

MN Dept. of Natural Resources Scientific & Natural Areas Program 500 Lafayette Road St Paul, MN 55155

November 7, 2023

Mr. Mark Wm. Johnson Executive Director Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council 100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. State Office Building, Room 55 St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Mr. Johnson,

The DNR Scientific and Natural Area (SNA) Unit was approached by Martin County regarding a desired culvert replacement beneath a county road adjacent/within the Westford 18-1 Native Prairie Bank easement. The desired activities include increasing the size of the culvert and increasing the extent of the road right-of-way easement by 0.5 acres at the culvert location to allow for future maintenance work (see highlighted area on attached plan). The DNR SNA Unit supports this culvert replacement project as the area to be impacted is not quality habitat and resizing the culvert decreases the possibility of flood damage to the quality native prairie if the existing culvert were to become obstructed or fail. The DNR respectfully requests an Approval of Conveyance from the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council to allow the landowner permission to grant an additional 0.5-acre road right-of-way easement to Martin County.

Sincerely,

Judy Schulte Scientific & Natural Areas Unit Supervisor

CC:

Equal Opportunity Employer

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