DOWNRIVER UTILITY WASTEWATER AUTHORITY
JUNE 11, 2026 MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF SOUTHGATE 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: Belleville, Brownstown, Lincoln Park, Southgate, Allen Park, Romulus, Riverview, River Rouge, Taylor, and Wyandotte. A quorum (at least 7 members) were present.

a. DUWA Commissioners

The DUWA Board Commissioners present at the time of roll call introduced themselves as follows: Mayor Gail McLeod (Allen Park), Greg Mayhew (Wyandotte), Mayor Tim Wooley (Taylor), Melissa Collins (River Rouge), Mayor Andrew Swift (Riverview), Roberto Scappaticci (Romulus), Mayor Joseph Kuspa (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: Brandon Grysko (Fausone & Grysko), David Greco (Romulus, Taylor, Van Buren), Jason Couture (DUWA Treasurer), Doug Drysdale (Southgate/DNS Financial), Rumzei Abdallah (Plante Moran), Erika Stanley (Plante Moran), Gerry Barr (Allen Park), Souheil Sabak (CE Raines/Riverview), Kerry Morgan (Riverview), Travis Tuma (Veolia O&M), Jason Nash (Veolia CPM), Jason Tapp (Veolia O&M), Sarah Rutkowski (Fishbeck), 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 May 14, 2026 Board Meeting

Copies of the meeting minutes from the May 14, 2026 Board meeting were included in the pre-meeting board packet. Motion by Romulus, supported by Lincoln Park 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 over the last month the legal team has been involved in various meetings, conference calls, virtual meetings, and emails on multiple topics. He discussed the opposition letter to the proposed housing bill, and committee meetings on this topic. Mr. Grysko added the MML discussed adding language to the housing bill stating the need to follow local, state and federal laws and rules, in order to ensure local governments maintain maximum control.

5. Contract Operator Update

a. Monthly Operating Report

Travis Tuma reported that the month of April received the highest flow in years. The facility processed a total of 1,711,140,000 gallons of wastewater, with an average daily flow of 57.04 MGD. Plant bypasses remain at zero. Jason Tapp added that 3.5 inches of rain was received during the month.

Mr. Tuma then transitioned to maintenance activities. While routine maintenance was completed for the month, the higher flows made it difficult to complete more complex projects. However, the cross collector in primary tank 1 was completely rebuilt because a mechanism was broken. Additionally, the Cla-Val was replaced in the primary industrial water tank. This was a critical job to prevent the risk of drinking water cross-contamination. Veolia has decided to perform maintenance activities semi-annually on the RAS pumps and will keep a spare pump on-site for more frequent swapping, as these pumps are necessary for returning organisms to the beginning of the activated sludge tanks and two RAS pumps failed last year on the previous annual PM schedule.

In April, 20 confined space entries were completed; all were successful with no safety concerns. A total of 400 MISS DIG tickets were processed this past month, 28 of which were classified as emergencies. Regarding utility and chemical costs, Mr. Tapp pointed out that expenditures are lower compared to last year, most likely due to lower overall flows in the plant.

Mr. Tuma continued his report by noting there were no NPDES permit issues for the month of May. Routine maintenance within the collection system was also completed.

Finally, multiple inspections were conducted regarding the industrial pretreatment program IPP. Brandon Grysko asked for additional information on violations. Dan Alford noted that, as part of Veolia’s contractual obligations, they must manage DUWA’s IPP program, which is required by the NPDES permit. Last month, sampling revealed that some industrial customers had exceeded their permit limits. He added that while the plant was in no danger due to these minor exceedances, it is important to track parameters and hold our industries accountable.

b. Chemical and Sludge Price - Monthly Updates

Mr. Tapp provided details regarding the unit price changes table and noted that the Authority currently has only one option for sludge disposal: Waste Management. Veolia aims to limit sludge disposal at the Pine Tree landfill due to its further distance; however, loads have recently been rejected at the Woodland Meadows facility. Veolia has been in touch with Waste Management representatives and ultimately believes the rejections are simply due to the discretion of the gate attendant.

