



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Press Release

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For immediate release

September 16, 2014

Governor Quinn announces funding support for flooding, phosphorus recovery project



Gov. Pat Quinn addresses the media and area residents about funding for Melvina Ditch Reservoir and other MWRD projects.

Illinois Governor Pat Quinn announced funding support targeted at resolving issues related to overflows at the Melvina Ditch Reservoir in Burbank, IL and improvements at the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago's (MWRD's) Stickney Water Reclamation Plant in Cicero, IL. Pres. Kathleen Meany, Vice President Barbara McGowan, Commissioner Patrick D. Thompson, MWRD executive Director David St. Pierre, state senator Lisa Hernandez, Illinois EPA Director Lisa Bonnett, and Burbank's Mayor Harry Klein joined the Governor at the Reservoir as he made the announcement last Saturday.

The Governor is making \$134 million available through the Clean Water Initiative; \$124 million will be used at the Stickney Water Reclamation Plant for the world's largest phosphorus recovery facility to curb water pollution; a portion of the funding will go toward facility



(L-R): MWRD Commissioner Patrick D. Thompson, Pres. Kathleen Meany, Gov. Pat Quinn and Vice President Barbara McGowan paused for a photo after Saturday's press announcement at the Melvina Ditch Reservoir in Burbank, IL.

improvements and to replace old equipment; up to \$10 million will be earmarked for Melvina Ditch Reservoir improvements.

"These funds will enable the District to move forward on phosphorus recovery and infrastructure upgrades that will provide for more efficient operations, beneficial reuse of waste products generated during the treatment process and energy conservation," said MWRD President Kathleen Meany. "We will begin constructing the world's largest phosphorus recovery facility which will produce up to 10,000 tons per year of a clean fertilizer product for sale to agriculture. The Governor is also financially supporting one or more projects that will allow the MWRD to expedite stormwater management initiatives, including the expansion of the Melvina Ditch



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Reservoir and other crucial flood protection projects, all of which will benefit the residents of Cook County and the water environment.”

MWRD Executive Director St. Pierre said flooding is the number one issue in Cook County and that improving the reservoir likely will involve expanding the reservoir’s capacity.

The Governor’s press release can be found at:
<http://www3.illinois.gov/PressReleases/ShowPressRelease.cfm?SubjectID=2&RecNum=12623>

A video of the press conference can be found at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xucy914dAaY&feature=youtu.be>



Governor Quinn poses with MWRD staff during the Sept. 13 press conference at Melvina Ditch Reservoir in Burbank, IL.

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Our Water Environment: **Take it personally**

Established in 1889, the MWRD (www.mwrdd.org) is an award-winning, special purpose government agency responsible for wastewater treatment and stormwater management in Cook County, Illinois.