

**DOWNRIVER UTILITY WASTEWATER AUTHORITY  
NOVEMBER 13, 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 a roll call to be taken. At the time of roll call, voting representatives were in attendance from 10 communities: Allen Park, Belleville, Brownstown, Lincoln Park, Southgate, Riverview, River Rouge, Taylor, Van Buren, Wyandotte. A quorum (at least 7 members) were present. Absent: Dearborn Heights, Ecorse, and Romulus.

**a. DUWA Commissioners**

The DUWA Board Commissioners present at the time of roll call introduced themselves as follows: Greg Mayhew (Wyandotte), Kevin Lawrence (Van Buren), Mayor Tim Wooley (Taylor), Melissa Collins (River Rouge), Jeff Dobek (Riverview), Mayor Gail McLeod (Allen Park), Dan Marsh (Southgate), Lisa Griggs (Lincoln Park), Nathan Johnson (Belleville), and Roxie Fairchild (Brownstown).

**b. Other Meeting Attendees**

Board meeting attendees present in the audience at the time of roll call introduced themselves as follows: Jonathan Kosin (AON Services), Brandon Grysko (Fausone & Grysko), Rumzei Abdallah (Plante Moran), Jason Couture (Treasurer), Kerry Morgan (Riverview), Souheil Sabak (CE Raines/Riverview), Jason Nash (Veolia O&M), Travis Tuma (Veolia O&M), Doug Drysdale (Southgate/DNS Financial), Dan Alford (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 Brownstown to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously by all attending members.

**3. Approval of Minutes from October 9, 2025 Board Meeting**

Copies of the meeting minutes from the October 9, 2025 Board meeting were included in the pre-meeting Board packet. Motion by Van Buren, supported by Taylor 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 through the month he and his team have been providing assistance in various legal matters, attended the most recent technical committee meeting, and has assisted the System Manager. Mr. Grysko added the System Atty will be attending the finance committee meeting next week.

##### **b. Fiscal Year Change Resolution**

The Fiscal Year Change Resolution defines the 12-month fiscal year from July 1st to June 30th, and will commence on July 1, 2026. There will be a short fiscal year from January 1st to June 30th for 2026.

Motion by Wyandotte, supported by Southgate to adopt the fiscal year change resolution. The motion passed unanimously by all attending members. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed with 74% of the vote (unanimous vote by all attending members).

#### **5. Contract Operator Update**

##### **a. Monthly Operating Report**

Travis Tuma reported that September was a very low flow month, with an average flow of 27 million gallons per day. Operations have been difficult as the plant was designed to run at higher flows. Veolia continues to minimize odors by dosing ferric. Mr. Tuma continued to report that Veolia replaced the rotating assembly on centrifuge 1 with a spare. Dryers have not been operated recently so still hauling solids to the landfill. Many items were repaired on the dryers this past month so that they are in the best state when they are brought back on. Veolia observed International Health and Safety Week from September 15th through the 19th. Veolia held a plant wide event with discussions, vendor demonstrations, and food trucks for personnel. Veolia is currently interviewing and looking to fill their Environment Health and Safety manager role as the current person is retiring. Mr. Tuma asks to send any interested personnel his way. A total of 370 MISS DIG tickets were received this past month with 38 of them being emergency related. Sludge hauling to LaSalle/BCA totaled \$170,964.61 for the month. The costs are associated with needing to get biosolids out of the plant as the dryers were down. Luckily Veolia has been able to haul around 7 truck loads a day to Woodland Meadows in Romulus at a lower rate due to it's close distance to the plant. Page 19 showcases permit compliance, which include a new target column. Mr. Tuma added that during April to September the plant has to be at 0.6 ppm for a six month average for

total phosphorus. Veolia was in range at 0.57 ppm. For the non-growing season the plant needs to be at a 0.7 ppm monthly average. Piedmont Technical Services was on site to conduct a full inventory of the UV system. Some parts were utilized from channel 4; as it relates to the UV project channel 4 will most likely be the first channel to go offline.

**b. Chemical and Sludge Price - Monthly Updates**

Page 21 showcases commodities. The total cost for sludge hauling and disposal costs to DUWA totaled \$170,964.62 for September. Kerry Morgan inquired if there is a relationship between reduced flows and increased volume cost since costs for sludge are high for September. Mr. Tuma brought to light that the high sludge costs are due to having the dryers offline. Mayor Gail McLeod inquired if the water commodity pricing was correct. Mr. Tuma believes that to be an error and will have it updated.

