

**DOWNRIVER UTILITY WASTEWATER AUTHORITY
FEBRUARY 12, 2026 MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF TAYLOR COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

1. Roll Call and Introductions

Chairperson McLeod (Allen Park) 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 9 communities: Allen Park, Dearborn Heights, Ecorse, Lincoln Park, Riverview, Romulus, Southgate, Van Buren, Wyandotte. A quorum (at least 7 members) were present. Absent: Belleville, Brownstown, Taylor, River Rouge.

a. DUWA Commissioners

The DUWA Board Commissioners present at the time of roll call introduced themselves as follows: Mayor Gail McLeod (Allen Park), David Hall (Ecorse), Lisa Griggs (Lincoln Park), Jeff Dobek (Riverview), Roberto Scappaticci (Romulus), Mayor Joseph Kuspa (Southgate), Kevin Lawrence (Van Buren), Greg Mayhew (Wyandotte), and John Danci (Dearborn Heights).

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), Gerald Thomas (Taylor), Jim Taylor (DUWA), Dan Marsh (Southgate), Jason Couture (DUWA Treasurer), David Greco (Romulus, Taylor, Van Buren), Doug Drysdale (Southgate/DNS Financial), Madison Thomas (Plante Moran), Rumzei Abdallah (Plante Moran), Erika Stanley (Plante Moran), Souheil Sabak (CE Raines/Riverview), Jason Nash (Veolia CPM), Travis Tuma (Veolia O&M), Jason Tapp (Veolia O&M), Al Seguin (Veolia O&M), Sarah Rutkowski (Fishbeck), Lauren Fath-Azam (Secretary), and Dan Alford (Fishbeck). Kerry Morgan (Riverview) arrived at 9:07 AM.

2. Approval of Agenda

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

3. Approval of Minutes from January 8, 2026 Board Meeting

Copies of the meeting minutes from the January 8, 2026 Board meeting were included in the pre-meeting Board packet. Motion by Riverview, 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 welcomed John Danci of Dearborn Heights, who is in the process of being officially appointed as the representative for Dearborn Heights. Mr. Grysko highlighted the DUWA's policy manual will be reviewed since it has been over five years since the administrative policies have been adopted. Over this time period federal regulations have changed including procurement.

5. Contract Operator Update

a. Monthly Operating Report

Travis Tuma introduced Al Seguin, the new Health and Safety Manager at the plant. Mr. Tuma reported that daily flows have still been extremely low averaging 30 MGD. The annual daily average is around 45 MGD. 950 million gallons of sewage were processed in December. Veolia continues to work through the daily struggles of low flows and has been managing the plant well. In 2025 there was only one bypass of the six allowed in the permit. For large jobs, the Tow-Bro in clarifier 6 was disassembled and the components were replaced. Four tanks have been completed thus far, with one of the remaining two to be replaced in 2026, and another in 2027. The second large job addressed this past month was repairing the broken solids conveyor from centrifuge 2. It was removed and sent off-site for repair and reinstalled after return. Veolia is currently working on quotes to ultimately replace it with a shafted conveyor as this conveyor is a critical part in getting all sludge to landfills when the dryers aren't operating. Mayor McLeod inquired what the lead time is on ordering the conveyor that needs to be replaced. Mr. Tuma made note that the lead time is around 6 to 10 weeks. For primary treatment, a new vehicle door was installed at the plant wetwell as the door was rotten from the inside out. Veolia is installing the metal doors on the outside of the wall to provide less exposure to hydrogen sulfide and sewer gas. Routine maintenance was completed at the facility this past month. A total of 180 Miss Dig tickets were completed this past month, with 35 of them being emergency related.

b. Chemical and Sludge Price - Monthly Updates

Financial reconciliations for various utilities were processed, totaling \$237,007.40 due to Veolia. Jason Tapp pointed out that in September Veolia contracted

dumping access to the Woodland Meadows landfill, then negotiated with the sludge haulers to reduce their rate per trailer. Veolia estimates it has saved the Authority about \$180,000 from October to January and has taken advantage of the pricing by hauling more loads. Mr. Tapp noted that Woodland Meadow's contract extends for 3 years with a maximum increase of 3% annually. Roberto Scappaticci inquired if PFAS is monitored before sending a load to the landfill. Mr. Tapp assured him that they have to test and submit annual PFAS levels, which are well below the limit.

Mr. Tuma continued to report that the DWTF's effluent was in full compliance with all NPDES permit requirements for December 2025. Target numbers are included on page 16. With extreme colds and low flows the surface area received an average of 1.29" of precipitation for the month of December. With warmer weather ahead, higher flows are expected to be seen through the facility. Mr. Tapp reported the Veolia IPP team is working on permit renewals, including BASF. Since PFAS is now in DUWA's sewer use ordinance, Veolia is having to issue it into industry permits as well.

Mr. Tuma continued to report that there is nothing to report as it relates to unit price changes. Mr. Tapp added that the plant is having a difficult time getting road salt recently. Mr. Scappaticci suggested that they check with Wayne County.

Mayor Kuspa inquired when the first Tow-Bro was replaced and if they are showing any issues of wear and tear. Mr. Tapp noted that the first were replaced a year ago, are in great shape, and handle the environment well.

