



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

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Detroit, Michigan 48226
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Wednesday, September 15, 2021

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

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

2. ROLL CALL

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

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Einheuser requested approval of the amended agenda.

Item No. 21-0582 Granicus Legistar Software was removed from the agenda.
Items No. 21-0609 Morgan Waterfront Homes communication and
Item No. 21-0610 BOWC's resolution for Pre-COVID compensation was added to the
agenda.

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

Commissioner Kinloch joined in at 2:03 p.m.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Einheuser requested approval of the minutes of August 26, 2021.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Jonathan Kinloch, seconded by
Commissioner Jane Garcia that the minutes be approved. The motion carried
by a unanimous vote.**

Commissioner Coleman joined in at 2:05 p.m.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS (3 minutes per speaker)

1. Cletus Karamon came to thank Sam Smalley, Chief Operations Officer and the DWSD team for clearing the blockage at 6005 Grandville. He asked when would the Department return for the root cutting?

2. M. L. Elrick thanked the Department for addressing the water quality concerns in his community. He stated that the Wayne County executives announced that millions of dollars in relief funds were available to Wayne county residents, but Detroit was excluded. He asked when and how residents can access these funds? Director Brown replied that the funding from Wayne County was being provided by the State. The City of Detroit already received their funding to be used for flood victims and those funds were used to clean and sanitize residents' basements. Director Brown indicated that he contacted the Wayne County executives office about the confusion and asked that they correct the notice that was distributed.

3 Pastor Robert Preston Harris stated he had an opportunity to file a claim with DWSD and GLWA due to the impact of his church during the June 26 rain event. He said that FEMA denied their claim. He said the State disaster relief fund did not include non-profits, churches, or for-profit business owners. The program only provided relief for individual households. He urged the Board to pass a resolution to encourage the Mayoral administration to submit a request to the Governor to establish a public assistance program that would include non-profit and church organizations.

4. Betsy Owens came to report that she never received any forms to submit for cleaning and sanitizing her basement.

5. Kiana Allen came before the Board requesting to speak with a supervisor regarding an issue in her home. She said she made several calls and even sent emails.

6. Shelley Lewis of St. Marys Street came before the Board to complain about the street flooding that has caused sewage backup in basements in her area. She is asking that the Department investigate the catch basins at Plymouth and Elmira streets. She also asked when will the Department service the catch basins and manholes?

7. Joyce Moore on Taylor Street at 12th and 14th complained about a watermain break for the past two months. She is still waiting for the scope of services to clean and sanitize her basement.

8. John Brown with the Board of Directors for the Morgan Estate Homeowners Association came seeking assistance regarding a \$158,000 drainage bill. He said he would appreciate help understanding the bill and the operation.

6. ITEMS FROM THE COMMISSIONERS

There were none.

7. COMMUNICATIONS**A. [21-0606](#) Receipt of Correspondence**

Sponsors: Pospiech

Attachments: [June 2021 Damage Claims](#)

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

B. [21-0607](#) **Receipt of Correspondence**

Sponsors: Pospiech

Attachments: [FOIA REQUESTS - MONTHLY REPORT August 2021](#)

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

C. [21-0609](#) **Receipt of Correspondence**

Attachments: [Letter to DWSD Board of Water commisioners](#)
[MWE Drainage Charges \(1\)](#)

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

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was none.

9. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA (Items 9A-M)

A motion was made by Commissioner Jonathan Kinloch, seconded by Commissioner Mary Blackmon that the Consent Agenda be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

A. [21-0580](#) 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 No. 2909708 with Utilitec to add \$370,000 in funding, for a total amended amount not-to-exceed \$7,924,146 and to extend the term for six months, through 3/31/22.** This also authorizes the Director to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

Sponsors: Burgi

A motion was made by Commissioner Jonathan Kinloch, seconded by Commissioner Mary Blackmon that this Contract Amendment be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

