

**METROPLITAN WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT  
OF GREATER CHICAGO  
ETHICS COMMISSION  
OPEN SESSION MINUTES**

**June 24, 2022 MEETING  
TO BE HELD REMOTELY AT**

[\\*\\*\\*\\*\\*hklaw.zoom.us/j/81778393354](https://hklaw.zoom.us/j/81778393354)

**Dial In:**

**(646) 876-9923**

**Meeting ID: 817 7839 3354**

**9:00 A.M.**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT**

Trisha Rich, Chair  
Kevin Hopkins  
Jose A. Lopez

**STAFF PRESENT**

Ellen M. Avery, Deputy General Counsel

- I. Call to Order. The Meeting convened with a call to order at 9:00 a.m.
- II. Roll Call. The Chair began with a Roll Call. Commissioners present: Rich, Hopkins, and Lopez. Members of the Public present: Mr. John Morrison (Complainant), Sean M. Sullivan, Esq. for Ms. Kari Steele (Commissioner, MWRD) and several members of the public.
- III. Approval of the Minutes. The minutes for the October 26, 2021 Meeting of the Ethics Commission were unanimously approved without modification.
- IV. New Business. Complaint submitted by John Morrison.
  - a. **Open Session**. On June 17, 2022, the Commission received a written Complaint sent by Mr. John Morrison alleging unethical conduct by Ms. Kari Steele, Commissioner, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District ("MWRD") in violation of the MWRD Code of Ethics. An open meeting to discuss the matter was scheduled for June 24, 2022. During the open session of the June 24 meeting, the Chair informed the parties that Mr. Morrison's Complaint was forwarded to the Cook County Office of the Inspector General. The Chair then provided Mr. Morrison with the opportunity to explain for the record, the charges of ethics violations against Ms. Steele contained in his Complaint. Afterwards, the Chair provided Mr. Sullivan with an opportunity to respond to the charges. Mr. Sullivan gave a brief statement in response to the Complaint but requested additional time from the Commission to file a formal response.

- b. **Executive Session.** The Chair called for an Executive Session of the Commissioners at 9:15 a.m. The Open Session resumed at 9:20 a.m.
  - c. **Public Comment Period.** After resuming the Open Session, the Chair allowed for public comments. The Chair informed members of the public that they were welcome to comment on the matter at hand and/or to read statements into the public record after being recognized to speak by the Chair. Members of the public present at the meeting were given three minutes each to comment.
  - d. **Actions Taken.** The Chair informed the parties that Mr. Sullivan would be given thirty days (30) to file a formal response to Mr. Morrison's Complaint. Upon the Chair's receipt of the response, the Chair would inform each party of a date selected for a hearing on the matter. The parties agreed to waive the statutory time period required by MWRD Ethics Ordinance No. 022-004 for setting a hearing date in order to ensure Mr. Sullivan received adequate time to file a response to the Complaint.
- V. Other Business. None.
- VI. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.