



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Press Release

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Canadian water tech firms, Chicago water stewards share expertise

Fueled by new technology to manage stormwater, improve infrastructure, recover resources and collect data, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) actively turns to cutting edge water innovators around the globe to form new partnerships and achieve the best and most efficient practices in protecting the region's water environment. Water technology companies from across Canada recently descended upon the MWRD's headquarters to meet with staff from the MWRD, City of Chicago Department of Water Management (DWM) and a local water technology hub to discuss new strategies to develop resilient water systems.

The meeting was part of a two-city tour between Chicago and Milwaukee coordinated by the Consulate General of Canada's office in Chicago and WaterTAP, a water technology champion from Ontario that works to establish connections between water technology entrepreneurs, utilities and investors and identify opportunities.

"We thank our neighbors to the North for sharing these innovative technologies that will help us examine how we most efficiently maintain our miles of pipes, treat our water, address stormwater and manage biosolids and other resources," said MWRD President Mariyana Spyropoulos. "By collaborating with the Consulate General of Canada and the water industry in general, we are working to ensure future generations have the best water systems in place to protect our environment."

In keeping with the integral goals of the MWRD's Strategic Business Plan, the meeting recognized the importance of active involvement in global partnerships and the acceptance of new technology to deliver reliable services and useful information. According to the office of the Consulate General of Canada, Great Lakes states partner with Canada on \$1 billion in trade per day.

Among the speakers included MWRD Director of Engineering Catherine O'Connor and DWM Water Quality



Staff with the MWRD, City of Chicago Department of Water Management and a local water technology hub met with the Consulate General of Canada and water technology leaders from Canada to discuss innovative ideas.

Manager Andrea Holthouse Putz. Both speakers introduced their respective Chicago utilities while also highlighting challenges that included managing stormwater and the costs associated with addressing aging infrastructure.

"Having these groups at the table brings diversity and new perspectives, which breeds innovation," said DWM Commissioner Randy Conner. "Keeping up with cutting edge technology helps us do our best to protect public health by providing reliable, clean drinking water to our region."

Presenting Canadian companies included Ontario-based Lystek International, which provides thermal hydrolysis solutions for the sustainable management of biosolids and organics; British Columbia-based SewerVue Technology, which specializes in advanced condition assessment technologies for water and wastewater pipelines using Pipe Penetrating Radar (PPR) technology, LiDAR and sonar; Ontario-based Greenland International Consulting, which works on projects in the realms of integrated watershed management and infrastructure planning and design, and has expertise in information technology; and Ontario-based TECTA-PDS, responsible for the world's first fully automated, rapid and easy-to-use microbiological water quality monitoring system.

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.