B. [21-0581](#) The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to approve **DWSD Contract 6003816 which**

piggybacks the City of Detroit Contract 6002397 with Emerald Media LLC to purchase and place Media including Billboards, Radio and Print for Public Affairs for a term of two (2) years and a total contract not-to-exceed amount of \$1,000,000. This also authorizes the Director to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

Sponsors: Burgi

A motion was made by Commissioner Jonathan Kinloch, seconded by Commissioner Mary Blackmon that this Contract be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

C. 21-0582

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to approve **DWSD Contract No. 6003531 with Granicus Legistar Software to provide the Government Meeting Management Services for Board of Water Commissioners (BOWC) for a total contract not-to-exceed amount of \$155,062.91 and a term of five (5) years.** This also authorizes the Director to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

Sponsors: Burgi

This Contract was pulled from the agenda

D. [21-0583](#)

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 6002651 (CS-1943), with iVantage Group for temporary staffing services of an iTron Application Analyst, to add \$400,000 in funding for a total amended not-to-exceed amount of \$585,000 and add twenty-five (25) months for a total term of three (3) years, three (3) months.** The BOWC also authorizes the Director to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

Sponsors: Burgi

A motion was made by Commissioner Jonathan Kinloch, seconded by Commissioner Mary Blackmon that this Contract Amendment be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

E. [21-0584](#)

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to approve **DWSD Contract No. 6003730 (Project CS-1967) with Oracle America, Inc., for Supply Chain Module Implementation Consulting Services for a total contract not-to-exceed amount of \$357,305 and a term of twelve (12) months.** This also authorizes the Director to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

Sponsors: Burgi

A motion was made by Commissioner Jonathan Kinloch, seconded by

Commissioner Mary Blackmon that this Contract be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

F. [21-0585](#)

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 6001970 with Waste Management of Michigan, Inc., for non-Hazardous solid waste & garbage removal services. This amendment adds \$45,000 in funds for a total amended contract not-to-exceed amount of \$145,000 and extends the term through 9/30/22. Pricing is based on MiDeal Cooperative Contract #071B7700169.** This also authorizes the Director to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

Sponsors: Burgi

A motion was made by Commissioner Jonathan Kinloch, seconded by Commissioner Mary Blackmon that this Contract Amendment be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

G. [21-0586](#)

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to approve **Amendment No. 1 to DWSD Contract 6002281 with Ecopia Tech Corporation, to expand the scope of work and to add \$60,000 for a new amended total not-to-exceed amount of \$308,000 for impervious surface mapping and classification of aerial images of Detroit.** This also authorizes the Director to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

Sponsors: Burgi

A motion was made by Commissioner Jonathan Kinloch, seconded by Commissioner Mary Blackmon that this Contract Amendment be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

H. [21-0590](#)

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to approve **Amendment No. 4 to DWSD Contract 6000749, with MSC Industrial Supply Company, for Maintenance, Repair, and Operations (MRO) Supplies, to add \$217,372.94 in funding for a total amended not-to-exceed amount of \$3,912,713.16 and add three (3) months for a total term ending November 21, 2021.** The BOWC also authorizes the Director to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

Sponsors: Burgi

A motion was made by Commissioner Jonathan Kinloch, seconded by Commissioner Mary Blackmon that this Contract Amendment be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

I. [21-0564](#)

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to approve **DWSD Contract 6003687 (CS-1970) with American Water Resources to provide Water and Sewer**

Service Line Protection Services for private residential and/or commercial property owners in the City of Detroit for a total contract amount not-to-exceed \$0.00 and a term of five (5) years. This also authorizes the Director to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

Sponsors: Burgi

A motion was made by Commissioner Jonathan Kinloch, seconded by Commissioner Mary Blackmon that this Contract be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

J. [21-0604](#)

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit Water Sewerage Department **approves DWSD Contract No. 6003769 (LS-1906) with Bush Seyferth, PLLC for Legal Services for Representation in Litigation Related to the June and July 2021 Rain Events, in the amount of \$500,000 for a term of two (2) years.** This authorizes the Director to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

