

**DOWNRIVER UTILITY WASTEWATER AUTHORITY
APRIL 9, 2026 MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF TAYLOR COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

1. Roll Call and Introductions

Chairperson McLeod (Allen Park) called the meeting to order at 9:02 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, Ecorse, Lincoln Park, Southgate, Romulus, Riverview, Taylor, Van Buren, Wyandotte. A quorum (at least 7 members) were present. Absent: Brownstown, Belleville, Dearborn Heights, 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), Mayor Joseph Kuspa (Southgate), Roberto Scappaticci (Romulus), Jeff Dobek (Riverview), Mayor Tim Wooley (Taylor), Kevin Lawrence (Van Buren), 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), Kerry Morgan (Riverview), Jim Taylor (DUWA), Rumzei Abdallah (Plante Moran), Gerry Barr (Allen Park), Dave Greco (Romulus, Taylor, Van Buren), Doug Drysdale (Southgate/DNS Financial), Travis Tuma (Veolia O&M), Jason Tapp (Veolia O&M), Jason Nash (Veolia CPM), Dan Marsh (Southgate), Souheil Sabak (CE Raines/Riverview), Jason Couture (DUWA Treasurer), Sarah Rutkowski (Fishbeck), Lauren Fath-Azam (Secretary), and Dan Alford (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 March 12, 2026 Board Meeting

Copies of the meeting minutes from the March 12, 2026 Board meeting were included in the pre-meeting Board packet. Motion by Romulus, 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 the recent officer meeting where a closed Board session was proposed for May 21st at 9:30am at the Romulus Athletic Center. A motion for approval will be brought to the Board on May 14th.

5. Contract Operator Update

a. Monthly Operating Report

Travis Tuma reported that despite several recent rain events, the plant has handled them well. For the month of February, the facility treated approximately 830 million gallons, with an average flow of about 30 million gallons per day for the month.

Regarding major projects, Veolia performed annual preventative maintenance on raw sewage pumps 1–4. During these inspections, the wear rings were identified as worn, and Veolia is currently assessing which parts require replacement. Mayor Wooley asked if Veolia maintains a stock of the wear rings that require routine replacement. Mr. Tuma noted that instead of purchasing these rings from the manufacturer, the plant has them replicated by a local machine shop to ensure availability. Mr. Tapp added that spare parts for all critical inventory items are kept on-site.

In terms of Environmental Health and Safety, the new manager is now on-site and integrating well with the team. In February, staff completed 17 confined space entries and underwent extensive safety training. Yesterday, an employee suffered a medical emergency and went to the hospital.

Finally, due to operational needs, Veolia purchased a scissor lift through their O&M budget, and staff have been fully trained in its operation. A total of 268 MISS DIG tickets were processed this past month, 53 of which were classified as emergencies.

Mr. Tapp noted sludge hauling is currently high but will decrease once the dryers return online. Mr. Tapp added that the plant is still receiving flows of glycol from the airport. Currently, 15,000 pounds per day are being received, compared to the historical average of 23,000 pounds per day.

Mr. Tuma reported that there were no compliance issues in February; the plant ran very smoothly during what was a quiet month. Mr. Tuma highlighted rainfall data, noting that no significant rainfall has been received since July 2025, though the annual rainfall average appears consistent year-over-year. Zero bypass events have occurred in 2026, which remains below the annual goal of six.

b. Chemical and Sludge Price - Monthly Updates

There has not been much change to the cost of commodities. However, Mr. Tapp noted that suppliers have warned of global instability and expect chemical cost fluctuations in the foreseeable future. Mr. Tuma added that a letter was received stating that a fuel surcharge increase is expected next month.

The UV system is also currently offline, and the plant is utilizing the bleach temporary disinfection system. Veolia's team is very pleased with current operations; Mr. Tapp noted that the dosage is roughly half of what was expected, resulting in savings on chemical expenses. When flows are high, there is less demand for bleach, allowing the pumps to be turned down further. The State is satisfied with this arrangement and has agreed to let the plant remain on bleach for the duration of the UV project to avoid further shutdowns.

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 21-29).

a. System Manager Report

The draft NPDES permit was received a month ago after twenty six months waiting for a reply. Mr. Alford has requested an additional month for us to compose our response.

The 2026 collection system televising has begun with a focus on the Riverdrive interceptor.

Pertaining to the Part 41 rule changes, EGLE has completed all necessary actions and documents for the State legislation's JCAR to review. Kerry Morgan inquired if EGLE is giving clarification on what certification will be required for each community. Mr. Alford replied that the certifications will be based on community populations: under 2,000 people, 2,000 to 5,000 people, 5,000 to 10,000 people, and lastly over 10,000 people. Each community will be required to have a certified system operator at their respective level. No other rules regarding required maintenance or budgetary obligations have been introduced.

Discussions continue on the BASF IPP permit renewal. Mr. Alford believes that the corresponding comments are reasonable, which should wrap things up in the next month. The drafting of the second permit should move much faster.

Veolia continues to monitor orthophosphate dosing. Mr. Alford spoke to some other plants in Michigan and the smaller plants are seeing the expected increase due to orthophosphate dosing in the water, yet the larger plants are not seeing it yet. Kerry Morgan inquired if the phosphate dosing is permanent or temporary. Mr. Alford added that the dosing amount may be adjusted after all existing lead lines are eliminated.

