GRAND VALLEY REGIONAL BIOSOLIDS AUTHORITY

MEETING MINUTES

September 24, 2026 at 1:30 p.m.
Wyoming Wastewater Treatment Plant
2350 Ivanrest Ave SW – Wyoming, Michigan

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by James Ouzts at 1:34 p.m.

2. Attendance

Members/Alternates Present:

- James Ouzts
- Aaron Vis
- Wayne Jernberg
- Myron Erickson

Others Present:

- Jon Burke
- Kevin Lynch
- Miguel Hernandez
- Kris Deprekel
- Jared Grabinski

3. Approval of Minutes from July 30, 2026 Meeting

The Board requested that Kevin Lynch revise the July 30, 2026, meeting minutes to clarify portions of the budget discussion. Kevin agreed to revise the minutes and provide the updated version for the October Board meeting.

4. Operations Team Report – Kevin Lynch

Kevin Lynch presented the Operations Team's monthly reports for July and August 2026.

Land Application Report

Durango and Beneficial Connections land applied approximately 2.50 million gallons, 384 dry tons in July, and 2.64 million gallons, 406 dry tons in August. Wyoming currently has 1.0 million gallons in storage. There are now plenty of fields available, but field and weather and road/construction conditions have held up hauling in the last few weeks.

Dewatering Facility Report

Operations within the dewatering facility have been going very well. Wyoming sent 1.9 million gallons in the month of July, 269 dry tons, and 2.0 million gallons, 230 dry tons in August. Wyoming is currently sending approximately 63,000 gallons a day of primary sludge. All centrifuges have been performing well. In the past two months we have had recovery rates averaging 98% which is at above our goal of 95%. We averaged 22.2% solids during this time, which is just below our goal of 25% solids.

Budget Report

The FY26 budget detail has not included updated undigested solids figures since May. A note in SharePoint from Andrew Meyer indicated that these figures were no longer needed because Wyoming was sending only primary sludge to Grand Rapids, reportedly in accordance with the Wyoming–Grand Rapids solids agreement.

Kevin noted that he did not believe this requirement was formally included in the agreement, although the concept had been discussed during development of the solids management plan.

The Board discussed using the historical allocation of 65% for Grand Rapids and 35% for Wyoming as a potential method for allocating undigested solids.

Jared Grabinski reported that Grand Rapids is working to install additional piping and flow meters to better track flows into the digesters. This is expected to improve the ability to determine undigested solids quantities.

Following discussion, the Board requested that the Operations Team present a proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) during the FY28 budget process to establish an agreed-upon allocation methodology, potentially using the historical 65%/35% split.

5. Resolution Pure Air Carbon and Carbon Change-out Extension Resolution-Kevin Lynch

Kevin Lynch presented the resolution to extend the GVRBA's existing agreement with Pure Air Filtration for activated carbon and carbon change-out services for FY27.

Activated carbon is used for odor control at the GVRBA dewatering and sludge storage facilities. Pure Air Filtration has supplied the carbon and performed change-out services since 2013. The proposed FY27 pricing is $5,195 per super sack of carbon, an increase of $280 (5.7%), and $5,875 per carbon change-out service, an increase of $570 (10.7%).

Kevin explained that Pure Air is the only practical supplier for this service because the monitoring rods used in the system are proprietary, making competitive bidding impractical.

Myron Erickson questioned the effectiveness of the carbon system and asked whether Grand Rapids or the GVRBA had considered alternatives, such as a biofilter. Jared Grabinski explained that alternative systems had not been evaluated and emphasized that the carbon system serves an important safety function by removing hydrogen sulfide gas. Jared also noted that carbon life has increased and the frequency of change-outs has decreased since the digesters were placed into operation.

Aaron Vis supported the resolution, and Myron Erickson seconded the motion. The Board approved the resolution unanimously, with four votes in favor and none opposed.

6. MCA Dewatering Truck Bay Cameras Resolution- Kevin Lynch

Kevin Lynch presented the resolution to replace the existing analog cameras monitoring the GVRBA dewatering building's truck bay and solids trailer loading area with a digital camera system.

The proposed project includes four 5-megapixel cameras, new CAT6 cabling, an HD video appliance, a protective enclosure, installation, and system configuration. The total quoted cost is $22,880.

Multiple quotes were not solicited because MCA is an existing City of Grand Rapids contractor familiar with the City's camera and video monitoring infrastructure. Using MCA and equipment compatible with the existing system is expected to facilitate integration and minimize potential compatibility, installation, and ongoing support issues.

Wayne Jernberg supported the resolution, and Aaron Vis seconded the motion. The Board approved the resolution unanimously, with four votes in favor and none opposed.

7. TAG Team Update- Kevin Lynch

Kevin Lynch provided an update on the TAG Team's ongoing work to revise the GVRBA Residuals Management Plan (RMP).

The TAG Team is evaluating an interim option to land apply dewatered biosolids cake directly to agricultural fields. The cake produced at the dewatering facility typically contains approximately 22–25% solids.

The team has contacted current haulers and land appliers to assess their interest and ability to handle the material. Initial feedback from participating farmers has been positive, with a preference for cake because it could reduce trucking requirements and provide a more manageable material for field application and nutrient management.

In addition to evaluating this interim option, the TAG Team continues to investigate the long-term management of the GVRBA's biosolids streams, including alternative disposal and beneficial-use options. This work is intended to provide greater flexibility and support a sustainable long-term biosolids management strategy.

8. Financial Update- Miguel Hernandez

Miguel Hernandez presented the FY26 financial update. He reported that the budget was nearly finalized.

Miguel also noted that the GVRBA has accumulated a healthy financial surplus. The final debt service payment is currently scheduled for 2030.

8. Discussion Items

Board Treasurer

The Board nominated Wayne Jernberg to serve as Board Treasurer. Aaron Vis supported the nomination, and Myron Erickson seconded it. The Board approved the nomination unanimously, with four votes in favor and none opposed.

Next Meeting

The next GVRBA Board meeting is scheduled for October 29, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. at the Grand Rapids Lake Michigan Filtration Plant. A tour of the facility is also planned.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:03 p.m.