



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Press Release

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For immediate release

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Water Environment Federation Convenes in Chicago, Sept. 26–30

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago staff, commissioners to be featured speakers

WHAT: Water Environment Federation's (WEF) Annual Technical Exhibition and Conference (WEFTEC®)

WHERE: McCormick Place South

WHEN: Sat.–Wed., Sept. 26–30, 2015

DETAILS: WEFTEC, the world's largest annual water quality event, provides the latest developments, technologies, and services for water preservation, restoration, and sustainability. More than 20,000 water professionals and over 1,000 water companies from around the world will attend the Water Environment Federation's 88th annual technical exhibition and conference.

Representing all water, all the time, the 2015 technical program includes 135 technical sessions, 29 workshops, seven local facility tours, 17 mobile sessions, and numerous high-profile events. As the world's largest assembly of water and wastewater product and services, as well as the launch point for innovative water sector technologies, the award-winning exhibition uses 312,500sqf of floor space at McCormick Place and provides access to 1,039 exhibiting companies, equipment demonstrations, and leading technical experts. Notable features include the **Innovation Showcase; Stormwater Congress; WEF Plaza;** and **Global Center.**

Featuring presentations from more than 1,000 national and international water sector experts, programming will delve into the most timely water issues within the following **focus areas:** collection & distribution systems; energy production, conservation & management; facility operations & maintenance & wastewater treatment; industrial issues, including mining & petro-chemical industries; oil & gas; innovation; laboratory practices; leading edge research; nutrient management; public officials; residuals & biosolids; stormwater, green infrastructure & wet weather; utility management; water reclamation & reuse; water resource recovery facility design; and water supply & management.

The conference meets in Chicago every other year beginning in 2013 through 2019. The conference is held in New Orleans, LA on the opposite years.

Websites

www.weftec.org, www.wef.org; www.mwrdd.org

Facebook

facebook.com/WEFTEC

facebook.com/metropolitanwaterreclamationdistrict

Twitter

@WEFTEC, #WEFTEC2015, @mwrddgc

Major and MWRD-Related Events

All events take place at McCormick Place South, unless otherwise noted.

SAT., SEPT. 26

8:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

3200 South Calumet Avenue

THE PERSHING CULTIVATION PROJECT: GROWING GREEN GARDENS AND YOUNG MINDS Conference volunteers will help transform a portion of the Pershing Magnet School grounds into a learning garden that will serve as an interactive tool for K–8 students to learn about water, the environment, and green infrastructure. Features will include an outdoor classroom and corresponding lesson plans; a permeable path and rain garden to capture and store stormwater runoff; and a large traditional garden filled with native prairie grasses and flowers.

MON., SEPT. 28

7:15 a.m.–8:30 a.m.

AAEES, AIDIS, WEF BREAKFAST featuring a keynote from **Catherine A. O'Connor**, MWRD's Director of Engineering who will discuss "Recovering Resources, Transforming Water: Phosphorous Recovery and Other Sustainability Initiatives at Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago."

8:15 a.m.–9:30 a.m.

Grand Ballroom, S100

THE OPENING GENERAL SESSION: LEADING A WATER RESOURCE RECOVERY REVOLUTION kicks off the conference

and will feature a keynote by documentary filmmaker **Rob Stewart**, who will discuss his film, *Revolution*. The program will also feature a high-energy, interactive performance by **Drum Café West**. Percussion sticks from the performance will be donated to the Pershing Magnet School and other Chicago-area elementary music programs. The OGS will also be livestreamed via www.weftec.org.

10:00 a.m.–11:45 a.m.

Grand Ballroom, S100

THE IMPACT OF LEADERSHIP: CULTURE, COMMUNICATION, AND COMMUNITY IN GREAT WATER CITIES will be moderated by MWRD Executive Director **David St. Pierre** and feature an opening keynote from EPA Acting Assistant Administrator **Stan Meiburg**, followed by a panel discussion of global thought leaders: **Felicia Marcus**, Chair of the State Water Resources Control Board for the State of California; **Tony Parrott**, Executive Director of the Louisville and Jefferson County Metropolitan Sewer District; **Lars Schroeder**, CEO of Aarhus Water Ltd.; and **Susan Story**, President & CEO of American Water. The GWC Session will also be livestreamed via www.weftec.org.

11:50 a.m.–12:10 p.m.

