



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Press Release

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MWRD hosts inaugural Sustainability Summit

With a goal of empowering community leaders with an awareness of local, state and federal resources and partnerships, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) hosted its first Sustainability Summit in Midlothian on Sept. 26.

More than 80 officials from the 125 Cook County communities participated in the four hour summit held at the Rada Lodge. Speakers included representatives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Office of the Governor, Illinois State Treasurer's office, Cook County, Metropolitan Planning Council, Openlands, and the MWRD.

One of the program's highlights was the presentation of awards. MWRD Commissioner D. Patrick Thompson awarded the "Biosolids User" awards to the villages of Midlothian and Hinsdale. Both communities successfully used the low-cost, sustainable alternative to chemical fertilizers developed through the wastewater treatment process to revitalize worn-down sports fields.

Commissioner Thompson also presented awards for sustainable landscaping. The first honor went to David Leopold on behalf of the City of Chicago Dept. of Transportation for its Pilsen Sustainable Streetscape project. This endeavor integrated a wide range of innovative technologies to create green infrastructure with smart, efficient capital investment. Comm. Thompson presented the second green landscaping award to village planner Martha Glas and Robert Dahlberg for the village of Lemont's new Police Station. The new 28,500 sq. ft. facility features many green infrastructure components, including rain gardens, vegetated bio-swales to manage run-off and permeable pavers.

Three honorable mention certificates were presented. The first went to Aaron Durnbaugh, Director of Sustainability for Loyola University on behalf of its Lake Shore Campus sustainable landscaping projects. Josh Ellis, Program Manager at the Metropolitan Planning Council (MPC), accepted the award for MPC's development of the Milwaukee Ave. Green Development Corridor which tackled stormwater by using green infrastructure to improve downstream water quality. Frank Avino accepted the award on behalf of the Village of Norridge's volunteer Green Team. The volunteer team was formed to enhance recycling, sustainability, water conservation, and flood control practices within the village.



MWRD Commissioner Patrick D. Thompson (third from left) presents a Biosolids User award to Gina Hassett, Executive Director of the Hinsdale Park District during the MWRD's first Sustainability Summit held in Midlothian on Sept. 26. Also pictured (L-R): Commissioner Kari Steele, Vice Pres. Barbara McGowan, Debra Shore and Frank Avila.



MWRD soil scientist Dr. Lakhwinder Hundal (on the right) explains a new biosolids blend while MWRD Vice Pres. Barbara McGowan feels the texture during the MWRD's first Sustainability Summit held in Midlothian on Sept. 26.



MWRD Commissioner Frank Avila (on the left) discusses the Sustainability Summit with Eric Heineman, Senior Sustainability Policy Advisor and Sustainability Director for Governor Pat Quinn. Eric was one of the event speakers.

Established in 1889, the MWRD (www.mwr.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.**