



City Newsletter September 26, 2025

WWTP Final Clarifier Project Update:

The 2025 construction season has been a blur and the June 21st wind storm has certainly grabbed a lot of the headlines the past few months... and rightfully so! While there was some storm clean-up related to the City of Bemidji Wastewater Treatment Plant Campus, Rice Lake Construction, SEH (consultant), and our own WWTP staff stayed hard at work keeping the final clarifier project on schedule and we are within a few weeks of completing the remaining punchlist items in advance of the October 15th, 2025 final completion deadline as the newest final clarifier has been online for the past couple months.

The original project budget was at roughly \$12.8 million and we are currently projected to be under budget by nearly \$300,000. City staff have successfully been reimbursed for all of the \$4.4 million in EPA federal grant dollars provided for the project and have already submitted grant closeout paperwork to satisfy the remaining conditions of the grant funding.

It's another large project down and now we move on to the next one!

Now Accepting Applications for Boards and Commissions

Parks and Recreation Commission—Join the 7 member advisory board to the City Council on matters relating to Parks and Recreation.

Community and Police Advisory Board—Join the 9 member board to help enhance the lines of communication between the community, police department and the Council.

Planning Commission—Join the 7 member commission to help carry out the city's development code and participate in the city's comprehensive planning and zoning regulations.

Public Arts Commission—Join the 7 member advisory board to the City Council to promote public appreciation, accessibility and patronage of public art in the community.

For more information see the city's website: www.ci.bemidji.mn.us





Building a Better World
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Sam Anderson, PE - City of Bemidji

FROM: Jessica Hedin, PE (Lic. MN)

DATE: August 12th, 2025

RE: Secondary Clarifier Expansion Project - Monthly Field Report for July 2025
SEH No. BEMID 177064 14.00

SEH Inc is pleased to provide the monthly construction summary for the following construction activities:

Facility:	Bemidji Wastewater Treatment Facility
Location:	Bemidji, MN
SEH #	BEMID 177064
City Project #	23-03
Date of Contract:	January 24, 2024
Actual Starting Date:	April 15, 2024
Substantial Completion Date:	August 15, 2025 (through CO 005)
Final Completion Date:	October 15, 2025 (through CO 005)

Project Manager:	Jessica Hedin
Resident Project Representative:	Chelsea Hernandez
Client:	City of Bemidji
Contractor:	Rice Lake Construction Group
Sub-Contractors:	Killmer Electric, Rierson, Atlas Foundation, Northern Dewatering Peterson Sheet Metal (PSM), Sowels

Distribution	Marty Katzenmeyer, City of Bemidji, Chelsea Hernandez, SEH Inc., Eric Miller, SEH Inc.
For the Month Ending	07/31/2025

Attached are the July 2025 daily summaries for days on site corresponding to the construction progress for the Secondary Clarifier Expansion Project in Bemidji, Minnesota. These summaries will serve as the monthly field updates provided to the City of Bemidji Council.

Site Activities

Week of July 1st, 2025

- Sowles iron workers install handrails inside new secondary gallery stairwells. Reierson continues to grade construction area. Kilmer continues to run conduit and pull wires.



Figure 1: Tuesday, July 1st exterior view in front of primary gallery and new secondary gallery.



Figure 2: Tuesday, July 1st exterior view in front of new secondary clarifier.

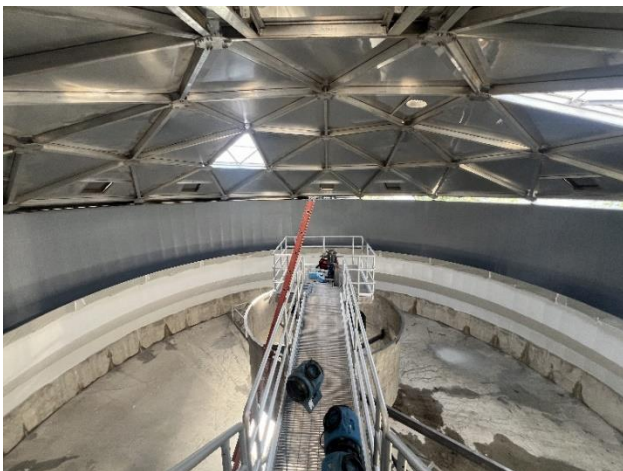


Figure 3: Tuesday, July 1st view inside new secondary gallery.