Grand Ballroom, S100 Lobby

THE WEF STORMWATER INSTITUTE “RAINFALL TO RESULTS: THE FUTURE OF STORMWATER” PRESS EVENT The Water Environment Federation will release a new publication, *Rainfall to Results: The Future of Stormwater*. The release coincides with the launch of the WEF Stormwater Institute and details pathways to improving the condition and management of stormwater systems in the United States and beyond. Event will include remarks from national stormwater experts, overview of report findings, and a brief Q&A.

12:00 p.m.

Hyde Park A/CC11A

MEDIA EVENT re: MWRD tests new GE technology to improve treatment performance, reduce energy costs.

1:30 p.m.–5:00 p.m.

Room N228

SESSION #220: INFRASTRUCTURE ECONOMICS Moderated by **Kevin Shafer**, Executive Director of the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District and featuring influential water sector leaders: Patrick Decker, President and CEO of Xylem, Inc.; **George Hawkins**, General Manager of DC Water; **Heiner Markhoff**, President and CEO of GE Water; and **Susan Story**, President and CEO of American Water.

3:30 p.m.–5:00 p.m.

Hall A, Booth 358, Innovation Showcase

THE BREW TANK: WATER STARTUPS PITCH TO OUR EXPERTS Modeled after TV’s *Shark Tank*, award-winning startups pitch their ideas to water sector experts including investors, advisors, industrial and municipal customers.

TUES., SEPT. 29

8:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Room N426b

SESSION #317: WORLD’S LARGEST RAIN BARREL—Repurposing Abandoned Infrastructure in Chicago for Innovation Stormwater Management

9:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Hall A, Booth 2749

OPERATIONS CHALLENGE COMPETITION is a fast-paced skills event that will feature nearly 50 teams representing water/wastewater utilities from the U.S., Canada, and for the first time, Germany. The **MWRD’s Chicago Sewer Rats** will proudly compete for the Windy City in this fun, popular 28th annual event.

1:30 p.m.–5:00 p.m.

Room S501a

SESSION #412: CHICAGO DEEP TUNNEL—Thornton Reservoir Design and Construction.

2:30 p.m.–4:00 p.m.

Hall A, Booth 358, Innovation Showcase

THE CROC TANK: WATER STARTUPS PITCH TO OUR EXPERTS Modeled after TV’s *Shark Tank*, award-winning startups have another opportunity to pitch their ideas to water sector experts including investors, advisors, industrial and municipal customers.

WED., SEPT. 30

7:30 a.m.–9:00 a.m.

Room S105b

FIRST ANNUAL WOMEN IN WATER NETWORKING BREAKFAST: INFORMING, CONNECTING, AND INSPIRING CURRENT AND FUTURE FEMALE WATER SECTOR LEADERS Science, technology, engineering, and math historically have attracted fewer women; the water sector is no exception. This inaugural event welcomes women from a variety of disciplines—engineering, operations, research, management, and communications—for peer-to-peer networking and provides an environment for sharing successes and discussing challenges faced both professionally and personally. Featuring a keynote from MWRD Commissioner **Debra Shore**, other panelists include: **Karen Pallansch**, Chief Executive Officer, Alexandria Renew; **Sandra Ralston**, Principal, Consensus LLC; **Cathy Gerali**, District Manager, Denver Metropolitan Wastewater District; **Nancy Love**, Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of Michigan; **Eileen O’Neill**, Executive Director, Water Environment Federation; **Mariyana Spyropoulos**, MWRD Board of Commissioners President; and **Cindy Wallis-Lage**, Water Group President, Black & Veatch.

EXHIBIT HALL

McCormick Place, Hall A (South Hall)

HOURS: Mon–Wed., Sept. 28–30 from 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m.; exhibitor hospitality events/private demonstrations will be Mon–Tues, Sept. 28–29, 5:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m.

PRESS ROOM

McCormick Place, Room N427d, (312) 791-6630**

HOURS: Sun., Sept. 27–Tues, Sept. 29, 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m.; Wed., Sept. 30, 8:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

**To obtain press credentials, contact WEF Media Contact Lori Harrison at lharrison@wef.org, (703) 216-8565 (call/text). Local number valid during press room hours.

About WEF

The Water Environment Federation (WEF) is a not-for-profit technical and educational organization of 36,000 individual members and 75 affiliated Member Associations representing water quality professionals around the world. Since 1928, WEF and its members have protected public health and the environment. As a global water sector leader, our mission is to connect water professionals; enrich the expertise of water professionals; increase the awareness of the impact and value of water; and provide a platform for water sector innovation. To learn more, visit www.wef.org.

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Recovering Resources, Transforming Water

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