# Public Hearing The Metropolitan District Updated Long-Term Control Plan

555 Main Street Hartford, Connecticut 06103 Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Present: District Chairman William A. DiBella

Commissioner Daniel A. Camilliere

Commissioner Andrew Adil Commissioner Allen Hoffman

Scott W. Jellison, Chief Executive Officer R. Bartley Halloran, District Counsel Susan Negrelli, Director of Engineering

Tom Tyler, Manager of Water Pollution Control

John M. Zinzarella, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Business Services

Christopher R. Stone, Assistant District Counsel

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 OVERLFLOW LONG-TERM CONTROL PLAN

Moderator Tom Tyler, called the public hearing to order at 6:01 P.M.

Susan Negrelli, Director of Engineering, delivered opening remarks and introduced Moderator Tom Tyler, Manager of Water Pollution Control, and Joseph Laliberte of CDM Smith.

At the direction of the Moderator, Mr. Mirtle incorporated into the record the hearing notice published in the Hartford Courant on February 9, 2015 and February 22, 2015 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 2012 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. This plan has been under revision through December 2014.

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**, **February 24**, **2015**, **at 6:00 P.M.**, **at Silas Deane Middle School in the Auditorium**, located at 551 Silas Deane Highway, in Wethersfield, CT (bus routes available, please visit <a href="https://www.cttransit.com">www.cttransit.com</a>)

In the event of inclement weather, a snow date has been scheduled for Thursday, March 12, 2015 and would be held at the same time and in the same location. The cancellation notice will be posted on the MDC website (www.themdc.com) 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 federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) related to sanitary sewer overflows. The CSO LTCP Update of 2012 reflects changes in the overall program from the base plan of 2005 (approved by the CT DEEP in 2007) and reflects a continuing planning process for this 15 to 20 year project to address water pollution issues caused by combined sewers.

This public hearing will include a presentation showing the progress of the work completed to date, the changes since the original 2005 CSO LTCP, 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. In addition, the purpose is to inform property owners potentially subject to subterranean easements.

A copy of the CSO LTCP Update will be available for review by the general public at The Metropolitan District 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, <a href="https://www.themdc.com">www.themdc.com</a>.

Written comments that are received or postmarked by the close of the public hearing may be submitted to the District Clerk via email at <a href="mailto:JMirtle@themdc.com">JMirtle@themdc.com</a> 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 Tom Tyler 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:

Walt Ciplinski, 35 Whiteside Street, Newington, CT Raoul Hebert, 186 Chandler Street, Hartford, CT Leigh Standish, 278 Hartford Avenue, Wethersfield, CT Jeff Bridges, 505 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield, CT Alice Charamut, 27 Washington Street, Middletown, CT

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:

Mr. and Mrs. Pelletier 80 Elizabeth Street Hartford, Connecticut

24 February 2015

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

# RE: Mr. and Mrs. Pelletier comments: N-10 Girard Ave N/O Elizabeth St

Public Hearing on the December 2014 draft Update of the 2012 Combined Sewer Overflow Long-Term Control Plan (CSO LTCP) in accordance with the requirements of the Ct Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, (CT DEEP) Clean Water Fund regulations, the Connecticut General Statutes Section 7-247a and applicable MDC governing documents.

#### To the MDC District Clerk,

Our home is located on the corner of Elizabeth and Girard. The MDC monitoring box, "N-10 Girard Ave N/O Elizabeth St." is located on the northwest corner of our property. Work surrounding the elimination of the N-10 CSO regulator will most likely take place on our property and in the street very near our driveway. Our driveway drains to the northwest corner of our property, across the sidewalk and compacted lawn into the street drain. The lawn between the sidewalk and the street is compacted clay soil.

#### What a nice opportunity for us to work together on a residential scale green infrastructure project!

As homeowners, we are willing to work in collaboration with the MDC, to develop a pilot project that can capture the stormwater runoff from our driveway before it flows into the street drains. We are willing and able to maintain a green infrastructure feature on our property. Let us proactively work together to develop an attractive residential green design and constructed project along with a maintenance strategy.

My husband, Marc, and I have lived here since November of 2000. I have attended MDC Citizens Advisory Committee meetings for the Long Term Control Plan (LTCP) since September 2004. I have attended the CAC on behalf of the Park River Watershed Revitalization Initiative, which began as project of Farmington River Watershed Association. In collaboration with FRWA, I worked on the North Branch Park River Watershed Management Plan. Park River Watershed Revitalization Initiative has now evolved into a 501c3 urban-suburban watershed stewardship organization for the Park River regional watershed, which largely overlaps the seven of the eight MDC voting member municipalities.

