

From: [k.jenkinson](#)
To: [PEC; Vivian, Melanie](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Meeting regarding File Z-25141
Date: Saturday, April 4, 2026 12:39:13 PM

I am writing to have my comments included in the official "Added Agenda" for the upcoming April 14 meeting regarding File Z-25141 (Mega Donors vs. Wetlands 845-875 Commissioners Rd. E):

Auburn is looking to have significant portions of the existing tree canopy cleared. Auburn is also asking for "Special Provisions" to reduce the required buffers, placing concrete parking structures and towers right on the edge of the Westminster Ponds wetlands. Environmental studies warn of major risks to native bird populations & amphibian breeding grounds.

Furthermore, the Westminster Ponds are home to active beaver populations. These animals are critical for maintaining the local water table and creating the very wetlands that act as a natural carbon sink. Construction noise, light pollution, and "stormwater outlets" directly threaten their habitat and the dams they rely on.

What effects would this have on the city?

Increased Flood Risk: Wetland protection is essential to building a resilient city that can handle extreme weather events, such as heavy rain and drought. Without wetlands to trap and slowly release rain and snowmelt, cities face higher, more destructive flood peaks. Local wetlands prevent flood damage to private property, infrastructure, and businesses, saving the city money on disaster management.

Reduced Water Quality: Wetlands filter pollutants, providing clean water and reducing the need for expensive water treatment.

Increased Infrastructure Costs: Cities may be forced to spend large amounts on engineered infrastructure to manage water that was previously managed naturally. Wetlands are natural, cost-effective solutions for stormwater management, reducing the strain on municipal pipes and expensive treatment facilities.

Natural, protected green spaces increase surrounding property values and attract residents.

Research suggests the benefits of wetlands (recreation, water filtration, flood control) can be 13 to 35 times greater than the costs of protecting them.

In short, preserving these wetlands is in the best interest of the city itself as well as residents.

Katherine Jenkinson