

**THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING**

555 Main Street  
Hartford, Connecticut 06103  
Monday, February 5, 2024

**PRESENT:** Commissioners Andrew Adil, Kyle Anderson, John Avedisian, John Bazzano, Clifford Avery Buell, Richard Bush, Esther Clarke, Dimple Desai, William A. DiBella, David Drake, Peter Gardow, James Healy, Allen Hoffman, Jean Holloway, Gary Johnson, Byron Lester, Maureen Magnan, Jacqueline Mandyck, Bhupen Patel, Pasquale J Salemi, David Steuber, Alvin Taylor, James Woulfe and District Chairman Donald Currey (24)

**REMOTE ATTENDANCE:** Commissioners Joan Gentile, Diane Lewis, Dominic Pane and David Steuber (4)

**ABSENT:** Commissioners John Gale, Christian Hoheb, Mary LaChance, Michael Maniscalco, Calixto Torres and New Britain Special Representative Michael Carrier (6)

**ALSO PRESENT:** Scott W. Jellison, Chief Executive Officer  
Christopher Stone, District Counsel  
John S. Mirtle, District Clerk  
Christopher Levesque, Chief Operating Officer  
Kelly Shane, Chief Administrative Officer  
Sue Negrelli, Director of Engineering  
David Ruttly, Director of Operations  
Robert Schwarm, Director of Information Technology  
Tom Tyler, Director of Facilities  
Josh Tryon, Business Systems and Security Administrator  
Lindsay Williams, Accounting Administrator (Remote Attendance)  
Carrie Blardo, Assistant to the Chief Operating Officer  
Julie Price, Executive Assistant  
Jacob Aviles, IT Consultant (Remote Attendance)  
Dylan Pecego, IT Consultant (Remote Attendance)  
Linda Russo, Citizen Member

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by District Chairman Currey at 5:30 PM

**ROLL CALL AND QUORUM**

The District Clerk called the roll and informed District Chairman Currey that a quorum of the Commission was present, and the meeting was declared a legal meeting of the District Board of The Metropolitan District of Hartford County, Connecticut.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Those in attendance stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMISSIONER AND ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE**

The District Clerk swore in Commissioner Esther Clarke of East Hartford.

***Commissioner Healy entered the meeting at 5:33 PM***

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

***On motion made by Commissioner DiBella and duly seconded, the meeting minutes of January 10, 2024 were approved.***

***Commissioners Steuber and Lewis entered the meeting remotely at 5:34 PM***

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS RELATIVE TO AGENDA ITEMS**

Alma Elder, of the organization Third Act, complimented the Board on the progress being made on the Integrated Plan including increased funding, private property management improvements, no increase in Clean Water Project charges, and a commitment to working closely with the City of Hartford.

***Commissioner Pane entered the meeting remotely at 5:38 PM***

### **REPORT FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Chief Executive Officer Scott Jellison informed the Board regarding efforts to work with our Congressional delegation to get deauthorization of the Colebrook US Army Corps of Engineers project in the upcoming Federal WRDA bill. He also stated that we have requested federal funding for elimination of CSOs to Wethersfield Cove. He discussed items that will be brought to the next Water Bureau meeting including potential sale of land to the Town of Glastonbury, a discussion of the EPA's lead & copper rule, and changes to customer water bills. He informed the Board that he submitted his monthly Integrated Project report and forwarded that to the Commissioners as well. Lastly, he let the Board know that the new community outreach office at 179 Barbour Street, Hartford, was announced and that there will be a ceremonial ribbon cutting scheduled for the near future.

**REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNSEL**

District Counsel Christopher Stone updated the Board on the Hartford Landfill claims, stating that the first claim is in court, the second claim has an upcoming hearing before the State's Claims Commissioner, and the third claim is pending before the Claims Commissioner.

