

**DOWNRIVER UTILITY WASTEWATER AUTHORITY
JULY 10, 2025 MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF TAYLOR COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

1. Roll Call and Introductions

Chairperson McLeod (Allen Park) called the meeting to order at 9:03 AM and asked for roll call to be taken. At the time of roll call, voting representatives were in attendance from 11 communities: Allen Park, Belleville, Brownstown, Dearborn, Ecorse, Lincoln Park, Riverview, Romulus, Southgate, Taylor, Wyandotte. A quorum (at least 7 members) were present. Absent: River Rouge and Van Buren.

a. DUWA Commissioners

The DUWA Board Commissioners present at the time of roll call introduced themselves as follows: Melissa Frierson (Belleville), Roxie Fairchild (Brownstown), Ali Dib (Dearborn Heights), David Hall (Ecorse), Lisa Griggs (Lincoln Park), Mayor Joseph Kuspa (Southgate), Mayor Gail McLeod (Allen Park), Roberto Scappaticci (Romulus), Jeff Dobek (Riverview), Ralph Richard (Taylor), Greg Mayhew (Wyandotte).

b. Other Meeting Attendees

Board meeting attendees present in the audience at the time of roll call introduced themselves as follows: Brandon Grysko (Fausone & Grysko), David Greco (Taylor & Van Buren), Dan Marsh (Southgate), Jason Couture (DUWA Treasurer), Doug Drysdale (DNS & Southgate), Rumzei Abdallah (Plante Moran), Sophia Somerset (Plante Moran), Elias Elzein (Plante Moran), Gerald Barr (Allen Park), Jim Taylor (DUWA), Souheil Sabak (Riverview), Kerry Morgan (Riverview), Stephen Hitchcock (Romulus), Jason Tapp (Veolia O&M), Jason Nash (Veolia CPM), Travis Tuma (Veolia O&M), Dan Alford (Fishbeck), Sarah Rutkowski (Fishbeck), Lauren Fath-Azam (Secretary), Britton Evans (Black and Veatch), Sam Felleke (Black and Veatch).

2. Approval of Agenda

Copies of the Agenda were made available prior to the meeting. Motion by Southgate and supported by Riverview to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously by all attending members.

3. Approval of Minutes from June 5, 2025 Board Meeting

Copies of the meeting minutes from the June 5, 2025 Board meeting were included in the pre-meeting Board packet. Motion by Wyandotte and supported by Romulus, 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 the various items from the legal update, which are included in the meeting packet. All communities have adopted the Amended Articles of Incorporation. Signatures are still needed from Brownstown, Belleville, Southgate and Van Buren.

b. Proposed Revisions to the DUWA Bylaws

Motion by Riverview, supported by Southgate to approve amended bylaws for DUWA. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously with 92.85% of the vote by all attending members.

5. Contract Operator Update

a. Monthly Operating Report

Travis Tuma reported that there was a solids exceedance in the month of May. The plant failed to remove the 85% of solids needed. The sixth secondary clarifier was not available as a return activated sludge (RAS) pump needed to be repaired. The first RAS pump that was sent out will be back in two weeks after being repaired. Water was found in the motor of the second RAS pump. Further information will be provided on the second RAS pump in the following weeks. Jason Tapp added it was a good idea to repair the RAS pumps instead of buying new ones due to cost and lead times. Mr. Tuma continued to report a combined sewer system like DUWA's dilutes the solids in high flows which makes it more difficult to manage the 85% solids removal requirement. This is something that has been discussed at the technical committee meeting a couple weeks ago and will be brought up with the State. EGLE is aware and has been looking into this exact issue. Dan Alford inquired if the recent final effluent sample line issue which was letting air in attributed to the exceedance. Mr. Tapp reassured Mr. Alford that the issue is being resolved now. They have ordered a sampler to mitigate the air in the final effluent sample line issue. In the meantime Veolia has moved the temporary sampler to a new location during this transition.

Mr. Tuma continued to report that around 1.4 billion gallons were treated for the month of May. The average was about 45 mgd and the daily peak for a 24-hour

period was about 80 mgd. Only one bypass was needed in January/February earlier this year. 20% dosing of ferric continues for odor control. Additionally a small dose of peroxide is being utilized to help with the odor in the facility. Mr. Tapp added that over the last couple of months they have been receiving less odor complaints.