Sponsors: Pospiech

A motion was made by Commissioner Jonathan Kinloch, seconded by Commissioner Mary Blackmon that this Contract be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

K. [21-0601](#)

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **enter into an Easement Encroachment Permit with Crown Enterprises, on behalf of Lakeshore Distribution LLC,** and also authorizes the Director to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

Sponsors: Pospiech

Attachments: [Revised Easement Encroachment Permit Application for BOWC Resolution GLWA GEEP-21-004-\(11851 Freud\) SA](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Jonathan Kinloch, seconded by Commissioner Mary Blackmon that this Contract, Real Estate Easement be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

L. [21-0602](#)

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to **enter into a Water Main Easement Agreement with Robertson Pullman Parc, LLC,** and also authorizes the Director to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

Sponsors: Pospiech

Attachments: [Pullman Water Main Easements \(002\)](#)

A motion was made by Commissioner Jonathan Kinloch, seconded by Commissioner Mary Blackmon that this Contract, Real Estate Easement be

approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

M. [21-0605](#)

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department authorizes the Director to approve **DWSD Contract 6003611 with Lakeshore Global Corporation for As-Needed Water Main Replacements (Project WS-717) for a total contract amount not-to-exceed \$13,694,796.84 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: Burgi

A motion was made by Commissioner Jonathan Kinloch, seconded by Commissioner Mary Blackmon that this Contract be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

10. NEW BUSINESS

A. [21-0578](#)

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department conditionally authorizes the Director to approve **DWSD Single Source Contract No. 6003771 (Project CS-1968) with Applications Software Technology (AST) LLC. for Oracle Supply Chain Implementation Services for a total contract not-to-exceed amount of \$429,925 and a term of twelve (12) months.** This also authorizes the Director to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

Sponsors: Burgi

The motion was amended to add the language "single source vendor" by the maker and seconded by the supporter.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mary Blackmon, seconded by Commissioner John Henry Davis that this Contract be approved as amended. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

B. [21-0610](#)

The Board of Water Commissioners for the City of Detroit, Water and Sewerage Department **resolves to restore Board stipends to pre-COVID amounts** and authorizes the Director and Chief Financial Officer to take such other action as may be necessary to accomplish the intent of this vote.

Sponsors: Pospiech

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

11. DIRECTOR'S METRICS

A. [21-0608](#)

Director's Metrics

Sponsors: Brown

Attachments: [Board Report - Metrics - 09152021](#)

Director Brown reported that the incident of Southwest Detroit at Fort Street in Dearborn that caused a building to be lifted off its foundation was scheduled for demolition. He said that no known cause had been determined, but it was not a DWSD matter. He would follow up with the Board after its investigation.

Vice Chair Blackmon asked for Deputy Director Palencia Mobley to comment on her interview where she appeared on the National Public Radio (NPR) "All Things Considered" radio broadcast to discuss the June 25 and June 26 rain event. She said that due to climate change and the infrastructure bill, there is a need to rehabilitate the existing infrastructure and there is a need to understand resiliency and also how to build for a resilient future. She also stated that the Department does not have the data needed to determine how to build on that new storm size.

This Communication or Report was received and filed.

12. COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Garcia stated that there was so much misunderstanding with the deadline for FEMA and had concern for citizens that were denied.

Commissioner Kinloch thanked the Director and staff for addressing the many concerns that he had received during the rain event.

13. COMMENTS BY THE CHAIR

Chairman Einheuser said that DWSD continues to deal with matters that the citizens face with the flooding. We want it to be known that the Director, Department, and the Board are working on the immediate problems as well as putting in permanent fixes that may be long-term in scope.

14. OTHER MATTERS

There were none.

15. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Einheuser requested a motion to adjourn.

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

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and Detroit Health Department emergency orders, the Detroit Board of Water Commissioners is currently hosting its meetings virtually via Zoom.

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 comments accepted from the public, and all the attendees will remain muted for the duration of the meeting.