



**STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2024
5:00 PM**

Location

Board Room
District Headquarters
555 Main Street, Hartford

Dial In #: (415)-655-0001
Access Code: 2315 714 5745#

[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 JULY 17, 2024
4. DISCUSSION AND POTENTIAL ACTION RE: MDC MISSION STATEMENT AND CORE VALUES
5. DISCUSSION RE: VISION STATEMENT DEVELOPMENT
6. UPDATE ON MEMBER TOWN MEETINGS
7. OPPORTUNITY FOR GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS
8. COMMISSIONER REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS
9. ADJOURNMENT

MISSION STATEMENTS: A Mission Statement describes an organization’s purpose, its reasons for existing and the key objectives that guide its operations.

CORE VALUES are the deeply ingrained principles that guide an organization’s actions and serve as its cultural cornerstones. Core values are ethics or ideals that guide an organization when making decisions, building relationships and solving problems.

METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COMMISSION’S MISSION STATE/MENT

<i>CURRENT MDC MISSION</i>	<i>Proposed Revised MDC MISSION:</i>
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 .	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 those we serve .

METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COMMISSION’S CORE VALUES

Current MDC CORE VALUES

MDC CORE VALUES Proposed Changes

Excellent, reliable customer services	Excellence in Quality and Customer Service: fostering public trust through quality products and services reliably delivered with skill, respect, efficiency and courtesy.
A stable, dedicated, skilled and diverse workforce	Workplace Safety and Culture of Excellence: providing a safe and healthy workplace that values organizational effectiveness, mutual respect, and supports employee development to maintain a stable, dedicated, skilled and diverse workforce. (this combines current core value #2 & #5)
Sound planning and financial management	Public Accountability and Fiscal Responsibility: ensuring financial stability

	through sound planning and financial management, disciplined decision making and public transparency in decisions.
Continual environmental compliance and stewardship of the watershed	Environmental stewardship: promoting responsible practices, environmental compliance and stewardship of the watershed and other natural resources.
A safe and healthy workplace	See proposed revised #2 above that includes this current core value
A program to continually improve our performance	Leadership and Continuous Improvement: leveraging innovation, regional solutions and leading industry polices that align with MDC vision to drive progress in the communities we serve.
Open communications and transparency with our member towns and stakeholders	Integrity: making decisions based on ethical principles and offering open, honest, accessible communications and transparency with our member towns and all stakeholders to earn public trust.
A workplace and contract service climate of acceptance and inclusion that values and promotes cultural awareness, tolerance and respect	Climate of Acceptance and Inclusion: maintaining a workplace and contract service environment that values and promotes cultural awareness, tolerance and respect throughout the community we serve.
Active participation in programs designed to develop a skilled and economically viable local workforce capable of fulfilling MDC's Strategic Goals.	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 150px; height: 15px; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> Community Partnership: Actively engaging in community programs that promote environmental values and public health, and programs to develop a skilled and economically viable local workforce capable of fulfilling the MDC's strategic goals.

Vision Statements are forward-looking aspirational declarations of where an organization wants to be in the future. Vision statements are essential to develop strategic plans and will help align effort with goals.

INDUSTRY EXAMPLES OF VISION STATEMENTS

- *Pittsburgh [PA] Water and Sewer Authority vision: To transform Pittsburgh's water system while being recognized by our customers as a trusted service provider and a steadfast steward of a vital public asset.*
- *Eastern [Perris, CA] Municipal Water District vision: To deliver value to our diverse customers and the communities we serve by providing safe, reliable, economical and environmentally sustainable water, wastewater and recycled water services*
- *Palmdale [CA] Water District vision: The District will strive for excellence in providing great customer care; advocating for local water issues that help our residents; educating the community on water-use efficiency; and leading our region in researching and implementing emerging technologies that increase operational efficiency*
- *Charleston [SC] Water System vision: Achieve excellence and exceed customer expectations.*
- *Western Municipal Water District [Riverside, CA] vision: To enhance Western Municipal Water District's leadership role by integrating the best-in-business processes and business systems while developing a leading-edge workforce that continuously creates greater efficiency and value for our customers.*
- *Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District vision: Be the environmental leader in enhancing quality of life in the region and protecting its water resources.*
- *Mission Springs [CA] Water District vision serves as a compass, charting our course toward a future state that reflects our aspirations and commitment to excellence. It encapsulates not just what we aim to become but envisions the success we strive for and the positive transformations we aim to bring to all those we serve.*
- *Hilton Head [SC] Public Service District vision: Our vision is to be a state-of-the-art water and sewer public utility, held as a model of excellence.*
- *Southgate [Centennial, CO] Water and Sanitation District vision: We will STRIVE CONTINUOUSLY to be a recognized leader and partner BY PROVIDING excellent water and wastewater services and CREATING great communities through great relationships.*
- *Sacramento [CA] Suburban Water District vision: Sacramento Suburban Water District is a model public agency that maintains stakeholder trust through responsibility, environmental stewardship and leadership.*

