Debra Shore is a Commissioner on the Board of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago. She was first elected in 2006, and was re-elected in 2012 and 2018. Debra has been a strong advocate for cleaning up the Chicago waterways and for resource recovery, including the reuse of treated water and the generation of biogas. In recognition of her work, she received the Public Officials Award from the Water Environment Federation in 2013.

Debra is a past president of the board of directors for Congregation Sukkat Shalom in Wilmette and a past chair of the Board of Directors for the Great Lakes Protection Fund. She served as president of the Board of Directors for the Illinois Women’s Institute for Leadership (IWIL), and serves on the board of the Illinois Women’s Institute for Leadership Training Academy (IWILTA). Debra was the founding editor of Chicago Wilderness Magazine, is an active volunteer restoring prairies and oak woods, and was a founding board member of Friends of the Forest Preserves.

Debra graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Goucher College in Baltimore, MD with a degree in Philosophy & 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. Debra lives with her spouse, Kathleen Gillespie, in Skokie, Illinois. She has climbed 42 of the 54 mountains in Colorado more than 14,000’ high.

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