

DOWNRIVER UTILITY WASTEWATER AUTHORITY
September 11, 2025 MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF TAYLOR COUNCIL CHAMBERS

1. Roll Call and Introductions

Chairperson McLeod (Allen Park) called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM and asked for roll call to be taken. At the time of roll call, voting representatives were in attendance from 12 communities: Allen Park, Belleville, Brownstown, Dearborn, Lincoln Park, Riverview, Romulus, Southgate, River Rouge, Taylor, Van Buren, Wyandotte. A quorum (at least 7 members) were present. Absent: Ecorse

a. DUWA Commissioners

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

Greg Mayhew (Wyandotte), Mayor Gail McLeod (Allen Park), Melissa Frierson (Belleville), Roxie Fairchild (Brownstown), Jeff Dobek (Riverview), Roberto Scappaticci (Romulus), Mayor Joseph Kuspa (Southgate), Lisa Griggs (Lincoln Park), Ali Dib (Dearborn Heights) Melissa Collins (River Rouge), Mayor Tim Wooley (Taylor), Kevin Lawrence (Van Buren).

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), Jim Taylor (DUWA), Dan Marsh (Southgate), Doug Drysdale (Southgate & DNS), Gerry Barr (Allen Park), Souheil Sabak (Riverview), Kerry Morgan (Riverview), Steven 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). Angela Mannarino (Taylor and Van Buren) arrived at 9:07am.

2. Approval of Agenda

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

3. Approval of Minutes from August 14, 2025 Board Meeting

Copies of the meeting minutes from the August 14, 2025 Board meeting were included in the pre-meeting Board packet. Motion by Southgate 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. The Amended Articles of Incorporation have been uploaded to the website. Any fiscal year change updates will be covered by the System Manager and finance teams.

5. Contract Operator Update

a. Monthly Operating Report

Travis Tuma presented July's monthly operating report which begins on page 14 in the Board meeting packet. Mr. Tuma reported that there are two open operator positions available at the plant. Jason Tapp noted that in addition a total of five positions will be added to specifically address dryer operations. Two of those five have been hired. Mr. Tuma continued to report that a total of about 1.1 billion gallons were treated in July with an average daily flow of 37million gallons per day. There has been one bypass event in 2025, well below the annual maximum goal of six. Two odor complaints were received in July. The dry weather is resulting in low flow which may increase odor complaints. Operations has taken treatment capacity offline to minimize any treatment plant odor.

For large jobs routine work was completed with a bulk of it being on repairing both a primary and secondary clarifier. Work was prioritized on the clarifier to avoid routine work in the cold winter months. Routine maintenance was done on the collection system. Offers for an electronic technician have been sent out as Veolia's current one has put in their resignation. Six confined space permits were completed by the maintenance and operations groups and 17 by the collections group this month. Additionally, 10 hot work permits were completed by the contractor for the UV replacement project. A Job Safety Analysis was conducted by the maintenance group for cleaning in primary tanks. This provided crucial safety training for new staff. 26 of the 284 MISS DIG tickets were emergency related.

Jason Tapp reported that they are adding a column to show Veolia's permit compliance goals. The plant is in full compliance for the month.

b. Chemical and Sludge Price - Monthly Updates

A small amount of ferric is still being dosed in primary treatment for odor control.

Currently DUWA has one landfill partner that accepts our product. Mr. Tapp is in conversation with another landfill that will accept our dewatered sludge products. Mr. Tuma added that they did receive a LaSalle surcharge as they were not able to meet the 20 truck load quota. Piedmont Technical Services are scheduled to be back on site as they are ready to take out Channel 4 for the construction project. They will consolidate good parts from two channels so that the other two may be taken down. Work on the two consolidated channels will begin once the first two are completed.

Jeff Dobek expressed his concern about keeping track of all dryer related costs.

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 22-45).

a. System Manager Report

Mr. Alford notified the Board that we have yet to hear back from EGLE in regards to the NPDES draft permit.

As it relates to the Flow Meter and Collection System all televising of the original collection system has been completed. HRC will review the footage and prioritize required repairs. Mr. Alford added that they are still waiting to hear back from the contractor on the delivery timeline for the River Drive Interceptor lining so that we can minimize impact on the high school. PM optimization is a goal when reviewing the CCTV footage and addressing the any collection system repairs in efforts to save the Authority money.

As it relates to EGLE's proposal to revise Part 41 rules and require local collection system NPDES permits, an administrative hearing was held by the Michigan Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR) on September 2nd. Mr. Alford attended virtually. EGLE maintains that they have provided ample

public outreach and education on the topic and plan to move forward with the process despite JCAR's concerns. JCAR was not able to vote on the proposed rule change during the hearing as they did not have a quorum for the meeting. Sarah Rutkowski added that the MWEA collection system committee is having a seminar as it relates to this topic. Mrs. Rutkowski will be attending this seminar and will report back with any updates.

Mr. Alford continued to report on the BASF North Works facility in Wyandotte, which is being mandated by the EPA to install a new required groundwater PFAS remediation system to reduce contaminated flows to the Detroit River. The BASF North Works site already has existing groundwater remediation systems onsite that discharge to DUWA through current IPP permits. We have issued a renewal IPP permit to BASF.

