



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Media Advisory

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Water Environment Federation convenes in Chicago October 5-9, 2013

High profile conference speakers include: Illinois Governor Pat Quinn, Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy, Robert Kennedy, Jr., MWRD President Kathleen Meany and MWRD Executive Director David St. Pierre

What: Water Environment Federation's (WEF) 86th Annual Technical Exhibition and Conference - WEFTEC® 2013

When: Saturday-Wednesday, October 5-9, 2013

Where: McCormick Place South, Chicago

If it's about water, it will be at WEFTEC. As the largest annual water quality conference and exhibition in the world, WEFTEC continues to offer the best educational, business and networking opportunities in the water sector today. Using more than one million gross square feet of exhibition floor and meeting space at McCormick Place, the world-class technical program will feature more than 140 technical sessions, 27 workshops, numerous events and ten local facility tours.

The record-setting exhibition will provide access to 1,000 exhibiting companies and their technical experts showing the latest developments, research, solutions and cutting-edge technologies in the field. As one of the largest conventions in the city this year, WEFTEC will meet in Chicago every other year from now until 2023.

MAJOR EVENTS AND NOTABLE SPEAKERS:

Sat., October 5; 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., 247 W 23rd Place: "Reading, Writing and Rain Gardens" community service project where conference volunteers will replace concrete with green infrastructure on the playground at John C. Haines Elementary in Chicago's Chinatown neighborhood.

Sat.-Wed., October 5-9, Hyatt Regency McCormick Place: The inaugural Stormwater Congress is a special "conference within a conference" that will feature 17 technical sessions, more than 70 world-class speakers, the Stormwater Pavilion, and more.

Mon., October 7; 8:30-9:30 a.m., Rm S100, Grand Ballroom, McCormick Place South: The Opening General Session kicks off the conference and will feature welcome remarks from The Honorable Pat Quinn, Governor of Illinois and a keynote by dynamic best-selling author, speaker and "agent for social change" Kevin Carroll.

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Mon., October 7; 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m., Rm S100, Grand Ballroom, McCormick Place South: Facilitated by G. Tracy Mehan III, a former U.S. EPA Assistant Administrator for Water and a Principal at the Cadmus Group, the Water Leaders Session: “The Future of Cities and Water: Insights from Great Water Cities” will feature an impressive line-up of high profile speakers including:

- The Honorable Rahm Emanuel, Mayor of Chicago
- The Honorable Gina McCarthy, Administrator of the U.S. EPA
- Harlan Kelly, Jr., General Manager, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
- Heiner Markhoff, President & CEO, GE Water & Process Technologies
- Chew Men Leong, Chief Executive, PUB Singapore
- Sue Murphy, CEO, Water Corporation of Western Australia

Mon.-Wed., October 7-9, South Hall, McCormick Place: Sponsored by WEF and our Innovation Partners, Blue Tech Research and Imagine H2O, the Innovation Showcase includes educational sessions, networking events, and exhibits, such as the Omni-Ingestor and OmniProcessor prototypes at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation’s Water Sanitation & Hygiene exhibit.

Tues., October 8; 9:00 a.m., Grand Concourse Lobby, McCormick Place South: Governor Quinn will officially open the Global Center, followed by a special presentation from Robert Kennedy, Jr. who will speak about the importance of nutrient removal and recovery. Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago President Kathleen Meany and Executive Director David St. Pierre will also be on hand to discuss the planned 2015 launch of the world’s largest nutrient recovery facility which will be built at the Stickney Water Reclamation Plant.

Tues., October 8, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., South Hall, Booth 1685: The Operations Challenge Competition is a fast-paced skills event that will feature 41 teams from water/wastewater utilities across the U.S. and Canada. Three regional teams will participate including The Illinois Water Environment Association Sewer Rats from the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago.

EXHIBIT HALL: McCormick Place South Hall A1-2

HOURS: Mon.-Wed., October 7-9: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

PRESS ROOM: Room 427D, McCormick Place South

HOURS: Sun.-Tues., Oct. 6-8: 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.; Wed., Oct. 9: 8:30 a.m.-10:00 a.m.

To obtain press credentials, contact Lori Harrison at lharrison@wef.org or 703-216-8565.

About WEF: Founded in 1928, the Water Environment Federation (WEF) is a not-for-profit technical and educational organization composed of 36,000 individual members and 75 affiliated member associations representing water quality professionals around the world. WEF members, member associations and staff proudly work to achieve the organization’s mission to provide bold leadership, champion innovation, connect water professionals, and leverage knowledge to support clean and safe water worldwide.

*Established in 1889, the MWRD (www.mwrd.org) is an award-winning, special purpose government agency responsible for wastewater treatment and stormwater management in Cook County, Illinois. **Our water environment, Take it personally.***