



**STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 2024
5:00 PM**

Location

Board Room
District Headquarters
555 Main Street, Hartford

Dial In #: (415)-655-0001
Access Code: 2303 146 8386#

[Meeting Video Link](#)

Commissioners:

Adil	Hoffman
Anderson	Holloway
Avedisian	Johnson
Bush	Lewis
Clarke	Lester
Currey (Ex-Officio)	Mandyck
DiBella	Patel
Gale	Salemi
Gentile (C)	Steuber (VC)
Healy	Taylor

Quorum: 10

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. PUBLIC COMMENTS RELATIVE TO AGENDA ITEMS
3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 15, 2024
4. DISCUSSION AND POTENTIAL ACTION RE: CURRENT MDC MISSION STATEMENT
5. DISCUSSION AND POTENTIAL ACTION RE: CURRENT DISTRICT CORE VALUES
6. UPDATE ON MEMBER TOWN MEETINGS
7. OPPORTUNITY FOR GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS
8. COMMISSIONER REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS
9. ADJOURNMENT

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Mission

“The mission of the MDC is to provide our customers with safe, pure drinking water, environmentally protective wastewater collection and treatment and other services that benefit the member towns.”

Core Values

- Excellent, reliable customer services
- A stable, dedicated, skilled and diverse workforce
- Sound planning and financial management
- Continual environmental compliance and stewardship of the watershed
- A safe and healthy workplace
- A program to continually improve our performance
- Open communications and transparency with our member towns and stakeholders
- A workplace and contract service climate of acceptance and inclusion that values and promotes cultural awareness, tolerance and respect
- Active participation in programs designed to develop a skilled and economically viable local workforce capable of fulfilling MDC's Strategic Goals.



Produced by
Parsons Brinckerhoff

Cover Photographs:
Kayakers on the Connecticut
River (top right). Nepaug Dam
(bottom left).

ADDENDUM

HISTORY AND ORGANIZATION OF THE MDC

The Metropolitan District (MDC) - a public, non-profit municipal corporation - was created by the Connecticut General Assembly in 1929 to provide quality, potable water as well as sanitary sewer and mapping systems for people and businesses in the Hartford area. Additional powers granted the MDC through legislative amendments to its charter include the development, construction and operation of hydroelectric power facilities and the operation of interim and long-term regional solid waste disposal services in conjunction with the Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority.

On July 1, 1930, the MDC started operations by assuming responsibility for the 9.5 billion gallon Nepaug Reservoir – located where Burlington, Canton and New Hartford meet – and six smaller reservoirs in West Hartford. A year later, construction of the beautiful Barkhamsted Reservoir began. Today, Barkhamsted is the largest single water supply reservoir in the state, with a capacity of over 30 billion gallons!

In 1938, the MDC built a major water pollution control facility in Hartford's South Meadows. This was the very first facility on the Connecticut River to provide sewage treatment to better the conditions of this vital waterway. This important job continues today.

Growth marked the District's operations during the war years. Construction of the Saville Dam and Barkhamsted Reservoir was completed in 1940. In 1941 and 1943, East Hartford and Rocky Hill became the sixth and seventh member towns. By the end of the 1940's, water consumption in the District averaged 32 million gallons a day – over 50 percent more than in 1930.

In the early 1950's, the District foresaw the need to install additional water pollution control facilities in order to continue to provide high-grade service to the public. The first of the new facilities to be installed was the East Hartford Water Pollution Control Facility, which was completed in 1954. This was followed by the installation of the Rocky Hill Water Pollution Control Facility, completed in 1958.

In anticipation of further growth, the West Branch Reservoir and Goodwin Dam (once known as Hogback) were begun in 1955 and completed in 1960. Today, Goodwin is the site of an important hydroelectric power facility.

The 1960's began with the expansion of the West Hartford water purification facility and the fluoridation of the MDC's water supply – a program that dramatically reduced cavities in the Hartford-area school children.

In 1965, a modern wastewater treatment plant was placed in operation in the Poquonock section of Windsor. A few years later, construction began on the state-of-the-art Reservoir #6 water treatment facility in Bloomfield.

Between 1972 and 1976, upgrades at three of the MDC's water pollution control plants enabled the District to remove 90 percent of sewer pollutants prior to discharge into the Connecticut River. This dramatically improved the river's water quality.

Two new services geared to reducing the region's dependence on fossil fuels became an integral part of MDC operations in the 1980's: hydroelectric power at the Goodwin and Colebrook River dams on the Farmington River, and resources recovery at the MDC-operated Mid-Connecticut trash-to-energy plant in Hartford's South Meadows. The decade also saw the District welcome its eighth member town – West Hartford – the first addition to the MDC family in 41 years.

Today, the District provides quality water supply, water pollution control, Geographic Information System (GIS) services, recreational opportunities and household hazardous waste collection to eight member municipalities – Bloomfield, East Hartford, Hartford, Newington, Rocky Hill, West Hartford, Wethersfield and Windsor – and to over one hundred other towns in the State. The total population served by the District is approximately 412,000.

