

**Public Hearing  
The Metropolitan District  
Updated Long-Term Control Plan**  
555 Main Street  
Hartford, Connecticut 06103  
Tuesday, December 11, 2018

**Present:** District Chairman William A. DiBella  
Commissioner Avery Buell  
Commissioner Luis Caban  
Commissioner Donald Currey  
Commissioner Gary LeBeau  
Commissioner Richard Vicino  
Scott W. Jellison, Chief Executive Officer  
John M. Zinzarella, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Business Services  
R. Bartley Halloran, District Counsel  
Christopher R. Stone, Assistant District Counsel  
Susan Negrelli, Director of Engineering  
Tom Tyler, Manager of Water Pollution Control  
Jason Waterbury, Project Manager  
Brendan Fox, Assistant District Counsel  
John S. Mirtle, District Clerk  
Julie McLaughlin, Special Services Administrator  
Nick Salemi, Special Services Administrator  
Joseph Laliberte, CDM Smith

**PUBLIC HEARING ON UPDATED COMBINED SEWER OVERFLOW  
LONG-TERM CONTROL PLAN**

Commissioner Richard Vicino, acting as moderator, called the public hearing to order at 6:01 P.M.

Susan Negrelli, Director of Engineering, delivered opening remarks and introduced Joseph Laliberte of CDM Smith.

At the direction of the Moderator, District Clerk John Mirtle incorporated into the record the hearing notice published in the Hartford Courant on November 26, 2018 and December 5, 2018 and also made available to all Town Clerk's within The Metropolitan District's member municipalities:

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The Metropolitan District (MDC) will conduct a public hearing on the draft Update to the 2018 Combined Sewer Overflow Long-Term Control Plan (CSO LTCP) in accordance with the requirements of the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) Clean Water Fund regulations, the Connecticut General Statutes Section 7-247a and applicable MDC governing documents.

The MDC invites residents and property owners in Bloomfield, East Hartford, Hartford, Newington, Rocky Hill, West Hartford, Wethersfield and Windsor and any other interested parties, to attend the public hearing on **Tuesday, December 11, 2018, at 6:00 P.M., at the MDC Training Center**, located at 125 Maxim Road, Hartford, CT.

In the event of inclement weather, a snow date has been scheduled for Wednesday, December 12, 2018, at 6:00 P.M. at the same location. Any cancellation notice will be posted on the MDC website ([www.themdc.org](http://www.themdc.org)) and anywhere school closings are listed.

The CSO LTCP is the planning document for construction of sewer improvements which establishes the overall direction for the MDC's Clean Water Project. This project is being undertaken to comply with enforcement action from both the CT DEEP related to combined sewer overflows and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) related to sanitary sewer overflows. The CSO LTCP Update of 2018 reflects changes in the overall program from the 2012 LTCP Update (approved by the CT DEEP in 2015). This plan utilizes EPA's Integrated Planning guidelines where the MDC proposes an updated LTCP that incorporates an integrated planning approach to the CWP. Under this approach the overall needs for capital investment in the MDC's water and sanitary sewer system are identified, analyzed and prioritized and thereafter sequenced over the long term so that higher priority projects, both in terms of benefits to the systems and the environment as well as affordability for our customers and member towns, are given priority.

This public hearing will include a presentation showing the progress of the work completed to date, the changes since the 2012 LTCP Update, and the schedule for the remaining work to be completed. The purpose of the hearing is to solicit opinions from the public for consideration prior to finalizing the CSO LTCP before securing final approval from the CT DEEP.

A copy of the CSO LTCP Update will be available for review by the general public at the Office of the District Clerk at MDC Headquarters, 555 Main Street, Hartford, and at Town Clerk offices in Hartford, West Hartford, East Hartford, Windsor, Bloomfield, Newington, Wethersfield, and Rocky Hill. The report may also be accessed electronically through the District's website, [www.themdc.org](http://www.themdc.org).

The deadline to submit public comments is December 13, 2018 at 6:00pm and may be submitted to the District Clerk via email at [DistrictClerk@themdc.com](mailto:DistrictClerk@themdc.com) or via mail at:

The Metropolitan District  
555 Main Street  
Hartford, CT 06103  
Attn: District Clerk

## PRESENTATION ON UPDATED LONG-TERM CONTROL PLAN

*Joseph Laliberte of CDM Smith presented the Updated Long-Term Control Plan.*

### PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Moderator, Commissioner Richard Vicino, opened the floor to any members of the public whom wished to speak relative to the Updated Combined Sewer Overflow Long-Term Control Plan . The following members of the public appeared to be heard:

David Silverstone, Independent Consumer Advocate  
John Gale, Hartford City Council  
Larry Deutsch, Hartford City Council  
Alice Charamut, Connecticut River Conservancy  
Judy Allen, West Hartford Resident

The following written comments were received during the public comment period prior to the adjournment of the public hearing and are hereby incorporated into the record:

Hello:

My name is Marcia Lazowski, my husband Alan Lazowski and I live at 170 Scarborough St in Hartford, Ct. My home's easterly property boundary runs along the middle thread of the North Branch of the Park River (NBPR) for approx. 225 feet. The Metropolitan District Commission's (MDC) Combined Storm and Sewer Overflows (CSOs) directly impact my property. My property is adversely impacted by the CSOs affecting the safety, human health and wellness of my family, as well as my enjoyment of my property. My portion of the river is regularly polluted by the MDC's CSOs. The river smells of sewer and toilet waste after some overflows. It becomes unsanitary, odorous and terrible.

I understand the MDC is seeking an extension of time **from 2029** to complete closures of all CSOs **to 2058**. That's unacceptable. We'll all be dead and never see the benefits of the 2006 Order if it's extended. I express my full support for all of the points made in Bureau Chief Winfield's letter dated July 28, 2017 addressed to Mr. Ellison at the MDC; attached.

I **OPPOSE** any extensions of the MDC's compliance. The North Branch of the Park River should remain a Class A waterbody. The reclassification and extensions requested by the MDC should not be granted. I support the DEEP's position that the North Branch Park River and Wethersfield Cove both be protected from overflows, and that **overflows must be entirely eliminated** as required under Consent Order WC5434. The extensions for compliance with Consent Order WC5434 should be eliminated or at least shortened since progress by MDC has been too limited. I request that the terms of the 12-year-old Consent Order WC5434 be fully implemented hopefully within the next twelve (12) months. The people living along the NBPR have waited long enough.

As a resident along the river, I request the closures of the overflows from the CSOs, and improved water quality of the North Branch Park River, all promised under the 2006 Order, with no more delays.