As you know, I have consistently recommended that the MDC invest in green infrastructure strategies to complement underground storage and treatment of sewage. MDC Clean Water Project work on N-10 at Girard Avenue north of Elizabeth Street is a perfect opportunity for us to collaborate on the technical details of green infrastructure that can capture stormwater runoff before it flows into MDC CSO sewers.

A designer by training, I look forward to working on green technical details with the MDC LTCP engineering team. Please contact us with your thoughts about this opportunity to work together to develop residential scale strategies that can reduce stormwater runoff that flows into the MDC sewer system.

Mary and Marc Pelletier

C: CT DEEP and City of Hartford Mayor Segarra



# CONNECTICUT RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL

The River Connects Us

Lower Valley: deKoven House, 27 Washington St., Middletown, CT 06457

February 24, 2015

J. Mirle The Metropolitan District 555 Main Street Hartford, CT 06103

Re: MDC Long Term Control Plan Update

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Update to the Long Term Control Plan. The Connecticut River Watershed Council is pleased that the project will continue to meet required standards.

The Connecticut River Watershed Council has long been a partner in advocating for the Clean Water Project. I would like to commend the MDC for forming the Citizen's Advisory Committee and hope that the current leadership will continue to utilize the committee as advisors and community liaisons.

First and foremost, I would like to ask that the public comment period be extended. The public outreach around the Update to the Control Plan has been disappointing. The Public Notice and the Long Term Control Plan was released only a few weeks ago. It was promised that the Fact Sheet, which made the material more accessible to the average citizen, would be made available along with the plan but was uploaded to the Information Page only very recently. Our organization received the Public Notice in the mail just this morning. Prior to the posting of this update, the most recent information about the project readily available to the public was a 2010 Executive Summary. The MDC had 4 years to release an update to the public. The public deserves more than a few weeks to look over a very technical 214 page document

Second, green infrastructure is an important way to augment traditional CSO work. The member cities and MDC should continue to put creative thought and effort into increasing its deployment and consider utilizing the members of the CAC to help guide and develop consensus around responsible and effective plans. It is also up to members of the community to join together and let your municipal leaders know that you want them to support green infrastructure.

HEADQUARTERS: 15 BANK ROW, GREENHELD, MA 01301 WWW.CTRIVER.ORG

February 24, 2015 **■** 6



February 24, 2015

FINALIZED VERSION

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

RE: MDC's Long Term Control Plan Proposed Changes

Clean Water Action is a 40-year-old national organization that spearheaded the original Clean Water Act and has been a committed force to keep it strong. In Connecticut, we mobilize our base of 11,000 to support clean energy, toxics reduction, and environmentally sound water management. While our Connecticut program has primarily focused on energy and toxics, going forward we will be taking a much greater interest in water issues. We look forward to developing a constructive working relationship with MDC.

I write with comments regarding the proposed changes to the Long Term Control Plan. Because these changes are substantial, we are concerned that they are labeled "updates" without discussion of their impacts on the underlying consent decrees that should govern this plan. We are also concerned that public comment has been so constricted, with comments closed today rather than allowing the public to assimilate the changes that have been proposed. We respectfully request that MDC reopen public comments and publicize a wide-reaching process of public dialogue on this major public investment.

With regard to the basic approach outlined in the plan to protect the Connecticut River and Long Island Sound by keeping contamination out of tributaries, we are concerned about over-reliance on large containment tunnels and inadequate consideration of green infrastructure alternatives. Green infrastructure is a fast-paced world of innovation that saves municipalities money and improves environmental systems. Consider Seattle's green streets program which has been shown to save \$\frac{\$100,000 \text{ per year per block}}{100,000 \text{ per block}}\$ in storm water management costs. While it is important to plan green infrastructure projects carefully where private property is concerned, in order to ensure proper long term maintenance, MDC owned and controlled properties would provide excellent demonstration sites to build up public support. Why would you not use this opportunity to plan for maximum green infrastructure and to include the economic benefits of it as a point of comparison against the more conventional alternatives?

We also encourage you to coordinate long term control planning with relevant, nearby management plans by partnering with expert groups such as Park Watershed. We would love to work with you to increase stakeholder participation in this plan and its implementation.

Sincerely,

Melissa Everett, Ph.D. Connecticut Energy and Sustainability Program Manager February 23, 2015

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

RE: MDC's Long Term Control Plan Proposed Changes

I have a number of questions regarding the proposed changes to the Long Term Control Plan.

