



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

735 Randolph  
Detroit, Michigan 48226  
(313) 224-4704 Office  
dwsd.legistar.com

---

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

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 2:01 p.m.

### 2. ROLL CALL

**Present:** 5 - Commissioner Lane Coleman, Vice Chairperson Mary Blackmon, Commissioner Jane Garcia, Chairperson Michael Einheuser and Commissioner Jonathan Kinloch  
**Absent:** 2 - Commissioner Linda Forte and Commissioner John Henry Davis

### 3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairperson Einheuser requested approval of the amended agenda.

Item 2024-166 the Closed Session was moved to the beginning of the agenda and New Business Item 10A -2024-189 was removed.

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

### 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairperson Einheuser requested approval of the minutes of August 21, 2024.

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

### 5. PUBLIC COMMENTS (3 minutes per speaker)

a. Cindy Darrah asked for an explanation of her drainage bill and why it keeps increasing.

b. Haider M. Al-Jebori came before the Board about his \$28,939.00 water bill.

c. Mac Farr came to applaud DWSD's Service Line Replacement Program. There are several residents with clogged storm drains that are not functioning properly. They are being deemed complete, but the issue has not been resolved.

d. Diandra Gourlay of the East English Village near Cadillac Boulevard stated that there is an issue with sewage backup in her basement, in the alley behind her home. There is a DWSD cone that's been there for the past two year, with no activity. She also said that the storm drains have been cleaned on several occasions, but the street continues to flood.

e. Mark Reynolds came about a storm drain at the intersection of Charlevoix and McClellan. The drain is higher than the level of the street and whenever it rains, it floods, and during the winter months, it becomes a sheet of ice.

f. DeMeeko Williams, Chief Executive Director of Hydrate Detroit asked when would the past and present BOWC meetings be uploaded to the YouTube Channel. He asked why the meetings are not broadcasted on the City's Channel 10 station. He also wanted to thank Director Brown and Matthew Phillips for the work group meeting with We the People of Detroit. He looks forward to working together to ensure that the residents' water service is not interrupted or removed from the Lifeline Plan. Bryan Pechinpaugh, Public Affairs Director replied that the City of Detroit has several boards, including the Board of Commissioners and it is the elected bodies that are broadcast on Channel 10. Matthew Phillips, Chief Customer Service Officer, replied that on several occasions that he had responded in writing to the public that all the BOWC meetings have been on DWSD's YouTube channel since June 2024. All meetings prior to June 2024 had not and would not be provided to the YouTube channel as previously communicated to the public.

g. Norrel Hemphill, Attorney with Great Lakes Environmental Law, thanked the Department for the correspondence regarding We the People of Detroit requests. She asked if those meetings exist on the DWSD's YouTube channel and how can the public obtain access? She also thanked the Department for the meeting with Wayne Metro and for providing the requested information regarding the Lifeline Plan recertification process. She then asked if the only requirement from the Wayne Metro customer was the address and household size to recertify.

h. Joyce Moore stated that her concerns are drainage fees and the methodology used to determine the usage based on the household size.

i. Michelle Watts was present on behalf of her sister who lives in the Morningside community. She came to inquire about the Federal Government's \$95.2 million Private Sewer Repair Program and how the eligibility requirement for residents for the program will be determined based on their income. She also asked why the Lifeline Program requires a \$50 service fee to have work done at the homeowner's property. Director Brown replied that the funds from the Federal government dictates the geographical location. He also said that there is no \$50 service fee for Lifeline customers and that the customer may be referring to the American Water Resources Warranty Program. Commissioner Kinloch requested that Ms. Watts concerns be forwarded to him.

j. Cecily McClellan with We the People of Detroit thanked Matthew Phillips and DWSD staff for holding a meeting with the organization regarding the recertification of the Lifeline Plan. She also asked if the dashboard could include the number of recertifications completed and the number pending. She then asked when shut offs will begin, and is there a grace period?