Mr. Tuma highlighted the various large jobs that were completed this past month. Those include manufacturing custom support brackets for the bio-air unit to safely remove the lid to replace carbon; rebuilding the south end zone fan including the fan blade, bearings and belts; the removal of carbon from the bio-air unit by using a tractor truck; the replacement of all rotors and stators on the north dryer dosing pumps; and the replacement of the demister media from the north tower. As it relates to primary treatment, the aerated grit channel #1 wear strips were replaced. Veolia used old primary tank wear strips so no material costs were incurred as the wear strips were already on the shelf. The plan is to address grit channel #2 and #3 as well. As it relates to solids handling; SFE is screened final effluent water so potable water from the city does not need to be used. The incorporation of the SFE pumps into the dryer project was done because of large water consumption so the pumps are integral to keeping the entire dryer system running. With only one of the three running we are limited in our ability to run the dryers. The two pumps that are out of commission were sent to a pump shop two weeks ago with hopes to receive them back by early next week. Mr. Tapp noted that Veolia is looking into purchasing a fourth pump just in case of a critical failure so that the dryers are able to continually run. The amount of time Veolia's maintenance team has spent is over 1,000 hours last month equating to over seven full time employees just maintaining the dryer equipment. With that said Veolia has decided to post two new positions: one being a full time maintenance supervisor to manage the dryer system full time and the other a maintenance mechanic.

Mr. Tuma proceeded to report that routine PM's were conducted as is relates to electrical equipment and the collection system. Routine monthly maintenance was performed on all flow metering devices, level sensors, and rain gauges. Seven confined space permits were completed by the maintenance group and 14 by the collections group. Job safety analyses (JSAs) were conducted by the maintenance group for the following: oil changes in tunnel pump station sump pumps #5 and #6; and RAS pump maintenance at clarifiers #1, #2, and #4. MISS DIG tickets totaled 280 for the month with 14 of them being emergencies. Jeff Dobek inquired if DUWA will need to pay for the additional costs due to

labor. Mr. Tapp noted that DUWA will not and Veolia would come to the Board beforehand for approval if that was needed.

b. Chemical and Sludge Price - Monthly Updates

Mr. Tapp reported Veolia is expecting to see higher LaSalle sludge numbers for reconciliations, since they are catching up from recent biosolids production issues. The plant is also trying to catch back up by ramping up sending trucks to landfills. We were able to get back into the Waste Management landfill with a three year term. The hope is to possibly get back to Romulus at Woodland Meadows as well.

6. 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 25-37).

a. System Manager Report

Mr. Alford notified the Board that they continue to await EGLE's response to DUWA's NPDES renewal response letter that was submitted to EGLE on January 26, 2024. All blockages have been removed from the Riverdrive interceptor in River Rouge. The interceptor is flowing smoothly now with no capacity issues. Veolia is gathering quotes to complete the recommended repairs. A follow up meeting will take place with the City about an unidentified pipe tap.

The BASF North Works facility in Wyandotte is being mandated by the EPA to install a new required groundwater remediation system for PFAS to reduce contaminated flows to the Detroit River. They are requesting to discharge treated flows from the new system to DUWA. Veolia IPP is drafting a letter for conditional approval of the new connection. The draft letter has been reviewed and revisions are being addressed with Veolia. Mr. Alford noted that major PFAS contributors will be addressed and asked to develop plans to lower their PFAS contributions. Orthophosphate dosing continues. No increased usage has been noticed for Ferric/PACL as of yet, but it stands to reason we will see an increase at some time. Few odor complaints have been received since April. Veolia will continue to work on public interface efforts. The odor study is expected soon. The carbon in the dryer odor control unit has been changed out. The unit shows reductions in VOCs, but very little H₂S is going in or out. The Veolia team was also testing the tunnel pump station odor control unit that was pulling air from the recycle pipe. The data was showing very little H₂S or VOCs coming in and going out. With

basically no treatment occurring Veolia stopped using the station's odor control unit weeks ago with no uptick in complaints. It will be on stand by for future use if needed. Mr. Alford and Sarah Rutkowski meet with MEA and Constellation twice a month to fine tune and sell back the surplus of natural gas. Currently it is not an additional cost to the Authority but may be moving forward. The contract with Constellation will be up at the end of the year. At the prior technical committee meeting a new topic of discussion was reviewing the specifics of the dryer pumps. The technical committee meeting will continue to discuss this topic at future meetings.