**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 22-35).

**a. AON 2026 Insurance Renewal Presentation**

Mr. Alford notified the Board they have been engaged in DUWA's annual insurance renewal. This year DUWA reached out to a larger market to receive competitive bids. Mr. Alford asked AON to explain their approach. A completed insurance package and system manager recommendation will be presented at next month's Board meeting.

Jon Kosin and Brandon Bacon from AON presented the preparation details for the 2026 renewal. A list of markets were identified for property insurance. The last risk control survey was scheduled for November 12th. Once all surveys are completed and additional requested information is provided, quotes are expedited to be received by interested parties. The current insurer, Chubb, is committed to quoting the renewal, and expects to have a quote by the week of November 24th. AON also expects to have quotes from Hudson and Liberty Mutual by the week of November 24th. AON expects to have Hanover's quote by the week of November 17th.

**b. System Manager Report**

Mr. Alford notified the Board that we have yet to hear back from EGLE in regard to the NPDES draft permit. Flow meter and collection system televising for the year is complete. Video will be reviewed to find areas of repairs that need to be

scheduled and repaired. At the October 16, 2025 MWEA collections system seminar, EGLE said they have paused the proposed Part 41 rule change process. This is to ensure stakeholders are adequately involved following JCAR concerns. EGLE will be conducting a webinar on November 20th at 1pm. You may submit questions/concerns before or during the meeting. Mr. Alford along with many other communities will be attending.

The BASF North Works facility in Wyandotte is being mandated by the EPA to install a required PFAS groundwater remediation system to reduce contaminated flows to Detroit River. The BASF North Works site already has existing groundwater remediation systems onsite that discharge to DUWA through current IPP permits. As it relates to the plant Veolia issued a draft renewal permit for one of the two general site discharge IPP permits from BASF.

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 increased ortho-phosphate in drinking water.

Mr. Alford noted odor complaint reports have decreased significantly from last year due to operational changes that were made over the year. The second phase of the odor study is ongoing, which focuses on liquid odor. Veolia's odor SWAT team remains committed to contact and visit residents that report odors. Since the dryers have not been running the carbon-based odor control system has not been utilized but is available when need be.

Due to the irregular dryer system operation, the DWTF has been at higher risk for not using our reserved natural gas. Consultant Joe Moylan with MEA Inc. has been utilized to help evaluate options and the best strategy for DUWA moving forward. A recommendation will be brought to the Technical Committee this month. Technical meetings continue with this month's meeting held in person and via zoom on Thursday, November 20, 2025, at 9:30 am.

A meeting has been scheduled to discuss as needed Engineering work under the CIP improvement plan update with Veolia and the Fishbeck team to capture all known plant issues. The plan is to craft a 20 year plan for the system.

The resolution 2025-002, which was adopted earlier in the meeting, will change the budget year from January to December to align with the rate year of July to June and notices will be provided to all required financial entities.

**c. UV Disinfection Replacement Project**

Black and Veatch have improved their coordination activity. Mr. Alford thanked the System Attorney's efforts for their help moving things forward. Page 31 of the packet shows the new substantial completion date as September 2026. The previous date was January 2027. 95% of the project will be completed at that time, which aligns with the grant funding deadline. Mr. Alford thanked Veolia for their assistance and willingness to accommodate modified construction shutdowns.

**d. Biosolids Dryer Facility Project**

Jason Nash reported that the dryer was offline in October partially due to repairs as well as high ferric concentration. Cake Pump 4's gear box failed on the new rotoupump. A new gear box was installed and tested the week of November 3rd. The North dryer cake line pressure relief valve failed due to debris not enabling it to operate properly, so the valve body was replaced. With the increase in ferric, dried biosolids can no longer be discharged to LaSalle. Once the sample results for iron are under an acceptable threshold, discharge to LaSalle can resume. This is expected in mid to late December.

The dryer was down due to a week-long inspection by Kruger to look at issues. Findings will be reviewed by the team and presented at next month's Board meeting. Brown and Caldwell have completed their liquid sampling. During their sampling time ferric was offline at the plant and was turned back on afterwards. Awaiting results to analyze the data. The roof panels directly under the dosing pumps have experienced corrosion issues resulting in sagging due to water leaking from the dosing platform. These were supposed to be water proof but were installed incorrectly. Kruger was the designer and Walsh was the installer. The panel repairs will begin on December 1st and are expected to take 2 weeks.

