

# MINUTES

**HEART OF THE VALLEY METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE DISTRICT  
COMMUNITY MEETING HELD ON April 28, 2026 AT THE  
Kaukauna Streets, Parks, and Recreation Building  
207 Reaume Avenue, Kaukauna, WI 54130**

**Members Present:** Bruce Siebers - President  
John Sundelius – Vice President  
Patrick Hennessey - Secretary  
Kevin Coffey - Commissioner  
Tim De Groot – Commissioner

**Absent:** None

**Also Present:** Brian Helminger - District Director HOVMSD  
Dustin Jerabek - Director of Operations & Maintenance HOVMSD  
Tammy Tucker - Office Manager HOVMSD  
Chad Giackino – Regulatory Compliance Manger HOVMSD  
Jodie Greve – Accounts Payable/Asset Coordinator  
John W Neumeier - City of Kaukauna  
Mike Gerbitz - Donohue & Associates  
Brian Roebke – Times Villager  
Laura Lindberg – Combined Locks  
Keith Weyenberg – Combined Locks  
Anna Huber –Village of Kimberly  
Danielle Block – Village of Kimberly  
George Schmidt –Darboy Sanitary  
Bruce Corning – Darboy Sanitary  
Randy Verhagen –Darboy Sanitary  
Lee W. Hammen – Village of Kimberly Trustee  
Mike Hruzek – Village of Kimberly Trustee  
Marty DeCoster – Kaukauna Alderman  
Bradley Schinke – Combined Locks Trustee  
Tony Penterman – Kaukauna Mayor

## **1. 12:00 Noon. Call to Order – Roll Call**

President Siebers called the meeting to order at 12:00 Noon. President Siebers then introduced Tim De Groot to the group as the District’s newest Commissioner representing Combined Locks.

## **2. Introduction – District Director Brian Helminger**

District Director Helminger welcomed the group to the first District member community meeting for 2026. Brian also introduced the HOVMSD staff in attendance.

The meeting presenters were introduced; Mike Gerbitz of Donohue. He then reminded the audience that the meeting was noticed and is an official HOVMSD meeting and that minutes would be taken and posted to the District's website. Attendees were reminded that meeting documents including supporting materials, minutes, and current project updates are available for review anytime on the District website located at [www.hvmsd.org](http://www.hvmsd.org).

### **3. HOVMSD Updates – District Director Brian Helminger**

District Director Helminger provided an update on current and upcoming infrastructure projects. The Interceptor project will resume this summer, with approximately 2–3 weeks of coatings work scheduled for completion in June. The \$1.2 million septage receiving station project was bid and successfully completed in late 2025 by Lunda. The receiving station has performed well since being placed back into service on November 17<sup>th</sup>.

Replacement of the influent screening equipment began with a study last year that identified several types of screens that would be potential fits for the District. The existing equipment is nearing 25-years-old and past its expected useful life. Work in that building will require it to be brought up to code and include HVAC improvements. The code requirements and past air quality concerns will result in continuous air monitoring safety equipment being installed to ensure employee safety when working in that building.

Brian Helminger reviewed 2025 sewer connection information along with influent flow and organic loadings for 2025. There were 192 new sewer connections made in the member communities as development and construction remain consistent throughout the HOVMSD sewer service area.

Influent flows are down from 2025 as are ammonia and BOD loadings. The average BOD load came in at 75% of plant related capacity with an ammonia just over 72% of full plant capacity. The District has worked with industries and has had success in reducing the plant load from high strength dischargers.

### **4. 2024 Clearwater Review – Mike Gerbitz**

Mike Gerbitz of Donohue began by explaining the difference between stormwater & wastewater, and origin and sources of inflow versus infiltration. He explained how clearwater entering the plant costs money in both energy and pumping and for treating water that doesn't need treatment. The clear water intrusion reduces the wastewater carrying capacity of the collection system, and reduces detention time and treatment capacity at the WWTF. Mike then showed slides with individual community data for average dry weather flow and average peak wet weather flows as well as data from 2025 storm events. The District began modeling and monitoring clearwater flows in 2006 and have upgraded the components of the program over the years. This includes purchase and installation of laser flow meters, rain gauges, and the associated computer software to the best available in predictive modeling.

The updated Clearwater (I&I) analysis, calibrated using three years of flow and precipitation data, provides a more accurate and reliable assessment of system performance across all

member communities. While 2025 was a dry year with no significant blending events, early 2026 has already produced substantial blending volumes, serving as a clear reminder that the systems remain highly vulnerable to storm events and wet weather conditions.

Several communities continue to exhibit elevated clear water contributions and peak flow responses, indicating ongoing infiltration and inflow issues that consume system capacity and drive unnecessary treatment costs. These conditions not only impact ratepayers but also increase the risk of operational strain, equipment damage, and potential regulatory action if blending events become too frequent.

The recent high-flow events underscore that the current situation is not sustainable without continued intervention. Focused, proactive engagement with each member community is necessary to better understand system-specific issues, align on capital improvement strategies, and prioritize targeted I&I reduction efforts. Strengthening collaboration and accountability will be critical to reducing risk, controlling costs, and maintaining long-term system reliability.

Mike stressed the importance of continued vigilance in monitoring and reducing the clearwater to the treatment plant to maximize the useful life of the current District treatment facility. Donohue and the District Director will be meeting with each community and their representatives to review individual system performance.

**5. General Old or New Business**

District Director Brian Helminger thanked the HOVMSD staff for making the meeting arrangements and for the preparations for the group.

**8. Adjournment**

With no further business before the Commission, a motion was made by Commissioner Sundelius and seconded by Commissioner Coffey to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. (Time: 12:45 PM)

**SIGNED & APPROVED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Patrick E. Hennessey, Secretary**