

**DOWNRIVER UTILITY WASTEWATER AUTHORITY
JANUARY 9, 2025 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. At the time of roll call, voting representatives were in attendance from 12 communities: Allen Park, Bellville (Absent), Brownstown Township, Dearborn Heights, Ecorse, Lincoln Park, River Rouge, Riverview, Romulus, Southgate, Taylor, Van Buren and Wyandotte. A quorum (at least 7 members) were present.

a. DUWA Commissioners

Belleville not in attendance

The DUWA Board Commissioners present at the time of roll call introduced themselves as follows:

Roxie Fairchild (Brownstown Township), Ralph Richards (Taylor), Melissa Collins (River Rouge), Mayor Bill Bazzi (Dearborn Heights), Kevin Lawrence (Van Buren), Mayor Joseph Kuspa (Southgate), Mayor Gail McLeod (Allen Park), Roberto Scappaticci (Romulus), Jeff Dobek (Riverview), David Hall (Ecorse), Lisa Griggs (Lincoln Park) 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: Jim Taylor (Van Buren), Rob Richard (City of Taylor) Doug Drysdale (Southgate & DNS Financial Services), Gerry Barr (Allen Park), Mayor Rob DeSana (Wyandotte), Jason Couture (DUWA Treasurer), Jason Nash (Veolia OM) Travis Tuma (Veolia OM) Stephen Hitchcock (Romulus), Kerry Morgan (Riverview), Dan Marsh (Southgate), Sally Duffy (HRC), Dan Alford (Fishbeck), Lauren Fath-Azam (Secretary), Sarah Rutkowski (Fishbeck), Rumzei Abdallah (Plante Moran), Brandon Grysko (Fausone & Grysko), David Greco (Taylor and Van Buren Township's attorney), Elizabeth Jones (Dearborn Heights), Souheil Sabek (C.E. Raines).

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Bill Bazzi (Dearborn Heights) and supported by Joseph Kuspa (Southgate) to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously by all attending members.

3. Approval of Minutes from December 12, 2024 Board Meeting

Copies of the meeting minutes from the December 12, 2024 Board meeting were included in the pre-meeting Board packet. Motion by Riverview and supported by Wyandotte, to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously by all attending members.

4. Legal Update

Attorney Brandon Grysko of Fausone & Grysko provided the Legal Update.

a. General Counsel Monthly Report

Mr. Grysko highlighted various items from the legal update, which is included in the meeting packet. Resolutions are being obtained from the various communities on the amended articles of incorporation. Five are still outstanding with three to be expected on upcoming council agendas. No word has been received from Riverview and Belleville on the status. The Board members should be on the lookout later this month for a confidential written report concerning the litigation regarding the dryer project.

5. System Manager Update

Dan Alford 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 (Pages 17-25).

a. System Manager Monthly Report

Mr. Alford reported that they are still waiting to hear back from EGLE in regard to their permit application and DUWA had no violations in the month of November. For capital projects the bi-weekly dryer meetings continue with incremental development as they dive into more detail. Mr. Alford will speak about the UV disinfection project further in the meeting. For small capital projects: PLC-5 hardware has been ordered and delivered. The contractor will make sure the hardware is working properly before it gets installed with testing to follow. Construction is scheduled to start in February. In terms of HVAC improvements, phase 2 begins with a pre-construction meeting scheduled for January 13th with construction approaching. Mr. Alford noted that there is a list of other small capital projects. He has reached out to all the as-needed engineers and meetings

are scheduled so we can successfully integrate the engineers to assist with the work.

In regard to Professional services contracts, MEA is our natural gas consultant. Their contract is out of funds as of now. Our natural gas supply is under contract with Constellation through the end of this year. Mr. Alford recommends extending MEA's contract to another year. The contract would be extended another year and to not exceed \$4,000. Mr. Alford believes the total cost to be very reasonable.

Veolia continues to work on flow metering and the Collection System maintenance. The transition has begun in regard to orthophosphate dosing. GLWA increased their dosage last October. There is now 1.8 parts per million of orthophosphorus in the water, which means we're getting more in the wastewater plant. In Mr. Alford's recent conversations with the Veolia team there isn't enough data yet to see the trend of how much ferric and PACL we're using additionally to control that increase. While they've increased the phosphorus in the drinking water to minimize lead concentrations, our regulators are trying to decrease our phosphorus in the plant effluent going to the river. Two competing goals, but this one is particularly important for human health, so it's understandable.