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FOR THE ENVIRONMENT



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Empowering Communities, Advocating Solutions.

**Metropolitan District Commission  
Long Term Control Plan  
Comments by Louis W. Burch  
Citizens Campaign for the Environment**

**December 13, 2018**

Citizens Campaign for the Environment (CCE) is a non-partisan, non-profit organization that advocates for policies to protect public health and the natural environment. We appreciate the opportunity to submit comments on proposed updates to the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) Long Term Control Plan (referred to in this document as “the LTCP”).

The purpose of the LTCP is to outline a comprehensive approach towards addressing the region’s Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) over the long-term. MDC is required, through a legally binding consent agreement (Water Pollution Control Order No. WC-5434), to complete any scheduled CSO-related projects by the year 2029. These include projects in some of the highest-need urban centers in Connecticut. MDC has proposed deferring 125 of the 152 projects necessary to meet those obligations well beyond the 2029 deadline, including extending several projects out to 2058. These changes would unnecessarily delay urgently needed wastewater infrastructure improvements that help protect human health and reduce harmful stormwater pollution affecting our state’s waterways, and should therefore not be approved.

#### **Project Timeline**

The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) explicitly stated in a December 2017 correspondence that a thirty or forty-year extension to the current elimination deadline would be detrimental to the state’s water protection goals and should not be approved as part of the plan. Furthermore, EPA’s Integrated Municipal Stormwater and Wastewater Planning Approach Framework states, “where extended time is necessary to achieve compliance, enforcement orders should provide schedules for Clean Water Act requirements that prioritize the most significant human health and environmental needs first.” This affirms that CSO separation projects in high-density population areas are a clear priority. CCE is opposed to any extension of existing projects out beyond the 2029 deadline, and urges MDC to continue progress on the important work of prioritizing investments into CSO projects in their service area based on the greatest and most pressing environmental and human health needs.

In addition to conducting this process in secrecy and delaying key components of the LTCP, the MDC has offered no direct comparison between the project timeline, project costs and CSO reduction. While updates include some limited comparisons of projected costs vs. reduction of CSO, it is impossible to reconcile the project schedule with environmental benefits and CSO reduction. There must be better side by side comparisons showing exactly when the MDC will meet the requirements of reducing and eliminating CSOs as required under WC-5434.

**Advance Green Infrastructure in the LTCP, not Routine Maintenance**

Volume 1, section 4 (Wastewater Collection System Needs Assessment) puts a disproportionate emphasis on the need to upgrade and modernize pump stations, pipes and other existing infrastructure, while making little reference to green infrastructure solutions, which can save money and help meet the requirements of the consent order on an accelerated timeline. CCE views that many of the improvements recommended in section 4 as routine maintenance projects which MDC is already responsible for, regardless of their requirements under WC-5434. Rather than neglecting problems until there is a failure, the MDC should be conducting asset management on an ongoing basis, which would ensure that inventories of needed investments are maintained and updated, and resources are allocated to allow for ongoing maintenance and repair of systems before they fail. The focus of the LTCP should be to come up with innovative green infrastructure solutions for reducing stormwater runoff by promoting groundwater recharge, not to spend time and resources catching up on overdue improvements to existing infrastructure. Numerous communities around the nation are now utilizing green infrastructure in their LTCP's, as it can manage stormwater by absorbing, diverting, or storing rain and snowmelt where it falls. Green infrastructure not only helps to reduce CSOs and protect water quality, it also creates habitat and beautifies communities.

**Public Outreach**

In addition to failing to meet its responsibilities under the consent order in a timely manner, the MDC has failed to provide meaningful opportunities for public comment by offering minimal public outreach and a woefully inadequate two week comment period on the proposed changes. The EPA calls for a process "which opens and maintains channels of communication with relevant community stakeholders in order to give full consideration to the views of others in the planning process," and that parties involved in such planning efforts "should provide appropriate opportunities that allow for meaningful input during the identification, evaluation, and selection of alternatives and other appropriate aspects of plan development." Instead of engaging members of the public and/or any community/non-profit groups that may represent them on water protection issues, MDC held a handful of closed-door presentations for local Boards of Commissioners and Town Council members. This can hardly be considered robust stakeholder engagement, as the vast majority of the public which stand to be impacted by these changes have little or no clue that this process is even underway.

Stakeholder engagement is one of six Plan Elements laid out in EPA's framework for integrated plans. Despite this, stakeholders were not given access to the full content of the plan until November 26<sup>th</sup>, and were left with only two weeks to review three volumes of technical information. Additionally, most of the outreach that was conducted on these changes focused primarily on project costs, and not on the human health or environmental quality needs that this plan is intended to address. CCE views water as a *public trust resource*, and we believe strongly that there should be ample opportunities for meaningful public input on matters that affect the public's water supply, including stormwater management and other wastewater management/water protection issues. The proposed LTCP is woefully inadequate in this respect, and MDC should extend the public comment period in order to solicit additional public comment on the proposed update.

In conclusion, CCE believes that the proposed changes to the MDC LTCP are inadequate with respect to offering forward-thinking solutions to MDC's stormwater management challenges, and the process to vet and increase public awareness on the LTCP leaves much to be desired. CCE urges the MDC to take this plan back to the drawing board, and come back with a CSO management plan for the 21<sup>st</sup> century, with a significant focus on innovative green infrastructure solutions and ample, meaningful opportunities for public engagement.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on this important issue.

To the MDC District Clerk,

In addition to my letter sent earlier today, copied below, I am sending additional comments about the 2018 Long Term Control Plan Update. Note that these additional comments are not a complete review of the 2018 LTCP Update, given the limited time available for citizen review the document details. Nevertheless, for the record, here are supplemental recommendations:

**Green infrastructure opportunities** – There is considerable opportunity for design development of large scale green infrastructure features. While maintenance is a major issue, design is key to minimizing excessive green infrastructure maintenance – and also ensuring that green infrastructure features do not appear wild and weedy within the urban context. Rainbarrel programs, while significant are not necessarily reliable long-term strategy to reduce stormwater runoff. The 2010 North Branch Park River Watershed Management Plan, which was not even mentioned by MDC/CDM in the 2018 LTCP Update outlined a number of site specific green infrastructure opportunities along the North Branch Park River. Due to limited funding for green infrastructure initiatives, few of the project proposals have been implemented from the 2010 North Branch Park River Watershed Management Plan – yet a number of the project proposals are still relevant, and so ought to be referenced in the MDC/CDM 2018 LTCP Update. For example, athletic fields were recommended as a green infrastructure project type in the North Branch Park River Watershed Management Plan. The large, easily measured area underneath athletic fields, ought to be reviewed as opportunities for large volume stormwater storage and infiltration – especially given athletic fields could benefit from design improvements. Area beneath athletic fields have been utilized as large scale stormwater storage areas in other areas of the nation. The MDC Citizens Advisory Committee *Green Infrastructure* sub-committee, which met monthly throughout 2012, and quarterly for several following years, consistently recommended that MDC invest in green infrastructure strategies to complement conventional sewage treatment. It is refreshing that a section on green infrastructure is included in the 2018 LTCP Update – there are now many advanced design strategies from cities around the nation that ought to be incorporated into the update.

