

## **LWVCC Annual Meeting Report 5-18-20**

### **Metropolitan Water Reclamation District**

#### **Overview**

- ✓ The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District was created 130 years ago to serve most of Cook County covering 129 communities.
- ✓ The MWRD is responsible for water treatment for most of Cook County and responsible for stormwater management for the entire county.
- ✓ It is governed by a Board of nine Commissioners elected district-wide with 6-year staggered terms. An Executive Director, chosen by the board, manages the day-to-day operations and the Districts 1,953 employees.
- ✓ Its operating budget for 2020 is \$1.15 billion a 5.7% decrease from 2019.

#### **Highlights – 2019-2020**

- Treated 1.5 billion gallons of waste water per day at seven (7) plants.
- Stage 1 of the McCook deep tunnel reservoir was placed into service in 2018 capturing more than 20 billion gallons of storm water when required. Stage 2 is underway with an anticipated 2029 completion date and 6.5 billion gallons of additional storage.
- In the fall of 2019, approved watershed-specific studies to facilitate a pilot stormwater market-based credit trading program which was codified into the Stormwater Management Ordinance in May of 2020 and will be introduced for the Little Calumet and Des Plains Watersheds.
- Provided flood control projects to a number of communities across the District.
- Approved Intergovernmental Agreements with several communities for Green Improvement Projects - e.g., permeable pavers or pavement.
- After approving a 3-year agreement with Cook County to provide Inspector General oversight and services and holding 70 information presentations with MWRD staff members, the office is now fully operational. It has produced 4 quarterly reports publicly available.
- Updated its 2004 Ethics Amendment to provide more lobbyist accountability.

#### **LWVCC - Observe, Educate, Advocate**

- ❖ Twelve committed Leaguers cover 22 bi-weekly board meetings per year and post reports for the County's board and website.
- ❖ Observed and reported on three study sessions for updates on: Budget for 2020, Ethics Ordinance changes, and an evaluation of excess Biogas Utilization [sell or use to offset District's energy costs].
- ❖ Held several successful discussions with staff regarding the proposed Ethics Amendment inclusion of non for profits in its lobbyist registration, payment, and reporting requirements. Our efforts ensured that LWVCC board members would not be considered lobbyists because we are not compensated.
- ❖ Met with the new and former president and new Commissioner DuBouquet.
- ❖ Continue to monitor MWRD and Cook County agendas for any further action after the MWRD approved an easement affecting the Township of Wilmette's park district and public golf course. To date, none identified.

*Diane Edmundson, Coordinator, MWRD Observer Corp.*