In regard to odor complaints, 86 complaints were received in November, 28 in December and none have been received for the month of January so far. Mr. Alford reached out to multiple odor manufacturers for appropriate odor studies but is still looking since many manufacturers were not providing odor studies, like they've done in the past. Mr. Alford is in touch with BASF to speak to them about the odor control technology they are utilizing. Veolia continues to optimize the dosing of hydrogen peroxide to minimize plant odors. Veolia has been successful in optimizing the use of the dryer odor control unit in terms of operations with multiple shutdowns and restarts, as well as reseeded and feeding supplemental nutrients. Veolia will be installing carbon this week, which will aid in the removal of odors. In efforts to capture existing historic plant odor in the recycle pipe Veolia has installed temporary ductwork from a manhole on the recycle pipe. They will direct it towards an existing odor control unit that's been in the plant for 20 plus years, which hasn't seen much use. It will be beneficial to utilize this existing technology with minimal costs. Mr. Alford will continue to send odor mitigation updates to the City of Wyandotte as agreed.

Mr. Alford waits to hear back from EGLE regarding the sewer use ordinance. He noted that EGLE seems pleased thus far and should hopefully respond shortly.

The December Technical Committee meeting was cancelled but DUWA will have one next week. They are working with Veolia on revising and optimizing the technical committee packet. Later in the meeting the Workman's Comp Insurance policy will be presented. Regarding policy items, Mr. Grysko mentioned earlier that we are still waiting for the five communities. Communication was received from three of the five communities so there are still just two outliers.

b. Veolia O&M Fee Comparison

On page 21 of the meeting packet Veolia O&M fee is shown. This year's rate increase for O&M was 3.45%. Mr. Alford added that this is a reasonable rate increase, considering the cost of the commodities and labor in the last three years. He added that even at SHVUA their Contractor Operators percentage increase was a little higher based on their CPI's.

c. UV Disinfection Replacement Project

In regard to the UV update Mr. Alford had the Engineer from Black & Veatch produce the information included in the meeting packet. The most important development for the UV project is the contractors starting to mobilize on site to begin work. Comments on maintaining operations throughout construction are being reviewed by the Engineer. Mr. Alford is excited to start on the UV project and trusts it all goes well.

Mr. Dobek inquired about the odor tower with the granule activated carbon and if that was changed out and if it's still good as it's been 20 years. Jason Tapp noted that it had not been tested but was inspected and doesn't seem to have been used much. Veolia will establish a baseline of what they will see going into that system and what they see exiting the system. They should be able to see a trend. Further data would be helpful before making a decision as the overall cost would be \$60,000 for a replacement.

Greg Mayhew inquired if the charcoal was added in the solids building and if Veolia plans to speak to a Contractor about the odor causes. Mr. Tapp noted that the carbon was installed yesterday. Mr. Alford spoke to the original manufacturer which provides the carbon for their manufactured device but has not heard back so he has reached out to a second. Mr. Alford does not want to proceed without establishing a baseline of odor strengths and locations. He has reached out to other odor specialists and will continue to do so. Mr. Mayhew noticed odors during the Holidays. Mr. Tapp added that odors during that timeframe are

perplexing as the dryers were mainly down during that time. Mayor Bazzi added that he can connect Mr. Alford with other odor companies if needed.

d. Biosolids Dryer Facility Project

Jason Nash presented an update to the Biosolids Dryer Facility Project. For the month of December the dryers operated 32.6% of the time. There was significant downtime starting at the beginning of the month with the south dryer cake pump 4 failing and then rebuilds that occurred on the north dryer. The dryers were completely down from December 9th through the 19th. Upon restarting the dryers, issues arose with failures of RTDs and high amps on the motors of the dosing pumps. Veolia continues to work through these issues. Tests were completed yesterday with water only and the amps were still high. Information was sent to Seepex yesterday, and Veolia will wait for more information back from them but thinks it could be that the stators are not compatible with urethane. Urethane is not typically used in the wastewater industry but Veolia is trying it out. Mr. Nash continued to report that the bearing on Centrifuge 3 has failed for the fifth time. Veolia is waiting for a different option to fix this issue. Mr. Nash added that it is not just us having these issues but others who have the same unit model.

