

**DOWNRIVER UTILITY WASTEWATER AUTHORITY
AUGUST 13, 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 10 communities: Allen Park, Belleville, Brownstown, Ecorse, Riverview, River Rouge, Southgate, Taylor, Van Buren, 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), Mayor Joseph Kuspa (Southgate), Greg Mayhew (Wyandotte), David Hall (Ecorse), Ralph Richard (Taylor), Melissa Collins (River Rouge), Mayor Andy Swift (Riverview), Roxie Fairchild (Brownstown) Kevin Lawrence (Van Buren), Nathan Johnson (Belleville).

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), Art Ostaszewski, Ashley Sakowski, Dan Marsh (Southgate), Doug Drysdale (Southgate/DNS Financial), Jason Couture, Taylor/DUWA Treasurer, Rumzei Abdallah (Plante Moran), David Greco (Romulus, Taylor, Van Buren), Kerry Morgan (Riverview), Souheil Sabak (CE Raines/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 Belleville to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously by all attending members.

3. Approval of Minutes from July 9, 2026 Board Meeting

Copies of the meeting minutes from the July 9, 2026 Board meeting were included in the pre-meeting Board packet. Motion by Wyandotte, supported by Riverview 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 reported that routine work continues. He drew attention to Michigan Senate Bill 771, which proposes the state's first comprehensive, statewide septic system code to regulate and evaluate onsite wastewater treatment systems. Introduced by Senator Sam Singh in January 2026, the bill remains under consideration. Fausone & Grysko are evaluating the bill to see what effect it would have on DUWA.

5. Contract Operator Update

a. Monthly Operating Report

Travis Tuma reported that in the month of June, one billion gallons were treated, with an average flow of over 35 MGD. Historically, flows were low in June, yet they have increased over the past 12 months. The plant has been operating very well. Jason Tapp credits the system's success in part to Veolia's efforts in switchgear maintenance throughout the plant this past year.

Mr. Tuma continued to report on maintenance-related items from the past month. Major jobs included performing semi-annual PMs on RAS pumps 1–4, rebuilding primary sludge pump 4, and performing an annual PM on final clarifier 3. Mr. Tapp explained that much of the work completed this past month was intended to help prepare the dryers for startup when they are ready to operate. Regarding electrical work, crews have begun replacing lights in the pump house dry well with LED fixtures.

In June, 27 confined-space entries were completed safely. Additionally, 371 MISS DIG tickets were completed for the month, with 23 of them being emergency related. Mr. Tuma added that chemical reconciliation expenditures for the month totaled \$271,782.20. The plant remains in full permit compliance and is closely monitoring the seasonal average for total phosphorus, as there is a slight increase relative to the permit limit. The current average is 0.56, while the permit limit is 0.6. Mr. Tapp highlighted that there is a 6-month limit as well as a monthly permit limit.

Mr. Tapp reported that there have been no significant rainfall events in the past two months where rain or snowmelt accumulated to one inch or greater within a 24-hour period. Monthly precipitation totaled 1.44 inches for June. While the state

requires DUWA to maintain six or fewer bypasses per year, Mr. Tuma elaborated that there have only been two over the past five years, with none being in 2026.

Regarding Industrial Pretreatment, in June various permits were reissued and inspections were conducted. One Letter of Violation (LOV) was issued to National Tank Services for a pH violation. Mr. Nathan Johnson asked if the LOV issued to National Tank Services is cause for concern. Mr. Tuma reassured the group that the letter serves as formal notification of the violation and that further corrective action steps will follow if non-compliance continues.

b. Chemical and Sludge Price - Monthly Updates

Mr. Tuma reported that a cost increase of 5.42% was applied to PACL this past month. All other chemical costs have remained the same. Mr. Tapp gave his team a pat on the back for their diligent efforts in taking processes offline to save on costs.

As cybersecurity becomes a prominent topic in the news, Mr. Tapp expressed Veolia's strong commitment and readiness to protect the plant's cyber infrastructure. To maintain system security, Veolia has implemented several security updates over the years, including separating its business network from its SCADA network. The SCADA system is completely disconnected from the internet. An external hard drive is also utilized for continuous backups, and cybersecurity training is conducted for employees throughout the year.

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 21-31).

a. System Manager Report

The DUWA team is reviewing the draft NPDES permit language and preparing a response.

Regarding the 2026 flow meter and collection system interceptor work, CCTV inspections have been completed for the River Drive Interceptor. Annual dye testing is currently underway.

