

# Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Retirement Fund

## Minutes Regular Meeting Board of Trustees February 26, 2025

Meeting#: 1225

Call to order: 10:04 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	
Hon. Yumeka Brown	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  
Ksenija Hrvojevic, Benefits Manager  
Vrinda Kulkarni, Accounting Supervisor

Also present: Kweku Obed, Marquette Associates  
Steve Lux, MWRD Treasurer  
Nicole Sanders, Commissioner Brown Chief of Staff  
Angela Myers, Loop Capital  
Taylor Muzzy, Fiduciary Counsel, JBOH  
Valerie King, Ariel Investments  
Danan Kirby, Ariel Investments

### Public Comment

President Kennedy solicited public comments; there were none.

## **Regular Business**

Approval of Meeting Minutes – 1/29/25

*Motion to approve: Trustee Grabowy*

*Second: Trustee Quezada*

*Approved by roll call vote.*

Approval of Executive Session Minutes – 1/29/25

*Motion to approve: Trustee Quezada*

*Second: Trustee Dalton*

*Approved by roll call vote.*

Approval of Meeting Agenda – 2/26/25

*Motion to approve: Vice President Markovich*

*Second: Trustee Quezada*

*Approved by roll call vote.*

## **Consent Agenda**

Administrative Expenses – 20 items, \$168,005.96

*Motion to approve: Trustee Dalton*

*Second: Vice President Markovich*

*Approved by roll call vote.*

Investment Expenses – 20 items, \$1,025,028.32

*Motion to approve: Trustee Dalton*

*Second: Commissioner Steele*

*Approved by roll call vote.*

Employee Annuitants - 4 annuitants, \$12,815.61

*Motion to approve: Trustee Quezada*

*Second: Trustee Dalton*

*Approved by roll call vote.*

Surviving Spouse Annuitants – 3 annuitants, \$16,228.93

*Motion to approve: Trustee Grabowy*

*Second: Trustee Quezada*

*Approved by roll call vote.*

Child Annuitants – N/A

Refunds – 7 refunds, \$397,272.02

*Motion to approve: Trustee Dalton*

*Second: Trustee Grabowy*

*Approved by roll call vote.*

Duty Disability Benefits – 10 members, \$412.80 combined daily rate

*Motion to approve: Vice President Markovich*

*Second: Trustee Dalton*

*Approved by roll call vote.*

Ordinary Disability Benefits - 8 members, \$911.88 combined daily rate

*Motion to approve: Trustee Dalton*

*Second: Trustee Grabowy*

*Approved by roll call vote.*

*Excludes the 30 Day-Waiver Ordinary Disability Case discussed later in the meeting.*

*(The following agenda item and motion was entertained after the Administrative item “Ordinary Disability Discussion – follow-up”, later in the meeting)*

Ordinary Disability Benefits (30 Day Waiver Case) - 1 member, \$168.52 combined daily rate

*Motion to approve: Trustee Quezada*

*Second: Vice President Markovich*

*Abstain: Trustee Grabowy*

*Approved by roll call vote.*

*(Commissioner Brown joined the meeting at 10:11 a.m.)*

**Administrative**

**Cash Allocation**

Liquidity needs for projected disbursements:

Month: April 2025

Projected Disbursements: (\$17.4M)

Requested Liquidity Needs: \$15.8M

Proposed Liquidity Sources:

<u>Manager</u>	<u>Mandate</u>	<u>Liquidation Amount (\$)</u>
Kayne Andersen Rudnick	Small Cap Intl.	8.0M
Northern Trust	Global Low/Vol	7.8M

*Motion to approve: Trustee Dalton*

*Second: Trustee Grabowy*

*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.

**YE 2024 FOIA Report**

Subject Matter: Fund staff updated the Board on FOIA requests in 2024.

Board Action: None. Update only.

**Ordinary Disability Discussion – Follow-up**

Subject Matter: Fund staff discussed their process regarding 30-day waiver requests and addressed specific cases. Questions ensued.

Board Action: None. Update only.

**Educational Opportunities 2025 Discussion**

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

Board Action: None. Update only.

## **Legal & Legislative**

### **Legal Update**

Matter of Personnel - N/A

Matter of Possible Securities Litigation

Subject Matter: Fund staff and Fiduciary Counsel updated the Board on requests from a specific Securities Litigation firm utilized by the Fund. Discussion ensued.

Board Action: No action was taken.

### **Legislative Update**

Subject Matter: Fund staff updated the Board on pension related activity so far in the Illinois Legislature Spring Session. Discussion ensued.

Board Action: None. Update only.

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

### **Manager Presentations – Ariel Investments**

Subject Matter: Representatives from Ariel Investments discussed the performance of their Small/Mid Cap Value mandate. Discussion ensued.

Board Action: None. Update only.

### **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.

### **MWDBE Utilization 2024**

Subject Matter: Staff presentation on the utilization of MWDBE Investment Managers and Brokers in 2024.

Board Action: None. Update only.

### **Investment Committee Meeting Discussion**

Subject Matter: Staff updated the Board on the topics discussed in the February Investment Committee Meeting.

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: Investment Consultant updated the Board on the number of respondents for the Infrastructure RFP.  
Board Action: None. Update only.

**Miscellaneous**

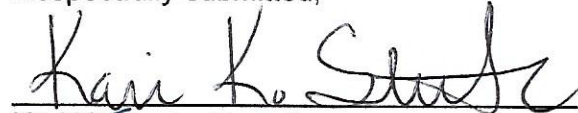
Subject Matter: Fund staff updated the Board on the current status of the Fund’s MOBA location and off-site Stickney location.  
Board Action: None. Update only.

**Adjournment 2/26/25 Meeting**

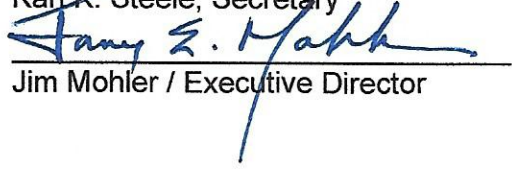
*Motion to approve: Trustee Dalton*  
*Second: Commissioner Steele*  
*Unanimously approved by roll call vote.*

Meeting adjourned. 11:52 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kari K. Steele, Secretary



Jim Mohler / Executive Director

Prepared by:   
Jim Mohler / Executive Director