**Outreach and effective systemic improvements** – MDC needs to explore a paradigm shift towards the development of new streams of revenue as well as an integrative approach to infrastructure planning – so all MDC stakeholders, in voting member towns, and the greater Hartford metropolitan area can benefit. North Branch Park River watershed is an especially unique opportunity to demonstrate innovation. The MDC and CT DEEP ought to consider a separate fund for an innovative approach to system updates for both the North Branch watershed and Gully Brook.

Text sent previously –

The 2018 Long Term Control Plan Update was released to the public on November 26th 2018. Thus citizens were given ~two weeks to review over 1200 pages of materials about a taxpayer funded project. Hopefully there will expanded debate and discussion regarding the 2018 LTCP Update details in 2019. Understandably, my summary comments, while not comprehensive, identify plan sections that need further development.

**1) How refreshing to see green infrastructure opportunities as well as an integrated planning approach included in this update!** Section 10 highlights very specific stakeholders and project areas. The MDC ought to develop recommendations for integration of green infrastructure that can be implemented in planning and development projects throughout The District. Of the project areas reviewed for green infrastructure features, Keney Park Improvements (10.7.4) is especially interesting. However, surprisingly, the approach taken does not seem to focus on the Gully Brook watershed. Moreover, The District and area municipalities ought to develop a more systemic approach to planning green infrastructure

features in all area parks. A recent study by EPA, Green Infrastructure in Parks: A Guide to Collaboration, Funding, and Community Engagement” – could perhaps be helpful: [https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2017-05/documents/gi\\_parksplaybook\\_2017-05-01\\_508.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2017-05/documents/gi_parksplaybook_2017-05-01_508.pdf)

**2) Extension of the deadline to reduce combined sewage overflows beyond 2029, especially overflows into the North Branch Park River, is unacceptable.** Recent flooding and sewage overflows into the North Branch Park River have adversely impacted property owners, which include K-12 schools, the campuses of University of Hartford, UConn School of Law and Hartford Seminary, and the parking lots of the Saint Francis Hospital medical community, as well as private residences. MDC needs to address water quality issues, **not** seek re-classification of the North Branch.

**3) Outreach – and collaboration towards comprehensive project goals need to be improved.** Statements regarding MDC outreach (ES.7 p ES-16) evidently reflect the minimum requirements. I have not received any notifications from the MDC about meetings – or even notification that the LTCP update had been released Given that I served on the MDC Citizens Advisory Committee between 2004-2014 – and am actively working to implement green infrastructure features to improve water quality along the North Branch Park River – it would be appropriate and genuinely inclusive of The District to send me routine notifications about meetings and documents releases. MDC has made significant improvements to within the Park River regional watershed and the Lower Connecticut River. Nevertheless, due to climate change it is urgent that MDC work with Ct DEEP, citizen stakeholders, scientists and diverse environmental organizations to develop a genuinely innovative, systemic 21st century approach to managing area water resources.

Sincerely,

Mary Rickel Pelletier [maryp@parkwatershed.org](mailto:maryp@parkwatershed.org)

City of Hartford resident since 2000 *and* Founding Director of Park Watershed

We live at 120 Scarborough Street, Hartford and our property runs to the middle of the North Branch of the Park river. We share the concerns that our neighbors have expressed about failure of the MDC to remediate the problems of sewer drains into the river. We support the observations as expressed by our neighbors and copied below:

“We understand the MDC is seeking an extension of time from 2029 to complete closures of all CSOs to 2058, effectively allowing them to put the project on a decades-long hold. This would be unacceptable and a dereliction of the government's obligation to care for its residents' health and safety as well as the fragile ecosystem along the North Branch that is home to deer, bear, coyote, bobcat, wild turkey and dozens of other wildlife species. We express our full support for all of the points made in Bureau Chief Winfield's letter dated July 28, 2017 addressed to Mr. Ellison at the MDC (see attached). We OPPOSE any extensions of the MDC's compliance and the North Branch of the Park River should absolutely remain a Class A waterway. The river is typically 5 feet deep and ranges from 30-50 feet wide as it runs along our property. The reclassification to Class B and the extensions requested by the MDC seem like a deliberate attempt to circumvent Consent Order WC5434. We support the DEEP's position that both the North Branch Park River and Wethersfield Cove be protected from overflows, and that overflows must be entirely eliminated, as required under Consent Order.

The extensions for compliance with Consent Order WC5434 should be eliminated especially since progress over the past 12 years by the MDC has been so limited. We request that the terms of the 12-year-old Consent Order WC5434 be fully implemented within the next twelve (12) months. The people living in North Hartford, Blue Hills and the West End along the NBPR have waited long enough. We do not deserve to have our properties polluted and eroded, nor our yards and basements flooded. We do not live in the 1800s when it was acceptable to dump waste and chemicals into the "Hog River". As property owners, taxpayers and a family who lives on the North Branch, we respectfully request the immediate closure of the overflows from the MDC's CSOs, and the improved water quality of the North Branch Park River promised under the 2006 Consent Order, without further delay."

Sincerely,  
Michael and Gwen O'Connell  
120 Scarborough Street  
Hartford, Ct 06105

Hello,  
I will not be back in Hartford until next week, so I will miss tonight's meeting. In lieu of voicing my opinion in person, I would like to voice my concern for managing the region's water.

MDC needs to coordinate with stakeholders outside of the water sphere. One example Hartford should look to is [London's Olympic Gardens](#), designed by Hargreaves Associates. Like in the UK, we in Connecticut have an abundance of water that needs to be managed properly. To effectively monitor that, I believe the area should uncover the Park River, use porous pavement in necessary areas, build bioswales and natural areas for birds, and utilize other forms of green infrastructure to help clean our water and limit the amount of runoff that contributes to polluted waters and flooding. Not only will this contribute to cleaner water at a cheaper price, but it will also help contribute to the area's revitalization.