A revised permit with corrections for BASF North Works was received from the Veolia O&M team. It is currently under review, and a second permit for the main campus will be issued soon. Mr. Alford spoke with a few residents about BASF's

proposed groundwater remediation system. The discussions were primarily educational for residents and were well received.

Mr. Alford plans to remove the GLWA orthophosphate dosing topic from discussion going forward, as Veolia has observed a consistent 25% increase over time.

The last odor complaint occurred on June 29th, so it is great to have an entire month with no complaints.

In preparation for getting the dryers running, testing will begin in September so that a performance test can be run later in the year. In anticipation, Veolia has begun adjusting the odor-control chemicals as required to prevent reheating of the dried biosolids. Because of that, some of the ferric that keeps odors to a minimum will be lost.

Veolia has recommended the implementation of nanobubbles to lessen odors throughout the plant. After speaking with representatives from plants in Alabama and Washington that utilize nanobubble technology, they found that those facilities were not using them to combat odors. A pilot test and lease agreement will be reviewed, and this topic will be discussed this afternoon so a recommendation can be developed. Mayor Joseph Kuspa inquired about how the other plants were utilizing nanobubble technology. Mr. Alford explained that one plant was using them for increased sludge removal in its primary tanks and the other was utilizing them for additional nutrient removal. Currently, these are not issues at the DUWA plant. Brandon Grysko inquired if we do know of any plants that utilize nano bubble technology as a means of odor control. Mr. Alford clarified that although the DUWA team requested Veolia find a plant using nanobubbles for odor control, they were not able to find one in the US.

At the recent Technical Committee meeting the motor repair on raw sewage pump 3, the UV project, and Dryer projects were reviewed in great detail. Mr. Alford urges all those interested to attend.

Fishbeck reported at the July technical committee meeting that the plant is generally in good condition, and that the asset condition results were similar to those reported by Veolia. Moving forward the Fishbeck team will be working on defining potential projects, determining timeframes for implementation, preparing planning level cost estimates, and developing the CIP report over the next several months.

Mayor Gail McLeod inquired about how we eliminate odors at the plant. Mr. Alford explained that the two effective odor-control methods used at the plant are good operations and the application of ferric chloride.

b. UV Disinfection Replacement Project

Mr. Alford reported that work continues to progress smoothly. Trojan, the manufacturer of the UV system, has been on-site. Trojan is finalizing the installation of bulbs, verifying proper setup, and completing its checklist to ensure the warranty is secured once the project is complete. Progress has also been made regarding the initial delay claim, and it appears that CCC is seeking a reasonable solution. Mr. Alford is awaiting a final recommendation from DUWA's consulting engineer. Once received, he will present it to the Technical Committee and subsequently to the Board for approval. Sarah Rutkowski detailed that reimbursement has been received through June 8th, bringing the total spend to \$8.1 million. Another reimbursement request will be submitted, which will bring the Authority to \$9 million. The full \$10 million allocation will be utilized in the remaining two months, though overall project costs will approach \$11.1 million when accounting for construction, design expenses, and construction administration. Mr. Alford believes that the job is now back on track. Mayor McLeod asked to be reminded of how much of the grant will cover the total cost of the project. Mr. Alford clarified that the grant will not cover the full project cost, but any expenses currently being incurred will remain within the initial project budget. Mr. Grysko added that while everyone is currently rushing to complete the project, stakeholders will meet later to discuss the delay claim.

c. Biosolids Dryer Facility Project

Jason Nash reported that the thermal oil systems can now be operated as the green tag for operation was received last Thursday. One last item remains on updating the thermal oil system. Installation of the new electrical system for the interim measures is underway and will be substantially completed this Friday. The dryers continue to be offline and will be started up at the end of September.

Mr. Nash added Veolia met with representatives from two wastewater plants of comparable size that utilize nanobubble technology. Unfortunately, these plants did not utilize the technology for odor control and did not require it to address odor issues. Joseph Kuspa inquired about how nanobubble technology came to be recommended. Mr. Nash elaborated that a member of Veolia's technical performance team has been collaborating with Moleaer. Moleaer ran a pilot at another Veolia-managed facility—a 6 MGD plant in California seeking H₂S reduction—and observed decreased odors. Based on those results, Moleaer

designed and recommended a system scaled to our facility's capacity. He explained that the proposal includes key performance indicators, such as a 70% reduction in H₂S, with a provision that the lease will terminate if those targets are not met. After extensive discussion, Mr. Grysko noted that even if H₂S is reduced, there is no guarantee that overall detectable odors will decrease. In response to a question from Mr. Johnson, Mr. Nash confirmed that Gatlinburg is the only other Veolia-managed plant utilizing this technology.