The carbon is being installed in the bio-air unit. Installation is 50% complete. Mr. Nash continued to report that on December 30th an employee received burns while cleaning one of the nozzles on a depositor arm that had a blockage in it. When they were cleaning it, it was still warm, and it released steam and caused burns on the employee's face. Veolia Operations plans to find a long-term solution to make sure that never happens again.

In mid-December one of the rooftop HVAC units failed. When this HVAC failed, it didn't allow the plant to maintain a positive pressure in the building and caused H₂S to be recycled back into the building. Mr. Nash will get pricing from various contractors to make sure H₂S doesn't come back into the building if the HVAC fails. Veolia has noticed sagging in some supports for the cake lines. Stantec and Mr. Nash put together a memo in which Mr. Alford discussed with Walsh. Walsh agreed verbally to make the repairs, to correct it, and make it right after a walk through. The process will be four to six weeks. An email and verbal agreement is what Mr. Nash has at this time.

The installation of a larger crusher will begin next week. This will allow the plant to get more material in the trailer. Currently the plant can get about 27 tons per trailer and will be able to get up to about 35 tons per trailer with the addition of

the larger crusher. The minimum hauling fee is for 42 tons. Veolia has previously talked about installing an adjustable chute for long-term savings. The unit itself is around \$90,000 plus installation. Mr. Nash will present the idea to the Technical Committee. Mayor Kuspa inquired if Veolia envisions the plant getting to 42 tons. Mr. Nash added that optimally we would be at 35 to 36 tons and the adjustable chute could help us get even closer but cannot determine an exact number without testing. Mayor Kuspa would be interested to see in future reports how close we get to our minimum tonnage.

Mayor Bazzi added that it would be beneficial to work with someone who has expertise with polyurethane, tungsten and carbide instead of waiting for failure. He suggests communicating with a materials engineering firm. Mr. Nash added that they followed the recommendation of Seepex but moving forward they will work with a materials engineering firm to verify that they won't see some type of adverse reaction from working with certain chemicals. Mr. Scappaticci inquired if we have an active unexpired insurance certification from Kruger to protect the Authority. Mr. Grysko will look into the Kruger issues but added that the safety incident would probably be a Veolia O&M worker compensation issue, which we do receive certificates for on an annual basis. Mr. Nash added that they have only received construction liability insurance from Kruger, which didn't include any additional insurance. Walsh is the primary on the Dryer project and liability insurance from Walsh expired in July 2024. Mr. Grysko highlighted that when it comes to allocating risk and who's responsible for what, it depends heavily on what the cause and the circumstances and the source of the damages. For example, if there was some type of wind or rain event or etc that caused damage to the property, then that would be picked up by DUWA's insurance, whereas employee injuries on the job are covered by Veolia O&M's insurance.

Kerry Morgan noted that the pump's stators were changed to urethane for its wear resistance quality. Could the urethane stators be machined to the correct diameters?

Mr. Nash noted that new stators are on the north dryer now, and the stators on the south dryer were installed in October. These could operate about 75% of where they needed to. Veolia believes that they expanded and noted that they don't run now even with water in them. The expansion rate may be dependent on the chemical strength of the material.

Mr. Morgan inquired about the trailer size. Mr. Nash replied the trailers were 100-yards. Mr. Nash added regarding loading the trailers Veolia has only been able to

reach 27 tons in each trailer without a working crusher. Jason Tapp added with the crusher engaged and then some compaction into the trailers, Veolia could possibly get to that 40-ton range but don't know how to get into an open top trailer with a compactor safely. Veolia has looked at a couple different options. The only safe option without requiring somebody to enter that vessel with the material, which can be dangerous, is utilizing a loading chute to get even distribution while it's loading and hopefully increase the density. Veolia will watch how the new crusher operates once it's installed. Mayor Bazzi encouraged Veolia to utilize the Technical Committee to discuss these various technical topics to hopefully come up with a solution.

Mayor Kuspa asked about Walsh insurance requirements. Mr. Gysko noted that for potential future claims for damages DUWA might have through a lawsuit or similar, a risk policy would not be released but it is typical that once a project is closed out the builder's risk policy would then end. In DUWA's case the schedule of values for our property insurance policy had already been amended to reflect the Dryer project.