Mr. Alford appreciates all the community's willingness to attend the ad hoc Technical Committee meeting on temporary UV disinfection this past Tuesday on short notice.

Mr. Alford and Mrs. Rutkowski have been busy with their current System Manager duties. As it relates to as needed engineering consultant work they are looking to utilize Fishback to assist in coming up with a scope of work that can be biddable for contractors, engineers, or others in terms of assisting with CIP documents on the project plan. These would be plant-wide improvements looking at plant processes and facilities over a 20-year span. A CIP would help give a 5 year focus and would be a smooth process for improvements and cost planning. The work scope has been received from Wade Trim for the generator control study. This will be discussed at a future technical committee meeting.

Plante Moran and the System Accountant have fulfilled the state and federal requirements for the 2024 audit by submitting documentation to the Michigan Department of Treasury and the Federal Audit Clearinghouse. PFM has submitted the annual WIFIA loan requirements to the EPA by the annual deadline.

b. UV Disinfection Replacement Project

Mr. Alford continued to report that the temporary disinfection system submission has been approved. Black and Veatch have been attending the twice-a-month construction meetings and supervising the contractors work. Channel three is progressing well. They could be looking at installing new equipment into the channel as soon as a couple weeks. From a schedule standpoint on this job all float time is gone yet the contractors said they can be done in the time frame that it needs to be.

Jeff Dobek inquired if Veolia can take steps to mitigate odors as Wyandotte has an event this weekend. Mr. Tapp added that they are aware of Wyandotte's scheduled activities for this coming weekend and are taking proactive steps to eliminate any odors.

Mayor Kuspa inquired if the change of the fiscal year is going to be accomplished this year or next. Rumzei Abdallah noted that Plante Moran is still in the process of working through the requirements of how it's going to work but the biggest thing that triggers all of this is the actual execution of the amended articles of incorporation. Once that happens they will be reaching out to the Treasury and several funding agencies. Plante Moran has alerted them in the last year that this was going to happen. PFM is working on gathering the type of impact that this could have on bonding. Once all information is received it will then give Plante Moran the ability to discuss this with the Treasury. Realistically, it's probably going to be next year.

c. Biosolids Dryer Facility Project

Jason Nash reported that two cake pumps have been replaced with a similar progressive cavity pump, made by Rotopump, which were adjusted and custom fitted. These pumps have a higher pumping capacity since they are slightly larger pumps but are like in materials. Veolia will continue to track results to see if any improvements are shown.

The strainpress has prevented clogging of the depositor nozzles but operation shows reduced debris discharge over time. Maintenance found the perforation plate to be clogged and allowing fibrous material to pass creating clogs of the extraction screw and crusher. Once cleaned, it is performing well again. Routine monthly cleaning will now be done on the strainpress. Page 34 shows the breakdown of the dryer operation. The dryer system as a whole is operational 45% of the time. The main items which continue to be out of service are the cake and dosing pumps. North Dryer pumps were rebuilt in May and yet after less than a month of operation the pumps decreased productivity by 40%. Part of that decrease could go back to the strain press as that is supposed to help prevent damage by not allowing debris to get into the dryer itself. The South Dryer is getting ready to start up after small issues were addressed in the SFE pumps. Veolia plans to track their productivity to see if there are any improvements. Roberto Scappaticci suggested to keep the rotopumps operating to see if there is more longevity. Mr. Nash confirmed that Veolia will be keeping those pumps in and running them to see if there is a difference. Mayor Kuspa inquired as to how long we have had the strainpress in operation and if it is preventing damage. Mr.

Nash noted that it has been running since the end of April. Since the strain press has been in operation Veolia has not seen many clogs due to debris or material in the dosing nozzles. Fibers are coming through as of the last few weeks which is why it was cleaned. With the South dryer starting up with rebuilt pumps Veolia plans to sample how much material is coming out of the strainpress over a fixed time period so that they can make sure that they are properly being maintained. Kerry Morgan inquired if Kruger has proposed any grit removal. Mr. Nash noted that they are working with Veolia on de-gritting systems that are being analyzed and proposed to use. Jeff Dobek added that it may make sense to invest in strainpress spare parts to minimize operational downtime.

