

**DOWNRIVER UTILITY WASTEWATER AUTHORITY
JULY 9, 2026 MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF SOUTHGATE 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: Brownstown, Lincoln Park, Southgate, Allen Park, Riverview, River Rouge, Taylor, Van Buren, and Wyandotte. A quorum (at least 7 members) were present. Romulus arrived 9:05 AM, Belleville arrived at 9:15 AM, and Dearborn Heights arrived at 9:20 AM.

a. DUWA Commissioners

The DUWA Board Commissioners present during the meeting were: Mayor Gail McLeod (Allen Park), Mayor Joseph Kuspa (Southgate), Lisa Griggs (Lincoln Park), Greg Mayhew (Wyandotte), Mayor Tim Wooley (Taylor), Melissa Collins (River Rouge), Jeff Dobek (Riverview), Roberto Scappaticci (Romulus), Roxie Fairchild (Brownstown) Kevin Lawrence (Van Buren), Nathan Johnson (Belleville), 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), Jim Taylor (DUWA), Jason Couture (DUWA Treasurer), Doug Drysdale (Southgate/DNS Financial), Rumzei Abdallah (Plante Moran), Brooke Leporowski (Intern at Plante Moran), Elliot Davis (Intern at Plante Moran), Vibhuti Patel (Intern at Plante Moran), Gerry Barr (Allen Park), Souheil Sabak (CE Raines/Riverview), Travis Tuma (Veolia O&M), Jason Nash (Veolia CPM), Jason Tapp (Veolia O&M), Sarah Rutkowski (Fishbeck), Dan Alford (Fishbeck), Lauren Fath-Azam (Secretary).

2. Approval of Agenda

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

3. Approval of Minutes from June 11, 2026 Board Meeting

Copies of the meeting minutes from the June 11, 2026 Board meeting were included in the pre-meeting Board packet. Motion by Taylor, 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 past month, his legal team collaborated with the system management and finance teams to target aged account receivables, a move that was largely successful in securing payments.

5. Contract Operator Update

a. Monthly Operating Report

Travis Tuma reported that the plant has been operating well through the month of May. Recently, the plant received rainfall that totaled over two inches. The daily maximum flow recently reached 80 MGD. Jason Tapp added that the plant can handle up to 137.5 MGD before initiating a secondary blending event. Mr. Tuma further reported that for the month of May, the facility processed nearly 1.2 billion gallons of wastewater, with a peak flow of 65 million gallons in a single day and a monthly average of about 38 MGD.

Maintenance activities included the reinstallation of tunnel pump 4 and an upgrade to the lifting cable for tunnel pump 5. In addition, the scum gate for final clarifier 1 was repaired by reattaching it to the wall using new concrete anchors. For primary treatment, various preventative maintenance tasks were addressed, which included finishing up work on primary tank 2. One of the gearboxes failed on aeration train 4 but Veolia had a spare on the shelf and was able to swap the old one out. Quotes for a replacement will be obtained, and the request will be brought to the Board soon. Mr. Tapp added that a large piece of wood was found lodged in the aeration basin, which prevented the drain valve from closing. Veolia's team removed an old 2x4 piece of wood.

Moving to solids handling, Mr. Tuma explained that PM work performed on the Muffin Monster grinders, which grind down material using rotating sharp teeth before it is sent to the centrifuges showed both required rebuilding, which was done in-house. For electrical work, pump 4 was put back into service along with the aeration mixer.

As it relates to environmental health and safety, 22 confined space entries were completed in May. A total of 471 MISS DIG tickets were processed this past month, 23 of which were classified as emergencies.

b. Chemical and Sludge Price - Monthly Updates

Mr. Tapp noted that sludge disposal costs will decline when drying starts .

Mr. Tuma highlighted that there were no permit compliance issues for the month of May. DUWA's monthly average must be under 0.7 mg/L for phosphorus, with a limit of 0.6 mg/L for a six-month seasonal period. Currently, DUWA's monthly average is 0.6 for phosphorus and 0.54 for the seasonal average (which runs from April through September). Veolia will continue to monitor these levels and plans to utilize ferric chloride or PACL to combat phosphorus levels before the seasonal period ends in September. Dan Alford added the 2014 Lake Erie algae bloom resulted in lowering of phosphorus limits to all permitted point sources who have discharges directly into the river. Overall, point sources have shown a 40% reduction since 2014.

