



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

# Press Release

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## MWRD vendor outreach event sheds light on new work opportunities for firms;

### *Diversity today, success tomorrow theme highlighted*



(L-R) Harry McGraw of Chicago Urban League, MWRD Vice President Barbara McGowan, MWRD Executive Director David St. Pierre and consultant Lindsey Gayles, of Gayles and Associates.

Qualified business owners seeking to register as a potential vendor with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) learned more about the process at a MWRD-sponsored vendor outreach fair held at the University of Illinois at Chicago's Student Center East on May 18. Another vendor outreach event will be held at the University of Chicago Gleacher Center on Oct. 13.

More than 200 contractors, consultants, subcontractors and potential vendors met with MWRD officials and other firms to learn how to register as a vendor and secure work opportunities with the MWRD. The event's goal was to expand and maximize business opportunities for local Minority Business Enterprises (MBE), Women Business Enterprises (WBE) and Small Business Enterprises (SBE).

The vendor fair, entitled "Diversity Today, Success Tomorrow," included presentations from MWRD executive staff and guest speakers who shared their success stories on becoming new vendors, experiencing work opportu-

nity increases and how they made the transition from subcontractors to prime contractors. Speakers included: Anne Leslie, of Raimonde Drilling, and Shorty Mills, of Pagoda Electric, who covered "Learning to do business with the District;" Keith Searles, of Urban GIS, who presented "Growth in revenue due to working with the District;" and David Rambhajan, of Industria Construction Services, whose presentation was titled "Growing from a subcontractor to a prime."

This was the MWRD's third vendor outreach fair in just over eight months, bringing together dozens of firms and government agencies to introduce firms to the various opportunities to grow their businesses and achieve goal attainment.

"The Chicago Urban League was pleased to participate in the vendor fair hosted by MWRD," said Andrew Wells, director of Workforce Development with the Urban League. "We were able to network with vendors and learn more about potential employment opportunities for the clients we serve and look forward to a continued partnership with MWRD as they seek to grow their workforce."

"The District strives to provide a fair, inclusive and transparent process that promotes diversity and excellence in the workplace as we pursue water quality improvements and prevent flooding in Cook County," said MWRD Vice President Barbara J. McGowan, chairman of the Affirmative Action Committee. "The vendor (*continued*)

## MWRD vendor outreach event sheds light on new work opportunities *(continued)*



*(L-R) MWRD Vice President Barbara McGowan and Antoinette Mitchell and Larry Mix, both of F.H. Paschen.*



*Vice President Barbara McGowan, Mohsen Javadi, Bloom Companies, LLC, Commissioner Frank Avila, and Rao Doppalapudi and Charlotte Rose Adams, both representing Interra.*

outreach fair allows firms exposure to the MWRD work process and gives them the tools for success.”

For more information regarding contract opportunities, visit [www.mwr.org](http://www.mwr.org). To register for the Oct. 13 vendor event, call 312-751-5717.

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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.*