

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

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), Melissa Collins (River Rouge), Mayor Tim Wooley (Taylor), Jeff Dobek (Riverview), Mayor Gail McLeod (Allen Park), Mayor Joseph Kuspa (Southgate), Nathan Johnson (Belleville), Roberto Scappaticci (Romulus), 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: Jim Fausone (Fausone & Grysko), Rumzei Abdallah (Plante Moran), Jason Couture (Treasurer), Jim Taylor, Kerry Morgan (Riverview), Souheil Sabak (CE Raines/Riverview), Jason Nash (Veolia O&M), Dave Hisman (Veolia O&M), Travis Tuma (Veolia O&M), Jason Tapp (Veolia O&M), Doug Drysdale (Southgate/DNS Financial), Dan Alford (Fishbeck), Lauren Fath-Azam (Secretary), Steve Hitchcock, and Sarah Rutkowski (Fishbeck).

2. Approval of Agenda

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

3. Approval of Minutes from November 13, 2025 Board Meeting

Copies of the meeting minutes from the November 13, 2025 Board meeting were included in the pre-meeting Board packet. Motion by Wyandotte, supported by Romulus to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously by all attending members.

4. Legal Update

Attorney Jim Fausone of Fausone & Grysko, provided the Legal Update.

a. General Counsel Monthly Report

Mr. Fausone highlighted he and his team have been providing assistance in various legal matters, assisting the System Manager with support on PFAS and FOIA requests, and participating in the technical and finance committees.

5. Contract Operator Update

a. Monthly Operating Report

Travis Tuma reported that the flows in October were extremely low and were the lowest in the history of the facility. The average daily flow was 23 MGD. The maximum daily flow reached 32 MGD on October 21st. Only one bypass event has occurred in 2025, significantly below the annual maximum goal of six. Jason Tapp added that these low flows affect treatment. This requires them to take tanks out of service to treat what flows are coming in but it is difficult to put systems back online if flows increase quickly during rain events. Veolia is having to limit the amount of glycol they receive from the airport due to the extreme low flow at the plant. DTW also has the ability to send it to the Great Lakes Water Authority. Mr. Tuma continued to report that yesterday was a challenging day as many systems were offline when the snow started to melt and rain was received.

Large jobs completed by Veolia included: replacing sludge lobe pump 1 with a spare, and rebuilding lobe pump 1. Currently Veolia is trying to replace these pumps with newer models as the old pumps are difficult to get parts for. Quotes are being obtained for the newer model. Mr. Tuma highlighted that the soft start for raw sewage pump 4 was removed and sent out for repair to a new vendor that should repair it for a fraction of the cost that has been paid prior. As it relates to the failed gear box on roto pump 4, this was repaired due to a manufacturing error and returned under warranty.

26 confined space permits were completed and reviewed for the month. The new Environment Health and Safety manager will begin on December 22nd as the prior manager will be retiring this week. MISS DIG tickets totaled 363 for the month of October with 18 of them being Emergency related.

The LaSalle/BCA costs increased this month totaling \$193,749.81. More trucks are getting to landfill since the dryers are offline. Mr. Tapp added that more ferric chloride was dosed in October to achieve compliance and to reduce odor complaints. A lot less complaints have been coming in this November/December compared to last year because of it. He will revise the utility reconciliation table to better showcase where costs are being allocated to. The DWTF's effluent was in

full compliance with all NPDES permit requirements for October 2025. The DMR was submitted on time to EGLE, confirming no violations. All effluent discharged to the river met permit limits. While PFAS currently has no specific limit in the permit, sample results were reported to EGLE as required. The plant has been operating well and has been hitting the target numbers. Mr. Tapp reported that average MGD is shown on page 17 in table 4, which enables you to see that lows were extremely low this past month compared to the past year.

b. Chemical and Sludge Price - Monthly Updates

Mr. Tapp noted that for unit price changes, landfill disposal charges went down to \$24.60 per ton due to hauling proximity. \$20,000 a month is being saved due to this change. He reminded everyone that Woodland Meadows is a 3 year contract.