Best regards,  
Leah Beckett  
(860) 989-8587  
[leahbeckett@gmail.com](mailto:leahbeckett@gmail.com)





Connecticut River  
Conservancy

*Clean water. Healthy habitat. Thriving communities.*

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December 13, 2018

The Metropolitan District  
555 Main Street  
Hartford, CT 06103  
Attn: District Clerk

Dear Mr. Jellison,

The MDC and the Connecticut River Conservancy (then the Connecticut River Watershed Council) stood together in educating the public on how crucial it is to invest in the elimination and reduction in raw sewage that flows into the rivers and streams in our community in order to garner support for the Clean Water Project. Rate payers and the general public must remember that this work is not being done because it was forced upon the MDC by CT DEEP and the EPA, but because it has public health and environmental health benefits to our community and downstream communities.

Since this work began in 2004, the CSO volume in a typical year has been reduced by almost half! We are almost there! The Connecticut River Conservancy has always recognized that this work will take decades, that it is expensive, and that plans should be updated periodically based on lessons learned during implementation. However, the MDC should not be delaying the work required to meet public and environmental health standards to the magnitude proposed in their Recommended Plan. This work is important not just for the health of our rivers, but also for the health of our communities and residents here, all those downstream of us, and those who benefit from the health of Long Island Sound. In 2012 when voters approved this work, we were told the track record of being on time and on budget would continue. This delayed timeline is not what voters approved. In fact, CT DEEP explicitly told MDC not to include a delay/extension of the magnitude presented in the Recommended Plan.

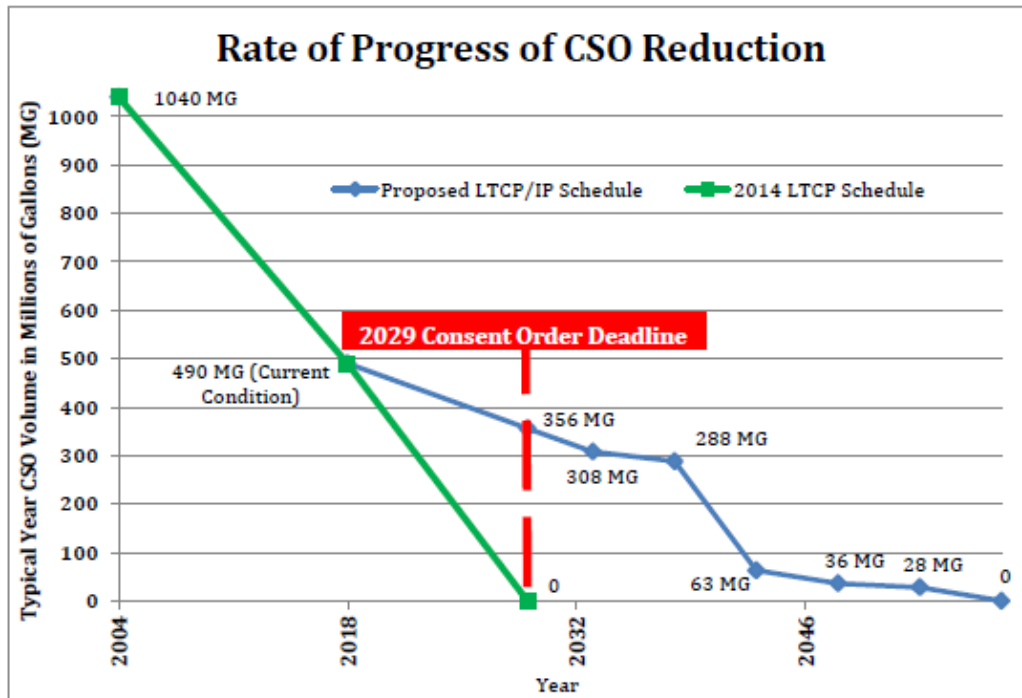
#### Timeline and CSO Reduction Compliance

The 2018 Long Term Control Plan update does not comply with the current consent order. The MDC is required, by legally binding agreement, to complete all CSO-related projects by 2029. The MDC is proposing to defer completion of 125 of the 152 projects necessary to meet their obligations beyond the 2029 deadline. In the MDC's recommended plan, project completion is extended to 2058 despite the fact that the Connecticut's Department of Energy and Environmental Protection was very clear in a December 26, 2017 correspondence with the MDC that "a thirty or forty-year extension to the current elimination deadline should not be part of MDC's plan when considering the LTCP update."

In regard to integrated planning, EPA's Integrated Municipal Stormwater and Wastewater Planning Approach Framework states, "Where extended time is necessary to achieve compliance, enforcement orders should provide schedules for CWA requirements that prioritize the most significant human health and environmental needs first." The current 490 MG typical year discharge will not be reduced by half until after 2038 under the recommended plan - twenty years from now and ten years after the deadline in the consent order. The MDC will not be in full compliance until 2058.

Headquarters: 15 Bank Row, Greenfield, MA 01301  
413.772.2020 · www.ctriver.org

The MDC has completed almost half of the work required for CSO reduction in 15 years. While it may be true that this rate is not sustainable, the proposed plan slows down the rate of progress to an unacceptable pace.



The MDC should work more closely and cooperatively with the CT DEEP and include all relevant stakeholders to find a more acceptable alternative to the timeline proposed in the LTCP/IP.

**Paying for CSO Reduction**

Clean Water Funds are in place to pay for half of the CSO work through grants, the funds should be spent as intended in a timely manner. The Clean Water Fund (CWF) was established as a way to help pay for capital projects that have a broader public benefit. CSO-related projects are eligible for a 50 percent grant and the remaining project cost is eligible for a low-interest loan (typically 2%). CRC is one of many groups that make up the Clean Water Investment Coalition which advocate for adequate funding for this program each year so that entities like the MDC will have the resources to complete this important work.

The MDC is making a dangerous assumption in its projections in the Recommended Plan that sewer rehabilitation projects will be eligible for the 50 percent CWF grants. The CWF was not set up to fund sewer rehabilitation projects as they are the responsibility of our communities. The MDC currently receives the lion's share of CWF grants because they have large and beneficial projects in the project pipeline that directly relate to CSO reduction work. There are other communities competing for Clean Water Fund grants and projects directly related to CSO reduction and these projects will take priority for funding.

MDC stands to lose tens if not hundreds of millions of grant funds each year.

