

**THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COMMISSION**

555 Main Street  
Hartford, Connecticut 06103  
Monday, October 2, 2017

**Present:** Commissioners Andrew Adil, John Avedisian, Clifford Avery Buell, Luis Caban, Daniel Camilliere, Donald M. Currey, William A. DiBella, Peter Gardow, Allen Hoffman, Jean Holloway, David Ionno, Alphonse Marotta, Whit Osgood, Dominic M. Pane, Bhupen Patel, Pasquale J. Salemi, Michael Solomonides, Raymond Sweezy and Alvin Taylor (19)

**Absent:** Commissioners Mary Anne Charron, Timothy J. Fitzgerald, Janice Flemming-Butler, Matthew B. Galligan, William P. Horan, Sandra Johnson, Kathleen J. Kowalyshyn, Byron Lester, Maureen Magnan, Richard W. Vicino and Special Representative Michael Carrier (11)

**Also**

**Present:** Scott W. Jellison, Chief Executive Officer  
R. Bartley Halloran, District Counsel  
Christopher Stone, Assistant District Counsel  
Brendan Fox, Assistant District Counsel  
John S. Mirtle, District Clerk  
Robert Constable, Director of Finance  
Susan Negrelli, Director of Engineering  
Robert Schwarm, Director of Information Technology  
Robert Zaik, Director of Human Resources  
Kelly Shane, Director of Procurement  
Tom Tyler, Director of Facilities  
Nick Salemi, Special Services Administrator  
Carrie Blardo, Assistant to the Chief Operating Officer  
Cynthia A. Nadolny, Executive Assistant

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman DiBella at 5:33 PM

**ROLL CALL AND QUORUM**

The District Clerk called the roll and informed Chairman DiBella 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.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS RELATIVE TO AGENDA ITEMS**

No one from the public appeared to be heard.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*On motion made by Commissioner Sweezy and duly seconded, the meeting minutes of September 11, 2017 were approved.*

*Commissioner Adil Abstained.*

**REPORT FROM DISTRICT CHAIRMAN**

No report delivered by the District Chairman

**REPORT FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Scott W. Jellison presented the Chief Executive Officer's Report.

**REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNSEL**

R. Bartley Halloran delivered the District Counsel report.

*Commissioner Patel entered the meeting at 5:37 PM*

*Commissioner Buell entered the meeting at 5:58 PM*

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 6:04 P.M., Chairman DiBella requested without objection a combined executive session to discuss agenda item #9, "Settlement of Pending Litigation – MDC v. CRRA" and agenda item #10, "Subordination of MDC Easement on MIRA Land"

*On motion made by Commissioner Adil and duly seconded, the District Board entered into executive session to discuss agenda item #9, "Settlement of Pending Litigation – MDC v. CRRA" and agenda item #10, "Subordination of MDC Easement on MIRA Land"*

Those in attendance during the executive session:

Commissioners Andrew Adil, John Avedisian, Clifford Avery Buell, Luis Caban, Daniel Camilliere, William A. DiBella, Peter Gardow, Allen Hoffman, Jean Holloway, David Ionno, Alphonse Marotta, Whit Osgood, Dominic M. Pane, Bhupen Patel, Pasquale J. Salemi, Michael Solomonides, Raymond Sweezy and Alvin Taylor; Chief Executive Officer Scott W. Jellison, District Counsel R. Bartley Halloran, Attorneys Christopher Stone, Brendan Fox and John Mirtle. MDC staff Robert Constable and Susan Negrelli.

***Commissioner Ionno exited the Executive Session and meeting at 6:20 PM***

***Commissioner Salemi Exited the Executive Session and meeting at 6:45 PM***

**RECONVENE**

At 6:55 P.M., Chairman DiBella requested to come out of executive session and on motion made by Commissioner Caban and duly seconded, the District Board came out of executive session and reconvened. No formal action was taken.

**SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION**

To: District Board

October 2, 2017

**Be it resolved** that the Board of Commissioners of The Metropolitan District (“Board”) hereby authorizes District Counsel, or his designee, to enter into a settlement agreement on behalf of The Metropolitan District with Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority (“MIRA”), successor to the Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority (“CRRRA”), whereby each party releases the other party from any and all claims they ever had, now have or hereafter can, shall, or may have, for, upon or by reason of any matter, cause or thing whatsoever, including but not limited to those claims set forth within or concerning or relating to the arbitration matter captioned **MDC v. MIRA, AAA Arbitration 11 181 L 2360 09** (“Arbitration”); and

**Be it further resolved** that the Board authorizes the Chief Executive Officer to accept from MIRA the sum of \$8,000,000.00 as full and final settlement of any and all claims set forth within or concerning or relating to the Arbitration; and

**Be it further resolved**, that the Board authorizes District Counsel to approve and execute any and all documents reasonably necessary to effect the terms of the settlement described above.

Respectfully submitted,

John S. Mirtle, Esq.  
District Clerk

***On motion made by Commissioner Currey and duly seconded, the resolution was amended, as reflected above.***

***On motion made by Commissioner Camilliere and duly seconded, the report was received and the amended resolution was adopted by unanimous vote of those present.***

**BUREAU OF PUBLIC WORKS  
SUBORDINATION OF MDC EASEMENT ON MIRA LAND**

To: District Board

October 2, 2017

From: Bureau of Public Works

At a meeting of the Bureau of Public Works held on October 2, 2017, it was:

**Voted:** That the Bureau of Public Works recommends to the District Board passage of the following resolution:

**Be It Resolved** that the Board of Commissioners of the Metropolitan District ("Board") hereby authorizes its Chairman to execute the "First Amendment to Sewer Easement" by and between Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority ("MIRA"), successor to the Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority, and The Metropolitan District ("MDC"), whereby the MDC subordinates its rights to and within a certain sewer easement recorded in Volume 1614 at Page 271 of the Hartford and Records to an Environmental Land Use Restriction ("ELUR") by and between MIRA and the State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection; and

**Be It Further Resolved** that in exchange therefore, the MDC accepts the sum of \$250,000.00 from MIRA as consideration for subordinating said easement rights to the ELUR.

Respectfully submitted,

John S. Mirtle, Esq.  
District Clerk

***On motion made by Commissioner Caban and duly seconded, the report was received and resolution adopted by majority vote of those present.***

***Commissioner Currey voted against the resolution.***

***Commissioner Marotta exited the meeting at 7:03 PM***

**OPPORTUNITY FOR GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS**

General Public Comments  
District Board Meeting  
Oct. 2, 2017

As the MDC is preparing its budget for 2018 I want to express my opposition to discounts for large volume water users like Niagara. Last year you decided that no discounts would be put in place for 2017. Nothing has changed since that time. It is still wrong to provide those discounts.

While there have been legislative fixes to deal with Hartford's financial problems, our towns again will be facing an ad valorem tax that is high. I have heard repeatedly at meetings the problems the MDC faces with paying for infrastructure and the Clean Water Project. I have listened as you lament the affordability issues for your customers. It is inconceivable to me how the MDC could justify discounts to Niagara when there is so much concern about how the CWP is to be paid for. We may not be in a drought right now, but eastern Maine is in a drought and predictions are their drought may be headed for other New England states. Even if there is no drought in CT, we are affected by water shortages in states to our north. Climate change does predict higher level of precipitation for this part of New England, but that will come in short heavy bursts and the dry times in between will be longer and hotter. For all these reasons it makes no sense to provide discounts for both water and the Clean Water Project to *anyone*.

I request that the MDC check to make sure property in member towns that receive any kind of tax rebate are included in the reporting to the MDC of taxes received for calculating the ad valorem tax. I certainly don't accuse any town of doing anything wrong, but just as with the sewer user charge, there may be differences from town to town in how these things are reported. Failing to ensure that this is uniformly done among all member towns may result in unfair distribution of the ad valorem tax. There may also be properties that should be paying the non-municipal tax-exempt sewer user charge, and a check of that would ensure the MDC isn't losing badly needed revenue.

Niagara is bringing in spring water to be bottled in Bloomfield. I don't know the implications of such things except that water is coming in that doesn't go through the MDC meters. I don't know the process for bottling well enough to know how much waste is generated. I hope there is a meter for Niagara's waste water. If Niagara is using the sewer system more than anticipated, all the more reason why they should pay their fair share of the Clean Water Project charge.