When a load is denied, it is brought back to the plant to be deodorized before being sent back and ultimately approved. Veolia is currently working with the hauler to eliminate these return trips to the plant. Proposed solutions include ensuring that the trucks are thoroughly cleaned out prior to loading the sludge, and requiring haulers to contact Veolia staff immediately if a load is denied.

Nathan Johnson requested an estimate of the cost to deodorize all future loads before they are sent to the landfill.

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 23-32).

a. System Manager Report

Dan Alford reported that an extension was received from EGLE as it relates to our draft permit review. The 2026 Interceptor televising is still ongoing by Veolia. Veolia's job is to maintain and inspect DUWA’s collection system. As part of the City of Riverview’s recent work they are planning to connect their local system to DUWA’s tunnel system as agreed upon. A contractor is conducting a pre-construction inspection and televising will be completed post-construction as well to make sure the tunnel remains in good condition.

Last week EGLE hosted a webinar to discuss collection systems and Part 41 rule changes, with a primary focus on collection system certifications and operator training programs. Sarah Rutkowski added that she had previously sent a Zoom recording of this meeting to the technical committee. More information, including the final rule set, can be found via the link provided on EGLE's website.

Kerry Morgan inquired whether the certifications required under the Part 41 rule changes are objective or subjective. Mr. Alford clarified that the requirements are population-based.

Mr. Alford reported that the BASF North Works facility holds two general IPP permits covering its entire campus. One permit has already been reissued, and the second is currently in the draft stage. Both parties reached a mutually reasonable conclusion regarding the second permit, and the draft will be reviewed and sent to BASF for final approval.

Odor complaints were minimal for the month of June, totaling seven. High flows during this time of year naturally flush out the plant, resulting in minimal odors. However, more frequent odors are anticipated during the low-flow periods of late summer and early fall.

The Veolia dryer team continues to evaluate different treatment options for odor control, and a report will be presented at the next technical committee meeting. While carbon odor control units are currently in place, they are not being utilized because the dryers are offline.

The main focus of the "as-needed" engineering and consulting work remains the Capital Improvement Plan. The Fishbeck team is narrowing down a sample of plant assets and will conduct verification inspections to confirm their condition. A plant tour will be scheduled for the end of the month.

The next DUWA technical committee meeting will be held on Thursday, June 25th at 9:30 a.m. The meeting will be conducted in person at the DWTF, with a virtual Zoom option available for those unable to attend in person.

b. UV Disinfection Replacement Project

Following the receipt of the monthly update from Black & Veatch, it was noted that there has been no slippage in the project timeline. Black & Veatch is now working in four channels simultaneously. While this approach was never considered part of the original sequence, the temporary disinfection system has operated so successfully under the Veolia team's management that the entire UV system has been taken offline. Consequently, all channels are currently empty, and preparations are underway to pour walls to accept the new equipment.

Work continues to maintain appropriate water levels in the effluent channel. A new leak was discovered in an existing pipe; a potential Change Order #5 is expected to correct this issue once a definitive solution is found.

Additionally, a letter was received this week from CCC regarding delay claim negotiations. Mr. Alford believes it would be beneficial to sit down and negotiate, given the substantial project delays experienced at the beginning of the job.

c. Biosolids Dryer Facility Project

Jason Nash reported that the new strainpress shipping container has had a roof extension installed for maintenance access. The site grading is complete, and the shipping container foundation installation is underway.

Veolia continues to work through the final violation item as it relates to the thermal oil system. Because the system was previously tagged by the State of Michigan as a boiler in January, Veolia has been working through the State's requirements to legally operate it. The final item that needs to be completed is the installation of two emergency stop buttons. The PO has been issued to the contractor, who will be onsite within the next two weeks for completion. Once this is completed, the local boiler inspector will visit to ensure all requirements have been met to receive a green tag and be ready for operation.

Mr. Kuspa inquired if the design of the ladder for the platform has been completed and if it will be installed before the January deadline. Mr. Nash reassured Mr. Kuspa that there will be enough time to get it done prior to the January deadline, but added that they may run into supply issues. He also added that this platform should have been included in Walsh’s design of the thermal oil system, as the requirements are covered under the National Boiler Code.

