



**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OCTOBER 29, 2025
(Via Microsoft Teams)**

DIRECTORS PRESENT

District of Columbia Members

1. Unique Morris-Hughes, Principal, Chair
2. Rachna Bhatt, Principal
3. Anthony Giancola, Principal
4. Howard Gibbs, Principal
5. Richard Jackson, Principal
6. Jed Ross, Principal
7. Alex McPhail, Alternate
8. Jimmy Ortiz, Alternate
9. Rob Hawkins, Alternate

Montgomery County Members

1. Fariba Kassiri, Principal
2. Amy Stevens, Alternate

Fairfax County Members

1. Christopher Herrington, Principal
2. Sarah Motsch, Alternate

DC WATER STAFF

1. David L. Gadis, CEO and General Manager
2. Amber Jackson, Chief Legal Officer, & EVP Legal and Government Affairs & Interim Chief Legal Officer
3. Barbara Mitchell, Associate General Counsel and Director of Government & Legal Affairs
4. Matthew Brown, Chief Financial Officer and EVP, Finance, Procurement, and Compliance & Interim COO
5. Kirsten Williams, Chief Administrative Officer & EVP

6. Michelle Rhodd, Secretary to the Board

The special meeting of the District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority's Board of Directors was called to order by Board Chair Dr. Unique Morris-Hughes at 1:02 p.m. The meeting was held via Microsoft Teams. Board Secretary Michelle Rhodd called the roll, and a quorum was established.

I. CHAIRPERSON'S OVERVIEW

Board Chair, Dr. Unique Morris-Hughes began her remarks with a review of the agenda, noting that the special meeting was convened to ensure adequate time for thoughtful discussion and consideration of these items. The next regularly scheduled Board of Directors meeting, which is also the board retreat, has a full agenda.

She highlighted the upcoming tunnel boring machine arrival celebration as an opportunity to explore the heart of the DC Water Potomac River project and underscore the importance of water resilience.

II. COMMITTEE REPORTS

*Meeting of the Environmental Quality and Operations Committee Report
Reported by Howard Gibbs, Environmental Quality and Operations Committee Vice Chair*

The Environmental Quality and Operations Committee met on October 16, 2025.

Nicholas Passarelli, Vice President of Wastewater and Permit Operations, presented a summary of the performance of Blue Plains Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant (BPAWTP) for September 2025. All weekly and monthly NPDES permit requirements were met for the month. September was a moderately wet month with 3.7 inches of rain, and 116 million gallons were captured with no overflows. On-site electrical generation was 15% of the average treatment consumption, a drop of 10% from the typical amount due to simultaneous motor failures at the combined heat and power plant. The motors are now back in operation.

Mr. Passarelli reported that 11,611 wet tons of biosolids were produced in September 2025. Of this, approximately 3,482 tons were sold as Class A biosolids under the Blue Drop bloom program, and the remaining 8,183 tons were managed through land application contracts.

Next, Francis Cooper, Director of the Enterprise Program Management Office, provided an update on the Non-Revenue Water (NRW) Initiative.

As of the end of FY 2025, real and apparent NRW account for approximately 36% of supplied water. Mr. Cooper discussed activities to reduce NRW through risk management strategies, process improvements, and the adoption of new technologies to investigate real and apparent NRW using a coordinated, data-driven approach. Mr. Collier stated that the goal is to reduce NRW to below 10%, while the industry standard is 10% to 18%. To support these efforts, the Enterprise Project Management Office plans to develop performance dashboards, formalize NRW policies and procedures, and maintain regular Board engagements on NRW progress.

Next, Chris Peot, Director, Resource Recovery, discussed the Authority's thermal hydrolysis and anaerobic digester project. This is a rare municipal project that has produced both non-financial returns and significant economic benefits. The \$470 million Cambi system is a model for other utilities and significantly cheaper than alternative solutions. Annual savings have averaged \$21 million per year and total over \$200 million over the 10-year life cycle. The expected payback time of the project is 14 years. It has reduced DC Water's carbon footprint by one-third.

Matthew Brown, Chief Financial Officer and EVP, Finance, Procurement, and Compliance & Interim COO, discussed the FY 2026 to FY 2035 Capital Improvement Program (CIP), which he noted reflects the Authority's commitment to addressing aging infrastructure, system resilience, and funding for condition assessments of the Authority's assets. Paul Guttridge, Director, CIP Infrastructure Management, further discussed the Authority's progressive design-build approach.

The meeting concluded with a discussion of factors impacting major programs, including spending cuts, material tariffs and labor availability, which are being tracked. A recent change by the Department of Transportation removing DC Water's exemption from the public inconvenience fee will cost the Authority approximately \$15 million a year.

The proposed CIP will be presented to the Board of Directors in January of 2026 for approval in March 2026.

An executive session was held, and the action item discussed in the executive session was moved to the full Board.

Meeting of the Evaluation Committee Report

Reported by Dr. Unique Morris-Hughes, Evaluation Committee Chair

The Evaluation Committee met on October 27, 2025, to discuss a personnel matter under D.C. Official Code § 2-575(b)(10).

III. ANACOSTIA SEWAGE BACKUP UPDATE

Mr. Brown provided an update on a sewage overflow affecting Anacostia High School and some surrounding residences.