It is unfortunate that discounts were offered to Niagara at all. Now each year the MDC will need to take up the issue of discounts and the public will need to address them. By giving them access to our public water at a discount with no end date, you have created a problem that will be hard to address years later. Niagara hoodwinked the MDC into a deal that now is unsustainable. Decisions today have repercussion on down the line, unintended consequences. This seems very short sighted to me. Why would anyone enter into an agreement like this with no end date?

Judy Allen  
West Hartford, CT

***The following written comments were submitted:***

To: MDC Board of Commissioners

I understand that since Connecticut is no longer facing severe drought conditions, the MDC is once again considering giving high volume discounts to the profit-making Niagara Bottling Company, while we regular customers are still being urged to conserve water while paying increasing charges for the Clean Water Project.

Our precious water is a public resource and should not be sold at discount prices to provide corporate profits while adding more plastic bottles to our environment.

To quote the famous Joseph Welch, chief counsel for the US Army during the McCarthy hearings, "Have you no sense of decency??"

If you insist on selling our public waters, Niagara should pay its fair share, without any discounts or other benefits.

Ethel F. Fried  
West Hartford

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Dear Mr Mirtle:

I am writing to you to ask that the following comments be included in the official record of the District Board meeting of Oct. 2nd.

- **No discounts** for high volume water users like Niagara. Customers who use large volumes of water should pay more, not less, for this finite resource.
- Our precious public waters should not be squandered to fill plastic bottles, sold at inflated prices for large **corporate profits**.
- The charges for the **Clean Water Project** are rising steeply each year. As the MDC continues to struggle to keep customer charges down, Niagara should pay their fair share. **No discounts** on the Clean Water Project.

My name is Tom Farrell and as a resident of Bloomfield, CT it is important to me that the water I pay for, at a continually rising cost, not enrich a private LLC company in California.

Thank you.  
Sincerely,  
Tom Farrell

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- No discounts for high volume water users like Niagara. Customers who use large volumes of water should pay more, not less, for this finite resource.
- Our precious public waters should not be squandered to fill plastic bottles, sold at inflated prices for large corporate profits.
- The charges for the Clean Water Project are rising steeply each year. As the MDC continues to struggle to keep customer charges down, Niagara should pay their fair share. No discounts on the Clean Water Project.

You have recently raised our rates, now billing us monthly to try and hide the additional cost. Meanwhile Niagara is making huge profits from our public water.

Do the right thing!

David Macbride  
Bloomfield, CT

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Mr. Mirtle:

Can this comment please be included in the public record? Thank you.

For the record, my name is Valerie Rossetti, 88 Kenmore Rd, Bloomfield, CT 06002, a customer of the MDC.

I would like to once again voice opposition to the creation of any water rate or clean water project charge discounts for industrial scale water bottling customers of the MDC, such as Niagara Bottling. Especially worrisome are declining block rate discounts which incentivize the consumption of ever larger amounts of water. Corporations profiting off the sale of public trust drinking water should not be receiving discounts which are not available to residents.

Although I recognize the MDC wishes to sell more water to increase its income, this industry is not one which I, as a MDC town resident, wish to see expand - either in Bloomfield or at other locations in the state. It bottles already high quality MDC water to send largely out of our watershed, drought or no drought. Each day, millions of plastic bottles, which pollute our rivers and oceans, enter the environment and are left to be cleaned up through the efforts and funds of CT residents. The industry, which essentially uses public trust water for corporate profit, does not bear the cost of this environmental clean up.

Furthermore, vigorous marketing by the industry leads consumers to believe that their tap water is somehow not "healthy" or "pure", resulting in significant economic burden for low-income families who feel the need to purchase bottled drinking water.

I ask you not to instate new or previously-designed rate discounts for large scale water bottlers.

Valerie Rossetti

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Hello,

I cannot attend the MDC District Board meeting where you will consider re-instating the discounts for high volume water users. I request that this email and my comments be included in the official record of the October 2nd meeting:

I am adamantly opposed to any high volume water users getting discounts. Our water is our precious resource, and we should not be selling it at a reduced rate to any high volume water users, especially water bottling companies, who profit from this finite resource by bottling and shipping out of state.

Thank you..  
Catherine Lyons  
Bloomfield, CT

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Dear Sir:

Please include my comments in the official record of the district board meeting of October 2nd.