The establishment of policy for the MDC is the responsibility of a twenty-nine voting member Commission, commonly referred to as the District Board. Seventeen of the Commissioners are appointed by member town councils, eight are appointed by the Governor, and four are appointed by designated members of the General Assembly. All Commissioners serve without remuneration during their respective terms. In addition, there are four non-voting members of the Commission who represent the non-Member towns.

Responsibility for the overall administration and management of MDC policy, operations and services rests with the Chief Executive Officer.

THE DISTRICT VISION STATEMENT

"Effectively and efficiently provide clean pure water and responsible environmental services for the benefit of all we serve."

THE DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

"Ensure quality and value beyond customer expectations in providing safe, pure drinking water, environmentally responsible sewage collection and treatment, natural resource stewardship and other services."

THE DISTRICT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The following nine goals are taken from the District's Strategic Plan:

- GOAL #1: Water: Protect supply for future generations & develop revenue potential.
- GOAL #2: Waste Water: Protect public health and water quality and achieve a state of good repair.
- GOAL #3: Solid Waste: Study feasibility of a solid waste business to enhance value potential.
- GOAL #4: New Business Opportunities: Expand revenue opportunities of existing plant and human capital assets.
- GOAL #5: Long-Term Planning and Budgeting: Create an integrated and comprehensive long-term planning process.
- GOAL #6: Human Resources: Maintain a skilled, effective, stable and diverse workforce responsive to changing demands, technology and customer expectations.
- GOAL #7: Community Business and Workforce Relations: Foster District policies to enhance the capacity of local small, disadvantaged, minority and women's businesses workforce.
- GOAL # 8 Stakeholder Communications: Develop program that enhances public service, improves stakeholder communications, and creates a customer service-oriented culture.
- GOAL # 9 Continuous Improvement: Create a culture focused on quality, innovation and learning.
- GOAL # 10 Board Governance: Adhere to the highest standards in process and practice that promotes and ensures integrity, compliance, accountability and transparency.

**STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
The Metropolitan District
May 15, 2024**

PRESENT: Commissioners John Avedisian, Richard Bush, William DiBella, John Gale, Joan Gentile, James Healy, Allen Hoffman, Gary Johnson, Byron Lester, Jacqueline Mandyck, Bhupen Patel, Alvin Taylor, and District Chairman Donald M. Currey (13)

REMOTE ATTENDANCE: Commissioners Andrew Adil and David Steuber (2)

ABSENT: Commissioners Kyle Anderson, Esther Clarke, Jean Holloway, Diane Lewis and Pasquale J. Salemi (5)

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
Susan Negrelli, Director of Engineering (Remote Attendance)
Robert Schwarm, Director of Information Systems
Thomas Tyler, Director of Facilities
Carrie Blardo, Assistant to Chief Executive Officer (Remote Attendance)
Julie Price, Executive Assistant
Jacob Aviles, IT Consultant (Remote Attendance)
Dylan Pecego, IT Consultant (Remote Attendance)

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Gentile called the meeting to order at 5:01 PM

PUBLIC COMMENTS RELATIVE TO AGENDA ITEMS

No one from the public appeared to be heard.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 27, 2024

On motion made by Commissioner DiBella and duly seconded, the meeting minutes of March 27, 2024 were approved. Commissioner Patel abstained.

Commissioner Healy entered the meeting at 5:04 PM.

**INDUSTRY ENDORSED FRAMEWORK FOR STRATEGIC PLANNING AND
MEASUREMENT/KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**

Chairperson Gentile led a discussion with the Committee members regarding strategic planning.

At 5:07 PM Commissioner Gale and Commissioner Bush entered the meeting in person. Commissioner Bush had been in attendance virtually.

Commissioner Steuber entered the meeting virtually at 5:10 PM.

Commissioner Mandyck entered the meeting at 5:12 PM.

UPDATE ON MEMBER TOWN MEETINGS

District Chairman Currey updated the Committee on his meetings with member town representatives, including a recent meeting with Hartford Mayor Arulampalam where they discussed flood control and stormwater. He also met with East Hartford Mayor Martin after the May 9th District Board meeting about stormwater and Mayor Martin was impressed with the presentation given by staff. He stated that he will be reaching out to any mayors with whom he has not yet met in order to schedule a meeting.

OPPORTUNITY FOR GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Judy Allen, of West Hartford, liked Commissioner Taylor's suggestion of having outside eyes for a strategic plan. She stated that it is important to have a representative from the MDC's customers, environmental community, or maybe from the legislature, somehow involved in the development of the plan.

COMMISSIONER REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioner Patel brought up the recent District Board meeting about stormwater with the member towns and that no one from Newington participated. When speaking with his town, they stated that there is the impression that MDC is trying to solve Hartford's stormwater problem, so he requested that staff makes sure to not give that wrong message in presentations.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:02 PM

ATTEST:

John S. Mirtle, Esq.
District Clerk

Date of Approval