Aurora Board Meeting 1/5/26 – Mid-East Commission Updates

Informational updates (no action needed)

- **NC Division of Water Infrastructure (DWI) Force Main Replacement and 3rd St. Lift Station Rehab – RK&K contract for preparation of engineering/environmental report**
    - This project was awarded by DWI with 75% grant / 25% zero interest loan. $1,996,729 total project budget.
    - Board approved RK&K contract to complete engineering/environmental report on Dec. 1st.
    - Engineering/environmental report due to DWI on Jan. 15th.
    - Once DWI approves this and issues a funding contract, we will advertise a RFQ for full engineering/surveying/permitting/construction management services.
    - A contract for Mid-East Commission to provide grant administration services will be provided at the same meeting as the engineering firm's contract. (Administration is also covered by project funding.)
- **Resilient Coastal Communities Program (RCCP) Phase 4 Wastewater Treatment Plant project (wetland restoration, berm improvement, sludge removal)**
    - This project was awarded by RCCP with 100% grant. $1,071,250 total project budget.
    - The plan is for the contractor to dig out the first wetland cell now to prepare for spring planting. Rain water that gathers in the cell will occasionally be pumped out so it does not get stagnant. RK&K (engineering firm) has approved this plan. The plant can run off one wetland cell.
    - Once that is completed, the contractor will be working on removing sludge from the holding ponds over the winter.
    - Then in early spring, the first wetland cell will be planted and put back in service, the second wetland cell will be dewatered/excavated and planted, and the berm improvement will be the last item. The schedule will be tight at this point but we are hopeful to still make the May 31st deadline without needing an extension. If needed, the grant agency should have no issue granting a short extension.
    - There was an issue with a valve causing the first wetland cell to not be fully dewatered. The contractor agreed to replace a valve/pipe although this has not been completed yet. The contractor stated that he was able to plug the water off, but the cell still appears wet. Contractor agreed to send cost for engineering firm approval and get the repair done as soon as possible.

- Upon Mid-East Commission's site visit on Dec. 19th, the contractor had the silt fence for erosion control set up. Fabric and rocks in fence gaps, and fabric on ground at entrance road still needed to be set up. On Dec. 22nd, contractor stated that he was on site working on finishing erosion control set up, and that he would begin hauling off material from the first wetland cell same day. The material had previously been left out on the banks to dry out.
- Contractor has been informed that the town is not happy with the slow progress on this project. He has stated that he will be making significant progress in the coming weeks and that the town will be happy with the results. Mid-East Commission is continuing to stay on top of the contractor to push for progress. We have also requested email updates at a minimum of once per week.
- *Attachment – email updates from contractor.*

- **NC Land and Water Fund Baileys Creek Nature Based Tributary Improvements**
  - This project was awarded by NC LWF with 100% grant. Total project budget $704,809.
  - All property owners have signed off on their intent to grant conservation easement except for the 2 Purdue properties. They are at the end of the line so there will be no disruption in the project. We are going to proceed without including those parcels. RK&K stated this will still be an effective project. The majority of the project is on Nutrien land anyway, and the private owner extension of the stream bank improvement was optional.
  - RK&K is proceeding with design. They have been out for some initial fieldwork. A surveyor should be out in early January. Documents will be provided to the board for feedback as design progresses.
  - *Attachment - concept map for reference.*
- **Fall round DWI applications**
  - CDBG-I: Water lines/fixtures and sewer manholes in residential area of NE section of town
  - Water: 2 wells rehab, water lines/fixtures in downtown commercial area
  - Sewer: Sewer lines/fixtures in NE section of town (residential and downtown commercial area)
  - Expect 100% grant offer since viable utilities reserve is funded. Decision expected in Feb. 2026.
  - Town is eligible for $15 million in VUR funds lifetime and $3 million in CDBG-I funds (LMI neighborhoods only) every 3 years.

