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## MEMORANDUM

TO: City of Vadnais Heights, Minnesota

FROM: Emily Jennings, PE (Lic. MN)  
Water Resources Engineer

DATE: July 20, 2020

RE: Lambert Lake Improvements Project - ACSIC Comparison  
SEH No. VADLA 153931 14.00

### Background

The Lambert Lake Improvements Project (Project) includes sheet pile removal and replacement and meandering of the existing Lambert Creek alignment (County Ditch 14), from the Lambert Lake Pond outlet to the convergence of the historic creek and the current creek path.

The existing vinyl sheet pile located on the north side of the Lambert Lake Pond is vital for regional flood control for the County Ditch 14 system and is beginning to heave upwards and outwards. A properly functioning Pond in this location is also important for storing sediment (where it can be more easily removed) and reduces sediment transport into City infrastructure downstream. VLAWMO consulted with an excavation company in 2018 on the condition of the sheet pile and at that time, it was recommended that the sheet pile be replaced by 2021 to avoid substantial failure. VLAWMO is proposing to replace the existing vinyl sheet pile with steel sheet pile, installed at an appropriate depth to avoid any future heave.

The proposed meander of Lambert Creek is designed to tie in to the existing channel downstream of the Pond and approximately 580 feet upstream of Branch Ditch 4, at the convergence of the historic creek and the current creek path. The proposed meander length is 2,020 feet and is designed to tie into the profile of the existing ditch. Due to an increase in length, the proposed profile is slightly flatter however the existing channel volume is conserved through the increase in length. The meander is designed to connect with the Lambert Lake floodplain, improving water quality and increasing usage of the surrounding wetland area.

In 2018, VLAWMO consulted with Houston Engineering, Inc to analyze the existing condition of the Ditch as compared to its As-Constructed and Subsequently Improved Condition (ACSIC). The definition of the ACSIC is intended to establish the condition to which the system can legally be repaired consistent with the definition in MS 103E.701. The information for this analysis is summarized within the 2018 VLAWMO County Ditch 14 Repair Report.

### Proposed Meander Geometrics

The meander cross sectional area was designed per the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MnDNR) stream criteria for the project area and in respect to the existing hydraulics. As identified in the 2018 VLAWMO County Ditch 14 Repair Report, the existing profile for Lambert Creek within the project area is currently below the ACSIC profile. The proposed meander will generally match the existing profile by tying into the existing elevations of the current up and downstream profile, and will therefore be located entirely at or below the ACSIC elevation. Pursuant to MS 103E definition, excavation below the ACSIC elevation is considered a ditch "improvement" and would require a separate petition process which would be unlikely to be successful. Furthermore, the downstream culvert crossing at Edgerton Road, located approximately 3,260 feet downstream from the meander

project limits, has an upstream invert of 890.06, or 0.37 feet below the downstream invert of the meander, therefore additional depth would result in the loss of positive grade for drainage and a permanent pool within the Lambert Lake Area.

A drainage input channel is included to maintain the connection of Branch Ditch 3 to Lambert Creek. Similarly to the main channel, the drainage input channel will tie into the existing elevations and therefore be located entirely at or below the ACSIC elevation.

Attachment 1 includes plan sheets 1 and 2 from Appendix A of the 2018 VLAWMO County Ditch 14 Repair Report to support the Project Engineer's aforementioned conclusion. Attachment 2 from the Lambert Lake Improvements Project Plans show the proposed meander alignment and includes notes related to the Project's goals to generally match the existing Ditch profile by tying into the existing elevations of the current up and downstream profile.

### **Proposed 2021 Maintenance Project**

As suggested within the 2018 VLAWMO County Ditch 14 Repair Report, VLAWMO Board has also approved as part of the 2021 VLAWMO budget a partnership project with the City of Vadnais Heights to maintain the portion of Lambert Creek (County Ditch 14) directly downstream of the Lambert Lake Improvements Project area. This Project was funded at 50% of the estimated construction cost within the 2021 approved VLAWMO Budget. This repair would maintain approximately 4,300 feet of Ditch 14 and include excavation along the open channel from station 31+00 to 74+00. This proposed project will be pending agency permit approvals and securing necessary remaining funds.

Attachment 1 shows the proposed location of the 2021 Maintenance Project.

### **Summary and Conclusions**

The Lambert Lake Improvements project will maintain the existing ditch conveyance. A proposed downstream maintenance project will further benefit the capacity of the Lambert Creek system.

The Lambert Lake Improvements Project's proposed meander design will generally match the existing Ditch profile by tying into the existing elevations of the current up and downstream profile and will therefore be located entirely **at or below the ACSIC elevation as identified in the 2018 repair report**.

EKJ

c: Phil Belfiori, VLAWMO Administrator  
Dawn Tanner, VLAWMO Program Development Coordinator

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### **Attachments**

Attachment 1 - Excerpts from Appendix A of the 2018 VLAWMO County Ditch 14 Repair Report

Attachment 2 – Excerpts from the Lambert Lake Improvements Draft Plan