- The original plan included separation of sewage and storm water in areas of the City of Hartford where it had been identified as particularly voluminous. As those plans to separate sewage from storm water went forward, it became obvious that the estimates of costs were inadequate.
- 1A. How has MDC ensured that it has not made the same poor projections of cost in this version of the plan?
- 1B. Exactly how much money did MDC spend on separating sewage and storm water in homes and businesses that continue to enter a CSO to reach the plant for processing?
- 1C. This proposed plan offers limited discussion of the North Tunnel. Will MDC be seeking a third bonding issue?
- 1Ci. If so, does MDC have any estimates on the amount of money they may be asking the taxpayers to fund?
- The proposed plan forecasts closing two of the outflows into the North Branch of the Park River in 2017 and the remaining two outflows after the completion of the North Tunnel.
- 2A. At the time of the consent order, what was the volume of sewage flowing into the North Branch of the Park River on an annual basis? If you are not able to measure sewage versus storm water, then please give the number for combined outflow for this and the following questions.
- 2B. In 2014, what was the volume of sewage that flowed into the North Branch of the Park River?
- 2C. What is the projected volume of sewage on an annual basis until the two outflows are closed in 2017?
- 2D. What is the projected volume of sewage on an annual basis after the closure of the two outflows until the remaining two outflows are closed?
- 2E. What is the MDC's plan to stop sewage outflows to the North Branch of the Park River should there be a delay in funding or for other reasons?
- 2F. Did MDC consider any other alternatives to remove sewage from the North Branch of the Park River on a faster timeline?

2Fi. If so, what were those plans?

2Fii. Why were the plans rejected?

2Fiii. What was the public involvement in considering those plans?

2G. MDC proposed plan shows a microtunnel alongside the North Branch of the Park River, does the MDC plan to help restore the river shed in the area of the project?

#### North and South Tunnels.

- 3A. Because both tunnels will require drop shafts with scrubbers and lifting stations, what plans has MDC made for the placement of these above ground installations to minimize the impact on the City?
- 3B. How is MDC planning to involve the public in the site selection for these sites in the City?
- 3C. How is MDC planning to involve the public in the selection of the architecture for these sites in the City?
- 3D. What steps has MDC taken to encourage contractors to hire residents of the member towns of the MDC?
- 3E. What steps or plans has MDC taken to include green infrastructure in these MDC-controlled sites?

#### Public involvement:

- 4A. If "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," then why are comments closed after the public presentation rather than allowing the public to consider the plan and bring forward concerns and issues afterwards?
- 4B. What are the plans for civic involvement in the affected communities going forward?
- 4C. What is the schedule for MDC reporting to the public on the proposed plan's implementation?
- 4D. What are MDC's plans to engage in a public information campaign to reduce both water usage (which reduces sewage) and to remove storm water from the system in the outlaying member towns?
- 4E. Why does MDC not have an educational outreach program on the Long Term Control Plan for STEM programs in the member towns?
- 4F. Why has such a major shift in the proposed Long Term Control Plan been labelled an "update" rather than as modifications of the underlying consent decrees?

I am looking forward to your written responses to these questions.

Thank you,

Leslie Smith 150 North Beacon Street Hartford, Connecticut



P.O. Box 271646 West Hartford, Connecticut 06127

24 February 2015

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

RE: Park Watershed comments: Public Hearing on the December 2014 draft Update of the 2012 Combined Sewer Overflow Long-Term Control Plan (CSO LTCP) in accordance with the requirements of the Ct Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, (CT DEEP) Clean Water Fund regulations, the Connecticut General Statutes Section 7-247a and applicable MDC governing documents.

#### To the MDC District Clerk

I am been a member of the MDC Citizens Advisory Committee. I began in 2004, as a representative of Park River Watershed Revitalization Initiative, a project of the Farmington River Watershed Association. With FRWA, I worked on the North Branch Park River Watershed Management Plan, which was completed in July of 2010, and is on the Ct DEEP website, <a href="http://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2719&cq=379296&depNav\_GID=1654">http://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2719&cq=379296&depNav\_GID=1654</a>

Park River Watershed Revitalization Initiative has evolved into a Park Watershed, 501c3 urban-suburban watershed stewardship organization for the Park River regional watershed, which largely overlaps the seven of the eight MDC voting member municipalities. A primary organizational purpose of Park Watershed is to assist with the implementation of the North Branch Park River Watershed Management Plan.

