

# Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Retirement Fund

## Minutes Regular Meeting Board of Trustees December 17, 2024

Meeting#: 1223

Call to order: 10:01 a.m.

Place: MWRD Board Room, 100 E. Erie St. Chicago, IL

Presiding: Bonnie T. Kennedy, President

### **Roll Call:**

<b>Trustees:</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Bonnie T. Kennedy, President	X	
John R. Markovich, Vice President	X	
Hon. Kari K. Steele, Secretary	X	
John P. Dalton	X	
Jonathan S. Grabowy	X	
Robert Quezada		X

Staff present: Jim Mohler, Executive Director  
Mary Murphy, Operations Manager  
Brian Gillespie, Investment Officer

Also present: Kweku Obed, Marquette Associates  
Steve Lux, MWRD Treasurer  
Tom Walsh, Legislative Liaison

### **Public Comment**

President Kennedy solicited public comments; there were none.

### **Regular Business**

Approval of Meeting Minutes – 11/19/24

*Motion to approve: Commissioner Steele*

*Second: Vice President Markovich*

*Approved by roll call vote.*

Approval of Executive Session Minutes – 11/19/24

*Motion to approve: Trustee Dalton*

*Second: Commissioner Steele*

*Approved by roll call vote.*

Approval of Meeting Agenda – 12/17/24

*Motion to approve: Vice President Markovich*

*Second: Trustee Dalton*

*Trustee Grabowy votes present.*

*Approved by roll call vote.*

### **Oath of Office**

Vice President Markovich administered the Oath of Office for Trustee Jonathan S. Grabowy for the Trustee term ending November 30, 2028.

### **Consent Agenda**

Administrative Expenses – 14 items, \$163,196.10

*Motion to approve: Commissioner Steele*

*Second: Vice President Markovich*

*Trustee Grabowy votes present.*

*Approved by roll call vote.*

Investment Expenses – N/A

Employee Annuitants - 6 annuitants, \$32,182.85

*Motion to approve: Commissioner Steele*

*Second: Trustee Dalton*

*Trustee Grabowy votes present.*

*Approved by roll call vote.*

Surviving Spouse Annuitants – N/A

Child Annuitants – N/A

Refunds – 7 refunds, \$330,438.63

*Motion to approve: Commissioner Steele*

*Second: Vice President Markovich*

*Trustee Grabowy votes present.*

*Approved by roll call vote.*

Duty Disability Benefits – 10 members, \$619.11 combined daily rate

*Motion to approve: Trustee Dalton*

*Second: Vice President Markovich*

*Trustee Grabowy votes present.*

*Approved by roll call vote.*

Ordinary Disability Benefits -10 members, \$1,932.22 combined daily rate

*Motion to approve: Vice President Markovich*

*Second: Trustee Dalton*

*Trustee Grabowy votes present.*

*Approved by roll call vote.*

## **Administrative**

### **Cash Allocation**

Liquidity needs for projected disbursements:

Month: February 2025

Projected Disbursements: (\$17.6M)

Requested Liquidity Needs: \$15.5M

Proposed Liquidity Sources:

<u>Manager</u>	<u>Mandate</u>	<u>Liquidation Amount (\$)</u>
SSgA S&P500 Index	Large Cap Passive	8.2M
SSgA S&P400 Index	Mid Cap Passive	7.3M

*Motion to approve: Trustee Dalton*

*Second: Commissioner Steele*

*Approved by roll call vote.*

### **Project Ascent & Ancillary IT Projects**

Subject Matter: Fund staff updated the Board on Project Ascent and ancillary IT projects.

Board Action: None. Update only.

### **Fund Office Utilization – Stickney Plant**

Subject Matter: Fund staff informed the Board of their discussions with the District on having a more functional presence at the Stickney Plant.

Board Action: None. Update only.

### **Educational Opportunities 2024 Discussion**

Subject Matter: Fund staff updated the Board on upcoming opportunities for Trustee and Staff education.

Board Action: None. Update only.

### **Educational Opportunities 2025 – Conference Approval**

Subject Matter: Fund staff presented the NCPERS National Conference for potential Trustee attendance in 2025.