I believe it is highly improper for Niagara Water Bottling to be using a public resource to make a private profit. Implicit in this use is the idea that there is a unlimited amount of water and there is enough so that a corporation can take a huge amount.and there is no need for the public to conserve water whether during normal rain conditions or during a drought. This rational is incorrect. There is a finite amount of water and the public should be frugal in its use and a corporations should not be allowed to take huge amounts. It is also improper that this activity generates large numbers of bottles. 1 million per minute, resulting in massive plastic pollution in our environment.

I realize that at this point a decision has been made, to allow Niagara Water Bottling to use our public water and in the future this will lead to major



shortages of water. This results from public officials being concerning with only with short term gains and corporations being mainly interested in making a short term profit even at the expense of the public.

At the very least Niagara Bottling should not be given at a discount for high volume use. This only encourages the company to use more water and increases likelihood of water shortages and the plastic contamination of our environment. *The company should pay their fair share as everyone else and not be given a discount*

Sincerely,  
Philip Lom  
West Hartford, CT

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To: MDC  
From: Michele Vannelli, 1152 Poquonock Ave. Windsor, CT 06095  
Date: Oct. 1, 2017  
Re: Water discounts

In Connecticut's desperate financial shape, MDC and the town of Bloomfield entered into a deal with Niagara Water Bottling Company. My understanding is that Due to HUGE PUBLIC OUTCRY in conjunction with our 3<sup>rd</sup> year of drought conditions, a high volume discount was discontinued for 2017.

Now that the drought has ended, it's my understanding that re-introduction of this discount is under consideration. But here's the problem. It's not all about droughts. Least folks forget, this whole Bloomfield/MDC/Niagara deal was conducted in less than transparent conditions. Being that MDC is a quasi-government entity and given the fact our state is going bankrupt, discussion of a discount should not be entertained. Some may argue that hospitals get a discount but I view that as being different in that hospitals are vested in our state and communities and they provide many jobs therefore their discounts should continue to be protected. With Niagara Bottling, our location and reservoir capacity along with our high water quality make us extremely desirable for Niagara's purpose. CT taxpayers are paying ever increasing water, sewer and Clean Water Project fees while at the same time questioning their sanity for struggling to remain in this financially strapped state.

For all the above reasons, I feel no implementation of high volume Niagara discounts should occur.

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Comment for October 2, 2017 MDC Board Meeting

As I am not able to attend the MDC Board Meeting on 10/2, I want to send these comments for the record.

As a Bloomfield resident of many years, I have seen few issues as controversial or alarming to fellow residents as inviting the Niagara Bottling Co.

into our town. As a result, many of the MDC public hearings were unusually well attended by concerned citizens and MDC towns are now demanding better representation to the TOWNS by their MDC reps. Also as a result, the standing Bloomfield Democratic slate was defeated by a 2-1 margin in the recent primary. So, folks are still interested and watching.

It was a laudable decision by the MDC to revoke the special volume discount for water, sewer and Clean Water Project charges that they had given to Niagara to help entice them to come to Bloomfield. I hope that you will stand by that decision and NOT pass any new ordinances providing discounts to any large volume users. We want to encourage conservation policies, not the over use of our precious resources.

Also, when will your safe yield calculations be updated? Although they are the bedrock of water planning, many still use data from 1960-70, with no update for climate change (changes in the evaporation constants, precipitation patterns, etc.). It is very frustrating to any meaningful discussion of this issue when the MDC cloaks its data and its methods of calculation in overly zealous secrecy. Is there no way that the MDC can share more data so that the public can be reassured of your true capacity?

Thanks for your consideration of these concerns.

Tollie Miller  
Bloomfield, CT

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Comment for October 2, 2017 District Board Meeting

To: MDC Board of Commissioners

Re: 2018 MDC Budget – Water, Sewer, Clean Water Project Rates

Unfortunately, I am not able to attend the October 2, 2017 Board Meeting due to a conflict. I am submitting this comment for the official record of the District Board meeting to remind the Commission that I – and other Bloomfield residents - have not forgotten that the MDC in December 2015 passed special rate ordinances to accommodate Niagara Water Bottling. If you need evidence that Bloomfield residents remember Niagara and the special consideration the company received from the Town (via generous tax abatement) as well as from the MDC, witness the September 12, 2017 Primary election results for the Democrat slate for Town Council. (See the attached article in PDF format from [The Hartford Courant](#).)