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 19-31).

a. System Manager Report

Dan Alford noted that we continue to await EGLE's response to DUWA's NPDES renewal response letter that was submitted to EGLE on January 26, 2024. There has been much discussion on the EGLE part 41 permit. After the last webinar EGLE has offered to expand their stakeholder group. Mr. Alford encourages all communities to join the group with the sign-up deadline being December 12th. BASF issued a permit before Thanksgiving. That issued permit has caused additional discussions between BASF and DUWA. An offer stands to sit down with BASF and negotiate whatever issues they might have. Nothing has changed as it relates to orthophosphate dosing.

Mr. Alford pointed out that comparing odor complaints this November to November 2024 we are in a better situation. He added that seven of the twenty complaints were from one resident. The Veolia team continues to provide support to collecting information about odor complaints. With the dryers offline the odor control units have not been utilized. At the last technical committee meeting options were discussed regarding natural gas suppliers and associated costs and fees. After looking into various options some savings are available. Sarah Rutkowski will later elaborate on those. The technical committee meetings have been productive. There will not be a meeting this December but will resume in January. As it relates to the CIP, a meeting was held with Veolia and Fishbeck to discuss the entire facility's wastewater issues including various other items. Potential studies were identified and work scopes will be drafted up and sent out

to as needed engineering services. This will all be coordinated with the technical committee.

Last month Veolia reported an emergency situation. The emergency generators have been aging. Any wastewater facility is required to have two redundant power sources. The downriver plant has two redundant sources from Wyandotte Municipal and emergency generators which power only about 75% of the plant's needs. Since these are all tied together, when the automated control systems failed the plant power went off. The Veolia team trouble shot restored the plant power on manual mode. An onsite investigation was completed and Veolia obtained a \$75,000 quote for hardware and software replacements. Once installed, additional programming, trouble shooting, and parts may need to be obtained. A PO has been issued to McCallister with mobilization expected in January.

Roberto Scappaticci inquired as to what IPP permit items BASF is contesting. Mr. Alford noted that our IPP Manager based this permit on a dilution assumption. As an IPP customer you're not allowed to dilute a discharge in order to lower the concentration to meet your permit. Their issue is with the dilution language in the permit. Jim Fausone added PFAS in general is a sensitive subject for BASF because of EPA and EGLE consent orders due to contaminated ground water. Also BASF is engaged in a drinking water PFAS settlement where they've agreed to contribute around \$300 million toward claims that PFAS has caused damages at drinking water systems.

b. UV Disinfection Replacement Project

Last month the substantial completion date was September 2026. As of now Black and Veatch has expressed that we are now 5 weeks behind the September date. Mr. Alford let the Board know that he will continue to push Black and Veatch for better schedule control and noted that they have been more responsive to our needs overall. BV sent a letter to the contractor documenting DUWA's position and our desire to maintain the schedule. Roberto Scappaticci inquired if we have liquidated damages in our agreement with the contractor. Mr. Alford assured him that we do. Mr. Scappaticci followed up by inquiring how we are managing not having this installed. Mr. Alford noted that two existing UV channels are fully operational and a third new UV channel will be completed soon. These three channels will fulfill our disinfection needs in addition to the temporary disinfection system. No operational issues are expected in terms of UV when the last two channels are out during construction.