Delaying will not make the cost of the CSO work go away. It will only get more expensive. The public should take note that project costs are in 2018 dollars and many of these projects will not start for twenty to thirty years. These project costs will double or triple by that time.

There should be a clearer incorporation of how Clean Water Funding can be applied to future costs that will reduce costs to towns for projects currently eligible for these funds and abandon the effort to use the CWF for ineligible projects.

#### Deficiency in Direct Cost/Schedule/Benefits Comparisons

While there are some direct comparisons of cost vs. reduction it is impossible reconcile the project schedule with environmental benefits and CSO reduction. There must be better side by side comparisons as exactly when the MDC will meet the requirements of reducing and eliminating CSOs as required for their recommended plan. In presentations to members towns, the information provided focused solely on cost.

#### Outreach

MDC has been misleading during this process by only narrowly reaching out to communities about this – not including other non-resident stakeholders (businesses, river-users, etc.) – and by focusing discussion on cost and making it impossible to understand when the CSO work will be completed.

Presentations to Board of Commissioners and Town Councils can hardly be considered robust stakeholder engagement. Stakeholder engagement is one of six Plan Elements laid out in EPA's framework for integrated plans. The EPA encourages "a process which opens and maintains channels of communication with relevant community stakeholders in order to give full consideration to of the views of others in the planning process" and that entities utilizing the approach "should provide appropriate opportunities that allow for meaningful input during the identification, evaluation, and selection of alternatives and other appropriate aspects of plan development." Many of these outreach effort focused primarily on project costs and some presentations erroneously reported that the recommended plan meets the requirements of the consent order which is not true as the project schedule does not meet the deadline contained in the order. Furthermore, stakeholders did not have full access to the content of the plan until November 26<sup>th</sup> and only given two weeks to review three volumes of material.

The MDC formed a Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC) in the development of its Long Term Control Plan. The platform for broader stakeholder engagement through the development of the update and integrated plan already exists. The MDC should consider utilizing the CAC in developing a more reasonable timeline for the LTCP/IP.

#### North Branch Park River Water Quality Study

The water quality study commissioned for the North Branch of the Park River concluded that there were other sources of bacteria than the MDC's CSO discharge. The fact that any stretch of river or stream has multiple sources of bacteria loading is not a novel concept. When pollution sources that impair our waters are identified, we work to eliminate that source. The impairment due to the direct discharge of sewage to the open channel of the North Branch Park River must be addressed regardless of other contributions.

The Connecticut River Conservancy is ready and willing to participate in a process that involves an appropriate range of relevant stakeholders to find a more acceptable solution to reducing Combined Sewer Overflows while meeting other Clean Water Act Requirements that also meets affordability standards for member towns and rate payers.

Sincerely,



Alicea Charamut

Hello,

I am on business and will not be back in Hartford until next week, meaning I will miss tonight's meeting. As I can't make it, I would like to share my opinion via email. I would like to voice my concern for managing water. While places like California suffer from droughts and fire, Connecticut will be equally exposed in the future as it relates to climate change. There is a reason Harvard University is investing its endowment in water-rich land grabs. To effectively manage our waterways, and open up the possibility of uncovering the Park River, we need more porous pavement and other forms of green infrastructure to help clean our water and limit the amount of runoff that contributes to polluted waters and flooding.

Best regards,  
Patrick Higgins

Public Comment on the MDC CSO LTCP - Increase focus on green infrastructure to reduce CSO I have lived in Hartford at 8 Shultas Place for the past 13 years. I do not know where to begin with my comments. Since the very first week in Hartford, I have been very much aware of the project to separate our sewage and water system. I lived through the 3-4 years of disruption on my street, one of the equipment locations was at the corner of Shultas and Wethersfield. It was your second engineering design as the first plan in the North End of the City was a complete disaster. But, those residents did warn us about the nightmare we were about to embark on. Midnight to 6 am jackhammering just 500 ft from my front door on Wethersfield Ave – there wasn't a soul who slept through that. I had texts from my friends and neighbors all night asked what was going on. We were informed that residents on Wethersfield Ave were made aware of this - but you never thought about any of the multitude of side street residents. I am also keenly aware of your third engineering design, to vent the sewage tunnel under the city. You have torn up the front of Columbus Park and don't plan to fix it for years – our residents lost 2 tennis courts. Many locations along Maple and Franklin Ave have 10 foot high chain link fences around them – ugly! The very title of this project is irritating. It is just your 4th attempt to solve your ineptitude at separating the two streams. No wonder you are asking for 30 more years, you have absolutely no idea what you are doing. I consider it an absolute waste of my precious time reviewing your engineering proposal.

Donna Swarr

To Whom it may Concern at the MDC,

Hartford (and the region) is at a loss to resolve several issues such as concentrated poverty, increasing income inequality, and an inability to fund critical infrastructure maintenance and investment. The MDC's goal to reduce Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) is an important one, but the efforts would be even more impactful (and cost effective) if the plan were modeled after [Philadelphia's Green City, Clean Waters CSO program](#). Please consider making the majority of CSO investments into "green infrastructure" in the Hartford area. It would positively transform our region, and the State of CT.

**More thoughts on this topic** - <http://allfamoustogether.blogspot.com/2018/12/lets-get-wet-greeninfrastructure-ftw.html> Smart cities do not spend money once. When a city or state spends hundreds of millions of dollars, sometimes billions, on infrastructure, public works, or a social program, that investment needs to pay back doubly and triply. For example, the City of Philadelphia evaluated how to manage polluted combined storm sewer overflow into waterways. This evaluation determined that addressing the storm water at the source with green infrastructure was the most cost effective resolution, Green City, Clean Waters. Green infrastructure funding had the second benefit of needed investment in the city's aging transportation infrastructure and buildings. A third benefit was neighborhood "walk-to-work" labor force involvement in the construction projects. The fourth benefit of green infrastructure is the improved health and quality of life in neighborhoods with more trees and green spaces. When considering how to resolve the water contamination issue the city and their water utility thought deeply and holistically. What alternate approach was rejected in Philly? They chose not to excavate deep storage tunnels for combined storm water and sewage. The tunnel alternate would have held millions of gallons of contaminated water until it could be treated later when the rain stopped, putting much more water through the treatment process. The tunnel project would have been more expensive, and did not have any of the benefit multipliers that are built into green infrastructure. This was not an easy decision to evaluate, and it had to be approved at the national level by the US Environmental Protection Agency. *"... rather than spending an estimated \$9.6 billion on a "gray" infrastructure program of ever-larger tunnels, the city [Philadelphia] is investing an estimated \$2.4 billion in public funds — to be augmented by large expenditures from the private sector — to create a citywide mosaic of green stormwater infrastructure."* Source - Yale Environment 360 In addition to being cost effective, green infrastructure incorporates community engagement and education. You cannot have a community garden and rain barrel program without community outreach, education, and local management of the project. Small portions of the investment ensure that residents, children, and future leaders understand the opportunities they have to live in harmony while growing their own food and protecting public resources. This investment in human capital pays into a functioning civil society that gets passed down through generations. Deep storage tunnel projects would have left the public clueless and disconnected from their built environment. Instead the Hartford metro's semi-private water utility, the Metropolitan District Commission, has gone whole hog into the deep tunnel storage solution. The neighborhoods with entrenched, multi-generational poverty and crumbling infrastructure are stuck in their unhealthy stasis. The city will remain unable to plant enough trees to keep up with the accelerated losses from climate change. \$280 million is sinking into a four-mile long tunnel that no one will ever see, except in the continuously increasing water bills across the region. The MDC's green infrastructure efforts have been anemic, with just \$30k spent on rain barrels in 2018 without funding for education or installation assistance. We must learn from our neighbors in Philly and

