



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

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Wednesday, June 18, 2025

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

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## BOWC Regular and Annual Meeting

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

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

### 2. ROLL CALL

**Present:** 6 - Commissioner Lane Coleman, Vice Chairperson Mary Blackmon,  
Commissioner John Henry Davis, Commissioner Jane Garcia, Chairperson  
Michael Einheuser and Commissioner Jonathan Kinloch  
**Absent:** 1 - Commissioner Linda Forte

### 3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairperson Einheuser requested approval of the agenda.

**A motion was made by Vice Chairperson Mary Blackmon, seconded by  
Commissioner John Henry Davis that the agenda be approved. The motion  
carried by a unanimous vote.**

### 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairperson Einheuser requested approval of the minutes of May 21, 2025.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Lane Coleman, seconded by Vice  
Chairperson Mary Blackmon that the minutes be approved. The motion carried  
by a unanimous vote.**

### 5. ELECTION AND APPROVAL OF OFFICERS

#### A. [2025-134](#)

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit Water and Sewerage Department **approves the following officer of Chair for the term of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.**

**Sponsors:** MacGriff

**Attachments:**     [Resolution-Chair](#)

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

**B.     [2025-135](#)**

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit Water and Sewerage Department **approves the following officer of Vice Chair for the term of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.**

**Sponsors:**     MacGriff

**Attachments:**     [Resolution-Vice Chair](#)

**A motion was made by Commissioner John Henry Davis, seconded by Commissioner Jonathan Kinloch that this Resolution, BOWC be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.**

**C.     [2025-136](#)**

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit Water and Sewerage Department **approves the following officer as Board Secretary for the term of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.**

**Sponsors:**     MacGriff

**Attachments:**     [Resolution-Board Secretary](#)

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

**D.     [2025-137](#)**

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit Water and Sewerage Department **adopts the FY 2025-2026 Schedule of Board Meetings attached to this motion**, and also authorizes the Chairman and the Director to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

**Sponsors:**     MacGriff

**Attachments:**     [BOWC FY 2025-2026 Calendar](#)

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

**6.     PUBLIC COMMENTS (3 minutes per speaker)**

a. Jermaine Paynes stated that he was concerned that there was not enough equipment to address the many catch basins and manhole issues. He also asked why the Department was moving toward a flexible work schedule for DWSD employees and why is overtime being cut with the many sewer and infrastructure issues throughout the city. Mr. Payne asked why the Department is contracting the work instead of hiring Detroiters. He then asked what was the plan for the upcoming year for repairs and project completion.

b. Ashley Williams, a local investor in the City of Detroit, came before the Board

seeking assistance for a

Land Bank property she purchased with a \$12,000 water bill attached.

c. Bridget Scullin came before the Board to ask why does DWSD neglect to enforce water payments on commercial properties and allow landlords to accrue thousands of dollars in debt. This puts tenants across the city at risk for potential water shut offs or retaliation.

d. Cecily McClellan with We the People of Detroit (WTPOD) stated that her understanding was that there was funding for approximately 11,000 residents for the Lifeline Plan, but she was not sure whether the funding has been exhausted. The EasyPay Program is increasing, but many people cannot afford to pay their current bills as well as the past due amounts. She hopes that additional funding will be provided. Ms. McClellan also announced that Representative Diebendorf has issued the water affordability bill in Lansing with House Bill No. 4555, and hopes that the BOWC and DWSD will support this bill. This bill would provide income-based cap on rates, water shutoff protection, medical needs for households with senior citizens, pregnant women, and children under the age of 18.

e. Gwendolyn Howard echoed Ms. McClellan's comments for support of the bill. Her concerns were the number of people in Promise Pay, how many are subject to shutoff, and are shutoffs in effect? Mr. Phillips said firstly, no DWSD customer be it residential, commercial, or faith-based is in Promise Pay. Secondly, DWSD has not begun the Promise Pay process, and it is not a collections agency. Thirdly, all the customers that are currently on the Lifeline Plan have not been shut off.

f. Norrel Hemphill asked for support of House Bill No. 4555. She said it is a pathway for residents across the entire State of Michigan for access to clean, safe, and affordable water. WTPOD believe that there should be a moratorium on water shutoffs and that no one should be without water. There is a definite need for an income-based program codified into law on the city level--one that exists regardless of funding. She said that in 2016, the City of Detroit sat in the highest hepatitis outbreak in North America. It was underreported, but was found that in households with the water shut off, they were one and a half times more likely to get a waterborne illness. For the entire State of Michigan, Detroit sat at 40% of the deaths during COVID when we still had water shut offs. Once DWSD started to restore water, those deaths decreased. WTPOD believes that water is a human right and it is critically important that everyone has access to clean, safe, and affordable water.

