

**DOWNRIVER UTILITY WASTEWATER AUTHORITY
JANUARY 8, 2026 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 12 communities: Allen Park, Belleville, Brownstown, Ecorse, Lincoln Park, Riverview, River Rouge, Romulus, Southgate, Taylor, Van Buren, Wyandotte. A quorum (at least 7 members) were present. Absent: Dearborn Heights.

a. DUWA Commissioners

The DUWA Board Commissioners present at the time of roll call introduced themselves as follows: Mayor Gail McLeod (Allen Park), Nathan Johnson (Belleville), Roxie Fairchild (Brownstown), David Hall (Ecorse), Lisa Griggs (Lincoln Park), Jeff Dobek (Riverview), Melissa Collins (River Rouge), Roberto Scappaticci (Romulus), Mayor Joseph Kuspa (Southgate), Mayor Tim Woolley (Taylor), Kevin Lawrence (Van Buren), and 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), Jim Taylor (DUWA), Dan Marsh (Southgate), Doug Drysdale (Southgate/DNS Financial), Gerald Barr (Allen Park), Souheil Sabak (CE Raines/Riverview), Kerry Morgan (Riverview), Jason Nash (Veolia CPM), Travis Tuma (Veolia O&M), Jason Tapp (Veolia O&M), Steve Hitchcock (Romulus), Sarah Rutkowski (Fishbeck), Lauren Fath-Azam (Secretary), and Dan Alford (Fishbeck). Jason Coulture (Taylor) arrived at 9:13am.

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 December 11, 2025 Board Meeting

Copies of the meeting minutes from the December 11, 2025 Board meeting were included in the pre-meeting Board packet. Motion by Brownstown, supported by Wyandotte 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 he and his team have been actively working with the System Manager as it relates to: BASF issues; insurance renewals; permit issues; budgetary matters; FOIA requests and related issues; operational issues such as odors; the dryer project; UV disinfection; and the discussion of PFAS multi-district litigation.

5. Contract Operator Update

a. Monthly Operating Report

Travis Tuma reported that the DWTF continues to receive very low flows. Daily flows averaged 25 MGD. Jason Tapp added that there was only one primary bypass that occurred in 2025. EGLE had Veolia modify the plant capacity and secondary treatment to get that number below six or less per year. Mr. Tuma noted that we have been well below that limit of six for the last few years. Large jobs completed this past month include: the replacement of the tow-bro sludge removal system in final clarifier 6. Mr. Tapp added that they have switched to stainless steel material for the tow-bro to increase longevity. Mr. Tuma noted the removal of a sludge screw conveyor drive shaft, which was sent to the welding shop for the repair of a broken weld. Quotes are being obtained for a shafted auger, which is much sturdier and more rigid. Over the years the general wear of the housing of the conveyor has worn through. Patches have been welded to prolong the life, but a replacement is needed in the future. Veolia has been working to get all of their PM's completed before the end of the year. The SFE pump that was rebuilt at a local pump shop is now back in place. The new pumps that have been put into place are currently offline until needed. With the dryers offline there aren't huge water demands, so only the center pump is being utilized as it has a better feed. Mr. Tuma added that SFE is critical as the dryer and the condensing towers use a very large amount.

Jason Tapp reported that Veolia has a new Health and Safety Manager due to retirement. After working together for the last few weeks Mr. Tapp believes it to be a great fit. Veolia has also been interviewing for a Collection System Technician. A new technician will be brought onto the team shortly. Monthly usage of Ferric Chloride/PACL was low totalling \$25,303.44. Expenditures totaled \$216,948.75. The DWTF's effluent was in full compliance with all NPDES permit requirements for November 2025. On December 20th a State Inspection was conducted by an EGLE regulator. Since then Veolia has received a letter

stating the success of the inspection. Table 4 shows precipitation for the last 12 months. The service area received on average a total of 0.6" of precipitation during November. No significant weather event occurred over the month.

b. Chemical and Sludge Price - Monthly Updates

Mr. Tapp reported that there is nothing to note as it relates to chemical and sludge prices. There is discussion to add a sludge CPI increase on the next Veolia amendment. Veolia also intends to start to taper the plant from only ferric-chloride to using PACL so the dryers can be operated again.

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 20-31).

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. Mr. Alford noted Veolia will begin starting this year's inspection schedule shortly.