Mr. Nash continued Veolia has been finalizing a plan to reduce H2S across the plant using nanobubbles. This recycle stream headworks will be discussed in more detail at June’s technical committee meeting.

As it relates to the degritting system, the foundation installation, including the setting of the shipping containers, will be complete by June 12. The installation of equipment, electrical components, and piping will take an additional four weeks. Once a startup is performed, Veolia will verify that the equipment is removing the target debris.

Kerry Morgan inquired what amount of grit they anticipate removing. Mr. Nash noted that the quantity removed will ultimately depend on what is coming in. Once the degritting system is up and running, Veolia can get a more accurate number of what is coming in and what is being removed. Mr. Kuspa inquired what the goal is for the total amount of grit removal. Mr. Nash added that they only have a guess as to what percentage of grit should be removed since the technology is dated, but once the degritter is up and running, Veolia's goal is to minimize the percentage of solids going into the dryer pumps. Once the equipment is running, an analysis will be conducted, and components will be tailored as needed to maximize grit removal. Grit is being received through infiltration via sewer pipe defects and the combined system.

Kruger is now working through the commissioning plan for the startup of the dryer. Mechanical inspections have taken place this week and should be completed tomorrow. The biggest concern found was that one of the belts had shifted a little in the dryer, so a realignment is necessary. Other small mechanical issues have been found and will be worked through. The readiness and performance testing plan was previously submitted, and a draft copy is currently being circulated inside Veolia, which will be submitted later this week. Startup of the dryer is expected in early August.

7. Requests for Authorization

Sarah Rutkowski presented the following request for authorization.

a. UV Disinfection Replacement Project Change order #4

Change order 4 includes three separate contract modifications which are shown in the table of the meeting packet on page 33.

Over the last few months, the schedule delays have been reduced due to the new CCC project manager and the state’s approval of the bleach disinfection system on a full-time basis for the remainder of the job. Substantial completion is now projected for late August 2026 ahead of the EGLE grant funding deadline of September 15, 2026.

Cost for this change order will be funded through the Capital Outlay Line item of the DUWA Budget. Change Order 4 documentation was circulated to the technical committee on June 3rd. Nine of the DUWA community representatives responded to the request, in support of the change order.

Motion by Wyandotte, supported by Romulus to approve the UV Disinfection Replacement Project Change Order #4 for total cost not to exceed $89,892.26. The motion passed unanimously by all attending members.

Mr. Kuspa inquired if there won't be any additional change orders. Mr. Alford added that another is expected to install the isolation stop log to the effluent side of the UV chamber.

Mayor McLeod inquired why the UV local control panel work wasn't included in the original design. Mr. Alford explained that the design was made using drawings from 1998 instead of the recent 2008 drawings, which incorporated a local control panel.

8. Treasurer's Report

a. Approval of Fiscal Years 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 Budgets

Jason Couture presented the Fiscal Years 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 items to the Board, which start on page 43. He noted that the 2026 adopted budget is for six months but will increase to twelve months moving forward. Net of revenues and expenses show a surplus of $10,783 for 2026-2027 and $35 for 2027-2028.

Motion by Romulus, supported Riverview to approve the resolution 2026-001 adopting the Fiscal Years 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 Budgets for DUWA. The resolution carried with 10 Ayes, no Nays, no Abstains, and 3 Absents.

b. Approval of Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Rate Package

Mr. Couture noted that there have been a few minor changes to the rate package since it was presented last month, but nothing that affects the bottom line. Key items to note are that the legacy methodology includes a 20% monthly excess flow charge and base volume charge, while the updated methodology includes an 80% monthly excess flow charge and base volume charge. This gives us a blended charge of $30.6 million in total charges.

