

DOWNRIVER UTILITY WASTEWATER AUTHORITY
October 9, 2025 MEETING MINUTES
DOWNRIVER WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY

1. Roll Call and Introductions

Vice Chair Kuspa called the meeting to order at 9:03 AM and asked for a roll call to be taken. At the time of roll call, voting representatives were in attendance from 10 communities: Belleville, Brownstown, Dearborn Heights, Ecorse, Lincoln Park, Riverview, River Rouge, Southgate, Van Buren, and Wyandotte. A quorum (at least 7 members) were present. Absent: Allen Park, Taylor and Romulus.

a. DUWA Commissioners

The DUWA Board Commissioners present at the time of roll call introduced themselves as follows: Greg Mayhew (Wyandotte), Steve Jones (Belleville), Roxie Fairchild (Brownstown), Jeff Dobek (Riverview), Mayor Joseph Kuspa (Southgate), Lisa Griggs (Lincoln Park), Ali Dib (Dearborn Heights) Melissa Collins (River Rouge), David Hall (Ecorse), and Kevin Lawrence (Van Buren). Mayor Gail McCleod arrived at 9:08 AM.

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), Rumzei Abdallah (Plante Moran), Sally Duffy (HRC), Tyler Pozan (HRC), Dan Marsh (Southgate), Doug Drysdale (Southgate & DNS), Souheil Sabak (Riverview), David Greco (Taylor & Van Buren), Jason Tapp (Veolia O&M), Nicholas LaPorte (Veolia O&M), Dan Gacioch (Veolia O&M), Dan Alford (Fishbeck), Sarah Rutkowski (Fishbeck), Lauren Fath-Azam (Secretary).

2. Approval of Agenda

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

3. Approval of Minutes from September 11, 2025 Board Meeting

Copies of the meeting minutes from the September 11, 2025 Board meeting were included in the pre-meeting Board packet. Motion by Wyandotte, supported by Brownstown 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 that they have been approached about a multi-district litigation as it relates to PFAS. His team has been engaged with the System Management team to discuss possible future issues. Mr. Grysko added that wastewater PFAS class action lawsuits are just developing.

5. Contract Operator Update

a. Monthly Operating Report

Jason Tapp reported that the facility processed just over 900 million gallons of wastewater this month. Typically the facility processes over a billion gallons and yet this month has been excessively dry, with an average daily flow of about 30 MGD. Operations is more difficult under these low flow conditions.

Among the large maintenance jobs completed this month was the installation of the repaired RAS pump into final clarifier #3. For solids handling the radiator on #2 centrifuge was cleaned and the fan motor was replaced on centrifuge pump #2's radiator. Veolia installed a coolant system as well to cool the oil. A total of 65 sludge trailers were sent to landfill this month. Just a few trailers went to LaSalle in August since the dryers haven't run much. With many overhead cranes at the plant Veolia continually inspects them for safety. Mr. Tapp added that plant security requires mostly a closed facility with emergency egress points. All employees are trained on what to do in case of an emergency. One of the turnstiles that allow staff to get out in an emergency was corroded and no longer functional. The cost to replace it totaled \$11,000. A total of 313 MISS DIG tickets were received this past month with 34 of them being emergency related. Page 19 showcases permit compliance. A column will be added to show target goals in the future. The plant was in full compliance with all NPDES permit requirements for August 2025. The DMR was submitted on time to EGLE, with no violations.

b. Chemical and Sludge Price - Monthly Updates

Mr. Tapp continued to report that chemical and sludge prices were consistent for the month of August. Moving forward to October Veolia has been negotiating with Waste Management. They are allowing the plant to haul sludge to a closer landfill, which started October 2nd for hauling savings of \$12 per ton. The authority may save on an average about \$20,000 per month. This agreement will continue until 2028.

Dan Alford inquired if all six secondary tanks are in service. Mr. Tapp confirmed that we are now back up to max capacity.

Joseph Kuspa advised circling back to LaSalle to discuss the surplus charge as we are not using them as much. Mr. Tapp confirmed that he will do so.

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 22-30).

a. System Manager Report

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

All interceptor sewers in the DSDS have now been televised by DUWA, with only the tunnel sewers remaining. Additional discussions with Veolia will take place to provide guidance for future CCTV efforts. Files will be handed over to DUWA's as-needed engineer, HRC, to provide a review of the entire televising effort from this year and provide recommendations for additional sewer maintenance and rehabilitation if required.

As it relates to interceptor televising this past month Veolia was able to remove and repair the pipe where a directional drill boring head was stuck. Once the lining material of the pipe is delivered the lining work will be coordinated with the City and the High School. Mr. Alford has reached out to the JCAR chair yet hasn't received a reply on the EGLE proposed collection system and the part 41 rule changes. Sarah Rutkowski has reached out to Alyssa Sarver who is the lead person at EGLE requesting them to give a presentation to the DUWA board. The MWEA collections committee meeting on October 16th is still scheduled along with a seminar on October 23rd. Ms. Rutkowski will be in attendance at the seminar to hear the latest updates. A definitive voting date is still unknown on the Part 41 rule change.