**6. COMMUNICATIONS****A. [2024-188](#) Receipt of Correspondence**

**Sponsors:** Phillips

**Attachments:** [Bobbie Johnson & Franklin Park Neighborhood - BOWC Response 09182024](#)  
[Felicia Pickett - 7417 Faust - BOWC Response 09182024](#)  
[Hydrate Detroit BOWC Response 9-6-24](#)  
[Mac Farr - Villages CDC - BOWC Response 09182024](#)  
[Tamara Johns - 4265 Seminole - BOWC Response 09182024](#)  
[WTPD BOWC Response August 2024 V4](#)  
[2525 Sheridan 2537 Townsend 09092024](#)  
[Gary Redd BOWC Response 9-10-24 \(002\)](#)

**This communication or Report has been received and filed.**

**7. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSIONERS**

**There were none.**

**8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

RitaJohnson (9390 Piedmont) - sinkhole  
Patricia Morton (9239 Stahelin) - flooding  
Christian Sims (580 Fiske Dr.) - flooding  
Tim Iles (1054 Seyburn) - flooding  
Elizabeth Findeis (Mack & Goffrey) - flooding  
Daisy Jackson (2441 Field) - flooding and sinkhole

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

**A. [2024-170](#) The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve DWSD Contract No. 6005838 with Mission Ford of Dearborn, for Ford parts, repairs and maintenance services, for a total contract amount not-to-exceed \$1,000,000.00 and a term of 5 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.**

**B. [2024-171](#) The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve DWSD Contracts No. 6006566****

with ETNA Supply Company and Contract No. 6006565 with Ferguson Waterworks; for the purchase of as-needed Gate Box Parts of various sizes, for a combined total contract amount not-to-exceed \$288,177.00 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:** [updated gate box 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.**

**C. [2024-172](#)**

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to approve DWSD Contract 6006577 with AECOM Great Lakes, Inc.; for Professional Engineering Services, to support the Capital Improvement Planning Program (Project CS-1987); for a total contract amount not-to-exceed \$11,564,000.00 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.**

**D. [2024-173](#)**

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to approve DWSD Contracts No. 6006571 with Core & Main and Contract No. 6006572 with Ferguson Waterworks; for the as-needed purchase of Repair Clamps of various sizes for a combined total contract amount not-to-exceed \$283,099.50 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:** [bid tab repair clamps 6006571 6006572](#)

**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. [2024-174](#)**

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to approve DWSD Contract No. 6006578 with Edward C Levy Detroit Group dba Edw. C. Levy Co., for Aggregate Slag, for a total contract not-to-exceed amount of \$121,732.00 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

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. [2024-175](#)

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 No. 6003012 (fka 6002757) with Itron, Inc. for the Water SaveSource Warranty Replacement Program - Open Way Riva AMI Implementation, by adding \$522,500.00 in funding, for a total amended contract amount not-to-exceed \$18,762,500.00. 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 be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

10. NEW BUSINESS

15. CLOSED SESSION

A motion was made by Commissioner Jonathan Kinloch, seconded by Vice Chairperson Mary Blackmon to enter into this Closed Session at 2:05 p.m. be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

A. [2024-166](#)

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(h) of the Michigan Open Meetings Act to discuss an attorney-client privileged memorandum prepared by the Office of the General Counsel.**

Sponsors: Branch

A motion was made by Commissioner Kinloch, seconded by Vice Chairperson Blackmon that this Resolution, Closed Session be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 5 - Commissioner Coleman, Vice Chairperson Blackmon, Commissioner Garcia, Chairperson Einheuser and Commissioner Kinloch

OPEN SESSION

The only matter discussed was an attorney-client privileged communication.

A motion was made by Commissioner Jonathan Kinloch, seconded by Vice Chairperson Mary Blackmon to return from Closed Session at 2:16 p.m. that this be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

**Aye:** 5 - Commissioner Coleman, Vice Chairperson Blackmon, Commissioner Garcia, Chairperson Einheuser and Commissioner Kinloch

[2024-189](#)

**Sponsors:** Welch

This item was removed from the agenda.

**11. DIRECTOR'S METRICS**

**A. [2024-190](#) Director's Metrics**

**Sponsors:** Brown

**Attachments:** [Board Report - Metrics - 09182024](#)

This Communication or Report was received and filed.

**12. COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS**

There were none.

**13. COMMENTS BY THE CHAIR**

There were none.

**14. OTHER MATTERS**

There were none.

**16. ADJOURNMENT**

Chairperson Einheuser requested a motion to adjourn.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Jonathan Kinloch, seconded by Commissioner Lane Coleman that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.**

**There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:02 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**