RCCP Phase 4 Wastewater Treatment Plant project (wetland restoration, berm improvement, sludge removal) – contractor’s email reports

Outlook

Contractor 12/19/25 email update

Re: Aurora WWTP Erosion Control

From Robert Saunders <robert.saunders@gmiplymouth.com>
Date Fri 12/19/2025 7:27 PM
To Doug Keller <dkeller@rkk.com>
Cc Jamie Heath <jheath@mideastcom.org>; Gordon Marsh <gmarsh@rkk.com>; Dale Davis <daleboy34@gmail.com>; townofaurora@auroranc.org <townofaurora@auroranc.org>; Aurora PWD <aurorapwd@auroranc.org>; John Akers <jakers@rkk.com>; Aurora Billing <aurorabilling@auroranc.org>

3 attachments (19 MB)
IMG_7114.jpeg; IMG_7111.jpeg; IMG_7112.jpeg;

As of today;

Silt fence is installed. There was a pause on sludge hauling due to landfill acceptance for it classify as reusable product to the landfill which cuts costs vs being charged tipping fees for taking the sludge, we have gotten that taken care of - Sludge hauling will resume Monday.

On Fri, Dec 19, 2025 at 7:18 PM Robert Saunders <robert.saunders@gmiplymouth.com> wrote:

On Fri, Dec 19, 2025 at 9:38 AM Doug Keller <dkeller@rkk.com> wrote:
Robert,

Thank you for the pricing data. Please see the comments from RK&K attached and below.

Please price this but do not purchase until Item 2 of John Akers' 12/2 email is completed

	Terms	Due on receipt	
Project	Gate Valve Install		
	Qty	Rate	Total
Aurora Wastewater Treatment Plant:Gate Valve Install Sewer Utilities - Labor and Material to Install 8" Gate Valve	2	4,651.67	9,303.34
2. "price does not include replacing existing 8" from Valve to Weir Box			

3. Valve for 4" line?

DOUG KELLER, PE, LEED AP
Project Delivery Leader

8601 Six Forks Road
Forum 1, Suite 700
Raleigh, NC 27615

919.878.9560 P | 919.946.4575 C
www.rkk.com

Responsive People | Creative Solutions

From: Robert Saunders <robert.saunders@gmiplymouth.com>

Sent: Wednesday, December 17, 2025 9:12 PM
To: Jamie Heath <jheath@mideastcom.org>
Cc: Doug Keller <dkeller@rkk.com>; Gordon Marsh <gmarsh@rkk.com>; Dale Davis <daleboy34@gmail.com>; townofaurora@auroranc.org <townofaurora@auroranc.org>; Aurora PWD <aurorapwd@auroranc.org>; John Akers <jakers@rkk.com>; Aurora Billing <aurorabilling@auroranc.org>
Subject: Re: Aurora WWTP Erosion Control

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the 'Sender' and know the content is safe.

On Wed, Dec 17, 2025 at 5:57 PM Jamie Heath <jheath@mideastcom.org> wrote:

> Thanks Doug. I spoke with Robert earlier today. He said that he would have the repair (valve, etc.) quote sent over to us today and that the erosion control would be set up by tomorrow.
>
> Jamie Heath
> Planner
> Mid-East Commission
> (252)296-1656
>
> ---
>
> **From:** Doug Keller <dkeller@rkk.com>
> **Sent:** Wednesday, December 17, 2025 7:30 AM
> **To:** Robert Saunders <robert.saunders@gmiplymouth.com>
> **Cc:** Gordon Marsh <gmarsh@rkk.com>; Jamie Heath <jheath@mideastcom.org>; Dale Davis <daleboy34@gmail.com>; townofaurora@auroranc.org <townofaurora@auroranc.org>; Aurora PWD <aurorapwd@auroranc.org>; John Akers <jakers@rkk.com>
> **Subject:** Aurora WWTP Erosion Control
>
> Robert,
>
> I understand that land cover is being disturbed on site and material stock piiling has begun. Please install the erosion and sediment control devices per plan ASAP. In order to help with the

dewatering efforts, please expidite the pricing of the necessary valves and other needed components. Please reach out with any questions.