- *Louisville [MO] Municipal Sewer District vision: **The innovative regional utility for safe, clean waterways.***
- *Raleigh [NC] Water vision: **We are a world-class leader in sustainable water and wastewater service delivery.***
- *Montville [CT] Water Pollution Control Authority's vision: **Ensure the quality, reliability, and sustainability of water and wastewater services for the benefit of customers and the town's economic vitality***
- *Eastern [Perris, CA] Municipal Water District vision: **To deliver value to our diverse customers and the communities we serve by providing safe, reliable, economical and environmentally sustainable water, wastewater and recycled water services***

**STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
The Metropolitan District
July 17, 2024**

PRESENT: Commissioners Joan Gentile, James Healy, Allen Hoffman, Gary Johnson, Bhupen Patel, David Steuber, Alvin Taylor, and District Chairman Donald M. Currey (8)

REMOTE ATTENDANCE: Commissioners Andrew Adil, Kyle Anderson, Richard Bush, Esther Clarke, Byron Lester, Jackie Mandyck and Pasquale Salemi (7)

ABSENT: Commissioners John Avedisian, William DiBella, John Gale, Jean Holloway and Diane Lewis (5)

ALSO PRESENT: Commissioner Dimple Desai (Remote Attendance)
Scott W. Jellison, Chief Executive Officer
Christopher Stone, District Counsel
John S. Mirtle, District Clerk
Christopher Levesque, Chief Operating Officer
Susan Negrelli, Director of Engineering (Remote Attendance)
Thomas Tyler, Director of Facilities
Julie Price, Executive Assistant
Jacob Aviles, IT Consultant (Remote Attendance)
Matthew McAuliffe, IT Consultant (Remote Attendance)

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Gentile called the meeting to order at 5:02 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 Johnson and duly seconded, the meeting minutes of May 15, 2024 were approved.

CURRENT MDC MISSION STATEMENT

Chairperson Gentile led a discussion with the Committee members regarding the current MDC mission statement and stated that she will bring back verbiage for approval at the next Strategic Planning Committee meeting.

CURRENT DISTRICT CORE VALUES

Chairperson Gentile led a discussion with the Committee members regarding MDC core values.

Commissioner Steuber entered the meeting at 5:30 PM.

UPDATE ON MEMBER TOWN MEETINGS

Chairperson Gentile informed the committee that the East Hartford Commissioners and Citizen Members met with East Hartford Mayor Connor Martin.

District Chairman Currey updated the Committee on his meetings with member towns, having already met with Hartford and West Hartford. He has a meeting scheduled with Bloomfield on July 24th and plans to contact Windsor shortly to set up a meeting.

OPPORTUNITY FOR GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Judy Allen, of West Hartford, stated that she believes the language in the core values needs to be looked at. As an example, she believes the word “tolerance” is not appropriate and the language should be more inclusive and appropriate. She also wondered if the core values should wade into the territory of sexual orientation as something that MDC values. She believes it is important that the core values and mission statement are also included in the employee handbook.

Mary Pelletier, of Hartford, is a former member of the MDC Citizen Advisory Committee and founder of the Park River Group. She stated that watershed of MDC is very different from the drinking water watershed. She would like to stay involved in this process and receive notice of these meetings via email going forward.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:51 PM

ATTEST:

John S. Mirtle, Esq.
District Clerk

Date of Approval