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 20-29).

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. Nothing has started for the season as it relates to annual inspections of the flow meter and collection system.

There was a meeting last week in regard to EGLE's collection system permits and part 41 rule changes. From Mr. Alford's discussions with multiple attendees,

the final proposed collection system permit will consist of two requirements: all collection systems will receive classifications (based on population) and will be required to have a certified operator-in-charge. The extended stakeholder discussions resulted in the removal of asset management requirements and reduced operator certificate educational requirements. As of now EGLE intends to resubmit the draft rules back into the JCAR process by late February/early March. Mr. Alford added that what EGLE is asking for in the permits seems to be more reasonable. In terms of timing this will take up to five years to issue all permits. The certification requirements will start following the issuance of the permits. Permits would be reissued every 5 years. Another concession EGLE made was to grandfather all existing collection system staff for their corresponding systems. These updated rule changes will go through legal review, sent to JCAR, then legislative action could take place late summer. Kerry Morgan inquired if EGLE will be issuing NPDES permits to each Community. Mr. Alford noted that NPDES permits will be issued to all Communities upstream of DUWA. Mayor Kuspa inquired what process the rule changes are going through to get approved and if communities could rebut the changes. Brandon Grysko explained the process of approval for rule changes. He will look into what options DUWA has if the rule passes and will assist DUWA in this process.

Mr. Alford continued to report that a productive meeting took place with BASF regarding renewal of the two general site discharge IPP permits. A total of 10 odor complaints were made this past month. Of those 10, 6 complaints came from unique households. The City of Wyandotte has modified their complaint form on their website to include the exact location of the odor. Mr. Alford believes this will be a helpful tool for tracking. The dryer continues to be off line so the carbon odor control system has not been utilized. In regard to our natural gas contract, we have switched our purchase volume and our delivery services to Constellation, which began February 1st. The 2026 Technical meeting schedule is included in the meeting packet. Mr. Alford encouraged all those interested to attend. Currently, Fishbeck recently toured the plant last month to get a better understanding of what is needed to be done regarding the Capital Improvement Project. Studies will be conducted by as needed Engineers. The CIP development process will be brought regularly to the Technical Committee for review and approval. In November, the Caterpillar emergency generators at the DWTF experienced a critical controls failure. They were quickly brought back online by the Veolia team. McCallister came out and was able to restore the double ending within weeks. McCallister will come out again next week to swap out other components which may not be operating as they should.

b. UV Disinfection Replacement Project

Mr. Alford continued to report that there have been no additional delays since last month for the project. Black and Veatch are developing a response letter to the change order request from our contractor. This needs to be reviewed and responded to. Mr. Alford noted that DUWA will continue to hold the position of being behind schedule, but feels that the contractor still can complete the project within a reasonable time frame. The schedule in the meeting packet is up to date.

c. Biosolids Dryer Facility Project

Jason Nash reported that for the month of January the dryers have remained offline due to inspections and ongoing work. Mr. Nash added that they are waiting on flows to increase to help with odors and the process before they can start tapering ferric off. At that point the dryers would be able to be utilized. Veolia is hopeful that flows will increase in late March. Dan Alford noted several dryer components need fixing or installing before the dryer can operate, and any ferric dosing drop should be timed with the completion of those repairs. Mr. Nash continued that the welding of the dosing deck is now complete. A water test will be conducted on the dosing deck in two weeks. A PLC issue has occurred in the South dryer where the power fluctuates and causes the system to not operate. Kruger has ordered a new PLC, which is expected to be delivered tomorrow, and is expected to be installed by next week. On Jan 13, 2026, the Michigan Boiler department performed an inspection and placed boiler numbers on both thermal oil system units. They then issued violations for not meeting the boiler requirements. In 2024 these thermal oil systems were not categorized as boilers. The dryer committee is working with Fulton to compile responses and backup documentation for each violation and then work with the Chief Boiler Inspector to find a resolution to all issues. The units can not be operated until all violations are resolved. Mr. Nash believes that this will be resolved in a maximum of a month. Mayor McLeod inquired if Michigan Boiler came out when the thermal oil systems were first installed. Mr. Nash noted that they did and he has documentation on their initial report and will work on addressing these issues with Michigan Boiler. Jim Taylor asked for clarification on the boiler's temperature capacity and says water and combustibility are key issues with being identified as a boiler.

Mr. Nash continued to report that the initial results for the odor study with Brown and Caldwell are showing the nutrient rich, high solids flow from the recycle pipe is creating a lot of impacts across the whole treatment process. This is creating anaerobic conditions which generate significant H₂S. Mr. Nash noted ongoing jar testing this week to identify chemical treatment options to reduce plant odors. Mr. Nash will have more information at the next Technical Committee meeting. Mr.