Concerning the proposed EGLE collection system permits, many local communities requested to be on the expanded stakeholder group for EGLE's part 41 rule changes. Mr. Alford is disappointed that after gathering such a good group of communities EGLE plans to move ahead quickly with rule changes in March. Mr. Alford hopes that the stakeholder meeting will generate enough feedback so EGLE will make revisions. Mayor Kuspa inquired if EGLE is really open to taking input. Mr. Alford believes that EGLE did not give themselves enough time to implement feedback. Roberto Scappaticci added that there is a kickoff meeting today and later there is a secondary meeting to get feedback from communities on the Part 41 rule changes. Mr. Alford will keep DUWA updated as things progress. He added that he has reached out to the State Representative serving as Chair of JCAR and has not received anything back. Mayor McLeod requested that we get a list of the legislatures that are on the committee that oversee these Part 41 Rules changes. Kerry Morgan reported he was not able to get on EGLE's committee. He believes that the point of this committee is not to obtain input, but a means to jump through a necessary hoop to get their permit passed. Nathan Johnson inquired what the time frame would be if this rule change was passed and if so what is our backup plan to deal with these changes. Sarah Rutkowski added that after JCAR passes the rules it could be another 1 to 2 years before any permit requirements are set in stone. Mr. Alford noted that we could look at different ways to create various templates to

save effort for the communities to meet their local collection system requirements.

Mr. Alford continued to report that Veolia and DUWA are continuing discussions with BASF regarding renewal permits for the two general site discharge IPP permits. Veolia has not seen any noticeable trends in terms of increased use of ferric and/or PACL. The odor report is shown on page 21 of the meeting packet. This past month 20 odor complaints were made. Informational flyers were posted in local businesses in Wyandotte. When Mr. Alford reached out to a Grosse Ile resident who had made various complaints; he learned that the complaints occurred when this resident was traveling to Wyandotte. Mr. Alford noted that although the odor report provides data, it doesn't list the exact location of where an odor was encountered. Mr. Alford will continue to reach out to those who have reported odors to address complaints and educate on acceptable vs. unacceptable odors originating from the plant. Veolia continues to address complaints by calling people who report odors as well. The dryers have been offline since late September, therefore odor control hasn't been running.

Constellation is currently coordinating the transfer of easement transport services with DTE. The new natural gas contract with Constellation is expected to be in effect by February 1st. There was not a technical committee meeting in December, but the next one will take place on January 29th. The CIP plan is one of many items that will be discussed during the meeting. Mr. Alford met with the Veolia team and Fishbeck's consultant in December as it relates to, as needed engineering consultant work for the CIP. Individual studies will need to be organized with Veolia and then distributed to the as-needed engineers to complete.

Mr. Alford previously reported that the power distribution system at the plant had a critical failure. A follow up email was sent out to the officers, which communicated Veolia's ability to get an emergency repair done sooner than expected. Within two weeks Veolia and McCallister were able to replace certain components and power was restored to being double-ended. This means that half of the pumps of every single process are on separate power feeds. If one of the power feeds goes down for any reason, we would only lose half of the plant processes, until the whole plant is switched to the remaining power feed. McCallister is expected to come out and continue troubleshooting to restore the power distribution system of the plant.

Mr. Alford noted the procurement policy allows the System Manager to authorize payments under \$500. The System Manager has approved two invoices being passed forward to the System Accountant for payment. These invoices are recurring annual invoices, which include: EGLE's annual biosolids fee; and the renewal of the workers compensation insurance. These two items are listed in more detail on page 23 of the meeting packet.

b. Veolia O&M Fee Comparison

Veolia has provided their breakdown of this year's increase. The total dollar percentage change is 2.73%. This is based on the CPI as well as a formula that was based around the CPI that was worked out contractually with Veolia. Mr. Alford noted Veolia's projected 2.73% increase this year is a competitive increase as compared to general CPIs. After looking at previous years Mayor Kuspa inquired if historically this increase is a correct projection. Mr. Alford noted that he can take a look at the historic projections.

c. UV Disinfection Replacement Project

Mr. Alford reported that two additional weeks of construction delay were reported by CCC. DUWA issued a letter to the contractor discussing our concerns and the unacceptability of the new schedule. Jeff Dobek inquired if we have contractual dates with Black and Veatch. Mr. Alford confirmed that we do. Mr. Scappaticci inquired what the delay was. Mr. Alford noted that the contractor is waiting on pumps for the temporary disinfection system. DUWA has made it clear and will continue to document the schedule delay issues. Mr. Tapp inquired if there is a substantial completion date pertaining to the grant. Sarah Rutkowski noted that all of the grant funds need to be spent before a certain date. Mr. Morgan requested to have Black and Veatch come answer to the Board on their actions. Mr. Scappaticci would also like to be able to address Black and Veatch on their delays. Mayor McLeod noted that we will leave discussions with Black and Veatch to our System Manager and the lawyers.

d. Biosolids Dryer Facility Project

Jason Nash reported that for the month of December the dryers remained offline. During the beginning of December repairs and an inspection were made for the roof panels. Welding began on the dosing deck afterward to prevent any water from getting on top of the roof in the future. Due to a contamination issue the welding process took longer than expected, but will be wrapped up today. There is currently an issue with the PLC for the South Dryer so it is not available to operate as of now. Testing is being done on the PLC to work through the issue.

