

**DOWNRIVER UTILITY WASTEWATER AUTHORITY  
OCTOBER 10, 2024 MEETING MINUTES  
CITY OF TAYLOR COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**1. Roll Call and Introductions**

Chairperson McLeod (Allen Park) called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM and asked for roll call to be taken. At the time of roll call, voting representatives were in attendance from 9 communities: Allen Park, Brownstown Township, Dearborn Heights, Lincoln Park, Riverview, Romulus, Southgate, Taylor, and Wyandotte. A quorum (at least 7 members) was present.

**a. DUWA Commissioners**

The DUWA Board Commissioners present at the time of roll call introduced themselves as follows: Roxie Fairchild (Brownstown Township), Mayor Bill Bazzi (Dearborn Heights), Lisa Griggs (Lincoln Park), Mayor Joseph Kuspa (Southgate), Mayor Gail McLeod (Allen Park), Roberto Scappaticci (Romulus), Jeff Dobek (Riverview), Mayor Tim Woolley (Taylor), and Greg Mayhew (Wyandotte).

**b. Other Meeting Attendees**

Board meeting attendees present in the audience at the time of roll call introduced themselves as follows: Gerald Barr (Allen Park), Jim Taylor (Van Buren Township), Jason Couture (DUWA Treasurer), Souheil Sabak (C.E. Raines), Kerry Morgan (Riverview's attorney), David Greco (Taylor and Van Buren Township's attorney), Sally Duffy (HRC), Rumzei Abdallah (Plante Moran), Jim Fausone (Fausone & Grysko; DUWA Legal), Doug Drysdale (DNS Financial Services, DUWA Accountant, Southgate Finance Director & Assistant City Manager), Jason Tapp (Veolia OM), Travis Tuma (Veolia OM), Lambrina Tercala (OHM Advisors, DUWA System Manager), Mackenzie Chamberlain (OHM Advisors, DUWA System Manager).

Chairperson McLeod (Allen Park) held a moment of silence in honor of Board Commissioner Lou Arapakis (River Rouge) who unexpectedly passed away last month.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

Copies of the Agenda were made available prior to the meeting (Attachment 1). Chairperson McLeod (Allen Park) noted that the last two requests on the agenda are informational only and will not require a motion. Motion by Mayor Bill Bazzi (Dearborn Heights) and supported by Mayor Joseph Kuspa (Southgate) to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously by all attending members.

**3. Approval of Minutes**

**a. September 12, 2024 Board Meeting**

Copies of the meeting minutes from the September 12, 2024 Board meeting were included in the pre-meeting Board packet (Attachment 2). Motion by Jeff Dobek (Riverview) and supported by Mayor Tim Woolley (Taylor) to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously by all attending members.

#### **b. September 19, 2024 Special Board Meeting**

Copies of the meeting minutes from the September 19, 2024 Special Board meeting were included in the pre-meeting Board packet (Attachment 3). Motion by Greg Mayhew (Wyandotte) and supported by Roberto Scappaticci (Romulus) to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously by all attending members.

#### **4. Legal Update**

Attorney Jim Fausone, of Fausone & Grysko, provided the Legal Update.

##### **a. General Counsel Monthly Report**

Attorney Fausone stated that a written summary of the monthly legal update was provided in the pre-meeting Board packet (Attachment 4). Attorney Fausone stated that the legal team worked with the System Manager and Selection Committee in support of the process to recommend a new System Manager for DUWA. The legal team also supported litigation matters and participated in the Special Board meeting related to the Biosolids Dryer Project. Attorney Fausone added that the Resolutions to adopt the proposed revisions to the Articles of Incorporation have been provided to each member community for adoption at their local communities' Councils/Boards. Two communities have approved the Resolution to date and some other communities have the Resolution on the agendas for their upcoming meetings.

Jeff Dobek (Riverview) asked to whom the approved Resolutions should be provided. Attorney Fausone responded that the approved Resolutions should be provided to OHM and Fausone & Grysko. Mayor Joseph Kuspa (Southgate) noted that the City of Southgate recently approved the Resolution, and it will soon be provided to OHM and Fausone & Grysko.

#### **5. System Manager Update**

System Manager Lambrina Tercala, of OHM Advisors, provided a verbal summary of activities since the last meeting. A written summary was provided in the pre-meeting Board packet for the System Manager Report (Attachment 5).

##### **a. System Manager Monthly Report**

System Manager Tercala noted the following highlights from the System Manager Report:

- Last month, the Board authorized Detroit Boiler Company to perform the HVAC Improvements Phase 2 work with Hazen & Sawyer as the Engineer of Record on the project. The Board asked for a breakdown of material and labor costs and asked for the construction cost to be compared to Hazen & Sawyer's estimate of probable construction cost. Hazen & Sawyer is working on developing a memo detailing the cost comparison and is also making sure that the proper documentation is in place to meet WIFIA requirements, such as Davis-Bacon Act wage requirements and other cross-cutters, as this is a WIFIA-eligible project.
- Last month, the Board asked OHM to provide a projected budget for OHM's support during the System Manager transition process. OHM's efforts to perform routine system management duties through October 27, 2024, until the new System Manager takes over, is estimated to cost about \$27k. OHM's transition support for the six months thereafter is expected to cost about \$30k with heavier efforts expected to occur earlier in the transition process then taper off in the later months. OHM's support of the Biosolids Dryer Project is expected to cost about \$3k per

month which includes OHM's participation in the twice weekly calls to troubleshoot technical issues and to provide additional support as requested by DUWA's legal team.