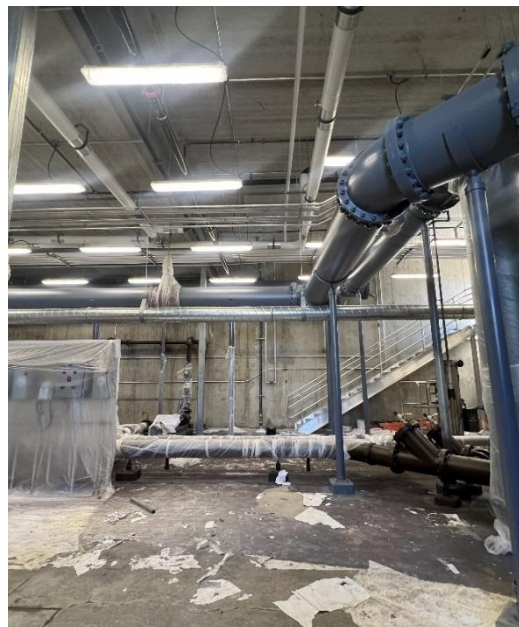


Figure 4: Tuesday, July 1st interior view of new secondary gallery.

Secondary Clarifier Expansion Project - Monthly Field Report for July 2025

August 12th, 2025

Page 3

Week of July 7th, 2025:

- Rice Lake workers continue to work on filling holes, rubbing and patching, caulking, and cleaning the construction site. Reierson continues to grade the site. PSM on site to insulate pipes. The existing polymer blending system is demolished and removed. Kilmer electricians continue to run conduit and pull wires.



Figure 5: Tuesday, July 8th interior of new secondary gallery, process pipes coated.



Figure 6: Thursday, July 10th view inside new secondary clarifier.



Figure 7: Thursday, July 10th view of south access driveway.



Figure 8: Friday, July 11th view inside new secondary gallery..

Week of July 14th, 2025

- Rice Lake workers continue to work on filling holes, rubbing and patching, caulking, and cleaning the construction site. Rice Lake workers form and pour sidewalks and stoops. Reierson continues to grade the site. United painters prepare and paint new secondary clarifier gallery. Kilmer electricians continue to run conduit and pull wires.



Figure 9: Thursday, July 17th formed up sidewalks before pour.



Figure 10: Thursday, July 17th fresh paint inside new secondary gallery.



Figure 11: Thursday, July 17th, poured sidewalks on the west side of the construction area.



Figure 12: Thursday, July 17th poured sidewalks on the west side of new secondary gallery.

Week of July 21st, 2025:

- Rice Lake workers continue to work on filling holes, rubbing and patching, caulking, and cleaning the construction site. Rice Lake also works to inject any leaks inside new secondary gallery. Reierson continues to grade the site. Kilmer electricians continue to run conduit and pull wires.



Figure 13: Thursday, July 24th view of interior doorway to new secondary gallery.



Figure 14: Thursday, July 24th new paint inside new secondary gallery.



Figure 15: Thursday, July 24th cleaned up site of new secondary gallery.



Figure 16: Thursday, July 24th new RPZ in existing secondary gallery.



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Distribution	Marty Katzenmeyer, City of Bemidji, Chelsea Hernandez, SEH Inc., Eric Miller, SEH Inc.
For the Month Ending	08/31/2025

Attached are the August 2025 weekly summaries for days on site corresponding to the construction progress for the Secondary Clarifier Expansion Project in Bemidji, Minnesota. These summaries will serve as the monthly field updates provided to the City of Bemidji Council.

Site Activities

Week of August 4th, 2025

- Rice Lake workers continue to work on punch list items and overall site cleanup. Reierson workers grade slope and hydroseed north of the new secondary clarifier gallery.



Figure 1: Friday, August 8th, view inside new secondary gallery.



Figure 2: Friday, August 8th, exterior view in front of new secondary clarifier.



Figure 3: Friday, August 8th, exterior view of south entrance road.



Figure 4: Friday, August 8th freshly seeded area.

Week of August 11th, 2025:

- Rice Lake workers are completing punch list tasks and cleaning up the site. The water line has been installed in the new secondary clarifier. Reierson performed proof rolling of south access road backfill, followed by asphalt paving.



Figure 5: Monday, August 11th, freshly seeded area growing.