make sure that public investments of this magnitude truly invest in the Hartford region and our communities.

Let me know if you have any questions.

**Anthony Cherolis**

*Transport Hartford Coordinator*

Center for Latino Progress

95 Park Street, 2nd Fl.

Hartford, CT 06106

P. 860.247.3227 x.20

C. 860.204.2704

Hello:

My home is part of the Allyn Estate, which abuts the middle thread of the North Branch of the Park River (NBPR). The Metropolitan District Commission's (MDC) Combined Storm and Sewer Overflows (CSOs) indirectly impact my property. My property is adversely impacted by the CSOs affecting the safety, human health and wellness of our family and neighbors, as well as my enjoyment of our property. The river is regularly polluted by the MDC's CSOs. The river smells of sewer and toilet waste after some overflows. It becomes unsanitary, odorous and terrible. I understand the MDC is seeking an extension of time **from 2029** to complete closures of all CSOs **to 2058**. That's unacceptable. I express my full support for all of the points made in Bureau Chief Winfield's letter dated July 28, 2017 addressed to Mr. Ellison at the MDC. I **OPPOSE** any extensions of the MDC's compliance. The North Branch of the Park River should remain a Class A waterbody for all to enjoy without reservations. The reclassification and extensions requested by the MDC should not be granted. I support the DEEP's position that the North Branch Park River and Wethersfield Cove both be protected from overflows, and that **overflows must be entirely eliminated** as required under Consent Order WC5434. Progress by MDC has been too limited and thus the extensions for compliance with Consent Order WC5434 should be eliminated or at least shortened since. I request that the terms of the 12-year-old Consent Order WC5434 be fully implemented hopefully within the next twelve (12) months. The people living along the NBPR have waited long enough. As a resident along the river, I request the closures of the overflows from the CSOs, and improved water quality of the North Branch Park River, all promised under the 2006 Order, with no more delays.

Sincerely,  
David M Klein

William J. Cronin  
Ann Policelli Cronin  
60 Goodwin Circle  
Hartford, CT 06105

860 570-1059  
wcronin62@gmail.com  
annpcronin@gmail.com

December 13, 2018

Mr. Scott Jellison, CEO  
Metropolitan District Commission  
555 Main Street  
Hartford, CT 06142

Dear Mr. Jellison,

Raw sewage in CSO is spilling into areas behind homes of my neighbors in Hartford's West End. This has been a long-running problem, and it's much bigger than just my neighbors. The situation is unacceptable on the face of it. The very fact of the problem is an institution level failure of the mission and fundamental responsibility of MDC and its related governmental agencies.

Yesterday, I learned that there is a move to *extend* the completion date of the project to fix the problem and extend it by *twenty years*. To me, this is totally unacceptable, and the request must be denied – in fact, preferably withdrawn.

I believe the only responsible action is to put all energy and resources into *shortening* the time to completion to the shortest period possible. Twelve months sounds good.

Yours truly,



William J. Cronin

I was very upset to hear of the proposed delay in adhering to the aims of the clean water project for the Park River. Do you extend the timeline for a project that is needed for the safety of the public.

Ann M. Ferris  
28 Goodwin Circle  
Hartford, CT 06105  
860-463-6870  
To Whom It May Concern:

We live at 150 Scarborough Street and our home's easterly property boundary runs along the middle thread of the North Branch of the Park River (NBPR) for approx. 260 feet. The Metropolitan District Commission's (MDC) Combined Storm and Sewer Overflows (CSOs) directly impact our property. **Our portion of the river is regularly polluted by the MDC's CSOs and our property is adversely impacted by the CSOs affecting the safety, human health and wellness of my wife, 3 children and father, as well as our ability to use our backyard. The river smells of sewer and toilet waste after some overflows. It becomes unsanitary, odorous and terrible.** Trash and debris are left everywhere. The river has severely flooded our property 6 times since we moved here in January 2017. During and after the rainstorms that have become so common over the past few years, the water has risen by 5-10 feet from its normal height, covered half of our yard, backed up our drainage and sewer systems and caused erosion that resulted in the loss of multiple 100+ foot trees and 5-10 feet of our property along the riverbank. (Please see the attached pictures.) These trees then clog the river, catching trash and debris from upstream, creating even more flooding and pollution. I have personally hiked the length of the North Branch within Hartford city limits and the situation is the same along the entire length.

**We understand the MDC is seeking an extension of time from 2029 to complete closures of all CSOs to 2058, effectively allowing them to put the project on a decades-long hold.** This would be unacceptable and a dereliction of the government's obligation to care for its residents' health and safety as well as the fragile ecosystem along the North Branch that is home to deer, bear, coyote, bobcat, wild turkey and dozens of other wildlife species. We express our full support for all of the points made in Bureau Chief Winfield's letter dated July 28, 2017 addressed to Mr. Ellison at the MDC (see attached).

