



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Press Release

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Labor agreement extends three years of harmony for MWRD workers



The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) Board of Commissioners joined labor leaders for an official signing of a three-year deal to extend peaceful labor practices for the Building Trades Coalition and Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters at the MWRD. Photo taken Nov. 2, 2017.

Labor leaders and officials with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) agreed to a three-year contract to continue a strong record of fair labor practices to effectively protect the region's water environment.

The agreement between the MWRD and the Building Trades Coalition and Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters covers rates of pay, hours of work and other conditions of employment for employees represented by 12 unions. Union representatives signed off on the contract following a recent MWRD Board of Commissioners meeting. A second agreement between the MWRD and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Local 700, was also signed covering rates of pay, hours of work and other conditions of employment for employees in the classifications of truck driver and truck driver foreman.

"The successful negotiations between the MWRD and our labor leaders present a mutual willingness to protect our water environment, our taxpayers and the communities we all call home," said MWRD President Mariyana Spyropoulos, chairman of the MWRD's Labor and Industrial Relations Committee. "We are appreciative of our union partners' commitment to creating a thriving workplace, holding the line for taxpayers and securing tremendous benefits that make this a wonderful organization to work for and country of which to live."

Established in 1889, the MWRD has a rich history of labor involvement despite the evolving and expanding roles the MWRD



MWRD President Mariyana Spyropoulos (from left), Chairman of Finance Frank Avila, Executive Director David St. Pierre, MWRD Assistant Director of Human Resources Ted J. Kosowski and Commissioner Kari K. Steele watch as Michael Tierney, director of Political and Municipal Affairs for the Chicago Journeymen Plumbers' Local Union 130, offers a handshake to commissioners after signing a three-year labor agreement.

has played throughout its 128 years. Serving an 883.5-square-mile-area in Cook County, covering Chicago and 128 suburbs, the MWRD is responsible for protecting the public health and the quality of Lake Michigan, improving the quality of the waterways, and now managing stormwater, mitigating flooding and recovering resources. In its role of producing clean water, the MWRD no longer envisions used water as a waste product, but instead a collection of resources to be recovered and reused. A designated Utility of the Future, the MWRD recovers resources from this used water stream, like energy, water, biosolids, phosphorus and other nutrients. These efforts promote a clean and sustainable environment, provide a return to taxpayers and reduce greenhouse gas emissions through both tried and true practices as well as transformative technologies.

The wide ranging work of the MWRD requires a diverse set of skills. The Building Trades Coalition and Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters represent 12 unions, including: the Architectural and Ornamental Ironworkers Union, Local No. 63; Bridge, Structural and Reinforcing Ironworkers, Local Union No. 1; Chicago Journeymen Plumbers' Local Union 130, U.A.; International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, District Lodge 8 & Local Lodge No. 126, AFL-CIO; International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local No. 134; International Union of Operating Engineers, Local No. 150, AFL-CIO; Painters' District Council No. 14 of International Brotherhood of Painters and Allied Trades (of Chicago, Cook, and Lake Counties, Illinois); Pipefitters' Association, Local Union (*continued*)

Labor agreement extends three years of harmony *(continued)*



Jim Sanfilippo, business representative from the Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters, formally ratifies a new three-year contract for union members with MWRD President Mariyana Spyropoulos and Chairman of Finance Frank Avila.

597; International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail And Transportation Workers, Local 73; International Association of Heat and Frost Insulators and Asbestos Workers, Local No. 17; Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters and Administrative District Council 1 of Illinois of The International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers, AFL-CIO.

“These dedicated men and women have proven talented, reliable, diligent and excellent stewards of our environment and we are happy to welcome their hard work each day at the MWRD,” said MWRD Commissioner Frank Avila, chairman of Finance. “As a Utility of the Future, the MWRD relies on outstanding workers who seek out new technologies to create efficiencies and innovation in water quality improvement, stormwater management and



(L-R): MWRD President Mariyana Spyropoulos, Commissioner Martin Durkan, Chairman of Finance Frank Avila, International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers and Local 73 Business Representative Dave Brown, Executive Director David St. Pierre, Assistant Director of Human Resources Ted J. Kosowski and International Union of Operating Engineers and Local No. 150 Business Representative Terry O'Brien watch as Michael Tierney, director of Political and Municipal Affairs from the Chicago Journeymen Plumbers' Local Union 130 signs a new three-year contract for union employees working at the MWRD.

resource recovery, and it's these laborers' unique set of skills that will help us meet that mission.”

The three year contracts, which were ratified by each union in the Building Trades Coalition and Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters, as well as the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, cover the period of July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2020.

The unions represent approximately 750 of the 1,969 employees at the MWRD.

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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 used water treatment and stormwater management in Cook County, Illinois.