



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

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

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Wednesday, March 15, 2023

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 Meeting**

### **Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) for the Schoolcraft and West Chicago Stormwater Improvement Projects**

**To attend In Person:**  
**735 Randolph, Detroit, MI 48226, 5th Floor Boardroom**

#### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

#### **2. ROLL CALL**

**Present:** 4 - Chairperson Michael Einheuser, Vice Chairperson Mary Blackmon,  
Commissioner Lane Coleman and Commissioner Jane Garcia

**Excused:** 2 - Commissioner Jonathan Kinloch and Commissioner John Henry Davis

**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 Lane Coleman that the agenda be approved. The motion  
carried by a unanimous vote.**

Commissioner Davis joined at 2:05 p.m.

#### **4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chairperson Einheuser requested approval of the minutes of February 15, 2023.

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

by a unanimous vote.

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

- a. Norrel Hemphill with the Great Lakes Environmental Law Group wanted to acknowledge the wins with the Detroit Lifeline Plan. She was thankful for the name change from affordability versus assistance. She was appreciative of the opportunity for community feedback; community engagement; the forum to work with the Ombudsman and Wayne Metro to get customers enrolled and issues resolved, plus the increase in ccf's usage. She suggested that the Department provide a dashboard with the date and proper language so residents can see the enrollment as it is updated, and allow Wayne Metro access to accounts to make changes and give customers a moratorium as soon as they apply. She also said that there is a need to provide a process for hardships.
- b. Bob Rhoades came before the Board about the lead service line replacement program and the inconsistency with the layout of the program.
- c. Beulah Walker with Hydrate Detroit came to thank the Water Commission and Wayne Metro for its transparency throughout the implementation of the Lifeline Program. She also apologized for relaying some misconstrued information.
- d. Cecily McClellan with We the People of Detroit was thankful for the Lifeline Program. She believes that an additional increase in the ccf's would help with the hardship customers.
- e. Gwendolyn Howard asked would this program phase out? If so, when would the phase out start? Would the Lifeline Program continue with the funding coming from the State? She also asked if there was enough funding to continue enrollment and all the existing Lifeline benefits, arrears, income-based, etc.
- f. Louella Pizzuti came to inquire about a number of lots that are on hold by DWSD in the Brightmoor area. Director Brown replied that those parcels are controlled by the Land Bank and if she was interested in any specific parcels she could attend their public meeting or write to the Land Bank to address her concerns.
- g. Demeeko Williams, Chief Director of Hydrate Detroit stated he was pleased and happy to hear the good news about the Lifeline Plan. He continues to rally for a water amnesty.
- h. Tiana Starks said she was thankful for the Lifeline plan. She appreciated the website weekly data updates. She looks forward to a revised policy that would address the gallons per person usage.

**6. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSIONERS**

Vice Chair Blackmon wished a Happy Women's History Month.

**7. COMMUNICATIONS**

**A. [2023-74](#) Receipt of Correspondence**

Sponsors: Riggs

**Attachments:**     [FOIA REQUESTS - MONTHLY REPORT FEBRUARY 2023](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Lane Coleman, seconded by Commissioner Jane Garcia that this Communication or Report be received and filed. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

**B.     [2023-75](#)**

**Receipt of Correspondence**

**Sponsors:**     Pospiech

**Attachments:**     [Summary Disposition -3-23](#)

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

**8.     UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was none.

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

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

**A.     [2023-48](#)**

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve DWSD Contract 6005122 with Melmac Co., Inc., d/b/a Motor City Pipe & Supply Co., for various sizes of ductile iron reducers, for a new contract amount not-to-exceed \$129,157.00 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:**     [Ductile Iron Reducer Bid Tab](#)

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

**B.     [2023-49](#)**

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve DWSD Contracts 6005110 with Ferguson Water Works and 605111 with T & N Services Inc.; for the as-needed purchase of various sized ductile pipe for a combined total contract amount not-to-exceed \$1,814,078.30 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:**     [Ductile Pipe Bid Tab](#)

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

**C.      [2023-50](#)**

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve DWSD PO 363787 with Melmac Co., Inc., d/b/a Motor City Pipe & Supply Co., for ductile iron flange fittings screw type 3" x 40" for a one-time purchase in the amount of \$123,750.** The BOWC 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 Lane Coleman that this Contract be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.**

**D.      [2023-51](#)**

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve a total of (4) DWSD Contracts: 6005123, 6005124, 6005125 and 6005126, with Feldman Ford, LLC for a total of 26 vehicles - (15) 2024 Ford Transit 350 AWD Cargo Vans and (11) 2024 Ford F350 4X4 Pickup Trucks with standard cab and 8' inch bed, for a total not-to-exceed amount of \$1,747,844.00.** 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 Lane Coleman that this Contract be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.**