- The Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) has indicated that they will be increasing their dosage of orthophosphate into their regional water transmission system in October to increase corrosion control within the lead pipes that remain in the system. Some DUWA communities receive GLWA water, thus the increased phosphorous content in the water system is expected to increase the phosphorous content within the wastewater received at the DWTF. Veolia OM estimates that the proposed increase in orthophosphate dosage could increase chemical and O&M costs by \$400k per year as additional PACl would be needed to remove the phosphorous to meet NPDES permit limits. The increase in orthophosphate is also expected to increase chemical costs at GLWA's Water Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF) for treatment. It is possible that GLWA may increase their rates to help offset the increased chemical costs that are expected. OHM reached out to DUWA's EGLE representative to inform them of the anticipated increase in chemical costs noting that GLWA's increase in orthophosphate is in response to an unfunded mandate to maintain compliance, which will significantly increase chemical and treatment costs. OHM also reached out to the South Huron Valley Utility Authority (SHVUA) and YCUA to see if they would be inclined to express similar concerns.
- DUWA's Accountant will begin to prepare the draft two-year budget, which will be reviewed with the Finance Committee during their meeting in early November.
- Dick Hinshon, DUWA's previous System Manager, was asked to participate in the Selection Committee for the new System Manager. His efforts involved review of proposals and participation in interviews. His efforts and expenses totaled \$1,380.60 based on a \$120 per hour rate and including mileage. Payment for his services is included within this month's invoice register.

**b. UV Disinfection Replacement Project Update**

System Manager Tercala provided an update on the UV Disinfection Replacement Project to the Board (Attachment 6). The project is currently in the submittal review phase as CCC has been preparing submittals for review by Black & Veatch. Maintenance of plant operations (MOPO) is also being evaluated before construction begins. During the design phase, Black & Veatch had indicated that the existing UV system and new UV system could operate simultaneously during construction. CCC then stated that Trojan, the UV system supplier, indicated that the existing and new UV systems should not operate in parallel as it would not allow for optimal operation of the system. Black & Veatch later confirmed with Trojan that the existing and new UV systems can operate simultaneously, but hydraulic elevations and head losses will need to be considered to allow for simultaneous operation. CCC and Black & Veatch are currently developing a MOPO program that will be suitable for Veolia OM to operate the UV system.

**c. Biosolids Dryer Facility Project**

As Jason Nash (Veolia CPM) was not in attendance, System Manager Tercala provided an update on the Biosolids Dryer Facility project to the Board (Attachment 7). The dryers have been relatively consistently online over the past month. The North Dryer has been online more than the South Dryer. The South Dryer was shutdown for a few days to allow the peroxide chemical supplier to install the peroxide dosing system for the condensing towers. The peroxide dosing system has been working very well so far to clean the condensing towers and prevent biogrowth on the media. Both dryers are now currently online operating at about 65% dosing pump speed. The dosing pump speed

has not been increased due to a lack of truck availability considering the time it takes to fill each truck. The dryers have been operating without the use of a crusher, which, when installed, would increase the time it takes to fill each truck. The dryers are expected to be shut down next week to allow for preventative maintenance to be performed on the thermal oil skid.

Attorney Fausone asked about the installation status of the tungsten carbide rotors and urethane stators. System Manager Tercala responded that upgraded rotors and stators have been installed on the cake pumps, but have not yet been installed on the dosing pumps. Travis Tuma, of Veolia, added that the upgraded rotors and stators will be installed on all eight dosing pumps on the South Dryer next week when the dryers are shut down for preventative maintenance on the thermal oil skid. System Manager Tercala added that most of the dosing pumps on the North Dryer are currently meeting their design capacities, but several dosing pumps on the South Dryer are not meeting their design capacities and need replacement of their rotors and stators. Jason Tapp, of Veolia, also noted that tungsten carbide rotors are not commonly used, and the order for these materials was placed in February and the parts just arrived last week. The cost for these upgraded materials of construction is also more than twice the cost of the ductile iron coated rotors. The upgraded rotors and stators will be trialed to evaluate their longevity and performance, and a cost/benefit analysis will be performed to determine whether the continued use of these materials makes financial sense.

## **6. Requests for Authorization and Approval**

System Manager Lambrina Tercala, of OHM Advisors, presented the following requests to the Board.

### **a. Recommendation of New System Manager**

OHM Advisors has served as DUWA's System Manger since 2017 and does not seek renewal of their existing contract due to availability of key personnel. DUWA has executed a transitional contract with OHM to support System Manager services through late October 2024, then provide six months of support for onboarding the new System Manager, and provide up to 3 years of support associated with the Dryer project and its legal challenges.

OHM worked with DUWA's Board Officers to develop a System Manager Selection Committee comprised of Dick Hinshon (DUWA's former System Manager), Dan Marsh (Southgate), Ralph Richard (Taylor), Roberto Scappaticci (Romulus), and Chairperson Gail McLeod (Allen Park). Attorneys Jim Fausone and Brandon Grysko, of Fausone & Grysko, and System Manager Tercala also supported the Selection Committee process, but did not cast votes for the new System Manager. The Request for Proposals for a new System Manager was publicly posted in early August 2024. Two proposals were received and were reviewed and scored by the Selection Committee. The Selection Committee also held interviews with each firm who submitted a proposal.