Veolia is closely monitoring phosphorus concentrations at the DWTF, and any associated increases to Ferric/PACL dosing. There is no data to suggest that ferric/PACL dosing has increased due to the additional ortho phosphate in drinking water from GLWA.

As part of the odor SWAT team Veolia remains committed to contact and visit residents who report odors. Veolia and DUWA continue to track odor complaint details for interpretable data. Mr. Alford noted that odor complaints show a trend downward from the previous year and odor complaints seem to be due to seasonal changes.

Natural gas sell back continues. The renewal contract with Constellation will be reviewed along with an additional competitor. Technical meetings have been going well. Suggestions and solutions have been discussed and are appreciated during the meetings. The next technical committee meeting will be a hybrid meeting in person and via zoom held Thursday, September 25, 2025, at 9:30 am.

In regard to as-needed engineering, contract renewals are approaching. The initially three year contracts were extended last year for one year. Another one-year extension of the three contracts will be requested at the September 25 technical committee meeting, and subsequent October 11 Board meeting. All three contracts will be reevaluated next summer to determine if DUWA should solicit new proposals through the RFQ process.

An initial kick off meeting was held with Fishbeck to develop a CIP work plan and framework. This framework and scope will be reviewed by Veolia, the Technical Committee and the Board for comments and agreement before continuing with the CIP. Mr. Alford believes that a fairly active planning process will be helpful addressing issues before emergencies arise.

An insurance strategy meeting was held with AON, DUWA's current insurance broker at their offices on September 2nd to discuss the forecast for the 2026 renewals. At this time, AON predicts a nominal market increase to match inflation, which could mean a nominal increase in insurance premiums if there is not a substantial change in the valuation of DUWA's assets. Upon asking another broker, they made it clear that their rates will be seeing an increase of around 5%. Mr. Alford requested AON to present the 2026 Insurance renewal at November's Board meeting with a decision to be made at December's Board meeting.

b. Review of Veolia O&M Markup

Review of the contract documents have been completed with general counsel. As there have been inquiries regarding the recent authorization requests from Veolia for maintenance/repairs at the DWTF and Veolia's application of the 10 percent markup, a summary of the review is in the meeting packet starting on page 27.

Mr. Alford proposed that next month's October meeting be at the plant with a tour available afterward to anyone interested. Mr. Grysko suggests a motion to change the location.

Motion by Southgate, supported by Wyandotte to move the October 9th meeting from Taylor to the DUWA wastewater facility in Wyandotte. The motion passed unanimously by all attending members.

c. UV Disinfection Replacement Project

Mr. Alford continued to report that Jim Taylor and Greg Mayhew have been attending the UV progress meetings as part of the technical group behind the design. The last few meetings have been routine but the DUWA team is doing their due diligence. Engineer, operator and contractor interactions have been good. Based on the current spending rate all grant money will be utilized prior to the grant deadline. Tim Wooley inquired if additional costs will accrue if the

project is extended. Mr. Alford noted that the grant was only going to cover the majority of the project. Mr. Alford continues extra time was used during the submittal process due to the overall design of the project. Mr. Kuspa requested to know where we are at as it relates to spending. Doug Drysdale added that we knew ahead of time that we would need to utilize some reserves. Kerry Morgan made note that we should address Black and Veatch directly on their ability to keep the contract on schedule. Mr. Alford added that Black and Veatch has been responsive to DUWA concerns as shown by the changing of key staff. Mr. Alford believes that as the first channel is completed, the contractor will gain insight to increase productivity and time may be made up as they move along. Brandon Grysko highlighted the fact that we will hold the engineer and contractor accountable on this project. Jim Taylor agreed with Board's concerns and shared that many of these same issues have been discussed with both Black & Veatch and CCC.

Mr. Morgan would like to have the Board consider inviting EGLE to come and present the proposed Part 41 permit changes and discuss how this regulation affects each of the communities. Mr. Alford added that State Representatives, DUWA's Board members, and other communities, have sent letters to EGLE to express their concerns on how the new regulations will negatively affect various communities.

d. Biosolids Dryer Facility Project

Jason Nash reported that this past month the Veolia team addressed clogging issues on a demister in the condensing tower. Page 40 shows a picture of the clogged demister. It's typical for Veolia to see build up on the demisters yet this month the substance was extremely difficult to break up. Mr. Nash noted that they have reached out to the vendor and an engineer to see if they have seen something similar to this. They have yet to hear back.

Page 41 showcases dryer operations for the month of August. Three issues prohibited the dryers from running. The strainpress was offline for two days for cleaning. On Centrifuge 3 the main drive bearing failed on August 6th. Centrifuge 1 was started as a replacement, but had days offline due to SCADA programming issues. The centrifuge manufacturer has offered a permanent path forward where they will provide a new greasing system that was successful in Europe to fix the recurring bearing problem. The previously mentioned clogged

demister also aided in not being able to utilize the Dryer. Mr. Nash continued to report that one of the dryers was back in service yesterday.

