



Detroit Water and Sewerage Department Meeting Minutes - Final Board of Water Commissioners

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Detroit, Michigan 48226
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Wednesday, April 15, 2026

2:00 PM

To attend by phone call one of these numbers:
+1 301 715 8592, +1 312 626 6799, +1 267 831 0333
Use Meeting ID: 815 7263 5118
Use Passcode: 482262021

To attend online: <https://cityofdetroit.zoom.us/j/81572635118>
Use Passcode: 482262021

BOWC Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Einheuser called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: 4 - Commissioner Linda Forte, Commissioner Jane Garcia, Chairperson Michael Einheuser and Commissioner Ademola Fagade
Excused: 2 - Vice Chairperson Mary Blackmon and Commissioner Jonathan Kinloch
Absent: 1 - Commissioner John Henry Davis

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairperson Einheuser requested approval of the amended agenda.

Agenda Item 9E-2026-76 of the Consent Agenda was moved to New Business item 10D.

A motion was made by Commissioner Linda Forte, seconded by Ademola Fagade that this be approved as amended. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairperson Einheuser requested approval of the minutes of March 18, 2026.

A motion was made by Commissioner Linda Forte, seconded by Ademola Fagade that the minutes be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS (3 minutes per speaker)

a. Don Blevins came before the board on behalf of LGC Global Inc in regard to the bid protest for Contract WS-755 Lead Service Line Replacement project at Chandler Park and to contest the Department's denial of the 6% equalization credits for a joint venture.

b. Kyla McDonald of 11455 Kenmoor came about being over billed for estimated water usage for the past 13 months.

c. Bridget Scallen came again about a continuous water issue and the inequity and accountability that residents face at the hands of landlords throughout the City of Detroit.

Vice Chairperson Blackmon arrived at 2:11 p.m.

d. DeMeeko Williams, Chief Executive Director of Hydrate Detroit joined the meeting and brought resident Ms. Barbara Thornton whose water service is subject to be interrupted due to a \$1500 bill.

e. Norrell Hemphill, Legal and Public Policy Manager for We the People of Detroit (WTPOD) came to ask DWSD for support on House Bill 8254, a water affordability plan. She said the original Lifeline Plan accommodated 30,000 customers, and the new Lifeline H2O, accommodates less than 5,000 customers. We need an affordability plan for all customers and WTPOD will continue to fight for clean and affordable water.

f. Stephen Thiel of 17133 Mack Avenue came about the disconnection of his sewer line that he stated was removed during the water main replacement project and asked that the Department reimburse him for having the sewer line reconnected.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

A. [2026-92](#) Receipt of Correspondence

Sponsors: Phillips

Attachments: [March 16 2026 - Letter to DWSD](#)

A motion was made by Vice Chairperson Mary Blackmon, seconded by Commissioner Linda Forte that this Communication or Report be received and filed. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

B. [2026-93](#) Receipt of Correspondence

Sponsors: Operations

Attachments: [4879 Cortland - BOWC Response](#)

A motion was made by Vice Chairperson Mary Blackmon, seconded by Commissioner Linda Forte that this Communication or Report be received and filed. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

C. [2026-96](#) Receipt of Correspondence

Sponsors: MacGriff

Attachments: [2026 04 06 LGC Bid Protest re WS-755](#)

A motion was made by Vice Chairperson Mary Blackmon, seconded by

Commissioner Linda Forte that this Communication or Report be received and filed. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

7. **ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSIONERS**

There were none.

8. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There were none.

9. **APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA (Items 9A-J)**

A motion was made by Vice Chairperson Mary Blackmon, seconded by Commissioner Linda Forte that the Consent Agenda be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

A. [2026-72](#)

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve Purchase Order 3091787 with Vermeer of Michigan, Inc. dba Vermeer Midwest to provide (1) one new Directional Drill and Trailer Package, to support DWSD Lead Service Replacement Operations, for a total purchase not-to-exceed amount of \$232,260.00.** This also authorizes the Director to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

Sponsors: Welch and Water Production and Operations Manager Roberts

A motion was made by Vice Chairperson Mary Blackmon, seconded by Commissioner Linda Forte that this Contract be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

B. [2026-73](#)

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve Amendment No. 1 to Contract 6006211 with Duke's Root Control Inc., for catch basin cleaning services, a piggyback utilizing the Wayne County Contract #37-22-092; by adding \$1,000,000.00 in funding and extending the term of 1 year, for a total amended contract amount not-to-exceed \$3,545,335.00 and a new term ending 4/19/27.** This also authorizes the Director to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

