



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

# Press Release

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## Induction ceremony signals new era of MWRD leadership

*MWRD installs five elected commissioners to its nine-member Board*



*In the photo (L-R): MWRD Commissioners Marcelino Garcia and Josina Morita, President Mariyana Spyropoulos, Commissioner Cameron Davis, Vice President Barbara McGowan, Commissioners Kari K. Steele, Debra Shore, Kimberly Du Buclet and Chairman of Finance Frank Avila.*

An unprecedented five commissioners were installed to lead the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD), including three newcomers, who together begin a new chapter overseeing protection of the Chicago region's water environment.

Newly elected commissioners Cameron Davis, Kimberly Du Buclet and Marcelino Garcia were officially installed alongside re-elected commissioners Debra Shore and Kari K. Steele. The commissioners are elected every two years for six-year terms, but because of previous temporary appointments,

two additional commissioners—Davis and Du Buclet—were elected to two-year terms. The Board of Commissioners (BOC) are charged with governing the critical agency that is protecting the local water environment, maintaining the MWRD's strong fiscal reserves, continuing a model resource recovery program and building on renewed attraction to Chicago area waterways.

"The oaths taken today remind us of our commitments and collaboration in guiding the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago and our *(continued)*

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diligent planning for a thriving, resilient water environment,” said MWRD President Mariyana Spyropoulos. “We welcome Commissioners Davis, Du Buclet and Garcia to the Board and welcome back Commissioners Shore and Steele. We thank them for their service and look forward to achieving continued excellence for the MWRD.”

Commissioner Davis is a vice president at GEI Consultants, Inc. Before joining GEI, he was appointed by the Obama Administration to coordinate the work of 11 federal departments and serve as liaison to Capitol Congress on Great Lakes matters. As senior advisor to two U.S. Environmental Protection Agency administrators in Washington, D.C., he coordinated Great Lakes policy and investments toward contaminated sediment cleanups, invasive species prevention, habitat restoration, runoff reduction and related water resource matters. He helped draft legislation that authorized the bipartisan Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and Great Lakes Legacy Act, and helped pass the Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact. Prior to federal service, Commissioner Davis taught at the University of Michigan Law School, was a litigating attorney at the National Wildlife Federation and CEO of the Alliance for the Great Lakes, headquartered in Chicago. Commissioner Davis earned a Juris Doctor degree from Chicago-Kent College of Law and certificate in Environmental and Energy Law. He has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Boston University. In addition, he is an author, genealogist and fly fisherman.

“The District is one of the most important agencies in our region,” said Commissioner Davis. “I’m eager to complement the work of my fellow commissioners to take on some of the biggest challenges faced by our generation and future generations.”

Commissioner Du Buclet is director of Legislative and Community Affairs for the Chicago Park District and a former member of the Illinois House of Representatives, representing the 26th District from 2011 to 2013. Commissioner Du Buclet was born and raised on the South Side of Chicago. She attended the University of Chicago Lab School for elementary and high school and graduated from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She earned a Master of Business Administration from the University of Chicago. She and her husband have two children.

Commissioner Du Buclet is active in numerous community organizations, including: Alpha Kappa Alpha; The Links, Incorporated; the Museum of Contemporary Art Women’s Board; Quad Cities Development Corporation Board; and formerly with Jack and Jill of America, Inc. and the AIDS Foundation of Chicago Board of Directors.

“My experience in public service, strong Chicago roots and

passion for the environment have prepared me for this important seat on the MWRD Board of Commissioners,” said Commissioner Du Buclet. “I look forward to maintaining the MWRD’s record in providing strong local oversight into protecting our environment and preserving our valuable water resources.”

Commissioner Garcia is an attorney with an expertise in local and international governments, healthcare and community affairs. He is the director of Community Affairs for Cook County Health, the nation’s third largest public health system and is also a partner with Overseas Strategies, LLC an international business development consulting firm that helps small and medium sized companies with importing and exporting logistics and market development. He has worked as a legislative liaison for the Chicago Park District, senior manager of International Relations for Chicago 2016 the Olympic Candidacy Committee and as assistant managing director of the Illinois Office of Trade and Investment, where he worked with Illinois companies looking to export to new markets in the Americas, Africa and the Middle East. Commissioner Garcia is a licensed attorney in Illinois and Puerto Rico. He earned his Juris Doctor degree from Northwestern University and a bachelor’s degree from Dartmouth College. He is fluent in English and Spanish and is proficient in French, Italian, and Portuguese.

