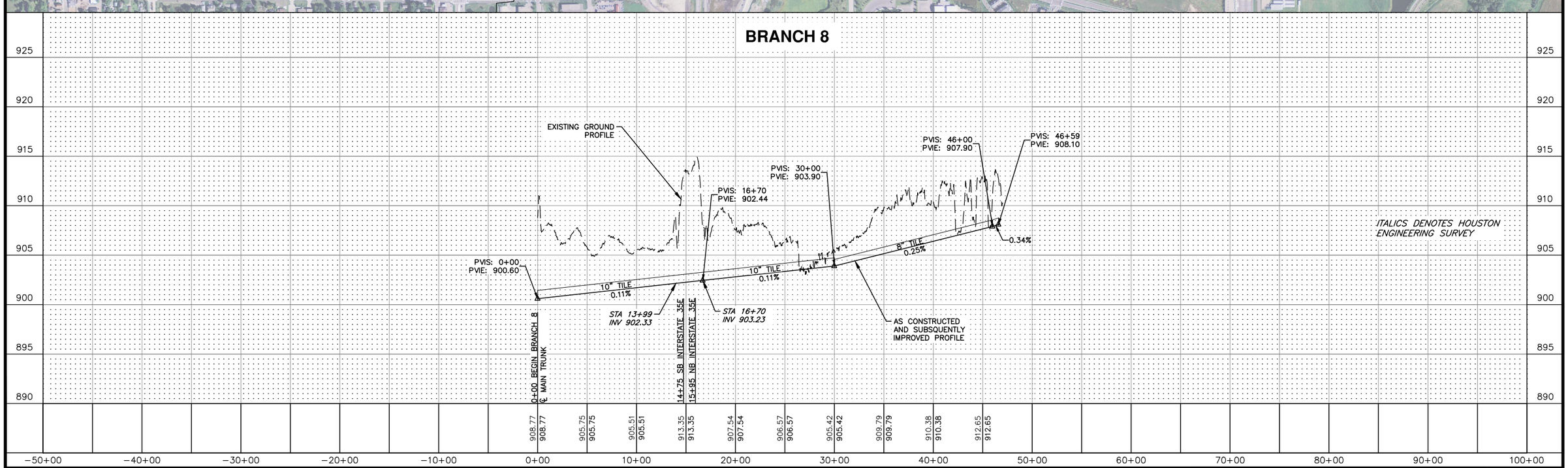
0 750 1,500 3,000 Feet

ACD 55 Branch 8

Scale:	Drawn by:	Checked by:	Project No.:	Date:	Sheet:
AS SHOWN	DRO	CCO	5555-0082	1/20/2026	

HOUSTON engineering, inc.

FIGURE 2



No.	Revision	Date	By

Houston Engineering Inc.

Maple Grove
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Drawn by	Date
DJL	5-15-12
Checked by	Scale
CCO	AS SHOWN

ACD 55 HISTORICAL REVIEW
CENTERVILLE/LINO LAKES, MINNESOTA
RICE CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT

BRANCH 8 PROFILE
PROJECT NO. 5555-080.003

SHEET 1 of 1

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