Sponsors: Welch

A motion was made by Vice Chairperson Mary Blackmon, seconded by Commissioner Linda Forte that this Contract Amendment be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

C. [2026-74](#)

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve DWSD Contract 6007783, (CS-2006) a piggyback of CoD Contract 6007402, with Power Lighting & Technical Services, for planned electrical and cabling services, for a total**

contract amount not-to-exceed \$1,875,000.00 and a term of 2 years and 5 months. This also authorizes the Director to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

Sponsors: Welch and Gosine

A motion was made by Vice Chairperson Mary Blackmon, seconded by Commissioner Linda Forte that this Contract be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

D. [2026-75](#)

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve DWSD Contract 6007786, with Safer Home Services North America LLC dba Clear Pest Pros of Southeast Michigan, for a duration of five years and a total contract amount not-to-exceed \$400,000.00.** This also authorizes the Director to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

Sponsors: Welch

A motion was made by Vice Chairperson Mary Blackmon, seconded by Commissioner Linda Forte that this Contract be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

E. [2026-77](#)

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve DWSD Contract 6007779 with Zenner USA, Inc., for the purchase of water meters, for a total contract amount not-to-exceed \$3,627,192.20 and a term of three (3) years.** This also authorizes the Director to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

Sponsors: Welch and Water Production and Operations Manager Flake

Attachments: [Bid Tab Evaluation Pricing Sheet 543634 -mw3.30.26](#)

A motion was made by Vice Chairperson Mary Blackmon, seconded by Commissioner Linda Forte that this Contract be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

F. [2026-78](#)

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve DWSD Contract 6007800 with Master Meter, for the purchase of water meters., for a total contract amount not-to-exceed \$2,218,300.00 and a term of three (3) years.** This also authorizes the Director to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

Sponsors: Welch and Water Production and Operations Manager Flake

Attachments: [Bid Tab Evaluation Pricing Sheet 543634 -mw3.30.26](#)

A motion was made by Vice Chairperson Mary Blackmon, seconded by

Commissioner Linda Forte that this Contract be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

- G** [2026-79](#) The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve DWSD Contract 6007801 with Metron-Farnier, LLC, for the purchase of water meters, for a total contract amount not-to-exceed \$1,607,250.00 and a term of three (3) years.** This also authorizes the Director to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

Sponsors: Welch and Water Production and Operations Manager Flake

Attachments: [Bid Tab Evaluation Pricing Sheet 543634 -mw3.30.26](#)

A motion was made by Vice Chairperson Mary Blackmon, seconded by Commissioner Linda Forte that this Contract be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

- H.** [2026-89](#) The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve DWSD Contract 6007795 for Project WS-756 with Inner City Contracting LLC and Eminent Excavating LLC, a Joint Venture (JV) award, for Lead Water Service Line Replacements in the Eden Gardens neighborhood, for a total contract amount not-to-exceed \$8,125,500.00 and a term of two (2) years.** This also authorizes the Director to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

Sponsors: Welch

A motion was made by Vice Chairperson Mary Blackmon, seconded by Commissioner Linda Forte that this Contract be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

- I.** [2026-80](#) The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department approval to **adopt the Audit Committee Charter** and also authorizes the Director to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

Sponsors: Camarena

Attachments: [Audit Committee Charter \(v1.0\) - \(April 2026\)](#)

A motion was made by Vice Chairperson Mary Blackmon, seconded by Commissioner Linda Forte that this Resolution, BOWC be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

- J.** [2026-86](#) The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit Water and Sewerage Department approves the submission of a **Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy Water Resources Division State High Water Infrastructure Grant Application for Jefferson Chalmers**

Bioretention Implementation and authorizes the Director to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

Sponsors: Smalley

A motion was made by Vice Chairperson Mary Blackmon, seconded by Commissioner Linda Forte that this Resolution, BOWC be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

10. NEW BUSINESS

A. [2026-81](#) Review and Approval of Final Five-Year DWSD CIP for FY 2027-2031

Sponsors: Rahman

Attachments: [BOWC Presentation - FY 27-31 CIP Budget April 15 2026](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Linda Forte, seconded by Vice Chairperson Mary Blackmon that this Communication or Report be received and filed. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

B. [2026-90](#) The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit Water and Sewerage Department **approves the proposed 5 Year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for the Fiscal Years 2027 to 2031 for the Water Supply System in the amount of \$664,550,000 and for the Sewerage Disposal System in the amount of 784,450,000, respectively and the Fiscal Year 2027 Capital Budget for the Water Supply System in the amount of \$109,240,000 and for the Sewerage Disposal System in the amount of \$124,535,000, respectively;** and further authorizes the Director and Chief Financial Officer to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

Sponsors: Rahman

Attachments: [17.BOWC Presentation - FY 27-31 CIP Budget April 15 2026](#)

Commissioner Kinloch arrived at 2:35 p.m.