Based upon the Selection Committee's review and scoring of received proposals, it is recommended to award the contract to Fishbeck with Dan Alford. Mr. Alford would be a subconsultant to Fishbeck, but would serve as the primary System Manager. He was the former superintendent for the Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) and worked as superintendent for DUWA for about eight years, so he is very familiar with the Downriver System. He is also currently the System Manager for the South Huron Valley Utility

Authority (SHVUA) which has a few shared communities with DUWA. Sarah Rutkowski, of Fishbeck, will serve as the secondary System Manager, and she also has extensive experience with collection systems and funding. Additional support from the greater Fishbeck team will also be available to DUWA as needed. Fishbeck's proposed fee includes an hourly fee of \$186.58 for Dan Alford, inclusive of the 15% markup applied to subconsultants. Costs for direct expenses such as mileage and printing will be waived. Hourly billing rates will increase by 5% each year on July 1<sup>st</sup> to align with DUWA's rate year.

During the interview process, the Selection Committee inquired about potential conflicts of interest considering that Fishbeck is also the consulting engineer to several DUWA communities. Fishbeck responded stating that Dan Alford would support and represent DUWA as his primary client. A separate Fishbeck team would then support the local communities as needed. The Selection Committee also inquired whether Dan Alford would have enough time to perform System Management duties for both SHVUA and DUWA. His SHVUA duties currently account for about 20 hours/week of his time, but he expects that to reduce to 10 hours/week in the future. Fishbeck has also committed to augmenting the System Manager efforts of Dan Alford with Sarah Rutkowski and other staff, as needed, to meet the needs of DUWA.

Chairperson McLeod (Allen Park) asked what other direct expenses could include. System Manager Tercala responded that while direct expenses such as mileage, parking, and printing will be waived, expenses such as providing a flow meter would be a reimbursable expense to be paid by DUWA at cost plus a 10% markup. Mayor Joseph Kuspa (Southgate) asked if all of the System Management duties would be performed by Fishbeck employees, with the exception of Dan Alford. System Manager Tercala responded that System Management duties would be performed by either Dan Alford or Fishbeck employees. Mayor Joseph Kuspa (Southgate) asked what would happen if Dan Alford decides to resign or if DUWA wishes to terminate the contract. System Manager Tercala responded that Fausone & Grysko will review the terms and conditions of the contract to determine the contract termination process. Attorney Fausone added that there will be a voidable provision within the contract.

Mayor Tim Woolley (Taylor) asked if 30 hours/week for Dan Alford's time is realistic compared to System Manager Tercala's weekly efforts. System Manager Tercala responded that she thinks that is a reasonable amount of effort. Jeff Dobek (Riverview) asked if Fishbeck's hourly rates are comparable to OHM's rates. System Manager Tercala responded that the hourly rates between Fishbeck and OHM are different, but the amount expended will depend on their time spent on DUWA efforts. OHM budgeted about \$320k per year for System Management duties including support of the Biosolids Dryer Project. It is projected that Fishbeck's annual efforts will total between \$400k and \$450k per year, but this will be further reviewed during the budgeting process. Chairperson McLeod (Allen Park) added that had OHM continued their services, their hourly rates would have continued to increase as well.

Attorney Kerry Morgan (Riverview's attorney) asked what the chain of command looks like between Fishbeck and Dan Alford given that Dan Alford is a subconsultant to Fishbeck, but will act as DUWA's primary System Manager. Attorney Fausone

responded that it is an unusual arrangement that could pose unique challenges, but it is up to Fishbeck and Dan Alford to coordinate the internal arrangements per their subconsultant contract. Maria Sedki, a Vice President for Fishbeck, was also involved in the System Manager interview process and can provide guidance and coordination support as needed. Chairperson McLeod (Allen Park) asked if this arrangement is similar to Dan Alford's arrangement with SHVUA. System Manager Tercala responded that Dan Alford has a direct contract with SHVUA. DUWA's primary point of contact will be Dan Alford, then Fishbeck employees along with Maria Sedki will be the next points of contact.

Roberto Scappaticci (Romulus) asked if Fishbeck's subcontract with Dan Alford is with Mr. Alford as an individual or as an LLC as it relates to insurance coverage. Attorney Fausone responded that DUWA will look to Fishbeck's insurance coverage since DUWA's contract is with Fishbeck. The risk and liability for actions of employees and subcontractors will be held by Fishbeck. Jim Taylor (Van Buren Township) added that he has worked with Maria Sedki and Sarah Rutkowski of Fishbeck who will be great supporters of the system, and confirmed that Dan Alford has a strong commitment to seeing DUWA succeed as he took much pride in the system when it was under Wayne County ownership.

Motion by Mayor Joseph Kuspa (Southgate) and supported by Roberto Scappaticci (Romulus) to authorize the Chair or Vice Chair to execute a Professional Services Contract between DUWA and Fishbeck upon recommendation from the DUWA Attorney that the Contract is commercially reasonable and in compliance with DUWA Policies. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed with 92.5% of the vote (unanimous vote by all attending members).