g. DeMeeko Williams congratulated, Chairman Einheuser, and Vice Chair, Blackman, for being elected to another term. He would have preferred Jonathan Kinloch as the chair. He also thinks that the water board commission should be an elected position. He disagrees with the Water Court and believes it should be separate and independent. The city of Detroit was doing a service to the residents by giving them an opportunity. He felt like some cases had not been represented well and were not being deliberately fair. The city had an advantage as citizens to go to Water Court or to go to litigation, and it was independent. Mr. Williams asked if DWSD workers were moving to a four-day flex week, are they going to be on a contractual as-needed basis, how many workers are on these projects, and when would these projects be completed? He also wanted to speak about the Easy Pay Plan. Mr. Williams announced that Hydrate Detroit is hosting its annual share water donation drive and would love the partnership of the water department to help promote the EasyPay Plan.

Commissioner Kinloch added that he was absolutely appreciative of the confidence

that Mr. Williams had in him, but he absolutely has the utmost confidence in the current Chair. Mr. Kinloch said that he and Mr. Williams have been around this city a long time, going to various meetings throughout the community and have seen folks preside over meetings and Chairman Einheuser was one of the best.

## 7. COMMUNICATIONS

### A. [2025-138](#) Receipt of Correspondence

**Sponsors:** Crowell

**Attachments:** [Charlene Redmond - BOWC Response](#)  
[Amina Harris - BOWC Response](#)

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

### B. [2025-139](#) Receipt of Correspondence

**Sponsors:** Field Services

**Attachments:** [3445 Cadillac - BOWC Response](#)

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

### C. [2025-140](#) Receipt of Correspondence

**Sponsors:** Phillips

**Attachments:** [Letter to DWSD - May 30 2025](#)

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

## 8. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Blackmon noted that in the event that there is flooding in areas where the drains have or have not be cleaned, the Department does not ignore these issues and that every effort is made to address the problem at its earliest convenience.

## 9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Cass/Hancock-blocked basin  
Lafayette/Chene-blocked basin

## 10. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA (Items 10A-M)

A motion was made by Vice Chairperson Mary Blackmon, seconded by Commissioner Jane Garcia that the Consent Agenda be approved. The motion

carried by a unanimous vote.

**A. [2025-111](#)**

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve Amendment No. 3 for DWSD Contract No. 6003012 (fka 6002757) with Itron, Inc. for the Open Way Riva AMI Implementation, by adding \$2,000,000.00 in funding, for a total amended contract amount not-to-exceed \$20,762,500.00. No changes to scope of work or the terms and conditions of this contract.** 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 Jane Garcia that this Contract Amendment be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.**

**B. [2025-112](#)**

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve Amendment No. 2 to DWSD Contract 6004388 with Johnson Controls, Inc., to continue providing HVAC Equipment, Parts, Repairs and Preventative Maintenance Services, utilizing a Sourcewell-NJPA Cooperative Agreement #070121-JHN; by adding \$1,000,000.00, for an amended total contract amount not-to-exceed \$5,961,508.00 and extending the term for an additional 13 months and 12 days for a new term ending 8/12/26.** 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 Jane Garcia that this Contract Amendment be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.**

**C. [2025-113](#)**

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve Amendment No. 2 for DWSD Contract 6006449 (PS-1785) with Mildred Morris, for As-Needed Accounts Payable Support Services; by adding \$10,000.00, for a new total amended contract amount not-to-exceed of \$60,000.00 and by adding four (4) months for a new expiration date of 10/31/25.** 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 Jane Garcia that this Contract Amendment be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.**

**D. [2025-114](#)**

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve a Contract 6007192 with City Insight LLC; for hardware/software development, configuration and upgrade to Software as a Service (SaaS) for the Customer Portal (CS-1999),**

for a total contract amount not-to-exceed \$820,000.00 and a term of 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

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

**E. [2025-115](#)**

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve DWSD Contract 6007141 with LGC Global, Inc., for Sewer Cleaning, Investigation/Inspection & Maintenance Services; for a total contract amount not-to-exceed \$4,500,000.00 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

**Attachments:** [Bid Tab 6007141 Sewer Cleaning](#)

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

**F. [2025-116](#)**

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve DWSD Contract 6007147 with Universal Contracting Services for As-Needed Traffic Control Services; for a total contract amount not-to-exceed \$1,800,000.00 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 Jane Garcia that this Contract be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.**

