

**STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE  
SPECIAL MEETING  
The Metropolitan District  
Wednesday, October 2, 2024**

**PRESENT:** Commissioners Richard Bush, William DiBella, John Gale, Joan Gentile, Allen Hoffman, Jean Holloway, Jackie Mandyck, Bhupen Patel, Alvin Taylor and District Chairman Donald M. Currey (10)

**REMOTE ATTENDANCE:** Commissioners Andrew Adil, Gary Johnson, Pasquale Salemi and David Steuber (4)

**ABSENT:** Commissioners Kyle Anderson, John Avedisian, Esther Clarke, James Healy, Byron Lester and Diane Lewis (6)

**ALSO PRESENT:** Commissioner Dominic Pane  
Scott W. Jellison, Chief Executive Officer  
Christopher Stone, District Counsel  
John S. Mirtle, District Clerk  
Christopher Levesque, Chief Operating Officer (Remote Attendance)  
Thomas Tyler, Director of Facilities  
Carrie Blardo, Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer  
Jacob Aviles, IT Consultant (Remote Attendance)  
Matthew McAuliffe, IT Consultant (Remote Attendance)

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Gentile called the meeting to order at 5:05 PM

**PUBLIC COMMENTS RELATIVE TO AGENDA ITEMS**

Judy Allen, of West Hartford, stated that she read the Effective Utility Management document and thought it was wonderful that the MDC shined in certain areas and will maybe be challenged to work on some others.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

**PROPOSED VISION STATEMENTS**

Chairperson Gentile led a discussion with the Committee regarding three proposed vision statements and the Committee discussed wording for a District vision statement.

***District Chairman Currey made a motion to recommend adoption of the following vision statement:***

*“The Metropolitan District’s vision is to be a state-of-the-art regional drinking water and sewer public utility, ensuring the quality, reliability, and sustainability of our environment, drinking water, wastewater services and other appropriate regional public services for the benefit of customers and the economic vitality of our member towns.”*

***The motion was duly seconded and approved unanimously.***

**PROPOSED NEXT STEPS: SELF ASSESSMENT**

Chairwoman Gentile spoke about the recently updated 2024 Effective Utility Management Primer for Water Sector Utilities that was created by water sector leaders for the water industry.

**UPDATE ON MEMBER TOWN MEETINGS**

District Chairman Currey updated the Committee that he has not met with any other mayors since the last Strategic Planning meeting.

**OPPORTUNITY FOR GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Judy Allen, of West Hartford, stated that in Sunday’s newspaper there was an insert for “best places to work” and she noted that CT Water was included on the list. She suggested the MDC consider in the future to give some kudos to the MDC and to help to attract a new workforce.

**COMMISSIONER REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Commissioner Gale stated that towns are required to create a 5-10 year plan of conservation and development. He would like to see what the MDC plans to be doing in 5-10 years. He spoke about greater use of permeable surfaces such as cobblestone roads in the District.

Commissioner Pane stated that a lot of towns have clay soils or other types of soils that limit permeability and water doesn’t go through. Many towns require developers to install open or underground storage to hold stormwater and delay its release.

Commissioner Mandyck stated that in the committee’s due diligence, they should be looking at the member towns’ plans of conservation and development which identifies the towns’ visions and the areas of the towns that are planned to be developed. CRCOG also has their own plan of conservation and development for the region, as well as the state. CEO Scott Jellison informed the Committee that the District is required by CT DEEP to review the town’s plans of conservation and development.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 PM

ATTEST:

John S. Mirtle, Esq.  
District Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Approval