Motion by Southgate, supported by Wyandotte to approve and adopt the system rates that are set forth in the Rate and Budget packet for the rate year July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027 or until such time that the system rates are changed by the Board. The resolution carried with 10 Ayes, no Nays, no Abstains, and 3 Absents.

c. Approval of Audit and Single Audit

i. Audit for 2025

Rumzei Abdallah presented the 2025 Financial Statement and Single Audit for DUWA. He introduced Erica Stanley, the audit manager overseeing this year's audit. The Board packet includes the main audit deliverables. Plante Moran has issued an unmodified opinion, which is the highest level of assurance that can be given. Plante Moran found DUWA's financial records to be accurate and complete, and no adjustments were identified during the audit. The balance sheet shows $21.4 million in cash on hand to pay for day-to-day operations, with $20 million in restricted assets. The total change in net position is $9.3 million. This year, DUWA added $5.7 million in capital assets. Of that amount, $5 million is in the form of construction in progress, which relates directly to the UV disinfection grant. This year, DUWA did not incur any new debt but continues to pay existing debt totaling $6.9 million. No issues were found in the financial statement audit, which went very well.

Motion by Lincoln Park, supported by Brownstown to approve the 2025 annual audit performed by Plante Moran, along with the end of audit letter, and to direct Plante Moran to upload the financial statement and letter to the Michigan Department of Treasury, as required by Public Act 2 of 1968. The motion passed unanimously by all attending members.

ii. Single Audit for 2025

Erica Stanley highlighted key components of the single audit for 2025. DUWA had two major programs this year. One is the WIFIA loan, which is in compliance; no internal control matters were identified over the federal awards and compliance of the program. The second relates to the UV disinfection project, funded by ARPA dollars through EGLE. During this fiscal year, $4 million of the $10 million award was spent. This program was found to be in compliance. No instances of questioned costs were noted, nor were any internal control matters over the federal awards identified to be reported.

As has historically been reported, Plante Moran noted that there is a deficiency as it relates to the segregation of duties, as one person currently performs the billing, collections, and cash deposit activities. Their recommendation is that DUWA consider performing a cost-benefit analysis to determine if additional resources can be added to segregate these activities, or to determine whether DUWA is comfortable with the current allocation of duties. Plante Moran also acknowledges that DUWA has switched the accounting system to a cloud version during this fiscal year, eliminating previously disclosed risks that relate to accounting system storage.

Page 54 includes some general internal control recommendations and other legislative information updates.

Mr. Abdallah noted that the fiscal year change is also going to have an impact on the audit cycle. With that change, there will be a six-month sub-period that finishes on June 30th. Fieldwork will begin in August, with a final completion of the six-month audit period in the fall. He thanked Jason Couture, the System Accountant and System Managers for their assistance through this process.

Mr. Scappaticci asked for clarification on whether the fund balance could be utilized to buffer percentage increases for communities in the future. Mr. Abdallah added that if the Board wishes to utilize it in that way, they could, and they have done so in the past.

Mr. Drysdale elaborated on what percentage can potentially be utilized and what should be kept in capital reserves. Mr. Couture added that, theoretically, as the SRF junior lien bonds are paid off, those funds will become available.

Motion by Belleville, supported by Brownstown to approve the 2025 single audit performed by Plante Moran, and to direct Plante Moran to upload necessary documents to the Michigan Department of Treasury and/or EPA to fulfill WIFIA funding requirements. The motion passed unanimously by all attending members.

d. Community Self-Reporting Status Log

Mr. Couture announced that all communities are caught up through April 2026.

e. Aging Accounts Receivable

The total amount in the Aging Accounts Receivable (AR) is $3,916,046.11 of which $3,233,322.90 is current. $605,254.347 (15%) is over 60 days delinquent.

Mayor McLeod made note of various accounts over 120 days delinquent. Mr. Drysdale explained how issues have arisen and discussed options to improve delinquencies.

f. Pending Invoices

The total amount in this month's invoice register is $2,359,580.85. The largest invoices include those to Veolia for monthly O&M and unit cost reconciliation, Commercial Contracting Corporation for the UV disinfection replacement project, and Wyandotte Municipal Services for utilities.

Motion by Wyandotte, supported by Belleville to approve payment of the pending invoices in the amount of $2,359,580.85. 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, July 9th, 2026 (9:00 AM; In-Person)

Chairperson McLeod reminded the Board that the next regular meeting will take place Thursday, July 9th at 9am at Taylor City Hall.

12. Adjournment

There being no other business, Chairperson McLeod announced that a motion to adjourn would be in order. Motion by Southgate, supported by Riverview to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously at 10:52 AM.