Mr. Brown began with an overview of a December 2023 sinkhole repair over a large sewer at Fairlawn Avenue and 16th Street, which involved establishing a bypass to access the sewer to perform rehabilitation. On October 26, 2025, residents in the block where the bypass was situated began reporting sewage backups in their basements. This was identified as the result of a pump failure. The prime contractor and pumping contractor attended the site and mobilized Servpro to begin cleaning the affected homes. Residents were provided with hotel accommodations and \$200 gift cards to cover the cost of food and incidentals while cleanup was completed.

On October 27, 2025, Anacostia High School reported a sewage backup that the school had already begun to address using its environmental mitigation services team. Servpro was mobilized for mitigation and has completed that work, with air quality testing scheduled for October 29, 2025. Students have been temporarily relocated to classrooms established at nearby Kramer Middle School. DC Water is continuing work to identify the cause of the pump failure and address the needs of affected residents and the school.

Board member Jed Ross advised ensuring DC Water is prepared for any implications of damage to the school. Mr. Brown noted that the pumping work was completed by a contractor who was not involved in the construction. The mitigation work is therefore a non-ROCIP issue and will be handled through procurement, legal, and risk management as well as the project engineer.

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board moved into executive session to discuss a personnel matter under D.C. Official Code § 2-575(b)(10).

V. CONSENT ITEMS (JOINT USE)

1. Approval to Purchase Land and Subsequently Proceed with the Property Acquisition, Sales Contract for Unimproved Land – **Resolution No. 25-58** (Recommended by the Environmental and Operational Committee 10/16/25)

Board member Christopher Herrington asked for a separate vote on the two joint-use resolutions.

Mr. Herrington asked whether the parcel of land had been identified and if not, whether there was an opportunity to postpone the item to receive an update on Blue Drop revenue. He expressed hesitation toward acquiring property without that update and without knowing whether the land would be owned by Blue Drop or DC Water.

Mr. Gibbs stated that the item had been discussed in the Environmental Quality and Operations Committee and explained that a piece of land had been identified as suitable for the intended purpose but was no longer available.

Board member Anthony Giancola inquired whether it was premature to include a price in the proposal if the site has not been identified. The Board has not received a Blue Drop briefing in some time, though DC Water has a representative on the Blue Drop board.

Mr. Brown noted that the property will house a facility to store excess wet tons of biosolids for future sale. Other jurisdictions may be permitted to also establish facilities on the site. The purpose of the resolution is to pre-approve the purchase of a suitable plot for a capped value to allow the Authority to move quickly when a location is identified. A suitable site must be large enough to provide the necessary distance around the storage facility to meet environmental regulations. The funds for the property will be provided by Blue Drop and transferred to DC Water. The property will be a joint-use facility owned by DC Water.

Mr. Herrington stated that he supports the purpose of the land purchase and the intent of the resolution but could not support the resolution due to longstanding unanswered questions about Blue Drop revenue.

Dr. Morris-Hughes confirmed that Blue Drop revenue will be addressed at a future Board meeting.

Upon a motion duly made the Board of Directors voted to approve Joint Use Resolution No. 25-58 as presented with seven board members in favor and one board member opposed.

2. Approval of CEO and General Manager's Performance Evaluation, Salary Increase, Bonus, and Amendments to Employment Agreement – **Resolution No. 25-59** (Recommended by the Evaluation Committee 10/27/25)

Upon a motion made the Board of Directors voted to approve Joint Use Resolution No. 25-59 as presented with seven board members in favor and one board member opposed.

VI. WATER SUPPLY RESILIENCE PRESENTATION

Matt Ries, Vice President, Strategy and Performance, presented the water supply resilience action item beginning with the problem statement, which highlights DC Water's immediate vulnerability to any disruption of the Potomac River or the Washington Aqueduct. This would result in a national security emergency and massive economic impact to the region.

Dr. Ries noted an upcoming opportunity for Mayor Bowser to discuss the resolution at the November 3, 2025, Clean Rivers event and for the Chair to further the discussion at the November 19, 2025, Pure Water DC launch event.

The resolution outlines DC Water's approach to developing a set of solutions to address water resilience vulnerability, which includes identifying a second source of water and the capacity to store additional water inventory. Finding a second source includes exploration of the possibility of water reuse from the Blue Plains facility.

The resolution allocates up to \$21 million, budgeted in the Board-approved CIP, to use over the course of three years. Dr. Ries noted that these funds are 100% from district ratepayers.

He also outlined tangible actions required by the CEO in the resolution, which include engaging on a regional basis with other water supply partners and leading the regional response in the short to medium term. Dr. Ries highlighted ongoing activities through the Army Corps of Engineers and funded by the Water Resources Development Act to consider long-term solutions, but noted these initiatives leave a gap for the short to medium term. The \$21 million represents seed funding to explore, pilot, and scale technologies and consider possible approaches to water reuse.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

DC Water Billing and Disconnection Modernization Amendment Act of 2025

Dr. Morris-Hughes tabled discussion on this item for the next Board meeting.

VII. CONSENT ITEMS (NON-JOINT USE)

1. Approval of DC Water Actions to Address Water Supply Resilience – **Resolution No. 25-60** (Pending Approval of the District of Columbia Members of the Board 10/29/25)

Upon a motion duly made the District of Columbia Board of Directors voted to approve Non-Joint Use Resolution No. 25-60 as presented.

VIII. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the meeting adjourned at 2:03 p.m.

Michelle Rhodd

Michelle Rhodd
Secretary to the Board of Directors