***Without objection, agenda item #9A "Approval for State of CT Financing DWSRF 2023-7118," agenda item #9B "Approval for State of CT Financing DWSRF 2023-5001" and agenda item #9C "Approval for State of CT Financing DWSRF 2023-7123" were consolidated and considered together.***

**BOARD OF FINANCE  
APPROVAL FOR STATE OF CONNECTICUT FINANCING DWSRF 2023-7118**

To: District Board

February 5, 2024

From: Board of Finance

Staff seeks approval from your Board to execute and deliver the Interim Funding Obligation and/or Project Loan Obligation to the State of Connecticut for DWSRF 2023-7118 having a principal amount of \$4,783,692.03 and having an interest rate of 2.00%.

The low interest loan and accompanying grant will fund the replacement of water mains and associated appurtenances in the vicinity of Hartford Hospital in Hartford.

The State of Connecticut, through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program, will provide \$6,283,692.03 in state funding with \$1,500,000 in grants and \$4,783,692.03 in low interest loans at 2.00% to fund the expenses associated with this agreement.

Bond Counsel prepared the following resolution for your approval.

At a meeting of the Board of Finance held on January 24, 2024, it was:

VOTED: That the Board of Finance recommends to the District Board passage of the following resolution from Bond Counsel

RESOLVED:

Section 1. The Chairman, or in his absence, the Vice-Chairman, and the District Treasurer, or in his absence, the Deputy Treasurer, are authorized to execute and deliver the Project Loan and Subsidy Agreement DWSRF 2023-7118 to be entered into with the State of Connecticut (the "Agreement") and any and all Interim Funding

Obligations and Project Loan Obligations for DWSRF 2023-7118 in the aggregate amount not to exceed \$4,783,692.03, to fund the replacement of water mains and associated appurtenances in the vicinity of Hartford Hospital in Hartford, Connecticut. All previous actions taken by the District, including the actions of the Chairman, or in his absence, the Vice-Chairman, and the District Treasurer, or in his absence, the Deputy Treasurer, in furtherance of this resolution or otherwise related to the Agreement and any and all related documents, shall hereby be ratified and confirmed in all respects. Such Interim Funding Obligations shall be dated as of their date of issue, shall mature within six months of the Scheduled Completion Date, as defined in the Agreement, shall bear interest at a rate of two percent (2.00%) per annum, shall be payable as to principal and interest as provided in the Agreement and, to the extent not paid prior to maturity from The Metropolitan District funds, may be renewed by the issuance of Interim Funding Obligations or Project Loan Obligations, all as provided in the Agreement. Capitalized terms used herein and not defined shall have the meanings ascribed to them in the Agreement.

Section 2. The Project Loan Obligations shall be dated as of their date of issue, shall mature no later than twenty years from the Scheduled Completion Date, shall bear interest at a rate of two percent (2.00%) per annum and shall be payable as to principal and interest as provided in the Agreement.

Respectfully Submitted,



John S. Mirtle, Esq.  
District Clerk

**BOARD OF FINANCE**  
**APPROVAL FOR STATE OF CONNECTICUT FINANCING DWSRF 2023-5001**

To: District Board

February 5, 2024

From: Board of Finance

Staff seeks approval from your Board to execute and deliver the Interim Funding Obligation and/or Project Loan Obligation to the State of Connecticut for DWSRF 2023-5001 having a principal amount of \$340,133.80 and having an interest rate of 2.00%.

The low interest loan and accompanying grant will fund the inventory and material identification of service lines within the MDC water service area.

The State of Connecticut, through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program, will provide \$1,360,535.22 in state funding with \$1,020,401.42 in grants and \$340,133.80 in low interest loans at 2.00% to fund the expenses associated with this agreement.

Bond Counsel prepared the following resolution for your approval.