Veolia has recently seen a 25% to 40% increase in phosphate coming into the plant, resulting from GLWA's increased dosing of orthophosphate to provide protection from lead in the drinking water. In response, Veolia has increased its own ferric/PACL dosing to combat the influx.

Jeff Dobek requested that PFAS limits be added to Veolia's monthly report, which Mr. Tapp confirmed he could do. Mr. Tuma explained that Veolia is currently dosing only with ferric but will utilize PACL once the dryers come online.

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 22-32).

a. System Manager Report

Our latest letter to the State of Michigan addressing the new proposed NPDES permit limits will be sent shortly.

As it relates to the 2026 flow meter and collection system interceptor work, currently the inspection records are being awaited on. DUWA's as needed Engineer will be reviewing all the data to make suggestions moving forward.

The second permit draft is currently under review from Mr. Alford and Fishbeck as it relates to BASF North Works. It will be sent out to BASF once completed.

Two odor complaints were received from a single resident in June. Mr. Alford finds it interesting to have received minimal complaints during lower than average flow dates. Mr. Alford noted that the Veolia team will be focusing on eliminating air odors from the recycle line by installing biofilters inside of the recycle line manholes. From a liquid standpoint, Veolia is proposing a new technology. A meeting will be set up to discuss this nanobubble technology.

Mr. Alford noted that the carbon odor control unit has not been utilized as the dryers have been offline.

Items discussed at the last technical meeting included the CIP and odor control technology. Mr. Alford believes these meetings are very helpful and have become an efficient way to discuss and find solutions to various issues.

The CIP has been the main focus for as-needed engineering work. Mr. Alford, Veolia, and the as-needed engineer will meet shortly to discuss the results of the 10% audit on the condition assessments of the plant assets. These results will then be presented at the July technical meeting.

Roberto Scappaticci inquired if a new CIP will be presented at the next technical meeting. Mr. Alford clarified that they will be presenting the updated study results which will eventually lead to a prioritized project list with costs.

b. UV Disinfection Replacement Project

Major installation work proceeds on the four existing channels. The last gate will need to be installed on the new channel for it to be complete. Trojan is onsite this week to ensure everything goes smoothly. A 100-hour burn test will be run at 100% capacity, with performance tracked throughout the testing period. No schedule slippage has occurred since the new management team took over.

As expected, Change Order No. 5 for the effluent channel isolation is currently being reviewed. A small meeting will take place this week to discuss the outstanding delay claim, which totals over \$400,000. Mr. Alford made it clear that he will be pushing for a fair resolution to the slow start of the project.

c. Biosolids Dryer Facility Project

Jason Nash reported that progress continues to be made which include the installation of the shipping containers, which will house the beast and the degritting system. Some piping and electrical has been put in place.

The dryers have remained offline partially due to violations regarding the thermal oil units. The emergency stop switches will be installed by Friday, and a follow-up inspection by the boiler inspector will take place during the week of July 20th. The final item required to resolve the violation is adding ladder access to the top of the thermal oil units by January 2027.

Mr. Nash continued the replacement Beast strainpress and new degritting system interim measures also need to be installed before the dryers can be started. He says the installation of both should be done by the end of July.

Ferric testing will be conducted weekly so that Veolia will know if the product can be sent to LaSalle prior to getting the dryers back online. He noted that results take two to three weeks to return.

Mr. Scappaticci inquired if Walsh is aware that the ladder installation is needed sooner rather than later due to the interest in the dryer. Mr. Alford added that Walsh is aware of the need for these ladders to get the dryer up and operating. He noted that as long as progress is being made and efforts to move forward are shown, an extension on the ladders may be granted so the boilers can be operable. The Michigan boiler inspector will be updated on the ongoing progress.

Mayor Kuspa asked when the dryers will start operation? Mr Nash said they will start running to test reliability in mid-September. He continues the performance testing is set to start in December.

Regarding the Phase 2 odor control report, Veolia met to discuss nanobubble technology and how to best move forward with getting the dryers started up. Veolia continues to investigate the new technology. During inspections Kruger found that one of the idler drums had shifted, which caused a belt to shift. They are onsite week to get that realigned and will teach the maintenance team how to align the belts themselves and check everything else. In addition to aligning the belts during Kruger's inspections they found that the dosing pumps downstream will need to be flushed out.