**We OPPOSE any extensions of the MDC's compliance and the North Branch of the Park River should absolutely remain a Class A waterway.** The river is typically 5 feet deep and ranges from 30-50 feet wide as it runs along our property. The reclassification to Class B and the extensions requested by the MDC seem like a deliberate attempt to circumvent Consent Order WC5434. We support the DEEP's position that both the North Branch Park River and Wethersfield Cove be protected from overflows, and that **overflows must be entirely eliminated**, as required under Consent Order. The extensions for compliance with Consent Order WC5434 should be eliminated especially since progress over the past 12 years by the MDC has been so limited. **We request that the terms of the 12-year-old Consent Order WC5434 be fully implemented within the next twelve (12) months. The people living in North Hartford, Blue Hills and the West End along the NBPR have waited long enough.** We do not deserve to have our properties polluted and eroded, nor our yards and basements flooded. We do not live in the 1800s when it was acceptable to dump waste and chemicals into the "Hog River". **As property owners, taxpayers and a family who lives on the North Branch, we respectfully request the immediate closure of the overflows from the MDC's CSOs, and the improved water quality of the North Branch Park River promised under the 2006 Consent Order, without further delay.**

Sincerely,  
David Jorgensen and Rachel Lutzker Jorgensen  
150 Scarborough St



Hartford, CT 06105  
To Those Concerned:

I have just learned that MDC is permitted to purposely and knowingly pollute the North Branch of the Hog River with raw sewage. I am outraged that such a disgusting and unhealthy practice is allowed .... we might as well live in the *favelas* of Rio de Janeiro or Mexico City! The Goodwin Estate complex is bordered by at least 1000 feet of the Hog River to the west and north. Clearly, such pollution poses an enormous threat to all the Goodwin Estate residents, a number of whom are vulnerable small children. Do you not care that our health and our very lives are threatened by such a horrible practice? I urge you in the strongest possible terms to take whatever steps are necessary to eliminate this pollution immediately, and I certainly implore the powers that be to vote **NO** on any extension of permits to allow CSOs. We cannot afford to wait another forty-plus years eliminate these horrors.

Sincerely,

W. J. Woodin, Jr.  
58 Goodwin Circle  
Hartford, CT 06105  
860.308.2614



12/11/2018



**I SUPPORT**



**the MDC's Long Term Control Plan and Integrated Plan**

Name: RICHARD HELDMANN Email: RJHELDMANU@GMAIL.COM

Address: 36 Alden Street Hartford

Comments: I support scenario 2A. Sure all of the options/plans mean increased fees to home owners, none of the plans/options are desirable, but doing nothing is much worse. Good presentation tonight. Thanks

All public comments must be received by the MDC's District Clerk no later than **6:00 PM, Thursday, December 13, 2018**.  
The Metropolitan District, 555 Main Street Hartford, CT 06103. Districtclerk@themdc.com



## Comment on draft Update to the 2018 Combined Sewer Overflow Long-Term Control Plan (CSO LTCP)

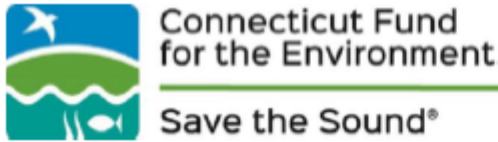
On behalf of our supporters across the state, Save Our Water CT appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Metropolitan District Commission's (MDC's) draft update to the 2018 CSO LTCP. While the project most visibly affects residents in communities served by the MDC, CSOs directly impact Connecticut residents beyond the MDC's footprint in a number of ways (e.g. degraded water quality with the resulting environmental and public health impacts, tax burden to help fund cleanup).

We understand that the MDC faces many financial challenges and we support using an Integrated Planning approach to prioritize projects that address aging infrastructure in tandem with completing CSO-related projects. However, we cannot support the LTCP as submitted for several reasons, including:

- **The MDC is proposing to extend the timeline for completion of all CSO projects to 2058.** The updated Plan is required to address a serious environmental problem within a specified timeframe (by 2029) yet it fails to do so. Moreover, MDC seems to have completely disregarded the most recent correspondence that we've seen regarding DEEP's position (letter dated 12/26/2017 responding to an MDC letter of 9/18/2017). DEEP's letter clearly states that "MDC's proposal to continue discharging raw sewage into the North Branch of the Park River while extending the final compliance deadline 30 to 40 years is unacceptable." There's no reason to believe that DEEP has changed its position, so why is the MDC even presenting this scenario?
- **Stakeholder outreach was very limited in scope.** MDC outreach has been pretty much confined to Town Councils and town staffs. The most recent presentation to Town Councils emphasized that an Integrated Plan approach (with timeline extended 30 years) would be advantageous to towns because the rate of increase in the Ad Valorem would be lower and less volatile. Obviously this is attractive to town staffs and elected officials for budgets and planning. However, some revenues that would have been raised from the Ad Valorem for sewer maintenance appear to be shifted to the Clean Water Project Charge. Apart from the completely separate question of equity related to a cost shift from a taxpayer base to a ratepayer base, is this kind of cost-shifting permissible? Following this presentation, the MDC has asked Towns to pass resolutions urging DEEP to accept the updated Plan "as submitted." It appears to us that the MDC is asking town staff and elected officials for their support in the absence of providing critical information. As a citizen activists group that values transparency, we think this is inappropriate.
- **There was not adequate time to review the full Plan.** The full content of the Plan – three volumes totaling 1,169 pages, including Appendices, was not available (online) until November 26<sup>th</sup>. How can the "public" be expected to provide thoughtful comment on such a document and under such circumstances?

To conclude, we support the MDC's use of an Integrated Planning approach. Although we appreciate the financial strain the MDC is under, we don't support an updated Plan that proposes to extend the timeline for compliance with the Consent Order by 30 years.

SAVE OUR WATER CT Steering Committee  
submitted by Paula Jones  
December 12, 2018



*Via U.S. Mail and Electronic Mail*

December 12, 2018

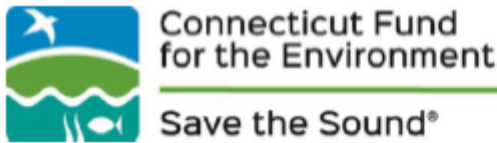
The Metropolitan District  
555 Main Street  
Hartford, CT 06103  
Attn: District Clerk

**RE: Save the Sound's Comments on MDC's Draft Update to the 2018 CSO LTCP**

To whom it may concern:

Save the Sound, a program of Connecticut Fund for the Environment, Inc. (CFE) dedicated to protecting and restoring the waters of Long Island Sound, respectfully submits the following comments in response to the Draft Update to the 2018 Combined Sewer Overflow Long-Term Control Plan (CSO LTCP) for the Metropolitan District (MDC). Save the Sound strongly opposes MDC's proposal to extend the deadline for their legal obligation to comply with Consent Order WC-5434 by nearly thirty (30) years (from 2029 to 2058), which requires, among other things, that MDC complete all combined sewer overflow (CSO) projects by 2029. This proposed extension nearly doubles the original timeline developed after protracted planning, public involvement, and legal procedures – and decades of stalled momentum towards a resolution to the issue of CSOs.