At a meeting of the Board of Finance held on January 24, 2024, it was:

VOTED: That the Board of Finance recommends to the District Board passage of the following resolution from Bond Counsel

RESOLVED:

Section 1. The Chairman, or in his absence, the Vice-Chairman, and the District Treasurer, or in his absence, the Deputy Treasurer, are authorized to execute and deliver the Project Loan and Subsidy Agreement DWSRF 2023-5001 to be entered into with the State of Connecticut (the "Agreement") and any and all Interim Funding Obligations and Project Loan Obligations for DWSRF 2023-5001 in the aggregate amount not to exceed \$340,133.80, to fund the Water Service Line Inventory, which shall consist of the inventory and material identification of service lines within The Metropolitan District water service area. All previous actions taken by the District, including the actions of the Chairman, or in his absence, the Vice-Chairman, and the District Treasurer, or in his absence, the Deputy Treasurer, in furtherance of this resolution or otherwise related to the Agreement and any and all related documents, shall hereby be ratified and confirmed in all respects. Such Interim Funding Obligations shall be dated as of their date of issue, shall mature within six months of the Scheduled Completion Date, as defined in the Agreement, shall bear interest at a rate of two percent (2.00%) per annum, shall be payable as to principal and interest as provided in the Agreement and, to the extent not paid prior to maturity from The Metropolitan District funds, may be renewed by the issuance of Interim Funding Obligations or Project Loan Obligations, all as provided in the Agreement. Capitalized terms used herein and not defined shall have the meanings ascribed to them in the Agreement.

Section 2. The Project Loan Obligations shall be dated as of their date of issue, shall mature no later than twenty years from the Scheduled Completion Date, shall bear interest at a rate of two percent (2.00%) per annum and shall be payable as to principal and interest as provided in the Agreement.

Respectfully Submitted,



John S. Mirtle, Esq.  
District Clerk

**BOARD OF FINANCE  
APPROVAL FOR STATE OF CONNECTICUT FINANCING DWSRF 2023-7123**

To: District Board

February 5, 2024

From: Board of Finance

Staff seeks approval from your Board to execute and deliver the Interim Funding Obligation and/or Project Loan Obligation to the State of Connecticut for DWSRF 2023-7123 having a principal amount of \$3,160,371.65 and having an interest rate of 2.00%.

The low interest loan and accompanying grant will fund improvements to the Orchard St. Pump Station in Glastonbury, CT.

The State of Connecticut, through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program, will provide \$3,493,042.35 in state funding with \$332,670.70 in grants and \$3,160,371.65 in low interest loans at 2.00% to fund the expenses associated with this agreement.

Bond Counsel prepared the following resolution for your approval.

At a meeting of the Board of Finance held on January 24, 2024, it was:

VOTED: That the Board of Finance recommends to the District Board passage of the following resolution from Bond Counsel

RESOLVED:

Section 1. The Chairman, or in his absence, the Vice-Chairman, and the District Treasurer, or in his absence, the Deputy Treasurer, are authorized to execute and deliver the Project Loan and Subsidy Agreement DWSRF 2023-7123 to be entered into with the State of Connecticut (the "Agreement") and any and all Interim Funding Obligations and Project Loan Obligations for DWSRF 2023-7123 in the aggregate amount not to exceed \$3,160,371.65, to fund improvements to the Orchard Street Pump Station in Glastonbury, Connecticut. All previous actions taken by the District, including the actions of the Chairman, or in his absence, the Vice-Chairman, and the District Treasurer, or in his absence, the Deputy Treasurer, in furtherance of this resolution or otherwise related to the Agreement and any and all related documents, shall hereby be ratified and confirmed in all respects. Such Interim Funding Obligations shall be dated as of their date of issue, shall mature within six months of the Scheduled Completion Date, as defined in the Agreement, shall bear interest at a rate of two percent (2.00%) per annum, shall be payable as to principal and interest as provided in the Agreement and, to the extent not paid prior to maturity from The Metropolitan District funds, may be renewed by the issuance of Interim Funding Obligations or Project Loan Obligations, all as provided in the Agreement. Capitalized terms used herein and not defined shall have the meanings ascribed to them in the Agreement.

Section 2. The Project Loan Obligations shall be dated as of their date of issue, shall mature no later than twenty years from the Scheduled Completion Date, shall bear interest at a rate of two percent (2.00%) per annum and shall be payable as to principal and interest as provided in the Agreement.