**b. SEMCOG Designated Management Agency Dues**

DUWA is a partner of SEMCOG's Designated Management Agency (DMA) program, which DUWA has been a part of since before the system transfer. Under this program, SEMCOG collects an annual financial contribution from each partner to support regional water resource management planning activities as well as activities related to member compliance with stormwater, drinking water, and wastewater requirements. It is requested to approve this current year's DMA fee of \$4,022, which is the same amount as was paid last year (Attachment 9).

Motion by Mayor Bill Bazzi (Dearborn Heights) and supported by Greg Mayhew (Wyandotte) to approve payment to SEMCOG for the 2024 Designated Management Agency fee of \$4,022. This fee will be paid from DUWA's *Other Services & Charges – Professional Services* budget line item. The motion passed unanimously by all attending members.

**c. As-Needed Engineering Services by HRC**

DUWA currently maintains contracts with Hazen & Sawyer, HRC, and Wade Trim to provide various as-needed engineering services that may arise. All three of the as-needed engineering contracts expired on September 15, 2024, and one-year contract renewals for Hazen & Sawyer and Wade Trim were approved by the Board last month. Additional information on HRC's costs was requested before approving their one-year

contract renewal. HRC provided a rate schedule for 2024-2025 that provides a range of costs for each billing classification depending on the person performing the work (Attachment 10). These rates will be in effect from September 2024 through September 2025. HRC has previously held their billing rates constant since 2021. The proposed 2024-2025 rates reflect about a 7% increase from the 2021 rates, which is less than the cost of inflation for labor since 2021. HRC has been of good value to the system and will be developing the DWTF's Spill Prevention and Control Plans as part of their next as-needed engineering task.

Motion by Greg Mayhew (Wyandotte) and supported by Mayor Joseph Kuspa (Southgate) to approve the one-year extension of the as-needed engineering services contract with HRC through September 15, 2025 at their 2024-2025 hourly billing rates. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed with 92.5% of the vote (unanimous vote by all attending members).

**d. Veolia Flow Metering Contract Renewal**

DUWA currently maintains a contract with Veolia to perform flow metering services. Under this contract, Veolia is responsible for servicing and maintaining the equipment, and they also utilize ASI as their subcontractor to perform dye testing of the flow meters and to develop quarterly and annual flow monitoring reports.

Veolia's flow metering contract is set to expire on December 31, 2024, and it is proposed to renew the flow metering contract for one year through December 31, 2025. This will provide the new System Manager with the opportunity to review the scope and contract and assess appropriate next steps for DUWA, which may include contract extension or solicitation of competitive bids for flow metering services. The total cost for flow metering services in 2025 will be \$332,324.40, which reflects a 3.52% increase from the 2024 fee based upon CPI inflationary factors (Attachment 11).

Roberto Scappaticci (Romulus) asked whether DUWA or Veolia owns the flow meters. System Manager Tercala responded that DUWA owns the flow meters. Attorney Kerry Morgan (Riverview's attorney) asked if maintenance of the flow meters is included within Veolia's flow metering contract. System Manager Chamberlain confirmed that maintenance of the equipment is included within the flow metering contract.

Motion by Mayor Bill Bazzi (Dearborn Heights) and supported by Roberto Scappaticci (Romulus) to renew Veolia's flow metering contract for one year through December 31, 2025 for a not-to-exceed fee of \$332,324.40. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed with 92.5% of the vote (unanimous vote by all attending members).

**e. HVAC Improvements Phase 2 CACE Services**

The steam heating systems throughout the DWTF are in need of replacement. Phase 1 of the recommended HVAC improvements involved servicing the two existing steam boilers to restore steam heat to all of the facilities served by the boilers, and that work was completed several seasons ago. It is now proposed to advance on Phase 2 of the HVAC improvements, which involves replacing the existing steam boiler system with a natural gas hot water boiler, which will serve the Administration building, the UV building, and the former Solids Handling building at the DWTF.

Hazen & Sawyer previously completed the design of the HVAC Improvements Phase 2 work back in 2022. Last month, the Board authorized Veolia to contract with Detroit Boiler Company to perform the work for a not-to-exceed fee of \$315,500 pending review of the breakdown of project costs and acknowledgment of WIFIA requirements, which will be provided at a later date. Hazen & Sawyer will provide a memo detailing their review of the construction fee compared with their engineer's opinion of probable construction cost. As Hazen & Sawyer developed the design for this project, they also prepared a proposal to provide construction administration and construction engineering (CACE) services for the construction phase of the project for a not-to-exceed fee of \$37,264. Their proposed scope of work will include review of submittals and pay applications, limited onsite inspection, and preparation of final record documents upon project completion (Attachment 12).

Mayor Joseph Kuspa (Southgate) asked what the last phase of the HVAC improvements entails. Jason Tapp, of Veolia, responded that Phase 3 involves eliminating all of the steam heaters at the DWTF. Phase 2 only addresses half of the load currently on the steam heaters as it creates a fence between the hot water system serving the Administration, UV, and Solids Handling buildings and the HVAC system throughout the rest of the DWTF. Phase 3 will be the largest phase as it will complete the HVAC upgrades at the DWTF.

Motion by Mayor Tim Woolley (Taylor) and supported by Jeff Dobek (Riverview) to authorize Hazen & Sawyer to provide construction administration and construction engineering services for the HVAC Improvements Phase 2 work for a not-to-exceed fee of \$37,264. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed with 92.5% of the vote (unanimous vote by all attending members).