Thank you,

Doug

DOUG KELLER, PE, LEED AP
Project Delivery Leader

8601 Six Forks Road
Forum 1, Suite 700
Raleigh, NC 27615

919.878.9560 P | 919.946.4575 C
www.rkk.com

Responsive People | Creative Solutions

HYUNDAI
Herc
BARRE

Outlook

Contractor email update 12/10/25

Re: Fw: Aurora WWTP Wetlands Dewatering and Valve Replacement

From Jamie Heath <jheath@mideastcom.org>
Date Wed 12/10/2025 11:54 AM
To Robert Saunders <robert.saunders@gmiplymouth.com>
Cc townofaurora@auroranc.org <townofaurora@auroranc.org>; Stallings, Rhonda <aurorabilling@auroranc.org>; Aurora PWD <aurorapwd@auroranc.org>; Dale Davis <daleboy34@gmail.com>; Doug Keller <dkeller@rkk.com>; John Akers <jakers@rkk.com>; Gordon Marsh <gmarsh@rkk.com>

Thank you for this report Robert. I've copied RK&K. Questions:

- Are you still intending to invoice for part of your mobilization costs this week? The town has been delaying a reimbursement request to the grant agency since we thought this was coming, so please let us know.
- Erosion control needs to be set up on the banks before hauling occurs, correct? RK&K can you weigh in on this?

Jamie Heath
Planner
Mid-East Commission
(252)296-1656

From: Robert Saunders <robert.saunders@gmiplymouth.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 10, 2025 12:33 AM
To: Jamie Heath <jheath@mideastcom.org>
Cc: townofaurora@auroranc.org <townofaurora@auroranc.org>; Stallings, Rhonda <aurorabilling@auroranc.org>; Aurora PWD <aurorapwd@auroranc.org>; Dale Davis <daleboy34@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Fw: Aurora WWTP Wetlands Dewatering and Valve Replacement

Hello,

As of Dec 5th

Plugged the 8 inch line to the wetland cell 2

We were able to get the gate valve operational on wetland cell 1 to divert/control the flow of water

The attached photo is the sludge that has been dewatered from this cell

I will send an estimate for replacing the two valves that were previously discussed

Once the sludge has set up enough to be transported we will start hauling. We are projecting to start hauling within the week weather depending.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Best Regards,

Robert Saunders

On Wed, Dec 3, 2025 at 6:49 PM Jamie Heath <jheath@mideastcom.org> wrote:

Robert,

Thank you for the meeting on Monday. Please see the attached instructions from RK&K and reach out if you have any questions. And please continue providing weekly email updates. Thank you.

Jamie Heath
Planner
Mid-East Commission
(252)296-1656

From: John Akers <jakers@rkk.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 3, 2025 10:48 AM
To: Jamie Heath <jheath@mideastcom.org>
Cc: Gordon Marsh <gmarsh@rkk.com>; Doug Keller <dkeller@rkk.com>
Subject: Aurora WWTP Wetlands Dewatering and Valve Replacement

Jamie: Attached are my notes and recommendations for the project. Please pass this on to the contractor and the Town.

Thanks, John

John F. Akers. PE. Assoc. DBIA
Practice Development Leader

RK&K

8601 Six Forks Rd., Forum 1
Raleigh, NC 27615

919 653.7392 D
www.rkk.com

Responsive People | Creative Solutions

"RK&K" and "RK&K Engineers" are registered trade names of Rummel, Klepper & Kahl, LLP, a Maryland limited liability partnership. This message contains confidential information intended only for the person or persons named above. If you have received this message in error, please immediately notify the sender by return email and delete the message. Thank you.
Rummel, Klepper & Kahl, LLP ensures nondiscrimination in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. RK&K does not discriminate on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in the selection and retention of subcontractors. We also note that RK&K will ensure minorities will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals and not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.
Rummel, Klepper & Kahl, LLP is an equal opportunity employer that values diversity at all levels. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact our Human Resources office at (410) 728-2900 for further

NC Land and Water Fund Baileys Creek Nature Based Tributary Improvements – Concept Map