Respectfully Submitted,



John S. Mirtle, Esq.  
District Clerk

***On motion made by Commissioner Salemi and duly seconded, the reports for agenda item #9A “Approval for State of CT Financing DWSRF 2023-7118,” agenda item #9B “Approval for State of CT Financing DWSRF 2023-5001” and agenda item #9C “Approval for State of CT Financing DWSRF 2023-7123” were received and resolutions adopted by unanimous vote of those present. District Chairman Currey abstained.***

**COMMITTEE ON ORGANIZATION  
APPOINTMENTS OF COMMISSIONER TO COMMITTEES**

To: District Board

February 5, 2024

From: Committee on Organization

At a meeting of the Committee on Organization held on February 5, 2024, it was:

**Voted:** That the Committee on Organization recommends to the District Board the following Bureau, Committee, and Board appointments for the years 2024 and 2025 and until their successors are appointed and qualified:

**Water Bureau**

Esther Clarke

**Strategic Planning Committee**

Esther Clarke

**Committee on MDC Government**

Esther Clarke

**Personnel, Pension and Insurance Committee**

Bhupen Patel

Respectfully submitted,



John S. Mirtle, Esq.  
District Clerk

***On motion made by Commissioner DiBella and duly seconded, the report was received and resolution adopted by unanimous vote of those present. District Chairman Currey abstained.***

**COMMITTEE ON MDC GOVERNMENT  
APPOINTMENT OF LEGISLATIVE CONSULTANTS**

To: District Board

February 5, 2024

From: Committee on MDC Government

Over the past year, the firms of Gaffney, Bennett and Associates Inc. (Attorney Brendan Fox), SJB Strategies, LLC (Attorney Steve Bonafonte), and Strategic Outreach Solutions, LLC (Janice Flemming) have provided exemplary service in the area of government relations and advocacy within state government on behalf of the District, and the same holds true for Squire Patton Boggs (William Schuster) and SJB Strategies, LLC on the federal level. On the federal level, we have been working with our Congressional delegation on an amendment to federal infrastructure legislation that would terminate our agreement with the US Army Corps of Engineers relating to the Colebrook River Reservoir, consistent with the granting of source abandonment application by the State Department of Public Health. The importance of this federal initiative cannot be understated, and staff suggest that SJB Strategies, LLC devote its time exclusively to its federal lobbying effort, and that another firm, namely Levin, Paolino and Christ Government Relations Consulting, LLC, be added during the state legislative session to assist at the state level. Based upon this suggestion, and in recognition of the past performance of our existing lobbyist, District staff recommends the reappointment of each of our existing firms for the 2024 state and federal legislative consultants, and addition of Levin, Paolino and Christ Government Relations Consulting, LLC. The term of the appointments of existing firms would be from January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024, and as to Levin, Paolino and Christ Government Relations Consulting, LLC, from February 6, 2024 to May, 2024, all subject to Board approval.

Furthermore, in the event the Committee on MDC Government forwards the appointments to the District Board, District staff recommends the following annual fees for state legislative/administrative consultants: (1) Gaffney, Bennett and Associates, Inc. receive \$69,000.00, (2) Levin, Paolino and Christ Government Relations Consulting, LLC receive \$14,000.00 and (3) Strategic Outreach Solutions, LLC receive \$66,000.00.

On the Federal level, District staff recommends the reappointment of Squire Patton Boggs and SJB Strategies LLC as federal legislative consultants. In the event the Committee on MDC Government forwards the appointments to the District Board, District staff recommends the following annual fees for federal legislative/administrative consultants: (1) Squire Patton Boggs receive \$150,000.00; and (2) SJB Strategies, LLC receive \$95,000.00.