**f. Development of Spill Prevention and Control Plans**

A recent internal audit of the DWTF identified the need to develop a Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure Plan for the DWTF as required by the EPA. This Plan is necessary for the diesel storage tank for the generators and the thermal oil skids for the Biosolids Dryer System because they store more than the threshold of 1,320 gallons of oil. It was also identified that a Pollution Incident Prevention Plan (PIPP) and Emergency Action Plan (EAP) must also be prepared as required by EGLE.

OHM reached out to DUWA's three as-needed engineers to solicit their availability to assist with development of these plans, but HRC was the only engineering firm with the expertise and availability to assist. HRC developed a proposal to prepare these three plans for a not-to-exceed fee of \$24,940 (Attachment 13). The Technical Committee reviewed this request and recommended it for approval.

Mayor Tim Woolley (Taylor) asked if the SPCC Plan applies to underground or above ground storage of oil. System Manager Tercala responded that the SPCC Plan will apply to the generators and thermal oil skids, which are above ground at the DWTF, but the SPCC Rule applies to both underground and above ground storage units. Attorney Fausone added that the SPCC Plan should have already been in place from when Wayne County owned the system and installed the generators, but it was never developed.



Motion by Mayor Bill Bazzi (Dearborn Heights) and supported by Greg Mayhew (Wyandotte) to authorize HRC to develop the SPCC, PIPP, and EAP plans for a not-to-exceed fee of \$24,940. This effort will be paid from DUWA's *Engineering Services* budget line item. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed with 92.5% of the vote (unanimous vote by all attending members).

**g. Electrical System Preventative Maintenance Program**

The electrical switchgear at the DWTF was last serviced in 2019/2020. The equipment is aging and is located in a corrosive environment and is due for servicing. This work is expensive and disruptive as it involves high voltage electricity, and this work is above Veolia's expertise. Veolia recommends Switchgear Maintenance Services (SMS) be used to perform the maintenance services as they have a long history with the DWTF and have been used frequently for various switchgear matters. SMS provided a quote to perform the maintenance services over a 4-year period for a not-to-exceed fee of \$254,890.90, inclusive of Veolia's 10% markup (Attachment 14). The costs provided are for labor only. The most critical switchgear maintenance items will be addressed in the first year, and other items may be pulled ahead as needed. The Technical Committee recommends authorizing this effort for all four years to lock in on pricing, but paying for the services on an annual basis as they are completed each year.

Mayor Joseph Kuspa (Southgate) asked if the entire electrical system preventative maintenance program is expected to be able to be completed within the four years. Jason Tapp, of Veolia, responded that the electrical system throughout the entire facility is expected to be addressed within the four years, and the most critical areas will be addressed in years 1 and 2. Infrared scans will also be performed to identify the areas in most critical need of maintenance. Mayor Joseph Kuspa (Southgate) asked when preventative maintenance was last performed. Jason Tapp responded that electrical system preventative maintenance has not been performed since 2019. Chairperson McLeod (Allen Park) asked if Veolia will be performing other electrical system maintenance. Jason Tapp responded that Veolia staff can only perform work on electrical systems under 480 volts, which includes the electrical system from the MCCs to the equipment, but maintenance on systems above that voltage needs to be performed by a contractor.

Motion by Mayor Joseph Kuspa (Southgate) and supported by Greg Mayhew (Wyandotte) to authorize Veolia to contract with Switchgear Maintenance Services to perform electrical switchgear preventative maintenance services over a 4-year period for a not-to-exceed fee of \$254,890.90. This effort will be paid from DUWA's *Capital Outlay* budget line item. The motion passed unanimously by all attending members.

**h. Emergency Generator Tune-Up and Testing**

The DWTF is equipped with three Michigan CAT generators each with a capacity of 2 megawatts (MW) that can collectively power most of the DWTF during a power outage. During recent preventative maintenance services, it was discovered that two of the three generators were performing poorly. Upon visiting the DWTF and inspecting the generators, Michigan CAT recommended that full tune-ups and load banking be performed on each generator. The need for load banking is because the generators are wet stacking, or operating at light loads for extended periods, causing unburned oil to

collect in the exhaust system. Load banking will increase the loads on the generators to burn off the oil. Load banking should be performed every year or two if the generators are not used frequently. Veolia collected multiple quotes, and the lowest quote was provided by Michigan CAT. Their proposed fee to perform the tune-ups, load banking, and rewiring and to replace the batteries on each generator is \$29,876.94, inclusive of tax and Veolia's 10% markup (Attachment 15).

Mayor Joseph Kuspa (Southgate) asked if Wolverine submitted a quote or if they did not have availability to perform these services. Jason Tapp, of Veolia, responded that Wolverine did submit a quote, but their quote was much higher indicating that they may have been uninterested in performing the work or that this effort was beyond Wolverine's capabilities and would require a third-party to perform. Attorney Kerry Morgan (Riverview's attorney) asked if the generators will be instantly available upon a power failure or if they take time to ramp up before they can be used. Travis Tuma, of Veolia, responded that the generators will be available to be used instantly upon a power failure, but noted that the load banking occurs over several hours for each generator, all while the generator is operating.

Motion by Mayor Tim Woolley (Taylor) and supported by Mayor Joseph Kuspa (Southgate) to authorize Veolia to contract with Michigan CAT to perform the generator tune-ups and load banking for a not-to-exceed fee of \$29,876.94. This effort will be paid from DUWA's *Capital Outlay* budget line item. The motion passed unanimously by all attending members.