A motion was made by Commissioner Forte, seconded by Vice Chairperson Blackmon that this Contract be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Commissioner Forte, Vice Chairperson Blackmon, Commissioner Garcia, Chairperson Einheuser, Commissioner Kinloch and Commissioner Fagade

C. [2026-98](#) Motion regarding LGC Global, Inc., managing Joint Venture's bid protest regarding Detroit Water and Sewerage Department RFB #542476, Project WS-755, for Lead Water Service Line Replacement.

Sponsors: MacGriff and Welch

Attachments: [Bid Protest Reponse Memo to BOWC](#)
[Exhibit A-Bid Protest-WS 755 LGC 4.15.26](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Jonathan Kinloch, seconded by Commissioner Jane Garcia that this Resolution, BOWC be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

D. [2026-76](#)

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve DWSD Contract 6007780 (Project WS-755) with DMC Consultants, Inc. for Lead Water Service Line Replacement - Chandler Park, for a total contract amount not-to-exceed \$7,969,391.31 and a term of two (2) years.** This also authorizes the Director to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

Sponsors: Welch

A motion was made by Vice Chairperson Mary Blackmon, seconded by Commissioner Linda Forte that this Contract be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

11. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. [2026-94](#) Director's Report

Sponsors: Office of the Director

Attachments: [Board Report - Metrics - 04152026](#)

This Communication or Report was received and filed.

12. COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Blackmon reported that information is forthcoming regarding the tribute to former Council Member JoAnn Watson and hosted by Central High School.

13. COMMENTS BY THE CHAIR

There were none.

14. OTHER MATTERS

Attorney MacGriff reported that the matter concerning Ms. Josiah's damage claim had been evaluated and denied. This determination of the claim has been communicated to the claimant. The other matter regarding Mr. Stephen Thiel's service line disconnection that took place by a prior owner 20 years ago, which resulted in the current owner, (Mr. Thiel) replacing the sewer line at his expense. This matter is pending per further investigation.

Commissioner Kinloch asked if there were any exceptions that could be determined, since it's been over 20 years, due to unique circumstances.

Commissioner Blackmon added that it should be made clear, in any case, the

Department's responsibilities.

- A. [2026-95](#) The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department **agrees to meet with legal counsel, in closed session, pursuant to Section 8(e) of the Michigan Open Meetings Act to discuss ongoing litigation to the Board of Water Commissioners**, and also authorizes the Director to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

Sponsors: MacGriff

A motion was made by Commissioner Linda Forte, seconded by Vice Chairperson Mary Blackmon that this Request, Closed Session be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

15. CLOSED SESSION

ALSO PRESENT: DWSD Deputy Counsel, Nikkiya Branch Penson
Paul Lucas, Attorney with Jackson Lewis, PC

A motion was made to enter Closed Session at 3:15 pm. that this be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Commissioner Forte, Vice Chairperson Blackmon, Commissioner Garcia, Chairperson Einheuser, Commissioner Kinloch and Commissioner Fagade

RETURN FROM CLOSED SESSION

The only matter discussion was privilege and confidential communication.

A motion was made to return from Closed Session at 3:45 p.m. that this be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Commissioner Forte, Vice Chairperson Blackmon, Commissioner Garcia, Chairperson Einheuser, Commissioner Kinloch and Commissioner Fagade

16. ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Einheuser requested a motion to adjourn.

A motion was made by Vice Chairperson Mary Blackmon, seconded by Commissioner Linda Forte that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:46 p.m.

How to Make a Request for Public Comment

You may provide your public comment via Zoom link:

<http://cityofdetroit.zoom.us/j/81572635118>

During the public comment section for each committee meeting, raise your hand using the Zoom hand icon on your desktop or mobile device, or if calling into the meeting by phone, press *9 to raise your hand (press *6 to unmute when called upon).

We respectfully request that you maximize your three minutes by sharing all your comments/questions at one time. You will only be called upon once for public comment during the same committee meeting, full board meeting, or hearing.

Once the Chair closes public comment, there will be no other public comments accepted and all the attendees will remain muted for the duration of the meeting.