

December 11, 2025

Mr. Tom Schmidt  
Drainage and Facilities Manager  
Rice Creek Watershed District  
4325 Pheasant Ridge Drive NE, #611  
Blaine, MN 55449

Re: Ditch Authority Transfer Petition for ACD 55 Branch 8  
City of Lino Lakes, MN  
WSB Project No. 023584-000

Dear Mr. Schmidt:

Enclosed for your review is the transfer petition for Anoka County Ditch (ACD) 55 Branch. The transfer of drainage authority from RCWD to the City of Lino Lakes is sought due to planned improvements along the current Branch 8 alignment. Included in this letter is a description of the existing and proposed conditions of Branch 8 and the City's reasoning for transfer.

#### **EXISTING CONDITIONS**

ACD 55 was initially established in 1914 to provide drainage for agricultural needs of properties, replacing ACD 33. No records indicate any major permitted impacts to Branch 8. The latest detailed information on Branch 8 is a historical review memo from Houston Engineering dated 8/7/2012. The ditch starts as 8" clay tile at 0.25% slope for approximately the first 1,500 feet. From there, the ditch consists of 10" clay tile at 0.11% slope until it connects into the ACD 55 Main Trunk.

Based on Manning's calculations, the 8" section of Branch 8 has a flow capacity of 0.6 cfs and the 10" section a capacity of 0.7 cfs. The ditch runs under Wetland 3, 4, and 7 based on a 2022 delineation from WSB. During this delineation it was noted that the drain tile daylights to an open ditch running north-south through the middle of Wetland 4, then goes back underground.

These wetlands and surrounding agricultural land are drained by ACD 55 Branch 8. There is no positive drainage for the area due to I-35E preventing ponded water from flowing west.

#### **PROPOSED CONDITIONS**

The City of Lino Lakes is proposing to extend Otter Lake Road north from Main Street (CSAH 14) past the intersection of Heritage Parkway and 24<sup>th</sup> (Elmcrest) Avenue. Along with this extension, the City seeks to construct components of a regional drainage system in accordance with a 2018 Comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan (CSMP) covering the area. Implementing this regional system consists of regional wetland floodplain storage, an open conveyance ditch, and regional pond with an outlet under I-35E. This will serve to provide a surface flow outlet for land in the region for the first time since the construction of the interstate. The regional system roughly follows the alignment of Branch 8.

The most upstream component of this regional system is Wetland 3, which flows under the proposed roadway via culverts and into an open ditch. The ditch is proposed with a 4' wide bottom and 3:1 slopes on the sides. This ditch is proposed functionally flat at 906.6 due to elevation constraints up and downstream. The ditch outlets into Wetland 4 which provides additional floodplain storage before flowing west into the regional pond via a stabilized overflow at

906.6. The regional pond is the final step before outletting west under I-35E via a 42" RCP culvert.

As described above, the surface flow-based regional system will provide much greater conveyance capacity than the existing clay tile. Calculations in HydroCAD show a capacity of 14 cfs for the open ditch. The overflow from Wetland 4 has a capacity of up to 75 cfs and the outlet pipe for the regional pond can pass flows up to 72 cfs. This increased conveyance capacity will support current and future land use in the region by providing improved drainage of runoff.

#### **AUTHORITY TRANSFER**

The City of Lino Lakes is undertaking the design, construction, and maintenance of the regional CSMP system in this area. As such, the transfer of authority over ACD 55 Branch 8 from RCWD to the City is a requisite component of constructing and operating this system.

The City is filing this petition for transfer of drainage authority in accordance with Minnesota Statute 103E.812. The narrative and calculations provided above are intended to support the argument for transfer of authority, though review and approval from RCWD as the current authority and feedback from Branch 8 beneficiaries is sought.

This is anticipated to be the start of the transfer process with room for comments and questions on the proposed change. Please contact me at 612-258-8154 or [hmeeker@wsbeng.com](mailto:hmeeker@wsbeng.com) as this effort progresses.

Sincerely,  
Henry Meeker, PE