



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Press Release

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U.S. Transportation & Infrastructure Subcommittee on Water and the Environment tours McCook Reservoir and Mainstream Pumping Station



The U.S. House of Representatives committee on Transportation & Infrastructure's subcommittee on Water and the Environment along with staff and commissioners who toured Mainstream Pumping Station and McCook Reservoir included: (L-R) Michael Brain, Minority staff director; Ian Bennitt, Majority staff director; Commissioner David Walsh; USACE General Mark Toy, Division Commander; MWRD President Mariyana Spyropoulos; Subcommittee Chairman Garret Graves; Congressman Bruce Westerman; USACE Colonel Aaron Reisinger; Victor Sarmiento, Majority staff; Miles Chiotti, chief of staff to Rep. Rodney Davis (IL); MWRD Principal Civil Engineer Carmen Scalise and MWRD Acting Exec. Director John Murray.

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) President Mariyana Spyropoulos and Commissioner David Walsh along with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Brigadier General Mark Toy and Col. Aaron Reisinger lead members and support staff of a U.S. congressional delegation on a tour of McCook Reservoir and Mainstream Pumping Station as part of a Midwestern infrastructure expedition last week.

The U.S. House of Representatives committee on Transportation & Infrastructure's subcommittee on Water and the Environment chaired by Rep. Garret Graves (LA), along with Congressman Bruce Westerman (AR) and support staff, made several stops throughout Illinois. Other members of the

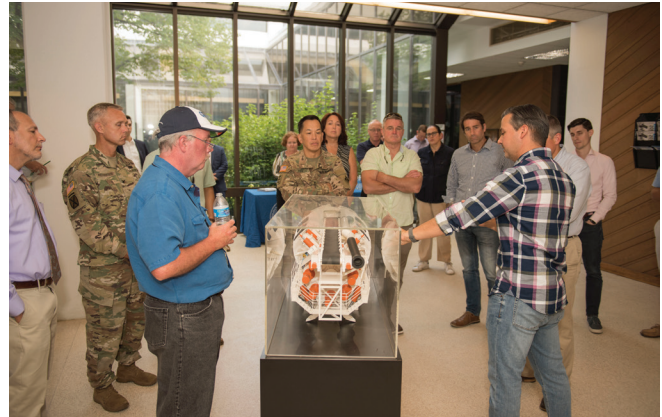
delegation included Ian Bennitt, Majority staff director; Michael Brain, Minority staff director; Mike Legg, Director of Operations; Victor Sarmiento, Majority Staff; Miles Chiotti, chief of staff to Rep. Rodney Davis (IL); and Major Miles Miller, USACE House Liaison Division.

"It was an honor to have these esteemed guests come to Illinois to look at projects that are partially funded at the federal level," said President Spyropoulos. "Seeing massive infrastructure projects that will serve as an additional layer of resilience while having a major impact on water quality offers visitors a new perspective. We were very pleased to show Chairman Graves and Congressman Westerman Stage 2 of McCook Reservoir which MWRD will (continued)

U.S. Transportation & Infrastructure Subcommittee tours McCook (cont.)



(L-R) MWRD Commissioner David Walsh; USACE General Mark Toy, Division Commander; MWRD President Mariyana Spyropoulos; Subcommittee Chairman Garret Graves; Congressman Bruce Westerman; USACE Colonel Aaron Reisinger.



MWRD Principal Civil Engineer Carmen Scalise explains how the Mainstream Pumping Station and Tunnel and Reservoir Plan was constructed.



MWRD President Mariyana Spyropoulos and Commissioner David Walsh discuss the McCook Reservoir with Rep. Garret Graves (LA), chairman, U.S. House of Representatives committee on Transportation & Infrastructure's subcommittee on Water and the Environment, Committee member Congressman Bruce Westerman (AR) and MWRD Principal Civil Engineer Carmen Scalise.



Activity continues on McCook Reservoir Phase 2.

construct with soon to be delivered federal dollars combined with District funds—a new approach to aggressive project management.”

The McCook Reservoir is an essential part of the MWRD's Tunnel and Reservoir Plan to prevent flooding and pollution from combined sewer overflows. Stage 1 of the reservoir has 3.5 billion gallons of storage capacity and provides an estimated \$114 million per year in flood reduction benefits, while also capturing untreated water that previously overflowed into waterways during storm events. Stage 2 of

the reservoir, due for completion by 2029, will be able to hold an additional 6.5 billion gallons.

“As a congressman from an area in Louisiana that has long suffered from massive flooding, I have a deep appreciation of the need for flood protection,” said Chairman Graves. “Our delegation has certainly learned a great deal and greatly appreciates the work of the MWRD and Army Corps as they work to help 3.1 million residents of the Chicago area.”

“The MWRD has a strong history of completing projects that have a wide reaching impact beginning with the reversal of the Chicago River 118 years ago, and I know that future generations will look back on this project as an everlasting monument to improving the water environment,” said Commissioner Walsh.

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Recovering Resources, Transforming Water

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