

**STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
The Metropolitan District
Wednesday, September 4, 2024**

PRESENT: Commissioners Richard Bush, Joan Gentile, Allen Hoffman, Jackie Mandyck, Bhupen Patel, David Steuber, Alvin Taylor and District Chairman Donald M. Currey (8)

REMOTE ATTENDANCE: Commissioners Andrew Adil, Kyle Anderson, Esther Clarke, Byron Lester and Diane Lewis (5)

ABSENT: Commissioners John Avedisian, William DiBella, John Gale, James Healy, Jean Holloway, Gary Johnson and Pasquale Salemi (7)

ALSO PRESENT: Scott W. Jellison, Chief Executive Officer
Christopher Stone, District Counsel (Remote Attendance)
John S. Mirtle, District Clerk
Christopher Levesque, Chief Operating Officer
Robert Barron, Chief Financial Officer (Remote Attendance)
Thomas Tyler, Director of Facilities
Carrie Blardo, Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer
Victoria Escoriza, 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 5:01 PM

PUBLIC COMMENTS RELATIVE TO AGENDA ITEMS

Judy Allen, of West Hartford, asked if vision statements need to be one sentence. She also suggested that under #8 of the Core Values, that MDC replace the word “tolerance” with “acceptance”. She also suggested that the statement “driving progress in members towns” be changed to “supporting progress in member towns,” so that it is clear that the community is making decisions and the MDC is supporting that.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion made by Commissioner Patel and duly seconded, the meeting minutes of July 17, 2024 were approved.

CURRENT MDC MISSION STATEMENT

Chairperson Gentile led a discussion with the Committee regarding the current MDC mission statement and proposed adoption of the following mission statement:

MISSION STATEMENT: The mission of the MDC is to provide our customers and those we serve with safe, pure drinking water, environmentally protective wastewater collection and treatment, and other services.

Commissioner Mandyck made a motion to recommend adoption of the revised Mission Statement to the District Board. The motion was duly seconded and approved unanimously.

CURRENT DISTRICT CORE VALUES

Chairperson Gentile led a discussion with the Committee regarding MDC core values and proposed adoption of the following core values:

MDC's CORE VALUES:

- **Excellence in Quality and Customer Service:** fostering public trust through quality services reliably delivered with professional skill, respect, efficiency and courtesy;
- **Workplace Safety and Culture of Excellence:** providing a safe and healthy workplace that values organizational effectiveness, with mutual respect and support for employee recruitment and development to maintain and retain a stable, dedicated, skilled and diverse workforce;
- **Public Accountability and Fiscal Responsibility:** ensuring financial stability and controls through sound planning and financial management, disciplined decision making, and an open, fair, transparent procurement process;
- **Environmental stewardship:** promoting responsible practices, continual environmental compliance and stewardship of the watershed and other natural resources;
- **Leadership and Continuous Improvement:** exploring innovation, regional solutions and leading industry polices that align with our vision to drive progress in the communities we serve;
- **Integrity:** making decisions based on ethical principles and offering open accessible communications and transparency with our member towns and all stakeholders to earn public trust;
- **Climate of Acceptance and Inclusion:** maintaining a workplace that values and promotes cultural awareness, acceptance and respect throughout the community it serves; and
- **Community Partnerships:** Engaging in programs designed to promote environmental values, public health, and promoting a skilled, viable local workforce capable of fulfilling the MDC's strategic goals.

Commissioner Mandyck made a motion to accept the Core Values, as amended by discussion of the Committee, and bring it to the full District Board for approval. The motion was duly seconded and approved unanimously.

Commissioner Lewis entered the meeting virtually at 5:48 PM.

VISION STATEMENT DEVELOPMENT

Chairwoman Gentile provided examples of vision statements from other water utilities and led a discussion to begin creating a vision statement. She stated that she will bring back verbiage for approval at the next Strategic Planning Committee meeting.

UPDATE ON MEMBER TOWN MEETINGS

District Chairman Currey updated the Committee on his meetings with member towns, having met with the Bloomfield Town Manager and Bloomfield Commissioners on July 24th, as well as the Newington Town Manager and Newington Commissioners on September 3rd.

OPPORTUNITY FOR GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

No one from the public appeared to be heard.

COMMISSIONER REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioner Mandyck thanked Chairwoman Gentile for the progress she has made to get the Committee to where they are now.

Commissioner Patel spoke regarding the impact of MDC Dams, and working with other agencies for educational programs on how to address dams and flood control.

District Chairman Currey requested a future agenda regarding a referral to the District Board for referral of a bylaw to the Committee on MDC Government requiring the Strategic Planning Committee meet to revise MDC's strategic plan every 5 years. District Chairman Currey also asked commissioners to send any proposed vision statement ideas to Committee Chairwoman Gentile.

Commissioner Hoffman asked that the District Chairman also meet with non-member towns. District Chairman Currey responded that he will meet with them also.

Commissioner Taylor spoke regarding flood control maps, and suggested taking a careful examination of the situation with regards to flood plains. He feels that MDC is probably the most logical body to grapple with that issue. He also spoke regarding flood plains and that over time older flood plain maps may no longer be valid.

Commissioner Steuber spoke about changing language regarding storm severity to a more objective standard in order to be more transparent. He understands that “100 Year” storm language is an outdated metric from the 1970s.

Commissioner Bush also stated that rain storm descriptions should be described by “X” inches of rain per hour, rather than “X” year storm.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:13 PM

ATTEST:

John S. Mirtle, Esq.
District Clerk

Date of Approval