6. Requests for Authorization and Approval

Sarah Rutkowski presented the following requests for approval, which includes the Workers Compensation Insurance Renewal, EGLE Annual Land Application Fee and Natural Gas Consulting Services.

a. Workers Compensation Insurance Renewal

Shown on page 26; DUWA has maintained the workers' compensation policy through accident fund insurance for the last several years. The Workers Compensation Insurance Renewal came as a recommendation from the insurance broker to have this policy in place. While DUWA does not have any employees, it is in place in case any DUWA contractor argues that they could be a DUWA employee and has a nominal cost of \$410 per year. Mrs. Rutkowski brought this forward to the Board to approve the workers' compensation insurance for the 2025 calendar year.

Motion by Dearborn Heights, supported by Romulus to approve the Workers' Compensation and Employers Liability Insurance Policy renewal by Accident Fund from 01/17/2025 through 01/17/2026 for a total cost of \$410. The motion passed unanimously by all attending members.

b. EGLE Annual Land Application Fee

EGLÉ's annual biosolids application fee is shown on pg 32. The administrative fee totals \$400 for EGLÉ's previous fiscal year. EGLÉ includes this administrative fee even if the facilities do not land apply in Michigan. If DUWA does land apply in the State of Michigan the cost would be \$400 plus the cost per dry ton, which can change per year.

Motion by Southgate, supported by Wyandotte to approve the payment of \$400 for the EGLÉ Fiscal Year 2024 Biosolids Land Application Fee. The motion passed unanimously by all attending members.

c. Natural Gas Consulting Services

Natural Gas Consulting Services is shown on page 35 of the packet. DUWA has a contract with Constellation to provide natural gas through the end of 2025 at a fixed monthly volume and price. This contract started in 2022 with the addition of the dryers. Joe Moylan from MEA Incorporated has analyzed natural gas consumption, the plant's reserves, and helped facilitate natural gas sellbacks. Mr. Moylan's contract was around \$6,000. Mrs. Rutkowski brought this forward to the Board to approve his renewed contract not to exceed \$4,000.

Motion by Dearborn Heights, supported by Riverview to approve Natural Gas Consulting Services from MEA, Inc for a not to exceed fee of \$4,000. The motion passed unanimously by all attending members. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed with 98% of the vote (unanimous vote by all attending members).

Mr. Kuspa inquired as to what kind of savings DUWA has incurred as a result. Mrs. Rutkowski noted that she will go back and calculate those savings to share with everyone. Mayor Bazzi inquired if there's been a study of money lost. Mr. Alford added that we did inherit this package through 2025. Mr. Alford's thought for this coming year is that we look at both Constellation and DTE and negotiate the most cost-effective natural gas supply possible.

7. Contract Operator Update

Travis Tuma of Veolia provided the Contract Operator update.

a. November 2024 Monthly Operating Report

Travis Tuma reported that the employee who received 2nd degree burns on his face on December 30th received care from Wyandotte Hospital. The employee is doing very well and didn't miss any time off from the incident. Jason Tapp added

that Veolia learned better ways to handle this and noted it was a one-off incident on how this occurred. Veolia revised their process control standard operating procedure for the area in which the incident occurred. The new steps beyond typical lock-out tag-out is to allow the dryer unit to cool off before being worked on and then wear a full face shield when working, just in case of residual pressure.

Mr. Tuma continued to report that they have an electrician role and mechanic role available at the plant. Starting on page 38, in the month of November 1 billion gallons were treated in the month. The highest flow that was seen was at 63 million gallons per day. The year ended with one bypass event. Mr. Tapp noted that they worked with EGLE to gain approval for the modification in the tunnel pump station's odor control unit. Carbon was poured in the dryer odor control unit as there wasn't a need to have a part 41 permit. Installation will be completed today. EGLE requested to see air flow calculations and manufacturer details on the odor control unit for the tunnel. Veolia provided that information to EGLE and the part 41 permit was approved for the modification on Friday last week. The last order of business is to install a variable frequency drive on the motor for the fan so air flow can be controlled to bring negative pressure into the recycle stream pipeline through the carbon unit.