For the month of March, three odor complaints have been received through the online system. A baseline of 10 reports has been added to the graph to show when odor is an immediate concern or at an expected level.

DUWA has received the odor report. Veolia found that the recommendations from their odor report were not operationally sustainable after an analysis. Veolia continues to investigate ways of finding alternate odor reducing options. Carbon odor control will be utilized once dryers are brought back online.

A productive technical committee meeting took place at the end of March, with the major focus being on O&M, construction projects, and the CIP. Mr. Alford encourages all those interested to attend. As it relates to the CIP, Fishbeck's team is currently documenting the vertical assets in the plant. HRC will be providing a work scope to review sewer inspections and recommend needed repairs to the interceptors. The draft outline will be presented at the technical committee meeting. The CIP will encompass 20 years with a real focus on the first five years.

b. UV Disinfection Replacement Project

Mr. Alford noted the temporary bleach system is fully operational and that Veolia is successfully adjusting the system as needed. Mr. Alford noted this represents a significant process change involving new automation, so Veolia deserves kudos for their ability to manage the transition effectively. CCC plans to attempt to bulkhead all five UV channels. Since work can now proceed across all channels simultaneously, there is expected to be a significant reduction in the project timeline by next month's Board meeting.

c. Biosolids Dryer Facility Project

Jason Nash reported that since the State classified both thermal oil system units as boilers and sent a violation notice, the thermal oil units remain out of service. Mr. Alford shared details of his recent communication with the Michigan head boiler inspector. Following their discussion, the inspector extended the completion deadline for providing ladders and platforms for each unit. Roberto Scappaticci questioned when the boilers could be operated and asked for clarification on the State's specific issues with the thermal oil system. Mr. Nash explained that the units cannot be operated until a "green tag" is obtained. The State requires a State-licensed contractor to perform the startup and inspection. Furthermore, the State mandates that the oil must be able to drain completely from the piping inside the heating unit. Stantec is currently investigating an option to use compressed air to evacuate the oil. Mayor Kuspa asked if progress had been made, expressing concern that the dryers will remain inoperable if this issue is not resolved. Mr. Nash confirmed he has met with a vendor who took measurements for the drain installation. An approximate cost and a formal plan will be presented at next Tuesday's meeting, with the hope that the State will accept the proposal.

The initial phase odor report was submitted on March 16th. Due to the high cost associated, the options suggested proved to not be viable long term with the current system. Veolia is looking at different ways to make modifications to the suggestions. In addition, Brown and Caldwell are compiling additional options for odor elimination. Those are expected this week and will be presented at the next Technical meeting.

As it relates to the degritting system, a second round of comments were received from EGLE as it relates to the part 41 permit. Two additional items were requested. Veolia will be submitting those documents next week. An official part 41 permit will be received from the State in a few weeks.

Foundations are expected to be installed on April 20th. The project experienced a delay due to lack of timely review of the existing soil conditions. Mayor McLeod inquired about who is responsible for the oversight. Mr. Nash noted their engineering contractor performed the soil borings and assisted with the design, while a helical pile manufacturer was selected to complete the installation. The error was identified when the boring results were subsequently analyzed by Brown and Caldwell.

7. Treasurer's Report

Jason Couture presented the various items below to the Board, which start on page 30.

a. Community Self Reporting Status Log

Jason Couture reported that the majority of the communities are paid up to date until February. Ecorse is slightly behind, so Doug Drysdale has been reaching out to the appropriate personnel to bring their account current within 60 days.

b. Aging Accounts Receivable

The total amount in the Aging Accounts Receivable (AR) is \$4,962,338.61 of which \$4,640,076.50 is current. 4% is over 60 days delinquent. Mr. Couture noted that River Rouge does have an outstanding bill that's more than 90 days delinquent. Payment is expected to come in soon, if it hasn't already. Mayor McLeod is concerned about invoices in which are over 90 days delinquent. Mr. Grysko added that Mr. Drysdale and the Attorneys meet monthly and are drafting letters to address those overdue invoices.

c. Pending Invoices

The total amount in this month's invoice register is \$1,996,750.24. The largest invoices include those to Veolia for monthly O&M and unit cost reconciliation, Wyandotte Municipal Services for utilities, and CCC for the UV Disinfection project construction.

Motion by Taylor, supported by Southgate to approve payment of the pending invoices in the amount of \$1,996,750.24. The motion passed unanimously by all attending members.

8. Public Comment

Jim Taylor thanked everyone for their support regarding the recent accident of his son in law who passed away due to an accident while working. Mr. Taylor asks that everyone working in public sector positions strive to ensure the safety of themselves and their staff.

There was no further Public Comment.

9. Other Business

Mayor Wooley noted that June's Board meeting location will need to be relocated due to the replacement of the HVAC system at the Taylor Council Chambers. In response, Mayor Kuspa offered the Southgate facility as an alternative location if necessary.

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

10. Next Meeting Date: Thursday, May 14, 2026 (9:00 AM; In-Person)

Chairperson McLeod reminded the Board that the next regular meeting would take place on Thursday, May 14, 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 10:24 AM.