



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Photo Release

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MWRD Commissioners tour Fulton County property, announce new partnership with IDNR

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) Vice President Barbara McGowan and Chairman of Finance Mariyana Spyropoulos joined Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Director Marc Miller on behalf of Governor Pat Quinn, state senator Dave Koehler and other local officials to tour MWRD property and announce a new partnership.

During a press conference held at the MWRD office in Cuba, IL on Monday, it was announced that the IDNR will expand recreational development in Fulton County by managing some of MWRD's 14,000 acres in Fulton County. The property was purchased in 1970 to restore strip-mined land back to usable real estate. This project was successful, and the MWRD received numerous awards for producing some of the best outdoor recreational property in the state.

"When we have an opportunity like this to expand recreational opportunities in the state of Illinois, we must do everything we can to make that a reality and leave no child inside," Governor Quinn said. "This is a great example of taking previously mined land, restoring it, and making it available for use by people with diverse recreational interests."

Vice President McGowan said that "partnering with the Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources will help the MWRD manage the land and serve the citizens of Illinois. It's important that children have open areas to play and have fun."

IDNR biologists will work to identify parcels to determine opportunities for fishing, wildlife and off-season activities. The property is self-sustaining through 5,000 acres that continue to be farmed.

"The District has been the guardian of this land for 40 years, and it is wonderful that IDNR is interested in making this property available to the general public," said Commissioner Spyropoulos.



(L-R): Vice President Barbara McGowan addresses the media and residents of Fulton County to announce a new partnership between the MWRD and IDNR.



(L-R): Chairman of Finance Mariyana Spyropoulos and Vice President Barbara McGowan survey a map of Fulton County property in the Cuba, IL lab as Dr. Albert Cox, Monitoring and Research Supervising Environmental Soil Scientist, explains where biosolids testing is underway.



(L-R): MWRD retiree Emil Boucek, who was a Field Lab Technician for the Fulton County Prairie Plan, hands Vice President Barbara McGowan and Chairman of Finance Mariyana Spyropoulos some corn cultivated on MWRD property.

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.

Our water environment, take it personally.