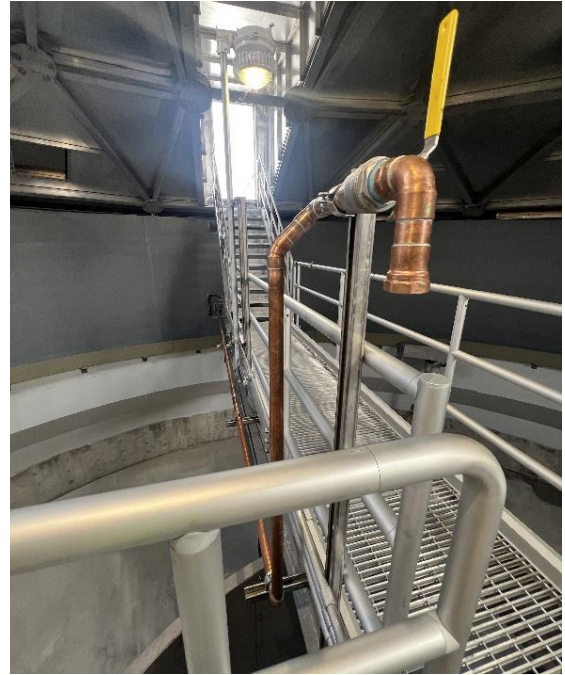


Figure 6: Monday, August 11th, new water line added inside new secondary clarifier..



Figure 7: Thursday, August 14th, freshly proof rolled south entrance road.



Figure 8: Friday, August 15th, freshly paved asphalt on south access road.

Week of August 25th, 2025

- Rice Lake workers are actively addressing punch list tasks and conducting comprehensive site cleanup. Kilmer electricians and PSM workers are also on site focusing on completion of punch list responsibilities.



Figure 9: Thursday, August 28th, roof view of newly seeded area growing.

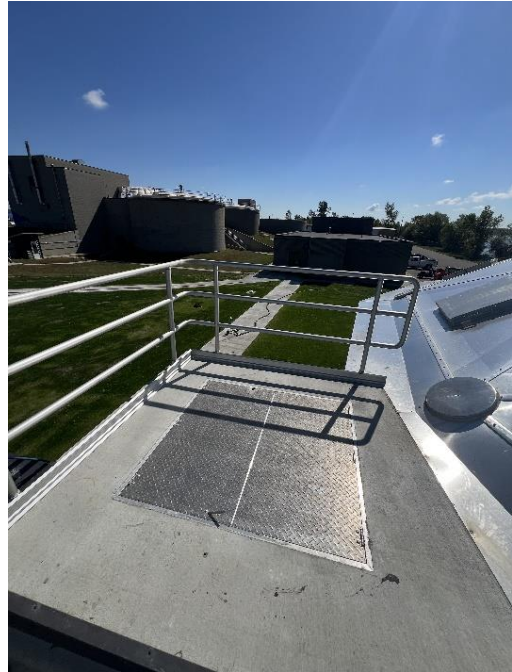


Figure 10: Thursday, August 28th, roof view of newly seeded area growing.



Figure 11: Thursday, August 28th, raised polymer feed tank.



Figure 12: Thursday, August 28th, view of south access road.



Planning & Zoning Department

Site Analyst & Enforcement Activities for July 2025

Development Projects City Commercial

- **7 Brew Bemidji (Paul Bunyan Dr NW)** – Pylon sign installed; landscape survivability along with Utility As-Builts and final wrap up remain.
- **AT&T Tower (Bardwell Dr NW)** Site plan review completed. Construction has begun.
- **Battery Warehouse Inc. (Gillette Dr)** Site plan review complete, development agreement signed. Construction has begun.
- **Beltrami County Adult Corrections Center (Pioneer St SE)** The development agreement has been completed and signed. Under construction.
- **Beltrami County Solid Waste (Fern St NW)** Site plan review complete, land use permit has been approved and construction is underway.
- **Bemidji Storage (Carr Lake Rd)** Reopened; DA is signed, waiting on developer to start.
- **Border States (Cooperative Ct)** Site plan review completed; construction is underway.
- **Dairy Queen (Paul Bunyan Dr NW)** Project has been approved, waiting for developer to finalize plans/timelines. Fence issues will be corrected in the next week.
- **Gracewin Cooperative** – Developer has requested a 12-month extension to meet the substantial start requirements. Developer has the needed reservations and will be seeing if there is enough share purchase (21 needed) to move forward with construction this fall.
- **Green Legacy Investments (Anne St)** Waiting for completion of lot division. Review completed, paving of all phases complete.
- **Hanson Contracting Shop (Irvine Ave NW)** Paving complete, needs striping. Stormwater retention is in/seeded. Trees planted, two need to be replaced. Final greenspace seeding remains along with utility As-Builts.
- **Circle K Station (Highway 2 & Moberg)** Open for business. Will conduct final review in coming weeks, but landscape survivability will be Fall 2025.
- **Les Schwab Tire Centers (Paul Bunyan Dr)** Site plan under review.
- **MotorWorks Auto Repair (Washington Ave)** Parking lot renovation, site plan review approved.
- **North Central Door (Carr Lake Rd)** Construction and paving completed. Three trees need to be replaced, doors need to be replaced on trash enclosure, lighting needs to be replaced, and semi-trailers need to be moved off pervious/grass surface.
- **Northwoods Shelter (30th St)** Construction appears complete.
- **People's Church (America Ave NW)** – Construction is underway.
- **Pizza Ranch (Paul Bunyan Dr)** Landscape survivability Summer/Fall 2025.
- **Rohde Feed & Garden (Washington Ave S)** Undergoing site plan review.
- **Sanford / Pine Pals Daycare (Greenleaf Ave)** – Landscape survivability Summer/Fall 2025.
- **Skips (Paul Bunyan Dr)** Needs grass re-seeded and trees planted by July 18, 2025.
- **Starbucks South (Shevlin Ave)** Is open for business. Planning staff will complete the landscape survivability review this summer. Needs As-Builts completed.
- **T-Hangar (Moberg Dr NW)** Site plan review completed 4/8/2024. Dirt work was completed prior to the end of the construction season 2024.
- **The Boardwalk (South Shore)** Project is complete except for a trash and wood ash disposal enclosure. Concrete was installed in June; enclosure was not in place as of 8/6/2025.