All major components of the pilot de-gritting system have arrived with the exception of the grit classifier. Veolia is working with Brown and Caldwell for the final layout including ventilation and odor control requirements for EGLE approval. The system is planned to be up and operational sometime between mid-December and January. The SFE pump 1 and 3 intake piping installation does not meet the Hydraulic Institute standards as required by the specification. A deficiency letter was drafted to Walsh for them to correct this issue. Mr. Alford noted that these pumps failed multiple times following construction but the improper layout was missed at that time.

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

Dan Alford presented the Flow Monitoring Services Contract proposal to the Board for approval.

### **a. Flow Monitoring Services Contract**

DUWA currently maintains a contract with Veolia to perform collection system flow monitoring services. Mr. Alford added that Veolia has done a great job and has been a good partner. Another one-year contract through December 31, 2026, is proposed to maintain flexibility for modifications to the current contract or the ability to competitively bid, if desired. The 2025 annual flow monitoring fee is \$328,402. This would be increased by 3.4% for 2026 for a total cost of \$339,568 for the 2026 contract to reflect an inflationary increase based on the consumer's price index. The cost for this work will be paid from DUWA's Plant Operations – Flow Metering budget line item.

Motion by Wyandotte, supported by Van Buren to renew Veolia's flow metering contract for one year through December 31, 2026 for a not-to-exceed fee of \$339,568. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed with 74% of the vote (unanimous vote by all attending members).

## **8. Treasurer's Report**

Doug Drysdale presented the various items below to the Board, which start on page 38.

### **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. A 6-month budget between January 1, 2026 and June 30, 2026 was presented to the Finance Committee and waiting for comments. Mr. Drysdale says DUWA will have our normal spring audit, then a stub year audit in the fall.

### **b. Quarterly Financial Statement**

Year to date the Authority has \$41.5 Million in cash and investments. The higher number this year is due to the SRF funding money to pay the bonds, which are paid October 1st. Receivables total \$2 Million due to communities handling self reporting and getting payments in. As of September 30th there is a small surplus of net revenues and expenditures totaling \$539,000. Starting on page 42 is the start of the revenue and expenditure report for DUWA. Mr. Drysdale pointed out other revenue is at 155% due to the EGLE grant, gas buyback, miscellaneous revenues, and SRF billings to communities. Operating revenue year to date totals 70% of the budget. Total department revenues total about 80%. Debt service for the department totals 90%. Other services and charges are at 57% for

the year. Plant operations are at 67%, with the big items being: Veolia O&M services, sludge hauling and electricity. Year to date capital outlay is at 35% with the major item being the UV disinfection project.

**c. Draft January through June 2026 Stub Budget**

The six month stub budget from January 1st, 2026 to June 30th, 2026 begins on page 45. This stub budget is necessary to align the DUWA fiscal year budgeting period as authorized by the Board. Estimated revenue totals \$23.4 Million, which includes operating revenue, other revenue and interest. Page 46 showcases plant operations totaling \$11 Million. Sludge hauling was estimated based on half of what was done the prior year. Chemicals and utilities numbers are in line for what is projected for 2026. Page 47 showcases other services and charges totaling \$1.2 Million. Capital outlay totals \$9.1 Million. Debt service totals \$6 Million and total appropriations total \$27.3 Million. Net of Revenues & Appropriations total a \$3.8 Million deficit, which is mostly due to the anticipated use of reserves for the UV project. Mr. Drysdale noted that the finance committee has until next week to provide any comments/changes. The final version of the budget will be brought to the Board during December's Board meeting for approval.

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

Doug Drysdale noted that that everyone is up to date on community self-reporting with the exception of River Rouge. Mr. Drysdale is working with River Rouge to get them caught up.

**e. Aging Accounts Receivable**

The total amount in the aging accounts receivable is \$1.2 Million. 84% of the communities are 60 days or less delinquent. Mr. Drysdale has seen good communication back and forth on those that are past due and added that Mr. Grysko has been helpful during this process.

**f. Pending Invoices**

The total amount in this month's invoice register is \$1,989,332.69. The largest invoices include those to Veolia for monthly O&M and unit cost reconciliation and Wyandotte Municipal Services for utilities.

Motion by Southgate, supported by Lincoln Park to approve payment of the pending invoices in the amount of \$1,989,332.69. 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, December 11, 2025 (9:00 AM; In-Person)**

Chairperson McLeod reminded the Board that the next regular meeting would take place on Thursday, December 11, 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 Southgate, supported by Brownstown to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously at 10:21 AM.