The requirement that MDC eliminate its CSOs is one of great urgency. As the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) noted in a December 26, 2017 correspondence, "a thirty or forty-year extension to the current elimination deadline should not be part of MDC's plan when considering the LTCP update." Nonetheless, MDC has proposed such extensions in the Draft Update to the 2018 CSO LTCP. Combined sewers are vestiges of antique sewage disposal infrastructure, and their overflows contribute to unacceptable levels of debris, fecal bacteria, and nitrogen in Connecticut waterways and Long Island Sound. The fecal bacteria in raw sewage poses a serious threat to public health, while the high nitrogen loads in wastewater trigger algae blooms and low oxygen dead zones where fish cannot survive. In addition, sediments in low oxygen zones can release chemicals such as hydrogen sulfide, which is toxic to eel grass, and manganese, a neurotoxin recently theorized to cause blindness in lobsters and may be linked to shell disease through endocrine disruption. There are many other pollutants, such as microfibers, which can be somewhat mitigated in sewage treatment plants, but not when discharged via CSO events.



The problem of CSOs has long been known, with the then Department of Environmental Protection's (now DEEP) involvement on the issue beginning as early as 1990 with its publication of the *Combined Sewer Overflow Strategy, May 1990*. Over the following decades, both DEEP and MDC have published numerous iterations of plans to eliminate CSOs. All the while, MDC has continued to discharge polluted sewage during storm events through its outdated infrastructure. From July 2018 through the date of this correspondence, MDC has had forty-one (41) CSO events, with at least twelve (12) events discharging more than a million gallons of polluted sewage each (and at least eight (8) discharging amounts in the tens of millions of gallons). The proposed delay will result in continued harm to human health and the environment, and, as DEEP noted in its December 26, 2017 correspondence, "is essentially tantamount to doing nothing" about this critical issue.

EPA's Integrated Municipal Stormwater and Wastewater Planning Approach Framework states, "[w]here extended time is necessary to achieve compliance, enforcement orders should provide schedules for CWA requirements that prioritize the most significant human health and environmental needs first." While the proposed extended timeline attempts to do just that, any extension on the scale of thirty (30) years for significant components of the LTCP shows a disregard for the scale of the problem and a failure to meaningfully work towards compliance with the original project schedule. Further, by ignoring its legal obligations, MDC is subjecting itself to liability under the Clean Water Act.

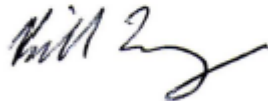
Save the Sound is also concerned with the public outreach conducted for the Draft Update to the CSO LTCP, especially in light of the significant changes proposed for the project schedule. Presentations to the Board of Commissioners and Town Councils do not satisfy the requirement of robust stakeholder engagement. The EPA encourages "a process which opens and maintains channels of communication with relevant community stakeholders in order to give full consideration to of the views of others in the planning process" and that entities utilizing the approach "should provide appropriate opportunities that allow for meaningful input during the identification, evaluation, and selection of alternatives and other appropriate aspects of plan development." However, stakeholders did not have access to the content of the plan until November 26, less than three weeks prior to the deadline for public comment (December 13). This is not sufficient time for the public to meaningfully participate and provide comment. Outreach has also been primarily focused on project costs, not allowing for robust discussion on the broad scope of concerns of the public. Additionally, the cost benefits of the proposed options are not provided in an easily comparable format and do not address the economic costs of chronic water pollution affecting other industries, such as the lobster fishery.

Save the Sound strongly encourages MDC to not abrogate its legal obligations to comply with prior deadlines and public outreach requirements. Any further delay in eliminating CSOs will only extend the already unacceptable harm to the environment and public health.

Respectfully submitted,



Katherine M. Fiedler, Esq.  
Legal Fellow  
CFE/Save the Sound  
900 Chapel Street, Suite 2202  
New Haven, CT 06510  
(203) 787-0646 ext. 108  
[kfiedler@ctenvironment.org](mailto:kfiedler@ctenvironment.org)



Soundkeeper Bill Lucey  
CFE/Save the Sound  
900 Chapel Street, Suite 2202  
New Haven, CT 06510  
(203) 787-0646 ext. 129  
[blucey@savethesound.org](mailto:blucey@savethesound.org)

We just wanted to state in writing that we very much oppose the plan to delay Connecticut River cleanup from Sewage. If there were more awareness of this issue I cannot imagine anyone not opposing a delay. We are one of many businesses that depend on clean water.

Sincerely,  
Christina & Paul Belogour, owners  
Norm's Marina on the Connecticut in Hinsdale NH

My home's easterly property boundary runs along the middle thread of the North Branch of the Park River (NBPR) for approx. 225 feet. The Metropolitan District Commission's (MDC) Combined Storm and Sewer Overflows (CSOs) directly impact my property. My property is adversely impacted by the CSOs affecting the safety, human health and wellness of my family, as well as my enjoyment of my property. My portion of the river is regularly polluted by the MDC's CSOs. The river smells of sewer and toilet waste after some overflows. It becomes unsanitary, odorous and terrible. I understand the MDC is seeking an extension of time **from 2029** to complete closures of all CSOs **to 2058**. That's unacceptable. We'll all be dead and never see the benefits of the 2006 Order if it's extended. I express my full support for all of the points made in Bureau Chief Winfield's letter dated July 28, 2017 addressed to Mr. Ellison at the MDC; attached. I **OPPOSE** any extensions of the MDC's compliance. The North Branch of the Park River should remain a Class A waterbody. The reclassification and extensions requested by the MDC should not be granted. I support the DEEP's position that the North Branch Park River and Wethersfield Cove both be protected from overflows, and that **overflows must be entirely eliminated** as required under Consent Order WC5434. The extensions for compliance with Consent Order WC5434 should be eliminated or at least shortened since progress by MDC has been too limited. I request that the terms of the 12-year-

old Consent Order WC5434 be fully implemented hopefully within the next twelve (12) months. The people living along the NBPR have waited long enough.

As a resident along the river, I request the closures of the overflows from the CSOs, and improved water quality of the North Branch Park River, all promised under the 2006 Order, with no more delays.

Sincerely,  
Kenneth B. Lerman

The hearing was adjourned at 7:46 P.M.

ATTEST:

John S. Mirtle, Esq.  
District Clerk