**i. Solids Handling Building Electrical Room HVAC Replacement**

The electrical control panels for the centrifuges and the dryers are located in a climate-controlled room at the DWTF. The existing HVAC unit in this room was previously repaired several times this year and is now in need of replacement as the heat exchanger coils are corroded and can no longer be plugged. The existing HVAC unit was not replaced as part of the Biosolids Dryer Project and is now over 12 years old. Centrifuges in the Solids Handling Building have failed because their variable frequency drives (VFDs) got too warm as a result of the failing HVAC unit. Veolia received two quotes for the HVAC replacement, and the lowest quote was provided by Danboise who has performed other work at the DWTF in the past. The HVAC replacement effort will also require a mobile crane to be rented to lift the HVAC unit on top of the Solids Handling Building. The total cost for this effort inclusive of Danboise's quote, the crane rental, and Veolia's 10% markup is \$22,000.34 (Attachment 16).

Mayor Joseph Kuspa (Southgate) asked how much the other company quoted. System Manager Tercala responded that the other quote was provided by Superior Comfort for a fee of \$17,954.61, which was more than Danboise's quote of \$17,243.00.

Motion by Mayor Bill Bazzi (Dearborn Heights) and supported by Roberto Scappaticci (Romulus) to authorize Veolia to contract with Danboise to replace the HVAC unit in the Solids Handling Building electrical room for a not-to-exceed fee of \$22,000.34. This effort will be paid from DUWA's *Capital Outlay* budget line item. The motion passed unanimously by all attending members.

**j. PFAS Local Limits**

DUWA is required by EGLE to develop PFAS local limits to control pollutants that may adversely affect the quality of the wastewater effluent discharged by the DWTF. Local limits are set based on sampling and lab analyses, and indicate the maximum PFAS concentrations that the DWTF can accept to maintain compliance. EGLE has published Water Quality Values for five different PFAS compounds. Veolia was authorized back in November 2023 to perform local limit sampling. Based on review of the sample results, a local limit of 64 ng/L for PFOS and a local limit of 140 ng/L for PFOA is recommended (Attachment 17). Since the calculated local limits for the other three PFAS compounds are magnitudes above EGLE's established Water Quality Values, local limits for those three compounds are not necessary.

The PFAS local limits can be applied using either the Uniform Allocation Method where all significant industrial users must comply with the same local limits or the Industrial Contribution Method where only significant industrial users that discharge above the Water Quality Value receive a higher local limit. The Industrial Contribution Method is recommended because it will allow DUWA to incorporate PFAS local limits in permits for only those industries identified as discharging higher concentrations of PFAS compounds without requiring permit limits for all industries.

The proposed PFOS and PFOA local limits have been incorporated into the revised version of the Sewer Use Ordinance, which will be submitted to EGLE for review and approval. Upon adoption of the revised Sewer Use Ordinance, the PFAS local limits will be incorporated into select industrial user permits. The proposed local limits and application of the Industrial Contribution Method will be submitted to EGLE for review, and upon approval, will then be brought to the Board for approval and implementation.

Jeff Dobek (Riverview) asked how long it will take EGLE to review and approve the local limits. System Manager Chamberlain responded that it is not known when EGLE will complete their review, but hopes it will be by the end of the year. Jeff Dobek (Riverview) asked if there is a compliance schedule associated with implementing the PFAS local limits. System Manager Tercala responded that the PFAS local limits must be implemented per the compliance schedule in the NPDES permit.

Attorney Fausone asked how many industrial users will be impacted by the PFAS local limits. System Manager Chamberlain responded that fewer than 10 out of nearly 50 industrial users will be impacted. System Manager Tercala added that DUWA's proposed PFAS local limits nearly match GLWA's PFAS local limits, which will make compliance easier for industrial users who may discharge to both DUWA and GLWA. Attorney Kerry Morgan (Riverview's attorney) asked what happens if an industrial user discharges above the local limit. System Manager Tercala responded that DUWA would require the industrial user to develop a pollutant minimization plan/program. The PFAS local limits were also developed to include a safety factor such that if a local limit is exceeded, the DWTF may still be able to maintain compliance with its NPDES permit depending on the PFAS concentration and flow rate.

There is no motion requested as this item is informational only.

#### **k. Sewer Use Ordinance Updates**

EGLE performed an audit of DUWA's Industrial Pretreatment Program in May 2024. While the audit identified no violations, it did identify two corrections that need to be made to DUWA's Sewer Use Ordinance (SUO). These corrections include updating the definition of 'Significant Non-Compliance' as well as updating the daily fines that can be collected for infractions. EGLE requires that these corrections be made by December 31, 2024. In addition to these several corrections, OHM also included several other updates to the SUO regarding permit conditions as well as compliance and special use provisions. The recently-developed PFAS local limits have also been incorporated into the updated SUO (Attachment 18). The proposed revisions to the SUO were reviewed by the Technical Committee and were recommended for approval. Fausone & Grysko is now circulating the draft SUO edits to the Legal Committee for review. Once comments are addressed, the revised SUO will be submitted to EGLE for review and approval, and upon EGLE's approval, the SUO will then be brought forward to the Board for approval.

There is no motion requested as this item is informational only.

### **7. Contract Operator Update**

Jason Tapp and Travis Tuma, of Veolia, provided the Contract Operator update.