*Motion to approve: Trustee Dalton*

*Second: Commissioner Steele*

*Approved by roll call vote.*

### **Election of Officers (40 ILCS 5/13-704)**

Subject Matter: In accordance with 40 ILCS 5/13-704 a slate of Board of Officers for 2025 was introduced for consideration; President – Bonnie Kennedy, Vice-President – John Markovich, Secretary – Commissioner Steele.)

*Motion to approve: Trustee Dalton*

*Second: Trustee Grabowy*

*Approved by roll call vote.*

### **Investment Committee Consideration**

Subject Matter: The Board discussed and approved the creation of an investment committee that will meet on a quarterly basis.

*Motion to approve: Trustee Dalton*

*Second: Vice President Markovich*

*Approved by roll call vote.*

### **2025 Administrative Budget**

Matter was deferred to the end of the meeting.

Subject Matter: Fund staff presented to the Board the 2025 Administrative Budget for consideration. The Board moved to approve the Budget with recommended adjustment.

*Motion to approve: Trustee Dalton*

*Second: Trustee Grabowy*

*Approved by roll call vote.*

## **Legal & Legislative**

**Matter of Personnel** Matter to be discussed in executive session later in the meeting.

### **Legal Update**

Subject Matter: Fund staff distributed to the Board a memorandum from their fiduciary counsel regarding necessary changes to the Fund's Employee Handbook to be in compliance with the Illinois Paid Leave Act.

*Motion to approve: Commissioner Steele*

*Second: Trustee Dalton*

*Approved by roll call vote.*

### **Legislative Liaison Presentation**

Subject Matter: Tom Walsh, Fund's Legislative Liaison, presented to the Board regarding the upcoming legislative session.

Board Action: None. Update only.

### **Legislative Initiatives for 2025**

Subject Matter: Fund staff discussed introducing two administrative bills in the upcoming session and working with the Fund's Legislative Liaison to submit to LRB and locate bill sponsors.

Board Action: None. Staff will keep Board updated on process.

### **2025 Legislative Liaison Consideration**

Subject Matter: Fund staff requested the Board's approval for utilizing Tom Walsh as Legislative Liaison for 2025.

*Motion to approve: Trustee Dalton*

*Second: Commissioner Steele*

*Trustee Grabowy votes present.*

*Approved by roll call vote.*

## **Staff Investment Update(s)**

### **Manager Presentations – N/A**

#### **Current vs. Target Asset Allocation**

Subject Matter: Staff presentation of the Fund's investment portfolio allocation in comparison to targets.

Board Action: None. Update only.

#### **Watchlist Update**

Subject Matter: Staff presentation of the status of investment managers currently on watch.

Board Action: None. Update only.

## **Investment Consultant Report(s)**

### **Market Environment**

Subject Matter: Investment Consultant update on the investment markets.

Board Action: None. Update only.

### **Monthly Flash Report**

Subject Matter: Monthly presentation of investment performance by Investment Consultant.

Board Action: None. Update only.

### **Infrastructure RFP Consideration**

Subject Matter: Board discussed adding Infrastructure to the Fund's asset allocation up to a 5% allocation and posting an RFP.

*Motion to approve: Trustee Dalton*

*Second: Vice President Markovich*

*Approved by roll call vote.*

**Miscellaneous**      N/A  
**Executive Session**

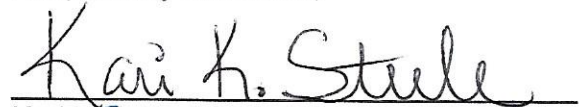
Subject Matter:      Discussion of matter of investment and matter of personnel.  
Board Action:      Board went into Executive Session under 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) & (7) at 12:09 p.m.  
Board Action (Post):      Upon returning to open session at 12:31 p.m., no Board actions were taken.

**Adjournment 12/17/24 Meeting**

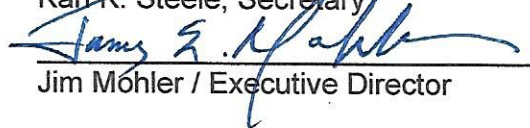
*Motion to approve:      Commissioner Steele*  
*Second:                      Trustee Dalton*  
*Unanimously approved by roll call vote.*

Meeting adjourned. 12:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kari K. Steele, Secretary



Jim Mohler / Executive Director

Prepared by: 

Jim Mohler / Executive Director