To the MDC's credit, the Commission revoked those 2015 ordinances last year. As an MDC customer, I appreciated the MDC's decision to do the right thing, regardless of what the Commission's motives for doing so were at the

time. (I suspect the drought and general public outrage had something to do with it.) I am writing to tell you that I expect the Commission to continue to do the right thing and not pass any new ordinances providing volume rate discounts for Water, Sewer, or Clean Water Project Charges. The drought may be over, but the outrage isn't.

Specifically:

- Do not provide volume discounts (declining block rates) for large water users such as Niagara Water Bottling. Such volume discounts are a disincentive to good conservation practices. Super users should pay more, not less, for water.
- As the charges for the Clean Water Project continue to rise each year, Niagara and other large users should pay their fair share. There must be no discounts on the Clean Water Project Charge.

Thank you for your consideration.

Paula Jones  
Bloomfield, CT

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Subject: MDC Budget Meeting for 2018

Dear Mr. Mirtle,

As I am unable to be present for the MDC district board meeting scheduled for Oct. 2nd, I ask that my letter become part of the public record.

Last year, the secret agreements made by the MDC, Bloomfield Town Council, and Niagara Bottling concerning water discounts created a public relations nightmare and produced a public outcry without recent comparison.

Those decisions also exposed serious problems in how the MDC and governing officials operate outside the boundaries of their responsibilities to ratepayers and citizen voters. This has caused serious loss of trust in the decision making of the MDC.

Niagara does not have a contract with the MDC. Since the MDC is under no contractual pressure to provide discounts to Niagara and given the strong opposition to these discounts, it is my opinion there should be no discounts of any kind given in 2018.

The MDC's entire pricing structure needs to be transparent and revisited in light of climate change, costly infrastructure repairs and maintenance, declining use of water, and the financial status of the MDC and the City of Hartford.

The MDC is charged with open and honest communication with the communities it serves. Commissioners are responsible to see that communications are transparent and that important decisions consider the needs and input of member towns. MDC should not be giving any large, private, highly profitable business a discount based on outdated pricing structures and totally outdated thinking behind the structure.

MDC should work diligently to reclaim its former reputation as a steward of a local public trust.

Patricia OConnor  
West Hartford

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I would like my comments be included in the official record of the district board meeting of October 2.

I understand that the MDC is once again considering discounts for high volume water users like Niagara.

I am opposed to these discounts.

Niagara Water Bottling has already established itself here. It will not be leaving Connecticut because we have the water resources that it needs. Why do we have to give the company a discount? An incentive for large water users does not make sense to me. It makes us look like a patsy. Customers who use large volumes of water should pay more, not less, for this finite resource.

There should be no discounts for the Clean Water Project. Niagara should pay its fair share! Our costs are going up, and each of us is paying our fair share. Why does a large corporation that makes immense profits not have to pay its fair share?

Water is a public resource. It belongs to all of us. It does not belong to the MDC and it does not belong to corporations who make immense profits off of our water supply. The MDC needs to demonstrate that it understands this and that it puts public interests before corporate interests.

Jane Zande  
West Hartford, CT

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Please do not give any discounts to Niagara or any other bottling plant that takes our water and sells it ; and uses enormous water for their plastic bottles .

We have to stop giving away the store to these big corporations - please stop it .

As a Realtor I work in many towns - everyone is complaining about their water bill - i know that you have many liens on homeowners so obviously you know that people are struggling - this is so unfair. We need you to help homeowners and not the corporations.

Along this line do you offer a payment plan when people are late or you just slap a lien on their property? You must have enormous legal fees -

Peace, Leslie

Leslie Hammond

Broker/Owner

Winner of 2016 Five Star Connecticut magazine award - thanks all!

Hammond Realty LLC

682 Prospect Avenue

Hartford, CT 06105

[Leslie@lesliehammondrealty.com](mailto:Leslie@lesliehammondrealty.com)

860-205-4552

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Please include my comments in the record for tonight's meeting:

- There should be no discounts for high volume water users like Niagara. Customers who use large volumes of water should pay more, not less, for this finite resource.
- Our precious public waters should not be squandered to fill plastic bottles, sold at inflated prices for large corporate profits.
- The charges for the Clean Water Project are rising steeply each year. As the MDC continues to struggle to keep customer charges down, Niagara should pay their fair share. **No discounts** on the Clean Water Project.

