

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** MCWD Planning and Policy Committee

**From:** Tiffany Schaufler

**CC:** James Wisker

**Date:** October 12, 2015

**Re:** October 15, 2015 Planning and Policy Committee Meeting: South Katrina Marsh Easements

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### **Purpose:**

At the October 15, 2015 Planning and Policy Committee (PPC) meeting, staff will be seeking a Committee recommendation on a partnership where the District would be granted easements over South Katrina Marsh, in exchange, for designing and constructing two culverts replacements along Painter Creek.

### **Background:**

In the spring of 2014, the District was contacted by the Huntington Farm Homeowners Association (HFHOA) about flooding on Hunt Farm Road due to high water in South Katrina Marsh. At the same time, the District was contacted by the City of Medina about flooding on Starkey Road. The HFHOA requested that the District investigate what was causing the flooding. Last fall, after the flood waters receded, the District performed an investigation along Painter Creek and found two private driveway culverts undersized and therefore holding back water on South Katrina Marsh. The District determined that it did not own or have responsibility for these culverts, but considered how it could play a useful role in bringing together the affected homeowners and assist in identifying a solution to reduce the flood risk issue for the future.

Following the identification of this issue, at the March 19, 2015 PPC meeting staff facilitated a discussion regarding the potential to work with the homeowners to replace the culverts creating the hydraulic constriction, at public cost, if in exchange the homeowners would grant easements to the District over portions of South Katrina Marsh. As previously discussed, obtaining easements over South Katrina Marsh would provide the District the legal right to manage hydrology and vegetation in the marsh, which could represent the District's "local sponsor" match to a potential Section 206 funded capital improvement completed in partnership with the

United States Army Corps of Engineers. At this meeting the PPC expressed support for this concept being advanced.

Subsequently staff continued to coordinate with the landowners to advance the potential partnership. Progress was discussed at the September 17, 2015 PPC meeting, where staff informed the Committee that District-homeowner discussions were advancing and that staff would next work on securing letters of intent from the landowners in the area. Following discussion the Committee expressed continued support for the direction being pursued.

Since that meeting, staff has acquired letters of intent from nine landowners. Through these nine letters of intent, the District is positioned to acquire approximately 90 acres of land over South Katrina Marsh and approximately 2000 feet of Painter Creek. Consistent with past PPC discussions, in exchange the District is proposed to design and construct two culvert replacements.

**Next Steps:**

At the October 15, 2015 PPC meeting staff will provide a detailed overview of the proposed partnership framework, including acreage of potential easements, potential costs to the District, relationship to Section 206 funding, and possible next steps.

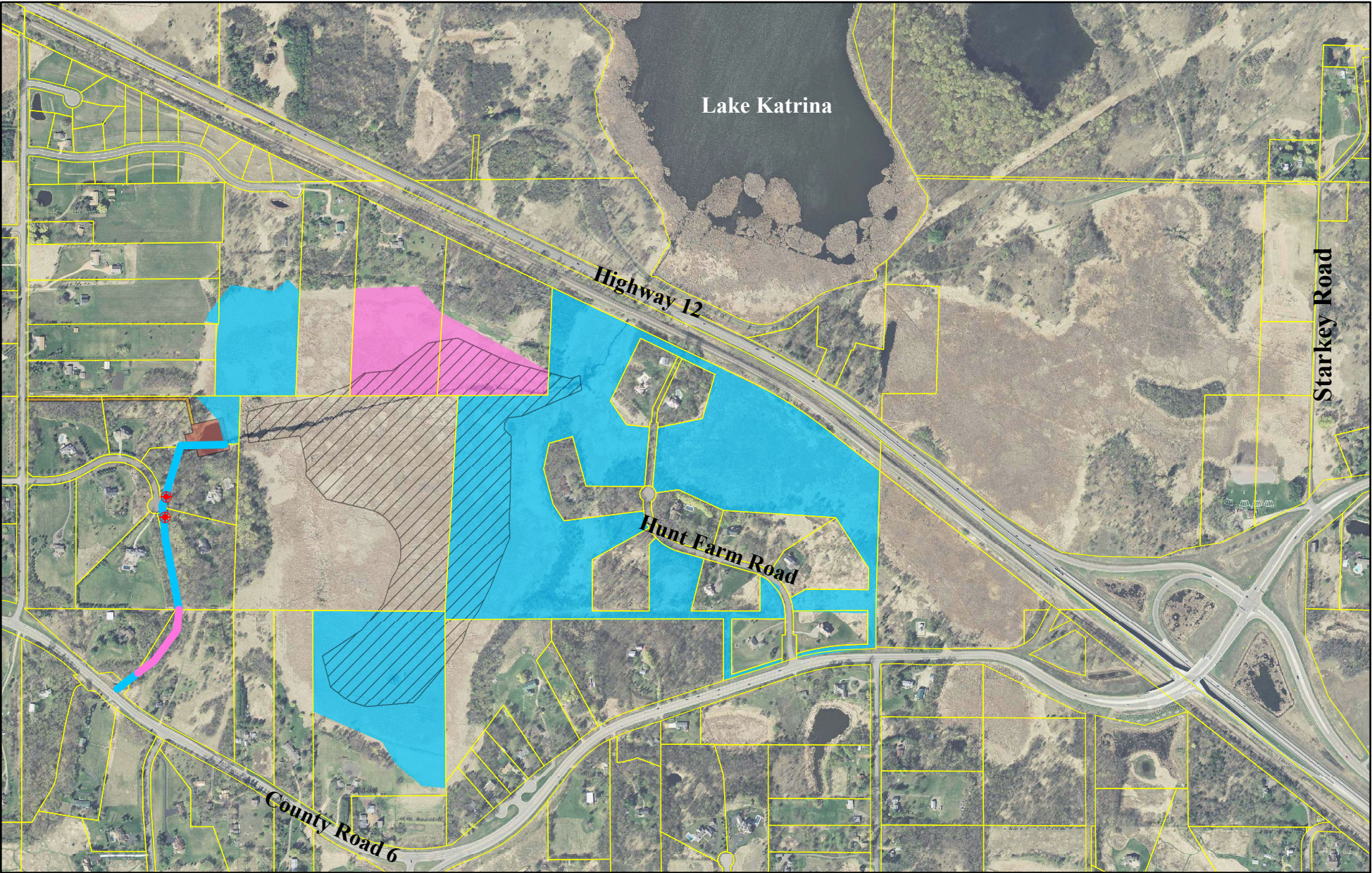
If there are questions in advance of the meeting, please contact Tiffany Schaufler at 952-641-4513 or [tschaufler@minnehahacreek.org](mailto:tschaufler@minnehahacreek.org).

**Attachment:**

South Katrina Marsh Map




# South Katrina Marsh



**Legend**

 USACE Construction Limit

 Undersized Culvert

**Letter of Intent**

 Yes

 Undecided

**Easement Type**

 Ingress/Egress

 Maintenance