#### **a. August 2024 MOR**

The August 2024 Monthly Operating Report (MOR) was provided in the Board's pre-meeting packet (Attachment 19). Highlights from the summary and other updates included the following:

- The DWTF remained in compliance in the month of August and there were no violations.
- In August, the DWTF treated about 1.3B gallons of wastewater. No bypass events occurred in August, and there has still only been one bypass event this year (which occurred in January).
- One maintenance position remains open, and Veolia is interviewing a candidate for this position today.
- The peroxide dosing to the condensing towers is going very well. The dryers will be shut down next week to replace the pump rotors and stators and to perform preventative maintenance on the thermal oil skids. While the dryers are shut down, the condensing tower media will be inspected for biogrowth to evaluate the effectiveness of the peroxide dosing system.
- Multiple odor complaints have been received in recent weeks. A small amount of ferric continues to be dosed for odor control, but increased use of ferric is not possible due to its negative impacts on the biosolids during the drying process. Peroxide has been dosed more aggressively this month to combat odors. Veolia OM has had frequent communication with EGLE who has also received odor complaints. The complaints are logged and mapped. Oftentimes, the complaints do not align with the wind direction at the time of the complaint. The system has also been very dry which can increase detention times within the collection system causing a release of hydrogen sulfide. Additionally, the DWTF's bioscrubber requires a constant feed of air from the dryers to keep bacteria alive which consume hydrogen sulfide. Each time the dryer is shut down and restarted, Veolia staff have to reseed the bioscrubber which can take weeks to build back up to be effective. While no violations have been

received, EGLE has indicated that if odor complaints persist, they could consider implementing a mandate to install a plant-wide odor control system.

- The cross in primary tank #3 failed preventing sludge from going down the drain. Veolia staff had to wash the sludge down the drain with fire hoses, which was a time-consuming effort. The cross has since been repaired and is back in service.
- The PACI in the PACI storage tank began to gel at the bottom of the tank requiring Veolia staff to shovel it out and power wash the tank. Both PACI tanks are now clean. Veolia is exploring the use of a new version of PACI that does not gel and is just as effective at settling and removing phosphorous per laboratory bench tests. Veolia will initiate a full-scale trial of the new version of PACI at the DWTF. Its efficacy will not be realized for another six to eight months until it is fully incorporated into the treatment system. The new version of PACI is the same cost as the existing version, but the new version may be available from suppliers in closer proximity to the DWTF (Chicago vs. St. Louis).
- Routine maintenance items were performed in the Solids Handling Building. The secondary SCADA program was lost, but was able to be rewritten by Veolia's electronic technician. This type of work previously had to be contracted out, which can be costly, but Veolia's electronic technician is now proficient enough to write the SCADA program.
- Routine maintenance was performed on the flow meters and equipment deployed throughout the collection system.
- Veolia's Health and Safety Manager tracks the number of confined space entries performed each month. In August, nine confined space entries were performed by the collection system team which sometimes involves blocking road traffic. Two hot work permits were required which requires staff to check atmospheric conditions and enter confined space areas with only one access port, such as in the primary tanks. All entries were performed successfully without injury.
- Veolia received 279 Miss Dig tickets in August, of which 29 were emergency requiring a response within two hours.

Jeff Dobek (Riverview) asked if EGLE has issued a violation to the DWTF for the odors. Jason Tapp, of Veolia, responded that EGLE has not issued a violation for odors. Mayor Tim Woolley (Taylor) asked when the DWTF was built. Jason Tapp, of Veolia, responded that the DWTF was built in 1938 so it has been around for a long time. Jeff Dobek (Riverview) asked if there is a window to see into the condensing tower to check on the condition of the media. Travis Tuma, of Veolia, responded that there is a window on the condensing tower, but it is dirty and foggy, so it is difficult to see through to assess the condition of the media.

#### **b. Chemical & Sludge Price Updates**

Jason Tapp presented the summary of commodity unit price changes to the Board (Attachment 20). There have been no recent significant increases on chemical unit pricing and no major changes to unit prices are expected. There will be a cost to DUWA in the next couple of months for peroxide reimbursements due to increased dosing of peroxide in response to the odor complaints.

Jason Tapp presented the sludge hauling volume tracker to the Board (Attachment 21). Throughout 2024, about 50% of the solids produced at the DWTF have been dried and hauled to Canada for beneficial reuse. In August, there was increased downtime of the dryers which resulted in fewer solids (about 36%) going through the dryers. The percentage of the DWTF's solids going through the dryers is expected to increase back up to 50% in September with increased dryer runtimes. Jason Tapp also noted that a

surcharge fee is applied when fewer than 20 loads of dried solids are sent to the Canadian beneficial reuse facility each month. An additional surcharge fee of about \$600 per weekend is applied for each weekend that an additional trailer is provided to the DWTF for hauling dried solids. The use of an additional trailer over the weekend allows the dryers to continue to operate throughout the weekend without running out of trailers to fill.

**c. Existing UV Disinfection System Remaining Life Update**

Jason Tapp stated that the UV system is currently running well and is achieving the required fecal disinfection. Veolia recently secured a pallet of UV bulbs from another facility that recently decommissioned their existing UV system. Veolia purchased the UV bulbs for about \$20k, and they were sold at about 50% of their retail value. Veolia expects the remaining inventory of spare UV bulbs to last until the new UV system is online. Veolia is also continuing to search for opportunities to purchase spare parts from auction sites or other facilities that are decommissioning their existing UV systems in preparation for installation of their new UV systems. Veolia OM estimates that they currently have enough spare parts to maintain operation of the existing UV system until the new UV system is commissioned.