Bailey's Creek Site Review

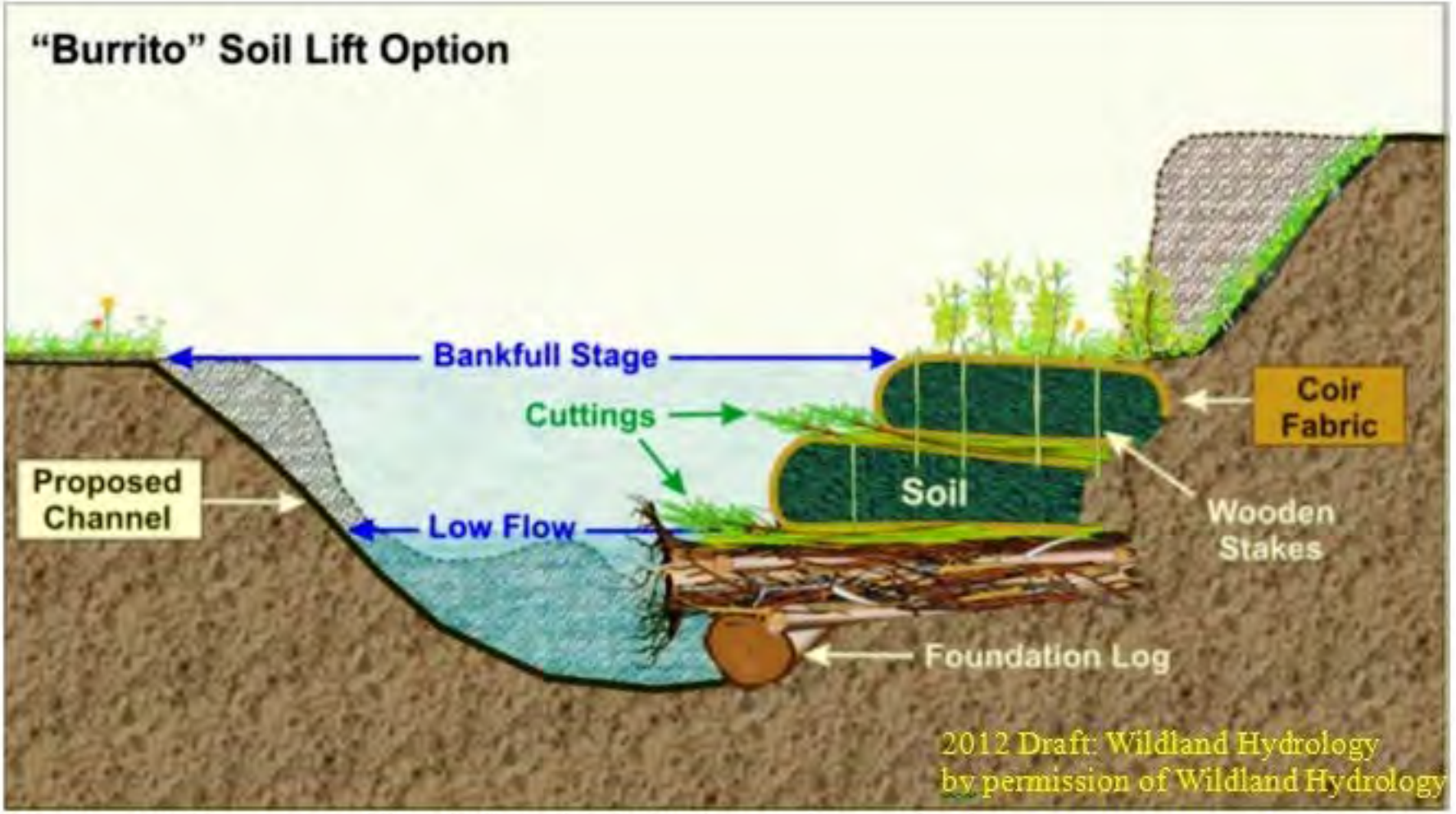

Figure 15: Toe wood "Burrito" Soil Lift Options