c. Biosolids Dryer Facility Project

Jason Nash noted that the roof panels were repaired. Photos of these are shown on page 28. The welding of the dosing deck is ongoing as. This project should be done in the middle of next week. Dryers remain offline. Limited production is available but would require daily startup/shutdown of the dryers with the increase in ferric dosing for compliance as this material must go to the landfill. Until a test confirming the proper sulfur to iron ratio, no material can be sent to LaSalle. Brown and Caldwell are analyzing all liquid and vapor data from the phase two sampling. Veolia will meet with them tomorrow to get further information. The dryers appear to not affect the odors at the plant. Data shows that the odors are coming from the headworks and recycle line. Mr. Fausone points out the use of the recycle line is the same historically and asks what else can we look at to solve this issue if odors are not related to the dryer. Mr. Nash offers the odor complaints could be due to social media and more public awareness generally. As it relates to the degritting system, Veolia continues to work through ventilation requirements and footing designs. Footings may be poured sometime in mid January so that the new degritting system can be installed. Mr. Nash continues the Huber Strainpress has functioned as intended with the elimination of all dosing nozzle clogs but has been found to be maintenance intensive as it requires monthly disassembly and cleaning. With this being a trial, Veolia is preparing to switch out the Huber strainpress for a Saveco Beast. Jim Fausone asked for confirmation on the deadline. Mr. Nash made note that it will be fully operational in mid to late February. Dan Alford noted that trying to reduce ferric while we have low flows makes wastewater treatment harder and strengthens odors. Kerry Morgan inquired if there are any other dryer systems that don't have odor issues. Mr. Nash noted that he can follow up and look into other techniques. Mr. Nash continued to report that the SFE pump 1 and 3 intake piping installation does not meet the Hydraulic Institute standards as required by the specification. A deficiency letter to Walsh was drafted for them to correct this issue and is being reviewed by the team.

7. Requests for Authorization and Approval

Starting on page 32, Sarah Rutkowski presented the following requests for authorization and approval to the Board.

a. DUWA CY 2026 Annual Insurance Renewals

DUWA currently consults with Aon as our insurance broker to assist with procuring annual quotes for our property, package liability, and inland marine insurance for the interceptor system. These policies renew annually in January. DUWA also has a three-year environmental pollution policy that was renewed

last year. Aon presented an overview of the insurance renewal efforts at the November Board meeting for the 2026 policy term. Aon approached multiple carriers for all three coverages, who provided various costs and conditions. All three proposed insurance policies will have premium decreases in 2026 with no changes in coverage.

Motion by Southgate, supported by Romulus to authorize the Chair or Vice Chair to execute agreement(s) with Chubb for the 12-month Property Insurance coverage without election of the terrorism premium for a total cost of \$325,000. Mayor Kuspa asked if there have been any property insurance claims, Mr. Fausone replied no claims have occurred to date. The motion passed unanimously by all attending members.

Motion by Taylor, supported by Riverview to authorize the Chair or Vice Chair to execute agreement(s) with Hudson for the 12-month package liability coverage renewal without election of the terrorism premium for a total cost of \$153,119. The motion passed unanimously by all attending members.

Motion by Southgate, supported by Belleville to authorize the Chair or Vice Chair to execute agreement(s) with Hanover for the 12-month Inland Marine coverage renewal without election of the terrorism premium for a total cost of \$67,050. The motion passed unanimously by all attending members.

b. Constellation Natural Gas Contract

DUWA purchases natural gas from Constellation but it purchases natural gas delivery from DTE. After reviewing different options, DUWA's natural gas consultant recommend DUWA enter into the Constellation easement pool. This request was reviewed by the Technical Committee during the November 20, 2025 meeting and was recommended for approval.

Motion by Romulus, supported by Southgate to enter into a new contract with Constellation for the Easement Pool for a not to exceed 36-month contract, pending legal review of the contract documents and lock in a fixed rate for natural gas supply with Constellation, and for the Board Chair to execute it on behalf of the Authority. The motion passed unanimously by all attending members.

c. Centrifuge #1 Bowl Repair

Veolia received three quotes to repair multiple wear points on the centrifuge bowl from Alfa Laval, Centrisys, and Sentrimax. This fee will be paid from DUWA's Capital Outlay line item of the budget. This request was reviewed by the

Technical Committee during the November 20, 2025 meeting and was recommended for approval.