Mr. Alford continued to report that the BASF North Works site already has existing groundwater remediation systems onsite that discharge to DUWA through current IPP permits. A draft renewal permit has been issued to BASF for one of their existing IPP permits.

Mr. Alford and the Veolia team had a meeting last week to discuss the new required groundwater remediation system for PFAS to reduce contaminated flows to the

Detroit River. Negotiations are ongoing. During the meantime we have been meeting permit requirements.

Veolia continues to closely monitor 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 to remove the additional ortho phosphate.

Mr. Alford noted odor complaints have been much lower this year compared to last year, regardless of the dry weather and low flows. The plant has switched to utilizing all ferric instead of PACL. Ferric is utilized as it provides better treatment for phosphorus and solids in the plant. Mr. Tapp added that in September they began projecting monthly permit violations. To set the plant up for success Veolia wanted to get the suspended solids down on their final effluent, which wasn't being brought down with PACL alone.

The first phase of the odor study has been delivered to DUWA and is currently being reviewed. A second phase was recommended by Veolia CPM to test for odor in the water flows, and testing has begun. Finally, the carbon odor control unit is utilized when the dryer is operational. The Veolia team continues to investigate odor complaint locations as soon as possible after receiving the complaint to evaluate the odor condition. Veolia made three calls in September to residents.

Natural gas sell back continues. DUWA's renewal contract with Constellation is being reviewed along with an additional competitor as it is set to expire at the end of the year. 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, October 23, 2025, at 9:30 am.

The initial kick off meeting was held with Fishbeck for the CIP to develop the work plan and scope. Fishbeck will be assisting the initial phases of the CIP development. The plan is to meet with Veolia soon to discuss current asset management efforts and begin discussions on short-term and long-term project needs. The CIP development process will be brought regularly to the Technical Committee for review, comments, and approval. The generator control study quote has been received and is being reviewed.

The amended AOI included updating DUWA's official address from Taylor to Wyandotte and clarifying supermajority and weighted voting tallies. The System

Manager has changed DUWA's official address on letterhead and the website and Veolia has a mailbox ready at the DWTF for any mail for DUWA.

Quotes are expected at the end of October from AON and Michigan Municipal League for the 2026 Insurance renewal. AON will give a presentation at the next Board meeting. They expect a minimal cost increase.

b. UV Disinfection Replacement Project

After seeing the schedule continually slip, the System Manager arranged a meeting with all four parties to focus on the schedule of the project. As of now, the contractor proposed a reasonable plan that would have all channels installed by the end of August 2026. This would put the project close to the original schedule. Mr. Alford acknowledges DUWA's disappointment but reassured everyone that they are on the right track moving forward. Mayor McLeod expressed her concern about completing the project on time as we have a deadline to utilize the State's ARPA grant to pay for part of the project. Mr. Kuspa inquired why Black and Veatch have had a lack of urgency. Mr. Alford noted that Black and Veatch had changed personnel to improve project oversight. He will await Black and Veatch's response to our direct letter that was sent out from our System Attorney. Mr. Kuspa noted that we will heavily weigh on how Black and Veatch does on this project for future work. Jeff Dobek requested that the timeline for the project be shared with Black and Veatch for communication and tracking purposes.

c. Biosolids Dryer Facility Project

Mr. Tapp reported ferric was increased at the plant to meet the plant compliance requirements for September. With the increase in ferric, the dryers can not operate as self heating of the dried solids will occur. Once sample results for iron concentration are under an acceptable threshold, drying and hauling to LaSalle can continue.

The main bearing on centrifuge 3 was replaced on September 3rd. If the bearing fails again before they modify the new greasing system they will install a new bearing at their cost. Alfa Laval is awaiting parts to provide a schedule on installation of the new greasing system. Centrifuge 1 was not operating correctly with inconsistent cake solids. Operations replaced the bowl and adjusted dam plates to allow for consistent operation. Also, while new rotopump cake pumps 3 and 4 were running they ran at a slower speed but with the same output. The gear box then failed on cake pump 4. This is planned to be replaced as a warranty item.

North and South dryers had vacuum fan bearing failures. The Veolia team assessed the bearings and noticed that the north dryer vacuum fan experienced bearing failure which caused damage to the metal covers. Veolia O&M replaced the bearings and repaired the metal cover. The South Dryer was then inspected, and those bearings were replaced too as they showed issues.