Planning & Zoning Department

Site Analyst & Enforcement Activities for July 2025

- **UPS MDC Expansion (Industrial Park Dr SE)**
Construction completed, waiting on landscape survivability Fall 2025.
- **Westridge Redevelopment (Paul Bunyan Dr) CUP**
issued, plan review completed, construction underway.



Beltrami County Adult Corrections Center construction site, July 24, 2025



Site Analyst & Enforcement Activities for July 2025

Development Projects City Residential

- **Amundson (Sherman Dr)** Site plan review approved 5/30/2025.
- **BI-CAP (Gould Ave NE)** Site plan review done 10/19/2022. Building permit issued. Building in progress.
- **BI-CAP (Scott Ave)** Site plan approved 5/28/2025, construction underway.
- **Bader-Dickson (Birchmont Dr)** Site plan review completed 6/9/2025, construction is underway.
- **Carlson (Fern St NW)** Site plan review underway. SSTS compliance inspection results received, and plan approved.
- **Fletcher (Birchmont Dr NE)** Site plan review completed for new house construction 10/9/2024. Construction underway.
- **Habitat for Humanity (26th St NW)** Site plan approved 5/30/2025. Construction underway.
- **Habitat for Humanity (19th St NW)** Site plan approved 5/29/2025. Construction underway.
- **Hill Crest Manor (Irving Ave NW) Garage/Shop** – Site Plan Review complete 6/4/2024. Slab is in place, construction not started.
- **Jasko (S Lake Irving Dr SW)** Site Plan Review complete. Construction of foundation slab complete. No above ground construction has been completed.
- **Kimble (Scott Ave SE)** Site plan review done 6/21/2022. Building Permit issued. Construction is ongoing.
- **Kopang (Moonlight Ln)** Site plan approved 6/4/2025. Construction is underway.
- **Moen (Shortcut Ln SW)** Site plan review approved 5/8/2024. Waiting for landscape survivability Fall 2025.
- **Mountain View Meadows 6 Plex #2 (Moonlight Lane SW)** Site plan review complete 4/30/2025, construction started mid-May. Project was impacted by the June 21 storm.
- **Puddle Duck Properties (Beartooth Ave SW)** Site plan reviews complete 9/19/2023.
- **Puddle Duck Properties (Shedhorn St SW)** Site plan review complete, issued 9/28/2023.
- **Puddle Duck Properties (Moonlight Ln SW)** Site plan review complete, payment pending.
- **Puddle Duck Properties, Block 2, Lot 2 (Shedhorn St SW)** Site plan review complete, payment pending.
- **Puddle Duck Properties, Block 2, Lot 8 (Beartooth Ave SW)** Site plan review requested, payment pending.
- **Puddle Duck Properties, Block 3, Lot 1 (Beartooth Ave SW)** Site plan review requested, payment pending.
- **Puddle Duck Properties (Shaw), Block 3, Lot 8 (Beartooth Ave SW)** Site plan review requested, payment pending.
- **Ricke (Elliot Rd NE)** Site plan review completed 10/16/2024.
- **Thorson (Thorson Blvd NE)** Need to finalize environmental alteration permit obtained for riprap work not included in original plan.
- **Wiebolt (Elliot Rd NE)** Site plan review completed 10/9/2024. Construction is ongoing.
- **Yarbrough (Shortcut Ln SW)** Site plan review approved 8/7/2024. Construction underway.
- **Yezhikov (Gould Ave NE)** Site plan review done 5/19/2023. Waiting for landscape survivability Summer 2025.



