



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

# Press Release

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## May 7 marks last Board meeting for MWRD Commissioner Patrick D. Thompson

His time may have been short with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD), but Commissioner Patrick D. Thompson made a lasting impact through his devotion to water quality initiatives and stormwater management.

The May 8 Board of Commissioners meeting was Commissioner Thompson's last as a commissioner with the MWRD as he was recently elected to serve as alderman of Chicago's 11th Ward; he will be inaugurated on May 18. Gov. Bruce Rauner is responsible for appointing a replacement to fill the commissioner's vacated seat.

Commissioner Thompson was elected to the MWRD Board in November, 2012, and he chaired the Industrial Waste and Water Pollution and Monitoring and Research committees. He also served as vice chair of the Information Technology and Judiciary committees.

"I have appreciated serving on the Board of Commissioners for the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago. I am grateful for the time and dedication of my fellow Commissioners and the invaluable efforts of MWRD staff," Commissioner Thompson said. "Over the last few years we have helped our communities with local water issues, and we have worked to improve our environment and deliver crucial services to our communities."

During Commissioner Thompson's time on the Board, the MWRD approved the Watershed Management Ordinance, which addressed stormwater management at future commercial, municipal and residential developments, and created a new program to reduce sanitary sewer overflows, basement backups and extraneous flows to MWRD water reclamation plants (WRP). During his time on the Board, the MWRD also promoted the expansion of stormwater management services to help communities with local flooding issues; advanced the Tunnel and Reservoir Plan (TARP) with the near completion of the Thornton

Composite Reservoir; increased MWRD resource recovery efforts; broke ground on WRP disinfection projects at O'Brien and Calumet WRPs and the phosphorus recovery project at the Stickney WRP. As a result of Commissioner Thompson and his fellow board members' fiscal management, in December 2014, Fitch Ratings and Standard and Poor's (S&P) assigned AAA ratings to the MWRD for a bond sale and affirmed AAA ratings on all of the MWRD's outstanding bond issues.

"We thank Commissioner Thompson for his diligent service and know he will be a tremendous asset right away for the Chicago City Council," said President Mariyana Spyropoulos. "During his time on the Board, Commissioner Thompson quickly became immersed in District business working to instill a continuous improvement environment."



*Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago Commissioner Patrick D. Thompson served during a pivotal time for the Board as it made several key decisions to work toward managing stormwater through new programs.*

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**Recovering Resources, Transforming Water**

*Established in 1889, the MWRD ([www.mwr.org](http://www.mwr.org)) is an award-winning, special purpose government agency responsible for wastewater treatment and stormwater management in Cook County, Illinois.*