Brown and Caldwell's Interim Odor report was submitted to DUWA on September 25, 2025. Once DUWA has reviewed the report, a meeting will be scheduled to walk through the report. Brown and Caldwell are coordinating the phase 2 sampling with the first round occurring on October 15 - 17 and the second in early November. The phase 2 sampling plan is expected Oct 7 and will be shared with DUWA once reviewed. Due to ferric's ability to react with multiple odor causing compounds, Brown and Caldwell has proposed stopping the ferric dosing for a few days to allow measurements of the total amount of H₂S and other chemicals that need to be mitigated to minimize odor complaints. Ferric would return to operation immediately afterwards.

Mr. Tapp continues that Kruger is planning to conduct a dryer system audit of all dryer system components, and perform any adjustments or replacements. The main goal being continuous operation of the dryers once they are able to be restarted. The dryer roof panels directly under the dosing pumps have experienced corrosion issues resulting in sagging of the bottom layer. Kruger and the panel manufacturer are designing a repair.

The SFE pumps continue to fail. After inspection of the piping it was discovered that the layout doesn't meet design standards. A deficiency letter is being drafted to Walsh for them to correct this issue.

Page 34 shows dryer operation at 16% for the month of September.

Jeff Dobek suggested that Veolia keep parts on the shelf moving forward so that wait times are eliminated. Mr. Tapp added that they do have some spare parts but those are failing quickly.

7. Requests for Authorization and Approval

Starting on page 35 Sarah Rutkowski presented two proposals to the Board for approval.

a. As-Needed Engineering Contract Renewals

Mrs. Rutkowski noted that DUWA currently maintains contracts with the following three engineering firms to provide various as-needed engineering services that may arise: Hazen & Sawyer, HRC, and Wade Trim. The initial term of the contract was for a 3-year period from the effective date of September 15, 2021. Each of the three engineering firms are interested in renewing their contract for another year through September 15, 2026. Proposed rate schedules for all three firms have been reviewed. Rates reflect inflationary increases from the previous year. The costs for as-needed engineering services will be paid from DUWA's Engineering Services budget line item as engineering service needs arise.

Motion by Southgate, supported by Wyandotte to approve the one-year extension of the as-needed engineering services contracts with Hazen & Sawyer, HRC, and Wade Trim through September 15, 2026 at each of the firm's respective 2025-2026 hourly billing rates. The motion passed unanimously by all attending members.

b. SEMCOG Designated Management Agency Dues

Mrs. Rutkowski noted DUWA is a partner of SEMCOG's Designated Management Agency (DMA) program. Under the DMA program, SEMCOG collects a financial contribution from each DMA partner to support regional water resource management planning activities and activities related to member compliance with stormwater, drinking water, and wastewater requirements. The SEMCOG 2024-2025 Fiscal Year Designated Management Agency Program Annual Report provides additional details on this program along with a summary of water resource planning activities in the region.

Motion by Riverview, supported by Southgate to approve payment to SEMCOG for the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year Designated Management Agency fee of \$4,022. The invoice is included in this month's invoice register. This fee will be paid from DUWA's Other Services & Charges – Professional Services budget line item. 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 42.

a. Fiscal Year Change Coordination

Earlier this week the draft resolution for the Board to approve the change of the fiscal year-end was received. Draft notices will be sent out to bond companies, disclosure companies, and the State of Michigan regarding the change. Mr. Drysdale anticipates the resolution for the change in November. A budget amendment will be

created for the 6-month period between January 1, 2026 and June 30, 2026. He confirmed that July 2026 through June 2027 will be DUWA's first full fiscal year.

b. Community Self-Reporting Status Log

Mr. Drysdale made note that Belleville is now up to date through August and River Rouge is up to date through July.

c. Aging Accounts Receivable

The total amount in the Aging Accounts Receivable is \$640,981.50 of which \$346,301.98 is current. \$169,384.95 (26%) is over 60 days delinquent. As a reminder, 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 noted that one invoice is over 60 days due to not receiving the invoice. He is now in contact with them as they have had prior issues with the Post Office. With the new software invoices will be emailed instead of mailed moving forward.

River Rouge is working on getting caught up on invoices. The Community was using sewage worksheets from the prior year and have a credit over \$60,000 which will be cleaned up.

IPP customer payments have been coming in. Mr. Drysdale is in contact with them every week and payments are in process. He is working with the System Attorney to send out collection letters. The late fee of 1.5% will be assessed upon sending out the collection letters.

d. Pending Invoices

The total amount in this month's invoice register is \$2,002,197.54. The largest invoices include those to Veolia for monthly O&M and unit cost reconciliation and Wyandotte Municipal Services for utilities.

Motion by Riverview, supported by Southgate to approve payment of the pending invoices in the amount of \$2,002,197.54. 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, November 13, 2025 (9:00 AM; In-Person)

Chairperson McLeod reminded the Board that the next regular meeting would take place on Thursday, November 13, 2025 at 9:00 AM in-person at the City of Taylor Council Chambers.

12. Adjournment

There being no other business, Chairperson McLeod announced that a motion to adjourn would be in order. Motion by Belleville, supported by Brownstown to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously at 10:25 AM.