Motion by Southgate, supported by Riverview to authorize Veolia to contract with Sentrimax for Centrifuge 1 bowl repairs for a total cost not to exceed \$41,698.66. This fee will be paid from DUWA's Capital Outlay line item of the budget. The motion passed unanimously by all attending members.

d. TPS Pump #4 Repair

During the repair work on the previously approved \$75,400 submersible pump repair, it was determined the power and controls cables needed replacement. This would increase the total repair costs to \$107,706. This fee will be paid from DUWA's Capital Outlay line item of the budget. This request was reviewed by the Technical Committee during the November 20, 2025 meeting and was recommended for approval.

Motion by Southgate, supported by Romulus to increase the Not-To-Exceed amount for the Tunnel Pump Station Pump #4 repairs, due to the need to replace a power cord, from \$75,400 to \$107,706. 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

Jason Couture presented the various items below to the Board, which start on page 61.

a. Fiscal Year Change Coordination

DUWA's fiscal year-end will be changing from December 31st to June 30th to align with DUWA's rate year which is July through June. Jim Fausone summarized the team is working on ensuring all notifications are being taken care of. Each required notice is drafted and just needs to be sent.

b. CY 2026 Financial Calendar

The Finance calendar is shown on page 62 for informational purposes. This showcases the budget timeline, budget timeline, audit timeline, and financial timeline for the upcoming year.

c. Resolution to Adopt January - June 2026 Transitional Budget

Page 63 shows the proposed budget for January through June 2026. This budget was presented last month as a draft. No comments were made by either the

Finance Committee or the Board, so the proposed budget is being brought to the Board for approval.

Motion by Taylor, supported by Southgate to approve the recommendation of Jason Couture (City of Taylor), DUWA's Treasurer, the Board of Commissioners (Board) of the Downriver Utility Wastewater Authority (DUWA):

- 1) Approves the attached resolution, 2025-003 adopting the Transitional Budget for DUWA covering the period beginning January 1st 2026 and ending June 30th 2026;
- 2) Notes that a majority vote is necessary for the approval of this resolution; and
- 3) Authorizes the Chairperson, Treasurer, or Accountant to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed with 81% of the vote (all members present except Dearborn Heights, Ecorse and Lincoln Park).

d. Community Self-Reporting Status Log

Jason Couture noted everyone is up to date on community self-reporting with the exception of River Rouge. Mr. Drysdale has worked with River Rouge to get them caught up. Since the meeting packet was submitted they are now up to date to September.

e. Aging Accounts Receivable

The total amount in the Aging Accounts Receivable is \$3,238,571.36 of which \$2,881,547.90 is current. \$220,798.03 (7%) is over 60 days delinquent. Mr. Couture brought it to everyone's attention that River Rouge's invoices have now been paid since the report was filed with the Board. 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. The system accountant, system managers, and legal team have been meeting regularly to discuss approaches for collecting payment on delinquent accounts. Over \$13,000 in delinquent invoices have been paid over the last month through this effort.

f. Pending Invoices

The total amount in this month's invoice register is \$2,346,569.35. The largest invoices include those to Veolia for monthly O&M and unit cost reconciliation, Wyandotte Municipal Services for utilities, and Commercial Contracting Corporation for the UV Disinfection Replacement Project. Payments to CCC will be reimbursed to DUWA through the ARPA Grant.

Motion by Wyandotte, supported by Van Buren to approve payment of the pending invoices in the amount of \$2,346,569.35. The motion passed unanimously by all attending members.

9. Public Comment

There was no further Public Comment.

10. Other Business

a. 2026 Board Meeting Calendar

Motion by Wyandotte, supported by Taylor to approve the 2026 meeting dates as presented. The motion passed unanimously by all attending members.

b. Board Officer Elections in January 2026

Mr. Fausone mentioned if there is anyone interested in being one of the officers of the Authority or an alternate to make him aware prior to the January meeting.

Mayor Kuspa thanked everyone who helped the residents of the Southgate senior center, which caught fire in October.

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

11. Next Meeting Date: Thursday, January 8, 2026 (9:00 AM; In-Person)

Chairperson McLeod reminded the Board that the next regular meeting would take place on Thursday, January 8, 2026 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 Taylor to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously at 10:44 AM.