



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

# Press Release

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## Vendor outreach fairs bring firms, agencies together



*Vice President Barbara J. McGowan greets Mohsen Javadi, Executive Vice President of TransLand Engineering Group (center) and a colleague.*



*Commissioner Kari K. Steele (at lectern), Commissioner Frank Avila and Vice President McGowan address a packed house to kick off the Vendor Outreach Fair held at the Univ. of Illinois at Chicago.*

Qualified business owners hoping to expand their work or seek their first opportunity may find the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) Vendor Outreach Fairs the place they want to be.

Two recent fairs were held at the University of Chicago Gleacher Center and at the University of Illinois at Chicago. The settings offered hundreds of contractors, consultants, subcontractors and potential vendors with the opportunity to meet and network with MWRD officials and other firms to learn how to register as a vendor and potentially secure work opportunities with the MWRD and other organizations. The event strives to expand and maximize business opportunities for local Minority Business Enterprises (MBE), Women Business Enterprises (WBE)

and Small Business Enterprises (SBE).

“These vendor fair events bring together dozens of firms and government agencies to introduce each of them to the various opportunities to grow their businesses and achieve goal attainment,” said MWRD Vice President Barbara J. McGowan, chairman of the Affirmative Action Committee. “These events are just a small part of the District’s mission and goal to be inclusive in all contractual relationships.”

The vendor fairs include presentations from MWRD’s executive staff and guest speakers who share their success stories on becoming new vendors, experiencing work opportunity increases and how they made the transition from subcontractors to prime contractors. *(continued)*

## Vendor outreach fairs bring firms, agencies together *(continued)*

“The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago strives to provide a fair, inclusive and transparent process that promotes diversity and excellence as we pursue water quality improvements and prevent flooding in Cook County,” said President Mariyana Spyropoulos. “The vendor outreach fair provides business owners access to the MWRD work process and gives them the tools for success.”

Future Vendor Outreach Fairs are currently being scheduled. For more information regarding contract opportunities, visit [www.mwrdd.org](http://www.mwrdd.org).



*MWRD staff (seated, L-R): Administrative Specialist Carmelita Crenshaw, Administrative Specialist Linda Cobran and (standing) Senior Diversity Officer Tia Schrean, Compliance Officer Eddie Amin-Rasul, Vice President Barbara McGowan, Diversity Administrator Regina Berry and Compliance Officer Alicia Prentiss Humphries await participants for the Vendor Outreach Fair held at the Gleacher Center in April.*

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### Recovering Resources, Transforming Water

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