

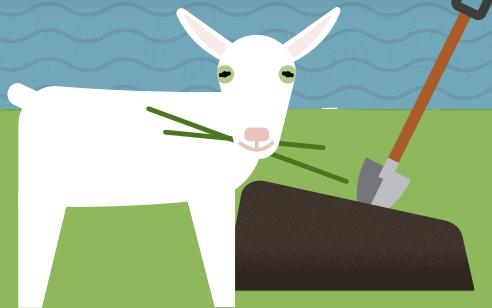
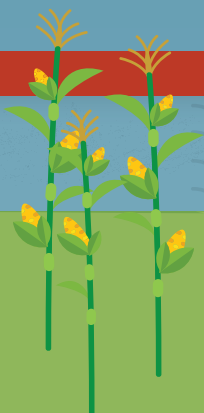
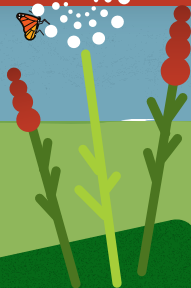


# *9th Annual* **SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT**

A VIRTUAL EVENT

**PARTNERSHIPS AND ACTIVITIES FOSTERING  
A SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT IN THE CHICAGO AREA**

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12 • 10 A.M. – NOON CDT



**Metropolitan Water  
Reclamation District  
of Greater Chicago**

# Board of Commissioners



President  
Kari K. Steele



Vice President  
Barbara McGowan



Chairman of Finance  
Marcelino Garcia



Commissioner  
Cameron Davis



Commissioner  
Kimberly Du Buclet



Commissioner  
Josina Morita



Commissioner  
Eira L. Corral Sepúlveda



Commissioner  
Debra Shore



Commissioner  
Mariyana Spyropoulos



# Moderator and Presenter

## **PROFILES**

# Moderator and Presenter Profiles



## **Welcome Remarks and Introductions**

President Kari K. Steele, MWRD Board of Commissioners (Moderator)



## **Overview of biosolids and compost use as sustainable practice and current significant partnerships**

Dr. Theresa Johnston, MWRD Senior Environmental Soil Scientist



## **Case studies of other cities and perspectives on emerging issues related to use of compost and biosolids**

Dr. Sally Brown, Professor, University of Washington



## **Overview of CPD's sustainability initiatives/activities**

Matt Freer, Assistant Director of Landscape at Chicago Park District



## **Overview of IFSC's collaborative activities and how individuals and other organizations can contribute to these efforts**

Stephanie Katsaros, IL Food Scrap Coalition



### **Centering Communities in Land Use Planning**

Ma'raj Sheikh, Systems & Strategy Manager, Chicago Food Policy Action Council



### **Grants and MWRD Partnership Programs**

Andre Haynes, MWRD Senior Civil Engineer



### **Role of Green Infrastructure**

Steve Haucke, MWRD Senior Civil Engineer



### **Flood Prone Property Buyouts**

Lucas Roat, MWRD Associate Civil Engineer



### **How to apply for grants from Public Sector Resources**

Annie Wright, MWRD Public Affairs Specialist, Engineering Dept



## **MWRD Board President Kari K. Steele**

was elected November in 2012 to her first term as a Commissioner at the MWRD and re-elected in 2018 for a second term. In January, 2019 she was elected President of the Board of Commissioners. President Steele currently serves as the Chairman for the Public Information and Education Committees and the State Legislation and Rules Committee, and she is Chairman of the MWRD Employees Credit Union

Board of Directors. She also is the Vice Chairman of the Engineering and Monitoring & Research Committees.

President Steele is a chemist, an environmentalist and a community leader. She has more than 11 years of experience working as a chemist. She worked at both the Jardine Water Purification Plant as a water chemist and at the MWRD as a water sampler and lab technician.



## **Dr. Theresa Johnston**

is a Senior Environmental Soil Scientist at the MWRD. She received her Ph.D. in Environmental Toxicology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Dr. Johnston earned a B.S. and an M.S. in Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences with focuses on resource ecology, soil science and urban ecology at the University of

Illinois. She spent time at McGill University and the U.S. EPA Atlantic Ecology Division for post-doctoral research before teaching at Loyola University Chicago for three years. Dr. Johnston now works in biosolids research and outreach. Her research focus at the MWRD is application of biosolids and restoration of native soils using biosolids.



## **Dr. Sally Brown**

is a Research Professor at the School of Environmental and Forest Sciences at the University of Washington. She has worked on risks and benefits associated with the use of urban residuals for her entire academic career. This work has focused primarily on municipal biosolids but also includes composts and digestates generated from the organic fraction of municipal solid waste. Dr. Brown is a

Fellow in the Soil Science Society of America. She is a former two term member of the National Academy of Science Standing Committee on Soil Science and was also a member of the NAS committee on Bioavailability of Contaminants in Soils and Sediments. She was past chair and continues to be an active member of the USDA CREES committee on biosolids- now referred to as the W4170 research group.





## **Matt Freer**

has worked at the intersection of people and nature for over 20 years. Matt has spent most of his career working in urban environments. Currently overseeing the Chicago Park District's Environmental Conservation and Engagement team, his recent work has focused on access to nature for Chicagoans. Matt is thrilled

to share the myriad of benefits of nature with a greater audience. Matt and his team are planning and expanding nature areas in Chicago that benefit all Chicagoans as a resource to address individual and community health, increasing urban heat, flooding, air pollution and rising lake levels.