Brown and Caldwell are on their way to work through the phase 2 analysis of the odor report. An in-house meeting is scheduled the following week to go over possible chemical solutions to mitigate odors instead of utilizing ferric. Veolia will be working through options so that dryers can get back in operation. Interim measures to pilot new sludge screenings and grit removal systems have been slower due to the Holidays. The final layout and ventilation plan from the Engineer is expected tomorrow. It will be reviewed by Veolia before it's passed onto DUWA. The final plan includes the change of adding the degritting system and changing the Huber strainpress to another manufacturer. Mr. Grysko inquired when the dryers will be operable once the plan has been sent to the State. Mr. Nash conveyed that before the dryers are put back in operation we would need flows to pick up. He expects that the dryers would potentially be back up mid to late March but is all dependent on flows. The design of footings to support the shipping containers are expected to be completed in January 2026. Mayor McLeod asked Mr. Nash to provide more information on the SFE intake piping and explain why the installation did not meet the hydraulic institute standard. Mr. Nash explained that the pipes were installed with less than the minimum amount of upstream straight pipe required which is shown in the drawings by Wade Trim. Although it was noted that the drawing may not depict the exact pipe, the insufficient upstream straight pipe distance caused turbulence and inefficient flow. When the pumps were initially started by the local pump representative they were signed off as acceptable. Once issues arose a different pump representative came out to inspect them and made it clear that the issue is because the water is not flowing in a proper manner. Mr. Nash and Mr. Alford will be following up with Chris Montenay so that the issue will be forwarded to Walsh for correction. Mayor Kuspa inquired if there is any degradation that may happened when the dryers have been down for so long. Mr. Nash noted that they will make sure that the Dryers will be ready to go.

7. Treasurer's Report

Jason Couture presented the various items below to the board, which start on page 32.

a. Fiscal Year End Change Coordination

Various milestones and tasks have been completed with only a few more items required to do with our fiscal year change.

b. Community Self Reporting

In the meeting packet a few communities are listed as delinquent on community self reporting, but all communities have now been caught up.

c. Aging Accounts Receivable

The total amount in the Aging Accounts Receivable is \$1,551,190.86 of which \$1,322,384.50 is current. \$119,265.30 (8%) is over 60 days delinquent. Mr. Couture commented that since December's meeting about \$21,000 has been collected from long term delinquencies. River Rouge has a 90 day delinquency for their \$19,000 invoice. Doug Drysdale has been in communication with River Rouge. A payment should be completed soon.

d. Pending Invoices

The total amount in this month's invoice register is \$1,145,154.92. The largest invoices include those to Veolia for monthly O&M and unit cost reconciliation, and AON for the 2026 insurance renewal premiums.

Motion by Southgate, supported by Romulus to approve payment of the pending invoices in the amount of \$1,145,154.92. The motion passed unanimously by all attending members.

8. Public Comment

There was no further Public Comment.

9. Other Business

a. CY 2026 Board Officer Elections

Mr. Grysko discussed the 2026 Board officer elections. The results were:

Nominated by Taylor, supported by Southgate to elect Mayor Gail McLeod as Chairperson. The motion passed unanimously by all attending members.

Nominated by Lincoln Park, supported by Riverview to elect Mayor Joseph Kuspa as Vice Chairperson. The motion passed unanimously by all attending members.

Nominated by Wyandotte, supported by Southgate to elect Roberto Scappaticci as System Secretary. The motion passed unanimously by all attending members.

Nominated by Riverview, supported by Romulus to elect Jason Couture as System Treasurer. The motion passed unanimously by all attending members.

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

10. Next Meeting Date: Thursday, February 12, 2026 (9:00 AM; In-Person)

Chairperson McLeod reminded the Board that the next regular meeting would take place on Thursday, February 12, 2026 at 9:00 AM in-person at the City of Taylor Council Chambers.

11. 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 10:28AM.