Park Watershed is very much appreciates that the December 4, 2014 revision to the MDC LTCP addresses the need to permanently close combined sewage outfalls into the North Branch Park River. Park Watershed is willing and able to assist the MDC with improvements to the North Branch Park River.

We hope that the MDC can work in collaboration with City of Hartford and property owners along the North Branch on integrated urban design strategies that improve the landscape and urban design of areas disturbed by the construction work so as to benefit the health of nature in the city. State of Connecticut Department of Administrative Services, UCONN Facilities, and institutional property owners such as St. Francis Hospital and Ct Historical Society could all benefit from the development of green infrastructure strategies that will also reduce stormwater flow into the MDC sewer system. There is a unique opportunity for an integrated design that restores the riparian corridor between Asylum and Farmington Avenues.

The CAC Green Infrastructure sub-committee that met monthly for several years consistently recommended that the MDC invest in green infrastructure strategies to complement conventional sewage treatment. Opportunities for green infrastructure were included in the 2010 North Branch Park River Watershed Management Plan. Green infrastructure is a needed to help recharge groundwater to urban-suburban watercourses. In addition to the CSO discharges, the health of the North Branch is that during dry weather the water stagnates due to minimal flow rates.

To date, the MDC has invested tens of millions of dollars into the design and design revision of Long Term Control Plan, which is described very clearly in the 2012 Update, Revised December 4th 2014. Of the 214 pages of engineering, about ten pages are dedicated to a description of the MDC/CDM green infrastructure strategy. Missing is a serious engineering analysis of what could be accomplished if the MDC invested in a quantifiable green infrastructure program. For example, although the MDC did distribute over 1,300 rain barrels, there is no map of where the rain barrels were installed, nor any programs to ensure that homeowners maintain the rain barrels seasonally.

#### Park Watershed

a 501c3 urban-suburban citizen stewardship organization for the Park River regional watershed



The MDC has rightly moved forward with investments in the design – and redesign of the LTCP to include advances in large scale storage and tunneling techniques. It is disappointing that the MDC not managed to systematically invest a small fraction of the LTCP budget into the development of measureable green infrastructure strategies that can benefit the urban-suburban neighborhoods of the MDC voting member towns. Especially given that the CAC has recommended the MDC do so.

Moving forward, the MDC will hopefully become involved as design engineers in the development and implementation of green infrastructure strategies. Although the City of Hartford has not been willing to agree to maintenance of permeable pavements, in part due to the cost of new equipment – there are many other property owners and environmental stakeholders willing and able to work with the MDC to ensure successful installation and maintenance of green infrastructure features.

The MDC is not a private corporation. The MDC LTCP is funded by rate payers who are residents of the voting member towns, and by state tax-payers. It seems reasonable for the MDC to prioritize open collaboration its voting member towns, municipal staff and citizens, in order to achieve diverse long term goals that will improve water quality within the District. Park Watershed asks/recommends the following:

- MDC collaborate with Park Watershed and representatives of other area environmental organizations
  in the development of a measurable green infrastructure project area within the Park River regional
  watershed, with emphasis on the North Branch and/or Gully Brook watersheds.
- MDC include Park Watershed and representatives of other area environmental organizations in conversations with staff from the City of Hartford and other area municipalities about feasible opportunities to integrate green infrastructure features into area urban design projects. Open and transparent conversations that include a roundtable of stakeholders will facilitate consensus about available sites and maintenance strategies.
- MDC collaborate with Park Watershed and representatives of other area environmental organizations
  to educate home owners about their environmental impacts, and to identify sites where property
  owners will agree to design, installation and maintenance of green infrastructure features.
- MDC provide clarification in writing as to whether it is a conflict of interest for members of the MDC Citizens Advisory Committee to contact Ct Department of Energy and Environmental Protection for information about the Long Term Control Plan.

MDC has made significant improvements to water quality within the Park River regional watershed, and the greater Connecticut River. Park Watershed appreciates the MDC, the CDM-Smith design team, and Ct DEEP for their good work, on the complex and on-going LTCP. We hope to improve our communications and so our ability to collaborate together to achieve our shared goal of improving water quality in throughout the District, which is located in the Park River regional watershed.