**E.      [2023-53](#)**

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve DWSD Single Source Contract 6005098 with Michigan CAT, a division of MacAllister Machinery Co., Inc., for the purchase of parts and preventative maintenance and repair services of Michigan CAT generators for all DWSD locations with a total contract amount not-to-exceed \$120,000 and a term of 3 years and 7 months.** 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 Lane Coleman that this Contract be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.**

**F.      [2023-56](#)**

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve DWSD Contract 6005120 for Project CS-1947 with M.E. Simpson, Inc. for Water Main Condition Assessment services with a total contract amount not-to-exceed \$400,000 and a term of one 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 Lane Coleman that this Contract be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.**

**G. [2023-57](#)**

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **approve DWSD Contract 6005112 with F&G Freight LLC, for DuPont water pitchers and filters in the not-to-exceed amount of \$374,340 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:** [Water Pitchers and Filters Bid Tab](#)

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

**H. [2023-58](#)**

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to approve **Amendment 1 to DWSD Contract 6005031 with Major Contracting Group, Inc. for Project WS-736 to add \$450,000 due to a clerical error for a total amended contract amount of \$7,834,250 for a backup/secondary Emergency Water Main Repair Services 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 Lane Coleman that this Contract Amendment be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.**

**Commissioner Kinloch arrived at 2:43 p.m.**

**10. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. [2023-65](#)**

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit Water and Sewerage Department **approves the proposed two-year operating budgets for Fiscal Years 2023-24 and 2024-25 for the Water Operating Fund in the amounts of \$136,670,200 and \$141,989,000, respectively, and for the Sewage Disposal Operating Fund in the amounts of \$344,815,500 and \$356,954,400, 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:**     [Water and Sewer Fund](#)

[Finance Committee Presentation Proposed FY 24 Operating Budget 3.1.2023](#)

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

**Aye:** 6 - Chairperson Einheuser, Vice Chairperson Blackmon, Commissioner Kinloch, Commissioner Coleman, Commissioner Davis and Commissioner Garcia

**B.**     [2023-70](#)

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit Water and Sewerage Department approves the submission of four (4) **grant applications to the Water Resources Division of the Michigan Department of Environmental Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE), for the total amount of \$78,000,000 from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) for the Schoolcraft and West Chicago Stormwater Improvements Project Plan** which will significantly reduce untreated combined sewer discharges at four (4) active outfalls along the west bank of the Rouge River if the project is funded. This also authorizes the Director to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

**Sponsors:**             Wallick and Rahman

**Attachments:**     [CWSRF Resolution\\_02212024](#)

[CWSRF Resolution Document Presentation\\_02212024](#)

**A motion was made by Commissioner Lane Coleman, seconded by Commissioner Jane Garcia that this Contract be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.**

**Aye:** 6 - Chairperson Einheuser, Vice Chairperson Blackmon, Commissioner Kinloch, Commissioner Coleman, Commissioner Davis and Commissioner Garcia

**PUBLIC HEARING COMMENTS**

[2023-105](#)

**Public Hearing Comments**

**Attachments:**     [Public Hearing Comments 3.15.2023](#)

**C.**     [2023-71](#)

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit Water Sewerage Department **approves DWSD Contract No. 6005174 for Project CS-1982 with Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency for Water Affordability Program Administrative Services for the new Lifeline Plan for a term of nine months and a total contract not-to-exceed amount of \$2,500,000.** This also authorizes the Director to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

**Sponsors:**             Brown and Phillips

A motion was made by Commissioner Lane Coleman, seconded by Commissioner Jane Garcia that this Contract be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

D. [2023-72](#)

**Diversity in Procurement**

Sponsors: Jones

Attachments: [DWSD Diversity in Procurement 3.15.2023](#)

This Communication or Report was received and filed

11. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

A. [2023-73](#)

**Director's Report**

Sponsors: Brown

Attachments: [Board Report - Metrics - 03152023 \(003\)](#)

This Communication or Report was received and filed

12. **COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS**

Commissioner Garcia asked had the Department addressed the residents issue on Northlawn Street.

13. **COMMENTS BY THE CHAIR**

Chairperson Einhueser commended Director Brown and staff on the outreach to the public with their concerns. Director Brown added that Attorney Pospiech has been a driving force when responding to the customers and providing transparency.

Commissioner Kinloch added that he also noticed the change that had been depicted by the Department when it came to customers' concerns and also wanted to commend the Director, Attorney Pospiech and Matthew Phillips, Chief Customer Service Officer.

14. **OTHER MATTERS**

There were none.

15. **ADJOURNMENT**

Chairperson Einheuser requested a motion to adjourn.

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

There be no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:16 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.