“My devotion to public service, environmental conservation and experience working in leadership roles at not-for-profits and governmental entities brings new perspective to the MWRD Board of Commissioners,” said Commissioner Garcia. “I look forward to the opportunity to build on the mission of the MWRD, protect public health and the environment and lend a voice to our taxpayers who rely on MWRD services each day.”

Commissioner Debra Shore enters her third term on the BOC having been first elected in 2006. She serves as chairman of the Municipalities Committee and Stormwater Management Committee and vice chairman of the Budget and Employment Committee, Engineering Committee and Public Health and Welfare Committee. Commissioner Shore has been a strong advocate in protecting the Chicago waterways and the MWRD’s work in resource recovery, including the reuse of treated water and the generation of biogas produced at MWRD water reclamation plants to promote renewable energy. In recognition of her work, she received the Public Officials Award from the Water Environment Federation in 2013. Commissioner Shore has served as president of the board of directors for the Illinois Women’s Institute for Leadership (IWIL) and president of the board for Congregation Sukkat Shalom in Wilmette. She serves on the boards of the Great Lakes Protection Fund and the Gay & Lesbian Victory Institute. She was the founding editor of Chicago Wil-

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derness Magazine, is an active volunteer restoring (*continued*) prairies and oak woods, and was a founding board member of Friends of the Forest Preserves. Commissioner Shore graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Goucher College in Baltimore, Maryland, with a degree in Philosophy and Visual Arts. She earned master's degrees from Johns Hopkins University and Columbia College (Chicago). In 2008 she earned a Certificate in Executive Education from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government.

"Today's installation ceremony has reminded us of the critical role that the Board of Commissioners has in protecting one of our most precious resources," said Commissioner Shore. "We have a talented, energetic Board, eager to take on the challenge of water management in a changing climate, and I am grateful for the opportunity to serve with my fellow commissioners."

Commissioner Steele enters her second term on the BOC, having been first elected in 2012. She serves as chairman of the Budget and Employment Committee, the Information Technology Committee and the Monitoring and Research Committee, and also as chairman of the MWRD Employees Credit Union Board of Directors. In addition, Commissioner Steele serves as vice chairman of the Stormwater Management, Finance and Real Estate Development committees. Commissioner Steele is a chemist, an environmentalist and a community leader. She has worked at both the Jardine Water Purification Plant as a water chemist and for the MWRD as

a water sampler and lab technician. Commissioner Steele is a member of the Illinois Women's Institute for Leadership; member of the 8th Ward Women's Auxiliary Council; member of the Sierra Club; member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority; member of the 27th Ward Regular Democratic Organization; member of Southside Democracy for America (2016); and a member of West Side Black Elected Officials (2017). Commissioner Steele was a 2014 Chicago Defender Woman of Excellence Honoree; 2014 Edgar Fellow; 2016 Graduate of the Metropolitan Leadership Institute and a recipient of the University of Illinois at Chicago's Freshwater Lab water award (2017). She is a past member of the Young Democrats of America; past chairman of the 6th Ward Young Democrats; past chairman and treasurer of the Young Democrats of Cook County; and the Society of Cosmetic Chemists. Commissioner Steele has a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry from Xavier University of Louisiana.

"I appreciate the opportunity to once again serve as a steward of our water environment on behalf of Cook County taxpayers and look forward to partnering with Commissioner Shore and newly elected Commissioners Davis, Du Buclet and Garcia and our current commissioners and staff to carry forth the MWRD's many values," said Commissioner Steele. "Together we will work to maintain sound finances, develop innovative technologies and meet our mission of managing stormwater, improving the water quality in our waterways and protecting both the health of our environment and our water supply."

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### Recovering Resources, Transforming Water

*Established in 1889, the MWRD ([www.mwrdd.org](http://www.mwrdd.org)) is an award winning, special purpose government agency responsible for wastewater treatment and stormwater management in Cook County, Illinois.*