**8. Treasurer's Report**

**a. Community Self-Reporting Status Log**

Treasurer Jason Couture (Taylor) presented the Community Self-Reporting Status Log (Attachment 22). All communities except Dearborn Heights are up to date on their self-reporting worksheets. Dearborn Heights has provided payment for their self-reported flows from February 2023 through July 2024; however, the payment was provided as a lump sum amount, but the self-reported flows spanned three different rate years. Accountant Doug Drysdale (DNS Financial Services/Southgate) and Treasurer Couture (Taylor) are working with Dearborn Heights to separate the lump sum payment into separate monthly payments so that the appropriate payments can be applied to their respective rate years.

**b. Aging AR**

Treasurer Jason Couture (Taylor) presented the Aging Accounts Receivable report (Attachment 23). He stated that the total amount in the Accounts Receivable is approximately \$771k of which 85% is less than 30 days delinquent. No communities have outstanding payments over 30 days delinquent. There are some larger outstanding payments from industrial users related to their annual surveillance fees that are over 120 days delinquent. Accountant Doug Drysdale (DNS Financial Services/Southgate) continues to try to work with these industries to get them caught up on their payments, but it can be challenging to connect with the appropriate financial personnel with these corporate customers. Late fees are being assessed to those industries with outstanding payments over 60 days delinquent as of July 1, 2024. If these industrial users continue to remain delinquent on their payments, then other remedies such as permit revocation or legal action may be considered.

Mayor Tim Woolley (Taylor) requested that Fausone & Grysko prepare and distribute a letter to the industrial users who are delinquent on their payments to inform them of their delinquency and to warn them of potential legal action if they continue to fail to pay. Attorney Fausone confirmed that his team will prepare and distribute such a letter.

### **c. Pending Invoices**

Treasurer Jason Couture (Taylor) presented the invoice register for a request for payment (Attachment 24). The invoice register included 39 invoices due for a total of \$449,575.23. The largest invoices included those to Black & Veatch for their construction administration services related to the UV Disinfection Replacement Project, the City of Wyandotte for the annual nuisance fee, and Wyandotte Municipal Services for utility services.

Motion by Mayor Joseph Kuspa (Southgate) and supported by Roberto Scappaticci (Romulus) to pay the invoice register. The motion passed unanimously by all attending members.

## **9. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

## **10. Other Business**

Mayor Joseph Kuspa (Southgate) thanked the member communities for their participation in the Special Board meeting and for their unanimous vote to advance on litigation as it relates to the Biosolids Dryer Project. He noted that the unanimous vote is a testament to how the member communities are working together to achieve the best possible outcome for the Biosolids Dryer Project.

## **11. Next Meeting Date: Thursday, November 14, 2024 (9:00 AM; In-Person)**

Chairperson McLeod (Allen Park) reminded the Board that the next regular meeting would take place on Thursday, November 14, 2024 at 9:00 AM in-person at Taylor City Hall.

## **12. Adjournment**

There being no other business, Chairperson McLeod (Allen Park) announced that a motion to adjourn would be in order. Motion by Mayor Bill Bazzi (Dearborn Heights) and supported by Mayor Tim Woolley (Taylor) to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously at 10:35 AM.

Meeting Minutes Prepared by:  
Mackenzie Chamberlain, OHM Advisors, DUWA System Manager

Meeting Minutes Reviewed by:  
Lambrina Tercala, OHM Advisors, DUWA System Manager

### Attachments

1. Meeting Agenda
2. September 12, 2024 DUWA Board Meeting Minutes
3. September 19, 2024 DUWA Special Board Meeting Minutes
4. Monthly Legal Update (by Fausone & Grysko)
5. System Manager Report for October 2024 (by OHM Advisors)
6. UV Disinfection Replacement Project Update (by OHM Advisors)
7. Biosolids Dryer Facility Project September 2024 Monthly Progress Summary (by Veolia CPM)
8. System Manager Recommendation

9. Request for Payment to SEMCOG for Designated Management Agency Dues
10. Request for HRC As-Needed Engineering Services Contract Renewal
11. Veolia Flow Metering Contract Extension
12. Hazen & Sawyer HVAC Improvements Phase 2 Construction Administration and Construction Engineering Services Proposal (by Hazen & Sawyer)
13. HRC Spill Prevention and Control Plan Development Proposal (by HRC)
14. Request to Perform Electrical Switchgear Preventative Maintenance Services
15. Request to Perform Generator Tune-Ups and Load Banking
16. Request to Replace HVAC Unit in Solids Handling Building Electrical Room
17. Proposed PFAS Local Limits
18. Proposed Sewer Use Ordinance Updates
19. Monthly Operating Report for August 2024 (by Veolia OM)
20. DWTF Unit Price Changes Summary (by Veolia OM)
21. Sludge Volume Tracker (by Veolia OM)
22. Community Self-Reporting Status Log (by Doug Drysdale)
23. Aged Accounts Receivable Report, dated October 4, 2024 (by Doug Drysdale)
24. Invoice Register, dated October 4, 2024 (by Doug Drysdale)