Mountain View Meadows July 24, 2025

Significant Enforcement Issues

- Enforcement actions are returning to normal as the storm debris is being removed.
 - Inquiries regarding fences and fence permits have increased as many residents are looking to replace storm damaged fencing as well as install new fences to make up for privacy lost through tree damage.
 - Replacement of storm damaged fencing does not require a permit so long as there are no changes to location, height, or material of the fence.
 - Legal non-conforming structures, fences, or signs that were more than 50% damaged must be brought into conformity with the code.
- Human Activity Sites: Contact was made with the owner of the old Federal Building following the Police Department discovering attempts to gain access to the building. Staff has been informed that a local contractor has been retained to clean up the site, remove the graffiti, and post No Trespassing signs.



Basement access, old Federal Building.

Site Analyst & Enforcement Activities for July 2025

- There are multiple unattended properties around town that may require enforcement action as far as storm damage clean-up. These are properties that were already vacant or unattended and now have structural and/or tree damage that has not yet been addressed in even the most cursory of manners.



Storm damage on local properties, August 8, 2025.





Site Analyst & Enforcement Activities for July 2025

Summary of Enforcement Actions

Enforcement - Total Open Cases - July 2025			
By Ward	Residential Districts	Non-Residential	Totals
Ward 1	9	3	12
Ward 2	2	16	18
Ward 3	6	2	8
Ward 4	11	24	35
Ward 5	13	5	18
Total	41	49	91

As of 8/7/2025

Totals for July 2025 Enforcement	
Closed 2025 YTD	City
January Residential	4
January Non-Residential	6
February Residential	4
February Non-Residential	3
March Residential	4
March Non-Residential	13
April Residential	5
April Non-Residential	4
May Residential	9
May Non-Residential	11
June Residential	5
June Non-Residential	7
July Residential	3
July Non-Residential	6
August Residential	0
August Non-Residential	0
September Residential	0
September Non-Resident	0
October Residential	0
October Non-Residential	0
November Residential	0
November Non-Residenti	0
December Residential	0
December Non-Residenti	0
Total Closed Cases 2025	84

As of 8/7/2025

Site Analyst & Enforcement Activities for July 2025

Enforcement Totals by Code - July 2025		
Enforcement Items by Code	Open	Closed
Residential R-1 through R-6		
28-81 - Allowed, Permitted, Conditional, and Interim Uses	2	0
28-355 - Non-Conforming Structures in Shoreland	0	0
28-359 - Vegetative Alterations	0	0
28-360 - Topographic Alterations - Shoreland	0	0
28-402 - Exterior Storage & Outdoor Display of Merchandise	27	2
28-403 - Sight Visibility Triangle	0	0
28-404 - Fences	2	0
28-406 - Landscaping Requirements	0	1
28-408 - Lighting	1	0
28-409 - Off-Street Parking, Loading & Surfacing Standards	4	0
28-411 - Temporary Uses or Structures	1	0
28-523 - Land Use, Building & Admin Permits	1	0
28-524 - CUP Violation	2	0
28-421 - Farm Animals	1	0
Total Residential Cases	41	3
Commercial, Industrial, U, UR, OM, LC, LD, & MH		
28-81 - Allowed, Permitted, Conditional, and Interim Uses	2	0
28-244 - Prohibited Signs	3	0
28-245 - Nonconforming Signs	1	0
28-246 - Sign Permit Required	0	0
28-251 - Signs Permitted in LC & LD Districts	1	0
28-253 - Signs Permitted in the (UR) Urban Renaissance	0	0
28-252 - Sign Allowed in B-1 & B-2 Commercial Districts	0	0
28-258 - Dynamic Displays	2	0
28-402 - Exterior Storage & Outdoor Display of Merchandise	14	1
28-403 - Sight Visibility Triangle	0	0
28-405 - Screening	1	0
28-406 - Landscaping Requirements	5	0
28-407 - Tree Preservation	2	0
28-408 - Lighting	0	0
28-409 - Off-Street Parking, Loading & Surfacing Standards	8	1
28-411 - Temporary Uses or Structures	9	4
28-413 - Manufactured Home Park Standards	1	0
28-524 - Conditional Use or Interim Permits	1	0
28-528 - General Nuisance	0	0
Total Non- Residential Cases	50	6
Total Cases	91	9

As of 8/7/2025