Sincerely, Patricia R Clark Bloomfield resident



P.O. Box 271646  
West Hartford, Connecticut 06127

2 October 2017

John S. Mirtle, Esq.  
District Clerk  
The Metropolitan District  
555 Main Street, Hartford, CT 06103

[jmirtle@themdc.com](mailto:jmirtle@themdc.com)

**Re: OPPOSE any new discounts for Niagara Bottling, LLC  
– or other bottled water companies**

Comments from:

Mary Rickel Pelletier  
Founding Director Park Watershed

*Also resident: 80 Elizabeth Street, Hartford, CT 06105*

*+ Member of the MDC Citizens Advisory Committee from September 2004 through December 2014*

To the MDC District Clerk,

Park Watershed opposes industrial discounts for water and other MDC rates. Although the 2017 drought has diminished since the 2016 drought, a moderate drought conditions continues to effect the state, according to National Centers for Environmental Information at NOAA, (<https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/sotc/drought/201708>). The US Drought Portal has designated two-thirds of the state is abnormally dry, (see <https://www.drought.gov/drought/states/connecticut>).

Attached is a copy of the Park Watershed letter, 5 December 2016, regarding Proposed Revisions to Ordinances December 5, 2016. Sustained stream flows throughout the North Branch Park River watershed is a critical issue to aquatic environmental health. The sale of public water to private water companies ought not be discounted. In addition to the serious environmental problems caused by discarded plastic water bottles, private water bottling companies – based far from the MDC voting member towns – ought not be subsidized by local taxpayers who have willingly agreed to pay extra to upgrade area sewer infrastructure. The MDC needs to develop new greener revenues that support the future environmental health of our region. Park Watershed is available to review and research emerging opportunities for environmentally friendly revenues that might suit the MDC.

**Please do remember to enter these comments into the public record.**

Thank you,

Mary Rickel Pelletier  
Founding Director of Park Watershed

c: 1<sup>st</sup> Assembly District, State Representative Matthew Ritter, House Majority Leader  
c: 2<sup>nd</sup> District State Senator Douglas McCroby  
c: Betsey Wingfield, CT DEEP, Bureau Chief, Bureau of Water Protection & Land Reuse



P.O. Box 271646  
West Hartford, Connecticut 06127

5 December 2016

John S. Mirtle, Esq.  
District Clerk  
The Metropolitan District  
555 Main Street, Hartford, CT 06103

**RE: *Park Watershed comments: Public Hearing on Proposed Revisions to Ordinances December 5, 2016***

Comments from:

Mary Rickel Pelletier

resident: 80 Elizabeth Street, Hartford, CT 06105

*Also* Founding Director Park Watershed

*And* Member of the MDC Citizens Advisory Committee from September 2004 through December 2014

To the MDC District Clerk,

Overflow of Reservoir #6 is a source for the North Branch Park River. Due to urban –suburban development, the North Branch flow vacillates from slow and during drought still stagnation to periodic flash floods caused by stormwater run-off. Stream flow is critical to water quality and healthy stream ecosystems. “The solution to pollution is dilution” highlights this concept. The Park River regional watershed overlaps seven of the eight MDC voting member municipalities.

Park Watershed is a 501c3 organization for citizen stewardship in the urban-suburban Park River regional watershed. A primary goal of Park Watershed as a the 501c3 organization is to assist with the implementation of the North Branch Park River Watershed Management Plan. The need for a citizen stewardship organization was identified in the North Branch Park River Watershed Management Plan, which was completed in July of 2010. The EPA approved plan is listed on the Ct DEEP website, [http://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?c=2719&q=379206&depNav\\_GID=1654](http://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?c=2719&q=379206&depNav_GID=1654)

- The North Branch Park River is currently classified as ‘Class: C/A’, meaning the river is only meeting Class C criteria but has a goal of Class A. The river is considered impaired for recreational uses and as a habitat for fish, aquatic life, and wildlife 2008 List of Connecticut Water bodies Not Meeting Water Quality Standards. According to the CT CALM Methodology Paper of 2012, The North Branch Park River is listed on the Impaired Waters List (EPA Category 5) (26).
- To achieve the goal of Class A, the North Branch Park River needs to be suitable as a potential drinking water supply, designated as a fish and wildlife habitat and be safe to use as a recreational area as well as for agricultural and industrial use (22). The designated cause of this impairment has been listed as an excess of E. Coli, the indicator bacteria used for stream monitoring assessment (14).

