



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Press Release

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For immediate release

April 13, 2015

Commissioners visit Illinois General Assembly to discuss legislative initiatives



MWRD Commissioners pause in front of the state capitol in Springfield, IL before meeting with legislative leaders last month.

Commissioners from the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) held their first private meeting with Governor Bruce Rauner and met with legislative leaders during their annual visit to the state capitol in Springfield last month.

President Mariyana Spyropoulos, Vice President Barbara McGowan, Chairman of Finance Frank Avila and Commissioners Debra Shore, Kari Steele and Cynthia Santos discussed MWRD biosolids and other initiatives. Biosolids are a valuable resource recovered from the wastewater treatment process that can be used to improve soil fertility and soil moisture holding capacity. The biosolids are used to improve agricultural

land, provide organic matter and nutrients to sod farms and nurseries, and construct golf courses, parks, and athletic fields.

“Beneficial use of biosolids is one way to maximize public funds, and it is important that we provide members of the General Assembly an update on this type of work the District has underway,” said President Mariyana Spyropoulos. “In addition to biosolids, we have major projects coming online this year and hope our elected officials can experience for themselves the magnitude and impact of these initiatives.”

Two of the major initiatives coming online (continued)

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.



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in 2015 are the Thornton Composite Reservoir, located in Thornton, IL and disinfection at the Calumet Water Reclamation Plant (WRP) in Chicago. The Thornton Reservoir is part of the Tunnel and Reservoir Plan which is designed to protect 182,000 structures and serve 556,000 people in 14 communities throughout

the south side of Chicago and south suburbs of Cook County. It will provide 7.9 billion gallons of storage and \$40 million per year in flood control benefits. Adding chlorination/dechlorination disinfection facilities at the Calumet WRP in Chicago will help improve water quality in the Chicago Area Waterway System.

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House Majority Leader Barbara Flynn Currie, in red, is flanked by MWRD Commissioners.



(L-R) Chairman of Finance Frank Avila, President Mariyana Spyropoulos, Commissioners Kari Steele and Cynthia Santos, Vice President Barbara McGowan, and Commissioner Debra Shore met with Governor Bruce Rauner to discuss MWRD biosolids. They are pictured with the Governor in his office.

Recovering Resources, Transforming Water

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