At a meeting of the Committee on MDC Government held on January 31, 2024, it was:

**Voted:** That the Committee on MDC Government recommends to the District Board passage of the following resolution:

**Resolved:** That the firms of Gaffney, Bennett and Associates Inc. and Strategic Outreach Solutions, LLC shall be retained to perform state lobbying services for a period commencing on January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024, and the firm of Levin, Paolino, and Christ Government Relations Consulting, LLC, shall be retained for the period from February 6, 2024 through May, 2024. Gaffney, Bennett and Associates, Inc. fee will receive \$69,000.00, Levin, Paolino and Christ Government Relations Consulting, LLC will receive \$14,000.00, and Strategic Outreach Solutions, LLC will receive \$66,000.00, all subject to the execution of a written agreement prepared and approved by District Counsel as to form and content, reflecting the scope of services, reporting requirements and such other terms and conditions as District Counsel, may specify.

**Further**

**Resolved:** That the firms of Squire Patton Boggs and SJB Strategies, LLC be retained to perform federal lobbying services for a period commencing on January 1, 2024 and terminating on December 31, 2024. Squire Patton Boggs will receive \$150,000.00 and SJB Strategies, LLC will receive \$95,000.00, subject to the execution of a written agreement prepared and approved by District Counsel as to form and content, reflecting the scope of services, reporting requirements and such other terms and conditions as District Counsel may specify.

Respectfully submitted,



John S. Mirtle, Esq.  
District Clerk

***On motion made by Commissioner Bazzano and duly seconded, the report was received and resolution adopted by unanimous vote of those present. District Chairman Currey abstained.***

**KENNY OBAYASHI JOINT VENTURE v. MDC LITIGATION**

At 5:59 PM, District Chairman Currey requested an executive session to discuss both agenda item #12 “Kenny Obayashi Joint Venture v. MDC Litigation” (pending litigation) and agenda item #13 “Cybersecurity” (per Connecticut General Statute § 1-200(6)(C), the cybersecurity discussion falls under the executive session criteria).

***On motion made by Commissioner Mandyck and duly seconded, the District Board entered into executive session to discuss agenda item #12 “Kenny Obayashi Joint Venture v. MDC Litigation” and agenda item #13 “Cybersecurity.”***

Those in attendance during the executive session for item #12 “Kenny Kobayashi Joint Venture v. MDC Litigation”: Commissioners Andrew Adil, Kyle Anderson, John Avedisian, John Bazzano, Avery Buell, Richard Bush, Esther Clarke, Donald Currey, Dimple Desai, William DiBella, David Drake, Peter Gardow, Joan Gentile (Remote), James Healy, Allen Hoffman, Jean Holloway, Gary Johnson, Byron Lester, Diane Lewis (Remote), Maureen Magnan, Jacqueline Mandyck, Dominic Pane (Remote), Bhupen Patel, Pasquale J. Salemi, David Steuber (Remote), Alvin Taylor, James Woulfe; Chief Executive Officer Scott Jellison, Chief Operating Officer Chris Levesque, Director of Engineering Susan Negrelli; Attorneys Christopher Stone, John S. Mirtle, Tim Corey of Hinkley Allen, and David Hill of Ford & Paulekas.

***At 7:01PM, Chief Operating Officer Chris Levesque, Director of Engineering Susan Negrelli, Attorney Tim Corey and Attorney David Hill exited executive session.***

### **CYBERSECURITY**

***At 7:02 PM, Chief Administrative Officer Kelly Shane, Director of Information Technology Robert Schwarm, and Business Systems & Security Administrator Joshua Tryon entered the executive session.***

### **RECONVENE**

At 7:40 PM, District Chairman Currey requested to come out of executive session and on motion made by Commissioner DiBella and duly seconded, the District Board came out of executive session and reconvened.

No action was taken.

### **OPPORTUNITY FOR GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No one from the public appeared to be heard.

### **COMMISSIONER REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Commissioner Bush would like to have the look-back period for lateral repair to be brought forward, as requested in the past.

Chairman Currey informed the Board that to maintain his impartiality while presiding over District Board meetings, he will by default abstain from voting but may elect to vote when his vote will affect the outcome.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 PM

ATTEST:

John S. Mirtle, Esq.  
District Clerk

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Date of Approval