

**DOWNRIVER UTILITY WASTEWATER AUTHORITY
SEPTEMBER 10, 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, Lincoln Park, Riverview, Southgate, Van Buren, 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), Mayor Joseph Kuspa (Southgate), Greg Mayhew (Wyandotte), Lisa Griggs (Lincoln Park), Jeff Dobek (Riverview), Roxie Fairchild (Brownstown), Ron Akers (Van Buren), Nathan Johnson (Belleville). John Danci (Dearborn Heights) arrived at 9:06 AM.

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), Brady Peck (Belleville), Art Ostaszewski, Ashley Sakowski, Doug Drysdale (Southgate/DNS Financial), Rumzei Abdallah (Plante Moran), Jason Couture (Taylor/DUWA Treasurer), Souheil Sabak (CE Raines/Riverview), Randy Pentiuk (Riverview), Jason Nash (Veolia CPM), Jason Tapp (Veolia O&M), Sarah Rutkowski (Fishbeck), Dan Alford (Fishbeck), and Kurian Joychan (Veolia O&M).

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 August 13, 2026 Board Meeting

Copies of the meeting minutes from the August 13, 2026 Board meeting were included in the pre-meeting Board packet. Motion by Van Buren, supported by Belleville 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 participated with the system management team on DUWA's NPDES permit and coordinated an officer meeting to discuss open projects and various policy issues.

5. Contract Operator Update

a. Monthly Operating Report

Jason Tapp reported that daily flow for the month of July remained 25% below the monthly average. The main focus throughout July, August, and continuing into September was coordinating with Kruger representatives on various issues associated with the dryers.

25% of planned maintenance activities were dedicated to the dryer. Veolia completed a confined space entry while using the vactor truck to clean the recycling line, which involved entering the recycle hatch and directing the hose to remove grit, gravel, and rocks. Veolia also replaced the guide cable for tunnel pump 2. Routine operations and maintenance tasks for the month included: realigning the grit belts, unplugging floor drains and draining the primary treatment tanks, and replacing shoes, boards, and chains on primary scum lines 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6.

In secondary treatment, staff replaced the stem nut on one of the skim gates for final clarifier 6 and completed the annual PM on clarifier 4. In December, the new Tow-Bro suction tubes for the remaining two final clarifiers are scheduled to arrive on site.

The two certified electrical technicians on staff previously attended a week-long training course focused on SCADA.

Regarding Environmental Health and Safety, 22 confined space entries were completed in July alongside safety training focused primarily on working at heights, confined space entry, and PPE. Additionally, a total of 354 MISS DIG tickets were processed during July, 32 of which were emergency requests.

Utility invoice reconciliation totals \$275,295.82, with much of the cost associated with sludge hauling and ferric usage. Ferric usage will decline in September as Veolia transitions in August to polyaluminum chloride for phosphorus precipitation in preparation for the September dryer startup.

The plant remains in full permit compliance and received 1.6" of precipitation in July. While this year has not been unusually dry overall, the plant is experiencing a substantial reduction in flow—down 25% compared to prior years. There have been no bypass events since the last report.

Regarding industrial pretreatment, no violation letters were issued following inspections.

b. Chemical and Sludge Price - Monthly Updates

Mr. Tapp continued his report, noting a slight uptick in pipeline oxygen for July. While tariffs may have some impact, nothing has changed as of yet. Veolia is exploring another option for sludge hauling and disposal; after receiving competitive pricing, a test run will be conducted. Veolia will work with its legal counsel to review the agreement, which may lead to a potential switch.

Mayor Kuspa inquired why flows are at historical lows. Mr. Tapp confirmed that flows have never been this low, even though rainfall has not been significantly below average. He attributed this to groundwater levels, then discussed operational challenges since the current pumps were sized for higher flow volumes.

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 21-35).

a. System Manager Report

As it relates to the NPDES permit, a response was sent in August to EGLE's most recent drafts. Currently, the draft permit is posted for public comment. EGLE plans to have the permit issued by October 1st. EGLE wants to have DUWA stop blending. Mr. Alford conveyed to EGLE that a detailed hydraulic model update was the best strategy moving forward to understand and therefore minimize bypass blending. The model development process will take 18 months, with another year and a half to develop a blending/bypass minimization plan, with implementation initiated by October 1st, 2031.

Mr. Alford reported that all existing CCTV data has been collected. This data will be provided to the as-needed engineer to develop a scope of work for the collection system asset management plan, which will include outlining future inspection efforts and identifying short- and long-term sewer rehabilitation projects.

BASF is moving toward constructing a new groundwater remediation system to reduce site contamination to the Detroit River. DUWA has reissued both BASF general site drainage IPP permits that require pollutant minimization plans to lower pollutant limits over time.

Odor complaints have recently been low, totaling three in August. Veolia began a transition in August to reduce the use of ferric chloride and increase PACL for phosphorus control.

Regarding the prior odor study with Brown and Caldwell, they suggested utilizing nanobubble technology. After consulting with an expert and our legal team to discuss the technology, we have decided not to move forward with it for various reasons. The carbon odor control system will be up and ready when the dryers start operations.