## **Stephanie Katsaros**

is the Founder and President of Bright Beat, a Chicago-based consultancy founded in 2010 to activate environmental stewardship and social responsibility across sectors and up the value chain. She has built a legacy of award-winning programs with cities, stadiums and festivals, raising the bar for responsible operations and public engagement. Bright Beat supports city and county solid waste reduction and diversion goals by developing awareness campaigns and helping

businesses and organizations initiate food rescue, composting and recycling programs and partnerships. Stephanie dedicates much of her time to collaborating with her partners and peers to drive positive change as a Board Member of the Illinois Food Scrap Coalition and via the Chicago Sustainability Task Force, Wasted Food Action Alliance, Plant Chicago Circular Economy Advisory Committee and iHeart Media Local Advisory Board.



## Ma'raj Sheikh

is a daughter of immigrants and land, food, and justice are in her blood. Ma'raj has worked across many areas of food system development including soil bioremediation, bioenergy, stakeholder relations, consulting in the edible insect industry, and advancing racial equity in land, food, and water access. As a National Science Foundation Fellow, Ma'raj moved to Iowa from California to learn

about industrial agriculture and to study Sustainable Agriculture and Community and Regional Planning at Iowa State University. Prior to starting at Chicago Food Policy Action Council in January of 2020, Ma'raj served as Director of Equity and Community Engagement at Community GroundWorks (now Rooted), where her work focused on improving stable land tenure for Hmong refugee farmers and leading Gardens Network.



## **Andre Haynes, P.E.**

is a Senior Civil Engineer in MWRD's Engineering Department where he has worked in the Stormwater Management Section for seven years. Prior to joining MWRD, Andre worked in both the public and private sector for thirteen years. As a Civil Engineer, Andre focuses on design, maintenance and construction of drainage and sewer infrastructure to establish useable land for the intended purposes and

to protect the natural and built environment. Andre appreciates how the MWRD serves the public in reducing flood potential makes communities more liveable. Andre is a licensed Civil Engineer and his involvement in projects span the categories of conceptual, shovel ready, green infrastructure and Flood Prone Property.



## **Steve Haucke, P.E.**

is a Senior Civil Engineer at the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD), where he manages green and gray infrastructure stormwater projects. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering from the Illinois Institute of Technology and his MBA from Indiana University's Kelly School of Business. He joined the MWRD in 2000 and has worked for

the Monitoring & Research, Maintenance & Operations, and the Engineering Departments. Today, Steve is a Professional Engineer and a Certified Floodplain Manager working in the green infrastructure program in the Stormwater Management Section of the MWRD's Engineering Department. He has been working toward alleviating flooding in the Chicagoland area for the past 6 years.



## Lucas Roat

is a newly appointed Associate Civil Engineer in the Stormwater Management Section of MWRD's Engineering Department. Lucas earned a B.S. in Civil Engineering and M.Eng. in Environmental Engineering from the Illinois Institute of Technology. After graduating, Lucas spent four years in the private sector, often working as a consultant to the MWRD or other public entities doing business with the MWRD. Lucas' private

sector experience involves hydrologic and hydraulic modeling, stormwater infrastructure design, floodplain management, and regulatory permitting. Prior to his current role, Lucas worked in the Permit Unit of MWRD's Local Sewer Systems Section. Lucas values the role that the MWRD plays in providing equitable protection to the public from hazards associated with flooding and water quality.



## **Annie Wright**

has worked at MWRD since 2006, starting in the Public Affairs Section. She has been working on grant applications and management for the last 5 years. She is a graduate of Illinois Wesleyan University and received her Bachelor of Arts degree in English Writing.

# Awards

## Beneficial Use of Biosolids

### **Angelica Carmen**

Sustainability Specialist, Cog Hill Golf & Country Club

### **Chicago Eco House**

Quilen Blackwell, President

## Sustainable Landscaping

### **North Shore Country Club**

Dan Dinelli, Certified Golf Course Superintendent

### **University of Illinois Chicago**

Steven Johnson, Graduate Assistant

## Honorable Mention

## Sustainable Landscaping

### **Cog Hill Golf & Country Club**

Angelica Carmen, Sustainability Specialist

### **Friends of the Chicago River**

Matt Sudman, Development Writer and Grants Manager

### **Green Guerrilla, LLC**

Christopher Flaherty, President

### **Keeler Gardens, NFP**

Gina Iliopoulos, Founder and Chief Horticultural Specialist





## **Board of Commissioners**

Kari K. Steele  
*President*

Barbara J. McGowan  
*Vice President*

Marcelino Garcia  
*Chairman of Finance*

Cameron Davis

Kimberly Du Buclet

Josina Morita

Eira L. Corral Sepúlveda

Debra Shore

Mariyana T. Spyropoulos

Brian A. Perkovich

*Executive Director*



100 East Erie Street • Chicago, Illinois 60611-3154

Established in 1889, the MWRD is an award-winning, special purpose government agency responsible for wastewater treatment and stormwater management in Cook County, Illinois. Learn more at [mwrdd.org](https://www.mwrdd.org).