



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Press Release

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Commissioners honored for efforts to improve water quality

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) President Mariyana Spyropoulos, Vice President Barbara McGowan and Commissioners Josina Morita, Debra Shore, and Kari K. Steele were honored by the University of Illinois at Chicago's Freshwater Lab on May 10 at a reception held at the Shedd Aquarium. The reception was a highlight of a two-day summit called "Untrouble the Waters" that was dedicated to bringing mayors, local leaders, and researchers together to envision and launch projects that benefit communities and watersheds.

Rachel Havrelock, an associate professor of Jewish Studies and English at UIC, launched the Freshwater Lab in 2014 as a think tank on water issues. "Recent developments have raised concerns about efforts to protect the Great Lakes," said Havrelock. "We recognize there is a sense of urgency for this kind of work. The threats being posed to our region are acute enough that we just cannot trust traditional political processes. We really need a groundswell of grassroots engagement."

Lucia Whalen of The Freshwater Lab and Krista Grimm of the League of Women Voters spoke on behalf of their agencies before presenting awards to the commissioners.

"We certainly appreciate the acknowledgement for the work we do to improve water quality throughout Cook County," said President Spyropoulos. "It is



In the photo: (L-R) Mila Kellen Marshall, President Mariyana Spyropoulos, Vice President Barbara McGowan, Dr. Rachel Havrelock, Commissioner Kari K. Steele, Commissioner Josina Morita, and Commissioner Debra Shore

a tremendous honor to be recognized by others who are doing vital work for the water environment."

Vice President McGowan agreed. "The network of people who genuinely care that they leave the world better than when they arrive is awe-inspiring and should be recognized. This is a wonderful group of people who are committed to the planet."

This was the second summit hosted by UIC's Freshwater Lab. The agenda can be found at <http://www.freshwaterlab.org/summits/untrouble-the-waters/agenda/>.

A WTTW story can be found at this link: <http://chicagotonight.wttw.com/2017/04/27/threats-great-lakes-topic-summit-uic-s-freshwater-lab#.WQNkd-sRzK64.facebook>.

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.