The next technical meeting is on September 17th with a main focus being on the construction projects. Mr. Alford encourages all of those interested to attend. As it relates to as needed engineering work, the Fishbeck team is continuing with the CIP plan update.

Mr. Alford explained the recent emergency authorization utilized by Veolia. The DWTF experienced a complete failure of a solids handling screw conveyor, which sends dried solids from centrifuge #2 to trucks for landfilling. As this particular conveyor is critical to current operations, Veolia gathered quotes from two suppliers and moved forward with JMS for a total cost not to exceed \$178,160. In the meantime, the Veolia team was able to complete a temporary repair to keep the unit operational until the replacement conveyor arrives on site. The manufacturer expects it will take eight weeks until the new conveyor is delivered.

b. UV Disinfection Replacement Project

Mr. Alford reported that the installation of the five new UV channels are largely complete. Trojan, the manufacturer, is required to complete the final installation process, which will include a 100-hour burn-in test and live testing. Mr. Alford thanked Veolia's team for their responsiveness and flexibility during this complicated process. He noted that CCC is disappointed with the progress Trojan is currently making on the project – the manufacturer was selected by DUWA. We are now within a week of the grant deadline, and the DUWA

professional team recommends releasing partial retainage so that we can receive reimbursement for the full \$10 million grant.

c. Biosolids Dryer Facility Project

Jason Nash reported for the month of August the dryers have remained offline. The dryers will be started up in early October. Through the month all mechanical work has been completed with piping in place. The SCADA vendor is on site now. The system will be operational today. Kruger has been on site the last two weeks working through punch list items with Veolia operations. Mr. Nash highlighted that the heat exchangers have been cleaned. The PACL transition is complete to be able to restart the dryers and send dried biosolids to LaSalle. The team is waiting on lab results to confirm the ferric has reached an acceptable level to prevent reheating.

The thermal oil system platform has yet to be installed. WadeTrim and Mr. Alford conducted a walk through the other day to begin the design. The interim solutions are substantially complete for start up with testing starting later today.

Mayor McLeod inquired why Walsh rejected the claim for the thermal oil system platform access. Mr. Alford noted Walsh's team did apply for a State boiler permit during construction, but the boiler permit application was dropped for no clear reason. Due to limited time with the January deadline the solution is being expedited with all costs being tracked.

Jeff Dobek inquired if our grit is being tested. Mr. Nash explained that they will be looking at percent removal achieved by the degritting system. Influent and material going out will be tested, as well as what's being captured.

7. Requests for Authorization

Sarah Rutkowski presented the following requests for authorization.

a. Rate Adjustment for Jim Taylor Professional Services

Ms. Rutkowski noted an updated memo for this item was handed out before the meeting.

James Taylor has been providing professional consulting services to DUWA since May 2023, primarily in support of the Biosolids Dryer Project. Mr. Taylor is requesting an increase in his hourly rate from \$120/hour to \$130/hour. Mr. Taylor's services are currently paid from DUWA's Professional Services line item of the budget.

Motion by Dearborn Heights, supported by Van Buren to approve the increase in the hourly rate to \$130 dollars per hour and the not-to-exceed fee to \$45,200 for James T. Taylor's Professional Services Engagement contract. The motion passed unanimously by all attending members.

b. UV Disinfection Replacement Project – Partial CCC Retainage Release

DUWA was informed by EGLE after the August 27th technical committee meeting that retainage would not be eligible for reimbursement until officially released to the contractor through a pay application. A meeting was held with the System Managers, System Attorneys, Greg Mayhew, and Jim Taylor to discuss a potential retainage release on September 4th. The group agreed to release up to \$500,000 given the construction status to date and current comfort level with the contractor.

Motion by Southgate, supported by Dearborn Heights to approve up to \$500,000 in retainage release to CCC for the UV Disinfection Replacement Project to be submitted in a final grant reimbursement request by the System Managers. The motion passed unanimously by all attending members.

8. Treasurer's Report

a. 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.

b. Aging Accounts Receivable

The total amount in the Aging Accounts Receivable (AR) is \$3,364,875.10 of which 3,275,495.4 is current. Mayor McLeod expressed her concern for the businesses that are over one hundred and twenty days unpaid. Mr. Drysdale explained that he is working with those companies on the unpaid invoices and he forward the worst offenders to legal to assist with collecting payments.

c. Pending Invoices

The total amount in this month's invoice register is \$6,218,521.62. The largest invoices include those to US Bank for SRF, lien and WIFIA bond payments which are paid semi-annually. Additionally, other large payments 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 Wyandotte, supported by Riverview to approve payment of the pending invoices in the amount of \$6,218,521.62. The motion passed unanimously by all attending members.

9. Public Comment

Art Ostaszewski, a citizen, expressed his concerns regarding ongoing issues in the Detroit River and pertaining to BASF and its legacy. The supporters of the Facebook page he manages, along with Mr. Ostaszewski himself, request that DUWA deny BASF a new discharge permit.

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, October 8th, 2026 (9:00 AM; In-Person)

Chairperson McLeod reminded the Board that the next regular meeting will take place Thursday, October 8th 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 Dearborn Heights, supported by Van Buren to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously at 10:03 AM.