As it relates to the degritting and screening systems, the equipment is in place, the mechanical contractor is installing the piping and will be wrapped up next week. Electrical and SCADA work are expected to be complete by August 28. Start up and testing is scheduled for August 31st.

The dryer start up schedule is outlined on page 31. Currently item one is being tackled which includes; interim solutions, training and start up at the end of September. System stability will begin afterwards which will go through to the end of November with the performance assessment period beginning in December. Mr. Morgan inquired what constitutes a successful test. Mr. Nash explained that it would be completion of the performance test protocol as discussed. This would include two separate dryer testing periods and a 1500-hour pump runtime test.

7. Requests for Authorization

Sarah Rutkowski presented the following request for authorization.

a. Raw Sewage Pump 3 Emergency Motor Repair

The motor of raw sewage pump (RSP) #3, which is a medium capacity pump, experienced a critical failure of the metal bearing inside of the equipment. Due to the criticality of the equipment and urgency for a quick turnaround on the repair work, Veolia did not follow the standard competitive quote process which would have lengthened the time that the equipment was out of service. The equipment was removed and transported for repair by Integrated Power Services (IPS), a motor repair vendor. The repair work has since been completed, and the equipment is back in service.

The request was discussed with the technical committee during the July 23, 2026 meeting with approval to move through to the DUWA Board.

Motion by Southgate, supported by Wyandotte to reimburse Veolia \$28,490 for the raw sewage pump #3 emergency motor repair. The motion passed unanimously by all attending members.

7. Treasurer's Report

a. Plante Moran Jan-June 2026 Pre-Audit Letter

Rumzei Abdallah presented Plante Moran's Pre-Audit Letter which is shown on pages 38-40. Plante Moran plans to issue the report in October and present it at the November meeting.

b. Quarterly Financial Statement - 2026 Q2

Doug Drysdale presented the 2026 Q2 quarterly financial statement. He noted that it was previously presented at the Finance Committee meeting last week and encourages all those interested to attend. As it relates to the DUWA balance sheet, capital assets as of June 30th total \$233,191,455.63. Total liabilities total \$107,487,487.46, with a positive net revenue and expenditure totaling \$940,319.21 for the six months.

Page 43 showcases the six month revenue and expense report for DUWA. Mr. Drysdale noted that total revenue came in at 92% of the budget and total expenditures came in at 75% with net revenues and expenditures totaling \$940,319.21.

c. Community Self-Reporting Status Log

Jason Couture noted that as of today all communities at this time are up to date on their self reporting.

d. Aging Accounts Receivable

The total amount in the Aging Accounts Receivable (AR) is \$1,553,616.28 of which \$1,272,963.10 is current. \$153,311.10 (10%) is over 60 days delinquent. As shown on page 43 Ecorse has an outstanding bill totaling around \$43,000. Mr. Drysdale is in discussions with the new Ecorse Treasurer who was newly appointed.

Mayor McLeod asked for an update on the outstanding items which are over 120 days. Mr. Drysdale is in contact with many of the companies who are past due and is working diligently to resolve those outstanding items.

e. Pending Invoices

The total amount in this month's invoice register is \$4,328,736.94. The largest invoices include those to Commercial Contracting Corporation for the UV disinfection replacement project; Wyandotte Municipal Services for utilities; and

Veolia for operations and maintenance, chemical costs, and small capital project reimbursement.

Motion by Southgate, supported by Belleville to approve payment of the pending invoices in the amount of \$4,328,736.94. The motion passed unanimously by all attending members.

8. Public Comment

Art Ostaszewski, who identified himself as a citizen of the Great Lakes, expressed concerns regarding DUWA's IPP program in relation to the proposed BASF barrier remedy. He requests DUWA rely less on the FOIA process and provide greater openness to the Downriver community and to those who use the public waters into which DUWA discharges. Specifically, he seeks transparency regarding IPP permits, processes, applications, issuances, local limits, compliance records, past violations, and corrective actions. In closing, he requested that the BASF barrier remedy IPP permit process to date be placed on the agenda for discussion at the next Board meeting.

There was no further Public Comment.

9. Other Business

Mayor McLeod brought to everyone's attention that The Wall That Heals traveling Vietnam War memorial is hosting its opening ceremony today at Heritage Park in Taylor, Michigan. The memorial will be open through the weekend with the closing ceremony on Sunday, August 16, 2026.

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

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

Chairperson McLeod reminded the Board that the next regular meeting will take place Thursday, September 10th 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 Wyandotte to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously at 10:21 AM.