Mary Rickel Pelletier

Director of Park Watershed

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a 501c3 urban-suburban citizen stewardship organization for the Park River regional watershed

February 24, 2015 MDC Long Term Control Plan Update Public Hearing



# Questions or Comments

February 24, 2015 MDC Long Term Control Plan Update Public Hearing



Questions or Comments
Name: Parl Scagnelli % Walsh Construction
Address: 201 Route 19 North, Suite 607, Rutherford, NJ 07070
Comments/Questions:
Peage provide the current anticipated
timing of the pregualification process
if and for the South Tunnel project
and the scope of work

To MDC

Re: MDC LTCP

My home property's eastern boundary is the middle thread of the North Branch of the Park River running 225 feet. The current outfalls into the river adversely affect my property and my neighbors' properties also along the river. Our understanding is that the outfalls are to be closed by 2027 (and hopefully significantly sooner). We understand that the closures would not completely contain storms of the magnitude of the 1938 and 1955 hurricanes but would contain all lesser quantity storms; that's understandable. We applaud the decision to close the outfalls in compliance with the Consent Order (WC 5365) and the Clean Water Act.

I attach the 2009/2010 previously submitted signed petition which reflects the Scarborough Street neighbors and other proximate neighbors in Hartford's West End supporting the protection of the river and the affected land. This is submitted again to confirm the uniform support for the closures.

As a directly affected resident, and on behalf of many of my neighbors, I thank the MDC and the CT DEEP for planning the closures of the outfalls. We also hope the closures can be significantly accelerated.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Lerman 100 Scarborough Street Hartford, CT 860-724-7000

cc: Scarborough neighbors

We uniformly state our support for the preservation and permanent protection of that section of the 23. 620 acres of wooded land behind Scarborough Street on the eastern side of the north branch of the Park River, also known as 1577 Albany Avenue, Hartford, CT, and owned by the City of Hartford through its Greater Hartford Flood Commission and that section of the Park River bordering such land. This land and river section has historically been a protected part of the Goodwin's larger estate: Goodwin's Wild. It is a rare "urban wild" of forested land and river. It historically and currently serves as a wildlife refuge for deer, turkeys, hawk, coyotes, fox, fish, smaller animals and birds, plants, flora, bushes and trees in an urban environment. While we are in favor of a network of recreational paths throughout the city, it is important to restrict the development of paved pathways that would negatively impact this unusually pristine section of a river; alternative path locations are supported. This nature within our city must be preserved as a plant and wildlife refuge. This landscape provides valuable ecological services, as well as a habitat reservoir.

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We respectfully request that (a) the North Branch Watershed Management Plan recommend the permanent protection of this open space in the block between Albany and Asylum. In addition, we recommend to the City of Hartford and its Flood Commission, and (b) that the city approve and grant a conservation easement protecting this land and river section from development, and recreational uses, and (c) that the City of Hartford recognize this area as protected open space within the 2010 Plan of Conservation and Development. These recommendations are to assure that this land will be retained forever in its natural, scenic, river and woodland condition; to protect any wildlife, animals, plants, plant communities, or any rare plants or rare animals; maintain this land as a nature preserve of woodland and river habitat; and to prevent any use of this land that will significantly impair or interfere with these conservation values or interests.

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We uniformly state our support for the preservation and permanent protection of that section of the 23. 620 acres of wooded land behind Scarborough Street on the eastern side of the north branch of the Park River, also known as 1577 Albany Avenue, Hartford, CT, and owned by the City of Hartford through its Greater Hartford Flood Commission and that section of the Park River bordering such land. This land and river section has historically been a protected part of the Goodwin's larger estate: Goodwin's Wild. It is a rare "urban wild" of forested land and river. It historically and currently serves as a wildlife refuge for deer, turkeys, hawk, coyotes, fox, fish, smaller animals and birds, plants, flora, bushes and trees in an urban environment. While we are in favor of a network of recreational paths throughout the city, it is important to restrict the development of paved pathways that would negatively impact this unusually pristine section of a river; alternative path locations are supported. This nature within our city must be preserved as a plant and wildlife refuge. This landscape provides valuable ecological services, as well as a habitat reservoir.

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We respectfully request that (a) the North Branch Watershed Management Plan recommend the permanent protection of this open space in the block between Albany and Asylum. In addition, we recommend to the City of Hartford and its Flood Commission, and (b) that the city approve and grant a conservation easement protecting this land and river section from development, and recreational uses, and (c) that the City of Hartford recognize this area as protected open space within the 2010 Plan of Conservation and Development. These recommendations are to assure that this land will be retained forever in its natural, scenic, river and woodland condition; to protect any wildlife, animals, plants, plant communities, or any rare plants or rare animals; maintain this land as a nature preserve of woodland and river habitat; and to prevent any use of this land that will significantly impair or interfere with these conservation values or interests.

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The hearing was adjourned at 7:01 P.M.

ATTEST:

John S. Mirtle, Esq. District Clerk