



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Press Release

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President Spyropoulos' City Club speech highlights MWRD achievements

Serving as the elected leader of the clean water agency for Cook County is one of the most important jobs in the region, and Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) President Mariyana Spyropoulos recently addressed a sold-out crowd at the City Club of Chicago to give a detailed look at how the agency operates.

"When people understand how the District operations work, and the role of the water cycle, you will see yourself not as a consumer of water, but as a trustee of our most vital resource for future generations," said President Spyropoulos.

Her remarks focused on the MWRD's ongoing work and its mission of serving the public and environment. She pointed out how the agency has maintained strong finances while engaging in its daily work of cleaning water, recovering resources, managing stormwater, constructing and operating the ambitious Tunnel and Reservoir Plan (TARP) and implementing green infrastructure.

City Club of Chicago has served as a premiere public affairs forum since 1903. The speaking engagements hosted at Maggiano's, 111 W. Grand Ave, provide a central place for discussions of local civic and public affairs and managing water is no exception.

"Wastewater does not stop at political boundaries. Stormwater doesn't know the difference between a Republican or a Democrat," President Spyropoulos told the audience.

President Spyropoulos was elected in 2010 and re-elected in 2016. Her fellow commissioners elected her to serve as chairman of finance in January 2013 and board president in January 2015 and 2017. Today she serves as chairman of three committees: Judiciary; Labor and Industrial Relations; and Pension, Human Resources and Civil Service. President Spyropoulos is also vice chairman of the Ethics Committee and serves as a trustee on the Pension Board.

She has prioritized community outreach and engagement by speaking about water and environmental issues to community



MWRD President Mariyana Spyropoulos discussed the importance of water quality issues while addressing the City Club of Chicago on April 17.

groups throughout the county and noted that the City Club presentation was timely in that it allowed the audience to learn of the many MWRD stormwater management initiatives taking place in the wake of frequent intense rain events and snowmelt. In addition to TARP, the MWRD currently has more than 120 stormwater management projects in design or construction. These projects incorporate elements of both gray and green infrastructure, ranging in size between massive reservoirs to green alleys and permeable parking lots. Other projects include improving Chicago schoolyards to better manage water through a partnership known as Space to Grow, acquiring flood prone properties to take homes out of the flood plain and relieve struggling homeowners, and distributing more than 42,000 free oak tree saplings to offset the regional loss of ash trees and soak up stormwater.

"Thank you to the City Club of Chicago and sponsors for hosting the MWRD and allowing us the forum to share our important message," said President Spyropoulos. "We have an obligation to serve our residents and taxpayers, and we are happy to talk about the progress we have made protecting our water environment and serving as global leaders in improving our planet."

To see the president's speech in its entirety, visit <http://bit.ly/watchmariyana>.

Recovering Resources, Transforming Water

Established in 1889, the MWRD (www.mwrdd.org) is an award winning, special purpose government agency responsible for used water treatment and stormwater management in Cook County, Illinois.