Mr. Tuma continued to report on jobs that were completed for the month. The WAS (Waste Activated Sludge) valve was rebuilt. Work is being done in the primary settling tanks, and Veolia had to wait on parts for cake pump #4. Parts were installed but due to other required work, the dryers are not online. This week Veolia will be busy with the installation of carbon and then next week, the larger crusher's going in, which requires a full five-day shutdown. In total, there will be two weeks in the month of January when the dryers are down. Regarding the collection system, routine maintenance was performed. The system is operating and running very well. More MISS DIG tickets were received this year compared to prior years due to warmer weather.

b. Chemical & Sludge Price Monthly Updates

Mr. Tapp noted Veolia doesn't expect utilities or chemical costs to drastically increase this coming year. In regard to reconciliation, Mr. Tapp added that this is the first month in which hydrogen peroxide was utilized for order control and the graph shows a more realistic month of what future use would look like. Peroxide only controls hydrogen sulfide and is dosed based on Veolia's hydrogen sulfide monitor.

c. Existing UV System Remaining Life Update

Mr. Tuma discussed the UV update. Piedmont Technical Services will be working at the plant to replace bulbs, quartz sleeves, ballasts, and any other items. Veolia plans to restock their spare parts as Piedmont Technical Services utilizes their current inventory. Mr. Alford inquired if Veolia had a chance to investigate the remaining five RAS pump protection monitoring instrumentation. Mr. Tuma reported that Veolia was only able to get two quotes and expects to have something to the Board next month after it's brought to the Technical Committee. %

8. Treasurer's Report DUWA Treasurer

Doug Drysdale (DNS Financial Services, DUWA Accountant) presented the various items below to the Board.

a. Community Self-Reporting Status Log

Page 43 shows the monthly Community Self-Reporting Status Log. Most everyone was caught up with through October. In September Mr. Drysdale was in contact with Wyandotte's Accountant and will be getting back to them shortly. The communities have been doing a good job getting reports in.

b. Aging Accounts Receivable

Starting on page 45 is the Aging Accounts Receivable. Most of the Communities are caught up. Allen Park had an overpayment and are working on getting that cleaned up. The other customers are in the recurrent category and the other customers have received a letter in December and will receive another shortly. Unfortunately Mr. Drysdale has not seen any payments regardless of their communications back and forth. Payments should be seen in the next few weeks.

c. Pending Invoices

Mr. Drysdale presented the request to pay \$2,083,128.11 with the largest items being paid to Veolia. The monthly operating and the unit reconciliation that Mr. Tuma and Mr. Tapp spoke about is included as well as some small capital projects that have been completed. Wyandotte Municipal Services totals to about \$250,000 for electricity and a couple of small ones as well. Mr. Drysdale pointed out that for the State of Michigan there's a \$400 land application fee as well as an annual \$20,000 NPDES fee. The last items are for refunds for chemical/land application to Veolia, and the City of Lincoln Park.

Motion by Dearborn Heights, supported by Romulus to approve payment of the pending invoices in the amount of \$2,083,128.11. The motion passed unanimously by all attending members.

9. Public Comment

There was no Public Comment.

10. Other Business

a. CY 2025 Board Officer Elections

Mr. Alford presented the 2025 Board Officer Elections. Every January DUWA can elect new Board Officers for the following year. The four current officers have volunteered for 2025 with no others interested at this time.

Motion Southgate, supported by Dearborn Heights to elect Mayor Gail McLeod as the DUWA Chairperson for 2025. The motion passed unanimously by all attending members.

Motion by Dearborn Heights, supported by Wyandotte to elect Mayor Joseph Kuspa as the DUWA Co-Chairman for 2025. The motion passed unanimously by all attending members.

Motion by Riverview, supported by Lincoln Park to elect Roberto Scappaticci as the DUWA Secretary. The motion passed unanimously by all attending members.

Motion by Dearborn Heights, supported by Romulus to elect Jason Couture as the DUWA Treasurer. The motion passed unanimously by all attending members.

There were no other items brought forth for consideration as "Other Business" items.

11. Next Meeting Date: Thursday, February 13, 2025 (9:00 AM; In-Person)

Chairperson McLeod (Allen Park) reminded the Board that the next regular meeting would take place on Thursday, February 13, 2025 at 9:00 AM in-person at Taylor City Hall.

12. Adjournment

There being no other business, Chairperson McLeod announced that a motion to adjourn would be in order. Motion by Dearborn Heights and supported by Southgate to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously at 10:17 AM.