Veolia had previously submitted the draft readiness and performance testing plan for review, and an updated version was distributed on June 18th. Veolia plans to meet next Thursday to address any additional comments and adjustments.

Veolia meets on Tuesdays to discuss the necessary actions for the ongoing recommissioning plan to ensure everything remains on track. Mr. Alford is working with Walsh and Wade Trim on potential operational adjustments

regarding the SFE intake piping prior to moving forward with any mechanical remedies.

Mayor McLeod believes this report should be updated to more accurately reflect that the dryers remain offline partially because of, or due to factors contributing to, the various reasons noted in prior meetings, rather than solely because of the thermal oil system.

Mr. Kuspa inquired about the timeline for bringing the dryers online. Mr. Nash clarified that Veolia plans to have the dryers started up in mid-September. Once the dryers are brought online, the initial material sent to the landfill will be commingled. Mr. Scappaticci requested a forward-looking schedule, noting that including the date ferric is turned off would be helpful. Mr. Nash noted that a schedule is currently being reviewed and will be updated as progress is made.

Mr. Wooley asked for clarification on whether the odors are caused by removing ferric from the material before sending it through the dryers. Mr. Nash confirmed that this is true, explaining that it is removed so that trucks do not catch fire while hauling material to the landfill. Once the dryers are online, DUWA and Veolia can focus on managing odors and establishing a benchmark for what is acceptable and reasonable. Mr. Kuspa requested a detailed list of next steps regarding the dryer project, and Nathan Johnson requested adding the SFE piping to the timeline so the commissioners can stay up to date.

7. Requests for Authorization

Sarah Rutkowski presented the following request for authorization.

a. Secondary Clarifier Tow-Bro Replacement Request

Each of the secondary treatment clarifiers are equipped with header/suction arms that span across the diameter of the tank to remove settled solids. These Tow-Bro mechanisms are produced from Evoqua. The Tow-Bro headers were all replaced in 2008 using a carbon steel material with a hot-dipped galvanized coating. This coating has started to fail over the years due to the corrosive conditions experienced by the clarifiers. Since 2022, the Tow-Bro headers on four of the six units have been replaced with stainless steel equipment which will last longer in corrosive conditions. This request will cover the new stainless-steel equipment and installation costs for the remaining two units, clarifiers 2 and 4. Veolia will manage the project and complete the repairs in house, consistent with the previous Tow-Bro Replacements.

Cost for the secondary clarifier Tow-Bro replacements have been budgeted under the 2026-2027 DUWA Small Capital Outlay Budget with a not to exceed amount of \$333,610.21.

This request was discussed with the technical committee during the June 26, 2026 technical committee meeting with approval to move through to the DUWA Board.

Motion by Dearborn Heights, supported by Wyandotte to authorize Veolia to purchase parts for two secondary clarifier Tow-Bro replacements from Evoqua for a not-to-exceed fee of \$333,610.21. The motion passed unanimously by all attending members.

7. Treasurer's Report

a. Community Self-Reporting Status Log

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

b. Aging Accounts Receivable

The total amount in the Aging Accounts Receivable (AR) is \$1,818,499.41 of which \$1,649,726.42 is current. \$168,772.99 (9%) is over 60 days delinquent.

One note is that Ecorse shows a \$43,000 outstanding item, which is over 120 days delinquent. The amount is scheduled for approval on their next payables report. For the past couple of weeks, Ecorse has been without a treasurer, but a new treasurer was recently appointed, so payment is expected soon.

c. Pending Invoices

The total amount in this month's invoice register is \$981,189.56. The largest invoices include those to Commercial Contracting Corporation for the UV disinfection replacement project and Wyandotte Municipal Services for utilities.

Motion by Southgate, supported by Riverview to approve payment of the pending invoices in the amount of \$981,189.56. The motion passed unanimously by all attending members.

8. Public Comment

There was no further Public Comment.

9. Other Business

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

10. Next Meeting Date: Thursday, August 13th, 2026 (9:00 AM; In-Person)

Chairperson McLeod reminded the Board that the next regular meeting will take place Thursday, August 13th at 9am at Taylor City Hall.

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 10:21 AM.