The odor report is expected to be sent to the System Attorney today. Stantec has provided comments on the pilot performance sampling and testing plan and Brown and Caldwell are making adjustments. Brown and Caldwell are scheduled for Phase 2 sampling. The dryer program has been adjusted to allow for all required performance testing data to be directly downloaded for analysis. Brown and Caldwell will be onsite in October. Veolia CPM has expressed their displeasure with how long this process has taken.

Mr. Dobek inquired if we have reached out to other wastewater treatment plants across the country to see how they minimize odors. Mr. Nash noted that most of the 200 Veolia operated wastewater treatment plants in the US utilize carbon media and ferric to minimize odors.

Mayor Kuspa requested to see sludge hauling estimates as operation of the Dryer has decreased to 10%. Mr. Tapp added that we may not see a huge uptick in cost this year as we can currently remove 6 loads of sludge per day. This is also why they are in discussions with other landfills. Mr. Alford added that page 21 shows DUWA's monthly sludge hauling budget through July. Mayor McLeod requested that additional rows be added to compare dryer operational hours for the years 2024 and 2025. Veolia confirmed that they will do so.

7. Requests for Authorization and Approval

Starting on page 46 Sarah Rutkowski presented three various proposals to the Board for approval.

a. Thermal Oil Skid Service

Mrs. Rutkowski noted that Veolia has requested that Fulton be contracted to provide the service and inspection of the two thermal oil units. Total cost is \$18,779.10. This fee will be paid from DUWA's Capital Outlay line item of the budget. The request was reviewed by the Technical Committee during the August 21, 2025 meeting and was recommended for approval.

Motion by Wyandotte, supported by Riverview to authorize Veolia to contract with Fulton for service and inspection of the thermal oil skids for a total cost not to

exceed \$18,779.10. This fee will be paid from DUWA's Capital Outlay line item of the budget. The motion passed unanimously by all attending members.

b. Tunnel Pump Station Pump Repair

Mrs. Rutkowski noted that an overhaul of Tunnel Pump Station pump #4 is needed. Veolia received 3 quotes for pump repair with some variation in the scope that each company was able to provide. The most comprehensive scope and cost-effective quote was provided by IPS Detroit Service Center, who was the company that performed the testing to determine what parts of the pump failed. Veolia is requesting that IPS be contracted to repair the motor on pump #4. Total cost is \$75,400.00. This fee will be paid from DUWA's Capital Outlay line item of the budget.

Motion by Dearborn Heights, supported by Southgate to authorize Veolia to contract with IPS for repair of Tunnel Pump #4 for a total cost not to exceed \$75,400.00. This fee will be paid from DUWA's Capital Outlay line item of the budget. The motion passed unanimously by all attending members.

c. Garage Door Repair and Replacement

Mrs. Rutkowski noted there are 5 coiling overhead doors at the DWTF that need to be rehung or replaced to the exterior of the building to avoid issues with explosion-proof operators. Veolia received three quotes with the most cost-effective quote and complete scope being from Fairborn Equipment Midwest. Total cost is \$49,161.95. This fee will be paid from DUWA's Capital Outlay line item of the budget.

Motion Romulus, supported by Wyandotte to authorize Veolia to contract with Fairborn Equipment Midwest for the garage door repair and replacement for a total cost not to exceed \$49,161.95. This fee will be paid from DUWA's Capital Outlay line item of the budget. The motion passed unanimously by all attending members.

8. Treasurer's Report

Doug Drysdale presented the various items below to the Board, which start on page 58.

a. Fiscal Year Change Coordination

The change of DUWA's fiscal year-end from December 31st to June 30th to align with DUWA's rate year is ongoing. Doug Drysdale noted the DUWA professional team has a list of action items that are being monitored for completion.

b. Community Self-Reporting Status Log

Mr. Drysdale continued to report that the community self reporting status law is shown on page 59. All Communities are up to date through June.

c. Aging Accounts Receivable

The total amount in the Aging Accounts Receivable is \$2,650,553.68 of which \$2,371,627.70 is current. \$97,179.55 (3.7%) is over 60 days delinquent. A late fee of 1.5% per month will be assessed on payments over 60 days delinquent. Both the communities and industrial users will be subject to the late fee for delinquent payments. Mr. Drysdale added that they now have better direct contacts to send those invoices to.

d. Pending Invoices

The total amount in this month's invoice register is \$5,360,593.67. The September invoice register includes SRF bond payments of \$2,720,393.43 senior lien bond payment of \$1,216,250.00, and WIFIA loan payment of \$143,892.75. The largest invoices other than bond payments include those to Veolia for monthly O&M, unit cost reconciliation and Wyandotte Municipal Services for utilities.

Motion by Riverview supported by Romulus to approve payment of the pending invoices in the amount of \$5,360,593.67. 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, October 9, 2025 (9:00 AM; In-Person)

Chairperson McLeod reminded the Board that the next regular meeting would take place on Thursday, October 9, 2025 at 9:00 AM in-person at the Downriver Wastewater Treatment Facility in Wyandotte.

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 10:42 AM.