**G. [2025-118](#)**

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve DWSD Contract 6007182 with Bob Maxey Lincoln and DWSD Contract 6007183 with Dealer Auto Parts Sales, for Ford / Motorcraft Parts; for a total combined contract amount not-to-exceed \$144,091.05 and a term of two years.** This also authorizes the Director to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

**Sponsors:** Welch

**Attachments:** [6007182 6007183 bid tab](#)

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

- H. [2025-119](#) The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve DWSD Contract 6007197 with Human Fliers, LLC, to deliver “service interruption” notices (door hangers) and provide services to support survey programs for DWSD customers; for a total contract amount not-to-exceed \$400,000.00 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
- Attachments:** [6007197 bid tab](#)
- A motion was made by Vice Chairperson Mary Blackmon, seconded by Commissioner Jane Garcia that this Contract be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.**
- I. [2025-120](#) The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve DWSD Contract 6007199 with Core & Main LP, for 20-foot Ductile Iron Pipe of various sizes; for a total contract amount not-to-exceed \$213,348.00 and a term of one year.** The BOWC also authorizes the Director to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.
- Sponsors:** Welch
- Attachments:** [6007199 bid tab](#)
- A motion was made by Vice Chairperson Mary Blackmon, seconded by Commissioner Jane Garcia that this Contract be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.**
- J. [2025-121](#) The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve DWSD Contract 6007206 with TruePani, Inc., for Brita Tahoe or Pacifica water pitchers and Brita Elite filters; for a total contract amount not-to-exceed \$257,600.00 and a term of two years.** The BOWC also authorizes the Director to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.
- Sponsors:** Welch
- Attachments:** [6007206 bid tab](#)
- A motion was made by Vice Chairperson Mary Blackmon, seconded by Commissioner Jane Garcia that this Contract be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.**
- K. [2025-122](#) The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve DWSD Contract 6007207 with Sehi Computer Products, Inc., to piggyback off the City of Detroit Contract 6006128, for the purchase of computer printers and ancillary equipment; for a total contract amount not-to-exceed \$120,000.00 and a term of 1 year.**

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 Jane Garcia that this Contract be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.**

**L. [2025-123](#)**

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve DWSD Contract 6007210 with Special Multi-Services, Inc., to provide Community Outreach and Canvassing Services; for a total contract amount not-to-exceed \$650,000.00 and a term of 3 years plus a 1 year renewal option.** This also authorizes the Director to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

**Sponsors:** Welch

**Attachments:** [6007210 bid tab](#)

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

**M. [2025-124](#)**

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve DWSD Contract 6007212 for Project WS-740 with Major Contracting Group and Gayanga Company (Joint Venture), for Water System Improvements, for a total contract amount not-to-exceed \$26,974,000.00 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 Jane Garcia that this Contract be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.**

**11. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. American Water Resources (AWR) 2025 Partnership Review**

**[2025-161](#)**

**American Water Resources (AWR) Presentation**

**Sponsors:** Peckinpagh

**Attachments:** [AWR Presentation](#)

Presenters: Geoff Ellis, Meg Hillock and Jalysa Nelson

**This Communication or Report was received and filed.**



Commissioner Davis departed at 2:47 p.m.

**B. Response to the Villages of Detroit**

Deputy Director Sam Smalley reported that the Department had scheduled a meeting with the East English and West Villages and would report to the Board at a later time.

**12. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**A. [2025-141](#) Director's Report**

Sponsors: Brown

Attachments: [Board Report - Metrics - 06182025](#)

**This Communication or Report was received and filed.**

**13. COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS**

There were none.

**14. COMMENTS BY THE CHAIR**

Chairman Einheuser acknowledged the passing of Irma Clark Coleman. He was grateful for her service.

Commissioner Kinloch echoed the Chair's comments and said she was a great mentor to him.

Tiffany Jones, Interim HR Director announced that DWSD will host a career fair on Thursday, June 26, 2025 at Triumph Church from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. The Department will interview on sight and offers will be made at the fair.

**15. OTHER MATTERS**

Scott MacGriff, General Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer gave a brief report on the 54-Inch water main claims process. Firstly, there were approximately 50 claimants that filed and have gone MIA with no response. He said those names have been sent to our community partner for assistance in reaching these claimants. He said a notice will go out by Friday, June 20, 2025, giving a 10-day notice to respond or the claim would be closed. Secondly, the closure of the claims process is July 11, 2025. Finally, any claimant in the process of obtaining documents or communicating with the adjuster must do so by the closeout date. The notice will be sent to all 150 people that have not resolved their claims.

**16. ADJOURNMENT**

Chairperson Einheuser requested a motion to adjourn.

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

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:21 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.