

THE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COMMISSION

555 Main Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06103
Monday, August 7, 2023

PRESENT: Commissioners Andrew Adil, Kyle Anderson, John Avedisian, John Bazzano, Clifford Avery Buell, Richard Bush, Donald Currey, Dimple Desai, William A. DiBella, Peter Gardow, Joan Gentile, Allen Hoffman, Jean Holloway, Gary Johnson, Diane Lewis, Maureen Magnan, Jacqueline Mandyck, Dominic Pane, Bhupen Patel, Pasquale J. Salemi, David Steuber, Alvin Taylor, Calixto Torres and James Woulfe (24)

REMOTE ATTENDANCE: Commissioners James Healy, Christian Hoheb and Mary LaChance, Byron Lester (4)

ABSENT: Commissioners David Drake, John Gale, Michael Maniscalco, Jon Petoskey, and New Britain Special Representative Michael Carrier (5)

ALSO PRESENT: Citizen Member Awet Tsegai
Scott Jellison, Chief Executive Officer
Christopher Stone, District Counsel
John S. Mirtle, District Clerk
Chris Levesque, Chief Operating Officer
Kelly Shane, Chief Administrative Officer
Robert Barron, Chief Financial Officer
Jamie Harlow, Director of Human Resources
Olga Cordova, Manager of Human Resources
Robert Schwarm, Director of Information Technology
Sue Negrelli, Director of Engineering
Michael Curley, Manager of Technical Services
Jason Waterbury, Senior Project Manager
Steve Bonafonte, Assistant District Counsel (Remote Attendance)
Jeff King, Construction Manager
Jason Bretemps, Utility Maintenance Superintendent
Dana Chalupka, Contract Specialist
Lisa Madison, Manager of Procurement
Bethsaida Melendez, Procurement Compliance Analyst
Nick Salemi, Communications Administrator
Julie McLaughlin, Communications Administrator
Angel Morales, Senior Clerk
Carrie Blardo, Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer
Victoria Escoriza, Executive Assistant
Dylan Pecego, IT Consultant (Remote Attendance)
Dave Baker, IT Consultant (Remote Attendance)
Joseph Szerejko, Independent Consumer Advocate (Remote Attendance)

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman DiBella at 5:31 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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion made by Commissioner Gentile and duly seconded, the meeting minutes of July 12, 2023 were approved.

Commissioners Adil and Bazzano abstained.

PUBLIC COMMENTS RELATIVE TO AGENDA ITEMS

No one from the public appeared to be heard.

REPORT FROM DISTRICT CHAIRMAN

Chairman DiBella stated that the purpose of this meeting is to provide an update regarding the Integrated Plan, Consent Order and flooding in the City of Hartford.

REPORT FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Scott Jellison, Chief Executive Officer, reported that DPH granted an abandonment permit for the Colebrook River Lake Reservoir

REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNSEL

Christopher Stone, District Counsel, reported that DPH granted an abandonment permit for the Colebrook River Lake Reservoir, and that the next step in the process is to seek Congressional action to end the contract with the Army Corps of Engineers.

He stated that DPH and DEEP have no objection to the congressional amendment to get out of the Army Corps contract. He also provided an update on the claims pending before the State Claims Commissioner regarding the landfill and Buckingham parking garage. He provided an update regarding the state and federal lawsuits regarding the tunnel litigation as well as the Marriott case which was appealed to the CT Supreme Court.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF STORMWATER ISSUE BOTH WITHIN THE CITY OF HARTFORD AND REMAINING MEMBER TOWNS

Chief Executive Officer Scott Jellison showed the District Board a presentation and provided a general description of the Stormwater Issue within the City of Hartford and remaining member towns.

Commissioner Gardow left the meeting at 6:40 PM and joined remotely.

IMMEDIATE AND LONG-TERM MEASURES WITHIN THE MDC SEWER SYSTEM TO ADDRESS IMPACTS OF STORMWATER

Chief Executive Officer Scott Jellison discussed the immediate and long-term measures within the MDC Sewer System, in order to address the impacts of stormwater.

STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS NECESSARY TO PROVIDE LONG TERM RELIEF FROM EXCESS STORMWATER

Chief Executive Officer Scott Jellison discussed stormwater infrastructure improvements necessary to address impacts of stormwater

EXISTING AND POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES

Chief Executive Officer Scott Jellison discussed existing and potential funding sources.

IMPLEMENTATION AND OUTREACH OF MDC'S HOUSE CONNECTION, BACK WATER VALVE AND SEWER SEPARATION PROJECT

Chief Administrative Officer Kelly Shane, Construction Manager Jeff King, Communications Administrator Julie McLaughlin and Communications Administrator Nick Salemi provided a report regarding the implementation and outreach of MDC's House Connection, Backwater Valve Program and the Sewer Separation Project.

**STAFF RESPONSE TO LETTER FROM COMMISSIONERS HOLLOWAY AND
TORRES DATED JULY 19, 2023**

Chief Executive Officer Scott Jellison stated that he received the letter on Thursday, August 3rd and will provide a response in the near future to the letter received from Commissioners Holloway and Torres, dated July 19, 2023.

Commissioner Salemi left the meeting at 8:20 PM

OPPORTUNITY FOR GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Alyssa Peterson, of Hartford, stated that she was accosted by a vendor at the last meeting and will be submitting a formal complaint. She stated that tonight was the first time that she's heard a little controversy and a lively discussion at an MDC meeting. She believes MDC needs a better plan as a path forward. She said the best idea would be that the MDC should handle the Flood Commission based on their experience and staff. There are currently 2 staff from the City of Hartford that work on the Flood Commission, and they are overwhelmed. She described a Fuss & O'Neil study from 2016 by the City of Hartford that identified a list of flood control projects that have not been done.

Judy Allen, of West Hartford, recognized staff for all of the work they have done. She hopes that the set asides and the Hartford residency requirements are put into other MDC work outside of just Hartford. She also inquired about any updates on the drinking water industrial rate.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM

ATTEST:

John S. Mirtle, Esq.
District Clerk

Date of Approval