

Spyropoulos elected as new president of MWRD

Commissioner Mariyana Spyropoulos has been elected the new board president of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) of Greater Chicago. Commissioner Barbara McGowan was re-elected vice president and Commissioner Frank Avila is the new chairman of finance.

Spyropoulos was appointed to the board in 2009 and was elected to a full term in 2010. She was elected as chairman of finance in January 2013. Spyropoulos served as chairman of three committees: finance, judiciary and real estate development. She also serves as the vice chairman for the ethics committee and the public health and welfare committee. In January of 2011, the board appointed her to the Public Building Commission.

Spyropoulos received her law degree from the John Marshall Law School and her MBA from Loyola University Chicago. She also completed graduate work in American government at Georgetown University, Washington, D.C. With her experience as an attorney, she provides a unique legal and business perspective combined with environmental activism. She has spoken to many community groups on the issues of the environment and specifically water issues. Previously, she worked as an Assistant Cook County State's Attorney.

McGowan has served on

the MWRD Board since 1998. Besides serving as vice president, she is chairman of the affirmative action committee and the procurement committee. She is also vice chairman of the pension, human resources and civil service committee and the public information and education committee. She served as acting president in 2012 to 2013 and 2014 to 2015.

McGowan is a lifelong Democrat and has worked on several local and national Democratic political campaigns. She served as the office manager of the Political Education Project created by the late Mayor Harold Washington; assistant to the deputy executive director at the Chicago Housing Authority; and worked as an assistant to a commissioner at the MWRD.

She was elected as a delegate to the 1996 Democratic Convention and was also a delegate to the 2000 Democratic Convention. McGowan continues to serve as an advocate for all the citizens of Cook County by working with the board to ensure that the MWRD's Tunnel and Reservoir Plan is completed. As chairman of the affirmative action committee, McGowan has been active in ensuring that minority and women contractors have an opportunity to perform work on MWRD contracts and are treated fairly. With the support of the board of com-

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The new leadership of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Board of Commissioners includes Frank Avila (from left), chairman of finance; Mariyana Spyropoulos, president; and Barbara McGowan, vice president.

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missioners, she took the lead in introducing changes to the MWRD's MBE/WBE Affirmative Action Ordinance to include penalties for contractors that violate the ordinance.

Avila was elected to the board of commissioners in 2002 and was re-elected in 2008 and 2014. He is chairman of the engineering committee, the maintenance and operations committee and the public health and welfare committee. He is vice chairman of the affirmative action committee and the industrial waste/water pollution committee.

Avila works to protect the health and safety of the public and protect the quality of water in the Chicago area's waterways. His top priorities include cost-effective wastewater treatment, flood pre-

vention and the regulation of waste disposal to protect our waterways including eliminating toxic chemicals from the source to prevent endocrine disruption.

In October 2012, Avila was named the 2012 Citizen Engineer of the Year by the American Society of Civil Engineers Illinois Section for his contribution and advancement to the science and profession of civil engineering. Avila frequently speaks about the MWRD, addressing many community and business organizations, schools and public agencies.

Avila received his bachelor of science degree in civil engineering from the University of Illinois-Champaign in 1961 and his master's degree in finance from the University of Arizona-Tucson in 1968. He owned a civil engineering company named Avila & Associates, Inc. and practiced engineering and land surveying for more than 45 years.