The proposal to allow Niagara to bottle MDC water was obviously problematic. The allowance of a high-volume discount was especially misguided. I appreciate the MDC the revisions to SECTION W1a – Removal of industrial water rate, and SECTION S12x – Removal of the high volume user discount on the special sewer service charge. Park Watershed understands that the MDC needs to increase revenue.

Through testimony and through meetings of the MDC Citizens Advisory Committee to the Long Term Control Plan, Park Watershed repeatedly recommended MDC invest in the development of comprehensive green infrastructure program. There is an especially unique opportunity to revitalize the North Branch Park River watershed through the re-design of the North Branch trunk line.



P.O. Box 271646  
West Hartford, Connecticut 06127

Opportunities, including green infrastructure, to improve this stream section were described in the 2010 North Branch Park River Watershed Management Plan. Green infrastructure can help recharge groundwater surrounding our urban-suburban watercourses. In addition to CSO discharges being addressed by MDC, North Branch water quality diminishes during dry weather because water stagnates due to minimal flow rates.

To date, MDC has invested tens of millions of dollars into the Long Term Control Plan design and design revisions, which were neatly presented in the Revised December 4<sup>th</sup> 2014 version of the 2012 Update. Of the two hundred and fourteen pages of thoughtful engineering, there were only ten pages of information about the MDC/CDM-Smith green infrastructure strategy. Missing is a serious engineering analysis of what could be accomplished, albeit small, if the MDC invested in a proactive, quantifiable green infrastructure program. For example, although MDC did distribute over 1,300 rain barrels, there is no map of where the rain barrels were installed, nor any programs to ensure that homeowners maintain the rain barrels seasonally.

The MDC CAC *Green Infrastructure* sub-committee, which met monthly throughout 2012, and quarterly for several following years, consistently recommended that MDC invest in green infrastructure strategies to complement conventional sewage treatment. This approach could increase local job opportunities, plus increase community awareness about the effects of urban planning on water quality.

A resident of Hartford since 2001, I am well aware of the need to grow jobs in Hartford, and throughout the state. Here again, the MDC could leverage work on the LTCP, Clean Water Project to develop a comprehensive approach to the development of green infrastructure – as has Philadelphia, New York City, Kansas City, Chicago, Portland Seattle, San Francisco, . . . MDC needs to explore a paradigm shift towards the development of new streams of revenue – so all MDC stakeholders, in voting member towns, and the greater Hartford metropolitan area can benefit.

The MDC is not a private corporation. The MDC LTCP is funded by state taxpayers and MDC customers who include residents of the voting member towns. Although most successful, measureable, green infrastructure projects have been developed by cities that own their water and sewer utilities, this political circumstance ought not obscure the most important point, which is green infrastructure can be beneficial, and cost effective. Numerous stakeholders – including the CAC green infrastructure sub-committee have repeatedly expressed interest in working openly with MDC to ensure successful site selection, design, implementation and maintenance of green infrastructure features. **Park Watershed asks/recommends the following:**

- MDC collaborate with Park Watershed and representatives of other area environmental organizations in the development of a comprehensive, measurable green infrastructure project area within the Park River regional watershed, with emphasis on the North Branch and Gully Brook watersheds. Open and transparent conversations that include a roundtable of stakeholders will facilitate consensus about available sites and maintenance strategies.

MDC has made significant improvements to the sewer infrastructure and water quality within the Park River regional watershed, and the greater Connecticut River. MDC needs to develop a new, 21<sup>st</sup> century approach to managing our precious water resources, diverse environmental organizations that represent citizen and local environmental interests ought to be included – and could help the MDC develop a sustainable 21<sup>st</sup> century framework for shared prosperity. The MDC needs to focus on moving towards a greener prosperous future, rather than fire sale privatization of public resources.

Mary Rickel Pelletier  
Founding Director of Park Watershed



**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:11 PM

ATTEST:

John S. Mirtle, Esq.  
District Clerk

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