Mr. Nash reported Brown and Caldwell are finalizing the interim report on the odor study which is expected sometime next week. Veolia is working with Stantec on the pilot performance sampling and testing plan to see what information can be pulled through the system and SCADA to make things more automated. This should be completed in the next week or two. Operational time last month was 44.8% but this is not where Veolia wishes to be.

7. Requests for Authorization and Approval

Sarah Rutkowski presented the following requests for approval from the supplemental packet. This change order was requested by Black & Veatch to increase the temporary chemical disinfection allowance, which is \$100,000 in the original bid documents, by another \$450,000 for a total allowance of \$550,000. This project is being funded through a state ARPA grant totaling \$10 million. With the ARPA funding there are some critical dates that must be followed. One is that all grant reimbursements need to be submitted to the state before September 15th of next year. Secondly, all construction must be finished as it relates to this project by the end of next year. With the contractor being behind schedule, there is a sense of urgency that we need to keep this moving and this chemical disinfection system is needed to keep the construction project on track and make sure that it's completed on time. Unfortunately the required documentation and cost came in a little too late to submit to the scheduled technical committee meeting so an ad hoc technical committee meeting took place with Black and Veatch presenting an overview, which was well attended. Black and Veatch provided a high-level overview of what was presented and discussed in that meeting.

a. UV Disinfection Replacement Project – Temporary Chemical Disinfection Change Order

Britton Evans, the Project Manager for the project, highlighted key points from Black and Veatch's (BV) presentation as well as the formal change order recommendation letter.

The temporary chemical disinfection system was originally sized for bypass of the UV channels estimated at 45 mgd. During subsequent planning meetings EGLE required 140 mgd of disinfection to accommodate larger flows. The larger flows required larger tanks and controls for the pumps. Jason Tapp said that Veolia can use the tanks and pumps following the UV project for ferric/PACL dosing in the secondary to improve phosphorus removal. Kerry Morgan asked about design and grant deadline considerations. The System Attorney says both BV and CCC will be held accountable if the project isn't completed on time. Mr. Evans says BV and CCC will bring lessons learned from a similar UV disinfection project at Ann Arbor to this project. Roberto Scappaticci suggests looking into an extension for the grant.

Motion by Southgate, supported by Romulus to approve the UV Disinfection Replacement Project Change Order #2 to increase the temporary chemical disinfection system allowance by \$450,000 to a not-to-exceed \$550,000 to be paid from the capital outlay line item in the budget as recommended by the system manager. The motion passed unanimously by all attending members.

8. Treasurer's Report

Jason Couture presented the various items below to the board, which start on page 39.

a. Community Self-Reporting Status Log

Mr. Couture highlighted that Belleville and Dearborn Heights will soon be caught up. These delays are due to personnel changes at the cities.

b. Aging Accounts Receivable

Mr. Couture continued to report on the Aging Accounts Receivable. The total receivables is approximately \$1.4 million dollars and approximately 68 percent of that amount is 90 days or less delinquent. A few communities have some longer balances. Romulus is listed but a check has been reissued after being lost in the mail. Brownstown was addressing a correction and is now paid in full. Information will be sent out with the next bills to see if ACH payments can be made to minimize lost mail issues.

c. Pending Invoices

The total amount in this month's invoice register is \$3,452,384.35. The largest invoices are to Veolia and Commercial Contracting Corporation for the UV Disinfection Replacement Project. The pending invoice report is attached herein.

Motion by Southgate, supported by Romulus to approve payment of the pending invoices in the amount of \$3,452,384.35. The motion passed unanimously by all attending members.

9. Public Comment

There was no further Public Comment.

10. Other Business

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

11. Next Meeting Date: Thursday, August 14, 2025 (9:00 AM; In-Person)

Chairperson McLeod reminded the Board that the next regular meeting would take place on Thursday, August 14, 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 Southgate and supported by Romulus to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously at 10:46 AM.