



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Press Release

Allison Fore

Public and Intergovernmental Affairs Officer

312.751.6633

public.affairs@mwr.org

100 East Erie Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611

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MWRD Exec. Director testifies at Clean Water Caucus “Utility of the Future” Congressional Briefing

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) Executive Director David St. Pierre testified during the inaugural briefing of the Congressional Clean Water Caucus (CWC) to highlight innovative technologies and approaches in the water sector and the vital local and national economic benefits these innovations provide.

Congressional CWC Co-Chairs John Duncan (R-TN) and Timothy Bishop (D-NY) convened the briefing, titled “Utilities of the Future...Engaging Communities, Embracing New Challenges & Ensuring Economic Prosperity,” which provided participants with the opportunity to learn about clean water technologies and water management innovations currently being pursued by five public agencies, including those in Atlanta, Chicago, Cincinnati, Onondaga County, and San Francisco.

With the passage of the Clean Water Act 40 years ago, clean water agencies across the country are undergoing a transformation from wastewater treatment facilities to resource recovery. These utilities are pioneering new technologies and cutting-edge practices to manage valuable resources, spur economic development, create jobs, and improve the environment and public health.

“The work utilities are performing has evolved since the CWA was passed. We can no longer look at sewage as a waste product, but instead, as a collection of resources to be recovered and reused,” said MWRD Executive Director David St. Pierre. “It is vital that we examine potential sources of renewable energy, find ways to reduce our carbon footprint, and recover valuable raw materials as we work toward the common goal of improving our water environment.”

In addition to remarks provided by Representatives Duncan and Bishop and Mr. St. Pierre, speakers included Harlan Kelly, General Manager, City & County of San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, CA; Tony Parrott, Executive



In the photo: Exec. Director St. Pierre (on the left), Commissioner Michael Alvarez (on the far right) and others met with Senator Dick Durbin at the Senator's D.C. office in the Hart Senate Office Building last week to discuss sustainability initiatives and stormwater management projects. Photo provided Senator Durbin's office.

Director, Greater Cincinnati Water Works, Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati, OH; Matt Millea, Deputy County Executive, Onondaga County Department of Water Environment, NY; and Jo Ann Macrina, Commissioner, City of Atlanta Department of Watershed Management, GA.

The Congressional Briefing was one of several events of the inaugural Water Week 2014, which continues through April 11. Organized by the National Association of Clean Water Agencies, the Water Environment Federation, and the Water Environment Research Foundation, Water Week 2014 brought hundreds of water and wastewater professionals to the nation's capital to discuss key legislative, regulatory and legal water developments with members of Congress and federal regulators; showcase innovations and new technologies; and celebrate the progress of water professionals in addressing our nation's water challenges.

To learn more about the Congressional Briefing, visit www.WaterWeek.us.

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Our Water Environment: Take it personally.

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.