



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Press Release

Allison Fore

Public and Intergovernmental Affairs Officer

312.751.6626

allison.fore@mwrdd.org

100 East Erie Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611

For immediate release

February 27, 2017

Engineering's positive impact is commemorated at the MWRD



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago Chairman of Finance Frank Avila and Commissioner Debra Shore presented a resolution to engineer P. Kay Whitlock (center) recognizing National Engineers Week.

With water gushing over the Oroville Dam spillway forcing 188,000 Northern Californians from their homes, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) paused to recognize the importance of investment in engineering and water infrastructure.

The many contributions of engineers were commemorated by the MWRD Board of Commissioners through a resolution celebrating National Engineers Week, Feb. 19-26.

"At the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, we value the vital contributions of engineers to our daily responsibilities in wastewater treatment and stormwater management," said MWRD Chairman of Finance Frank Avila, an engineer himself. "We are proud to present this resolution and celebrate the achievements of engineers everywhere."

Accepting the resolution from Commissioner Avila and Commissioner Debra Shore was P. Kay Whitlock, vice president of Christopher B. Burke Engineering Ltd. and past president of the American Society of Civil Engineers Illinois Chapter (ASCE). Whitlock, who has more than 40 years of experience in water resource management, stormwater management, flood control and water and natural resource engineering, applauded the MWRD for its investments in



The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago's Tunnel and Reservoir Plan is a modern engineering marvel addressing water pollution and flooding for a city that was developed out of a marshy area and a region that is flat with few areas for water to escape.

engineering and preserving infrastructure in the wake of challenges, like that being experienced at the Oroville Dam.

"We are always reminded of the importance of engineering and sustained funding to maintain our infrastructure," said Whitlock. "Engineers in the Chicago area are proud to be affiliated with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago for their continued commitment to preserving our region's water infrastructure."

More commonly known as the father of the country, George Washington is rarely recognized for his work and contributions to the field of engineering, but the National Society of Professional Engineers started the celebration of National Engineers Week in 1951 in conjunction with his birthday. Despite lacking a formal education, Washington became an accomplished surveyor, builder and innovator and also served as a strong advocate in establishing American engineering institutions.

National Engineers Week is commemorated through the theme of "Engineers Make a World of Difference." Engineers Week provides an opportunity for engineering professionals to celebrate their impact on the world and increase public dialogue about the need for future engineers and their work.

(continued)



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District *of* Greater Chicago

Press Release

Allison Fore

Public and Intergovernmental Affairs Officer

312.751.6632

allison.fore@mwrdd.org

100 East Erie Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611

For immediate release

February 27, 2017

Engineering's positive impact *(continued)*

The MWRD is no stranger to engineers and the engineering wonders of the world. Not only is the agency credited with reversing the flow of the Chicago River and protecting Lake Michigan, but the MWRD is credited for operating the world's largest water treatment facility at the Stickney Water Reclamation Plant, creating the world's largest combined sewer overflow reservoirs to capture stormwater and sewer overflows at Thornton and McCook reservoirs, and building the world's largest nutrient recovery facility, which came into service in 2016.

"It's been said that the MWRD is the largest engineering firm in the area with so many engineers working on behalf of the public to protect our water environment," said MWRD Commissioner Debra Shore. "We are delighted to support all engineers and thank them for their service, ingenuity, and dedication to improving our quality of life."

Engineers Week was celebrated with the annual Washington Award presented at the 2017 Chicagoland Engineering Awards Benefit on Feb. 24 at the Hilton Chicago. The prestigious Washington Award is conferred upon an engineer or engineers "whose professional attainments have pre-eminently advanced the welfare of human kind." This year's recipient was Charles W. Hull, the co-founder and chief technology officer of 3D Systems and inventor of the solid imaging process known as Stereolithography, the first commercial 3D printing technology.

###

Recovering Resources, Transforming Water

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.