Tuma added that Kruger's IT person was on site yesterday and resolved the PLC issue on the South Dryer. Mr. Nash continued to report that Mr. Alford reached out to the Detroit wastewater plant to compare their recycling line data to ours. Veolia submitted the EGLE Part 41 permit package on February 6th including incorporating comments from DUWA. The design of footings to support the shipping containers is expected to be completed by February 18th. The System Manager has issued the deficiency letter to Walsh for the SFE pump 1 and 3 intake piping installation that does not meet the Hydraulic Institute standards as required by the specification. A response has not been received back yet. Mr. Alford will follow up with Walsh. Mayor McLeod inquired why it took four years to notice this pump installation deficiency? Mr. Nash noted that they were made aware of them in the Spring of last year. In the initial inspection by the pump manufacturer representative everything was classified as acceptable but when a new vendor was brought in when issues arose last spring, they recognized that the pipe installation did not meet the Hydraulic Institute standards. Mr. Alford added it was the unusual situation of simultaneous failure of two SFE pumps and investigation efforts that determined the failure was due to its flow path and configuration.

8. Request for Authorization

Sarah Rutkowski presented the various requests for authorization below.

a. Primary Tank Valve Replacements

The drain valves in the seven primary treatment settling tanks which are part of the first phase of solids separation in the treatment process have begun to fail due to age and conditions. Veolia intends to contract with New Center Heating and Plumbing, who was the low bidder for the work. The quotes include the cost to disassemble, remove, and replace valves in the drain pits. Veolia is only requesting funds for the contractor quote with 10 percent markup to cover the repair costs, only. 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 January 29, 2026 meeting and was recommended for approval.

Motion by Riverview, supported by Southgate to authorize Veolia to contract with New Center Plumbing and Heating for Primary Tank Drain Replacements for a total cost not to exceed \$43,430. This fee will be paid from DUWA's Capital Outlay line item of the budget. The motion passed unanimously by all attending members.

b. Fine Screen Actuator Replacements

The Downriver Wastewater Treatment Facility has seven fine screens at the head of the plant that are critical to downstream operation. The actuators on fine screens 3 and 4 discharge gates have failed. Veolia wishes to proceed with Kennedy Industries who was the low bidder and supplier for the current brand of actuators installed onsite. 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 January 29, 2026 meeting and was recommended for approval.

Motion by Van Buren, supported by Wyandotte to authorize Veolia to contract with Kennedy Industries for Fine Screens 3 and 4 discharge gate actuator replacements for a total cost not to exceed \$38,402.72. This fee will be paid from DUWA's Capital Outlay line item of the budget. The motion passed unanimously by all attending members. Roberto Scappaticci inquired if Veolia was tracking the other five screen components. Mr. Tapp noted that they were in good condition and are tracking the status of those.

c. Additional Audit Fees

Since the UV Disinfection Replacement Project reimbursements exceeded \$1,000,000 in 2025, Plante Moran will have to conduct a second federal program audit. The fee will be paid from DUWA's Audit Fees line item of the budget.

Motion by Riverview, supported by Southgate to authorize Plante Moran to conduct an additional federal program audit for the UV Disinfection Replacement Project ARPA Grant for a total cost not to exceed \$5,000. This fee will be paid from DUWA's Audit Fees line item of the budget. The motion passed unanimously by all attending members.

7. Treasurer's Report

Jason Couture presented the various items below to the board, which start on page 44.

a. Fiscal Year End Change Coordination

Various milestones and tasks have been completed resulting in everyone on board with the year end change coordination.

b. Plante Moran Pre-Audit Letter

Rumzei Abdallah presented the Plante Moran Pre-Audit Letter, which gives an overview of the planned scope and timing of the audit. It also identifies perceived risks.

Mr. Abdallah introduced Erika Stanley, who will be the Audit Manager. She works as one of Plante Moran's leaders of governmental practice and single audit practice. She is also familiar with Wayne County operations.

c. Community Self Reporting Status Log

Jason Couture continued to report that since the report was published, Belleville, Riverview and Wyandotte have filed through the end of December. The only Community who is slightly delinquent is Dearborn Heights. Doug Drysdale has been reaching out to the appropriate personnel for an update.

d. Aging Accounts Receivable

The total amount in the Aging Accounts Receivable (AR) is \$1,736,687.42 of which \$1,201,360.80 is current. \$205,166.83 (12%) is over 60 days delinquent. River Rouge has two items over 60 days delinquent. Doug Drysdale believes that there is some miscommunication with the City and is working with River Rouge to get them caught up. Mayor Kuspa inquired about Westrock's outstanding payments. Mr. Drysdale noted that Westrock requested to be on a payment plan. He has worked out details with them so they should pay moving forward.

e. Pending Invoices

The total amount in this month's invoice register is \$3,377,089.69. The largest invoices include those to Veolia for monthly O&M and unit cost reconciliation, and Wyandotte Municipal Services for utilities. The pending invoice report is attached herein.

Motion by Wyandotte, supported by Van Buren to approve payment of the pending invoices in the amount of \$3,377,089.69. The motion passed unanimously by all attending members.

8. Public Comment

There was no further Public Comment.

9. Other Business

Mayor Kuspa requested a map to be included in the meeting packet so that everyone may better understand where things are being worked on. There were no other items brought forth for consideration as "Other Business" items.

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

Chairperson McLeod reminded the Board that the next regular meeting would take place on Thursday, March 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 Romulus to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously at 10:38AM.