

Patrick Shea named new assistant general manager

“Far and away the best prize that life has to offer is the chance to work hard at work worth doing.”

Theodore Roosevelt
US President

“What could be a more valuable prize than working to provide the highest quality drinking water?”

Patrick Shea
Assistant General Manager

Patrick Shea joined St. Paul Regional Water Services as the assistant general manager on October 28. He has spent his first month touring the facilities and meeting with staff.

Shea previously held several leadership roles at the city of St. Cloud, including seven years as its public services director.

Shea continued on page 2

Joe Schmit to headline employee conference Dec. 4

Get ready to make an impact. Or at least learn from keynote speaker Joe Schmit what it means to make a “*Silent Impact*” as he presents his stories of influence. The Emmy-winning sportscaster from KSTP TV will be the keynote speaker at this year’s employee conference on Dec. 4.



Joe Schmit

Spend the day at the Como Zoo and Conservatory. Park in the ample parking lot and head up to the second floor where we will gather. Registration starts at 7 a.m., with breakfast served at 7:30 a.m.

Get a brief introduction of the day and an overview

Conference continued on page 2

Do your part to make the holidays merry and bright

The water utility will be offering a few ways for you to make the season a bit brighter for others.

Non-Perishable Food Second Harvest Heartland

As in the past, we will be collecting non-perishable food for Second Harvest Heartland.

Steve Schneider will deliver the items at noon on Friday, Dec. 20.

There will be a box in the lobby for the food.

Personal care and cleaning items are also being collected, so if donating those items, please keep them separate from the food items.

Gifts for Seniors

Once again we are partnering with Gifts for Seniors to provide some holiday cheer for isolated seniors living across the Twin Cities.

Simple gifts can mean the world to someone who may otherwise be alone during the holidays.

There will be a barrel in the lobby soon. Get your new (unwrapped) gifts in well before Christmas so that they can be delivered to someone who is truly looking forward to your thoughtfulness.

Adopt-a-Family

SPRWS has partnered with Ramsey County to adopt a family of four this holiday season.

Trees will be set up on second floor administration building and in the lunchroom that will have ornaments hung with the different gift items needed.

Please help us provide a wonderful holiday season for this family in need.

Patrick Shea named new assistant general manager

[Shea continued from page 1](#)

Patrick's experience includes managing drinking water, wastewater, storm water, engineering, streets, and airport operations.

"I am very excited for the opportunity to refocus my efforts on providing high-quality drinking water and related services," Shea said.



Patrick Shea

He strives to promote innovation and improvement in the delivery of services.

"I look forward to contributing to SPRWS' continued success," Shea said.

Shea guided St. Cloud through many initiatives, including water system master planning, expansion of solar energy and other renewable energy initiatives, and most recently, some extensive piloting for proposed improvements to their drinking water treatment plant. (St. Cloud uses the Mississippi River as its source water, as does SPRWS.)

Patrick is active in many professional organizations including American Water Works Association, where he served as the Minnesota Section chair and earned both the Leonard N. Thompson and George W. Fuller awards.

He holds a class A water supply system operator's license from the Minnesota Department of Health and is a graduate of St. Cloud State University, majoring in chemistry.

Patrick grew up in Fridley and graduated from Columbia Heights High School.

He and his wife, Joy, have been married for 23 years and now live in Woodbury.

They have two children; Jacob (21) and Whitney (19); both are attending University of St. Thomas (roll Toms). They also have two (small) dogs.

Five candidates interviewed for the assistant general manager position. The hiring panel, consisting of past and present members of the Board of Water Commissioners, a city of Saint Paul department director, and the assistant general manager at the time of the interviews, was impressed with the quality of each and every one of the candidates, said Steve Schneider, general manager.

"Ultimately, the panel unanimously recommended that I offer the position to Mr. Shea," said Schneider.

Joe Schmit to headline employee conference

[Conference continued from page 1](#)

of some current projects from Steve Schneider, general manager, and Patrick Shea, our new assistant general manager. Matt Anfang, president of the Board of Water Commissioners, will also speak.

Then Joe Schmit takes center stage with stories from his career covering big-name athletes. You will likely recognize many of the names of the stars he talks about, such as Joe Mauer and Larry Fitzgerald, Jr. However, you may not realize the impact those people have had on the lives of those around them that are not necessarily related directly to their sports.

Each division will have some team-building time as we break into division-specific sessions.

Then get ready to learn a bit about the zoo and conservatory and head out on a scavenger hunt that will take you around the facility in teams or groups of your choosing.

Lunch will be a BBQ feast with plenty of vegetarian and vegan options.

The afternoon will consist of breakout sessions covering everything from money (financial fitness, deferred comp, pension plans) to home and health (healthy homes, healthy lunch options) and interactive presentations on customer service skills like de-escalation.

After a brief closing session to wrap up the day, we will go our separate ways. The event will be finished by about 3:30 p.m.

Customer service and the front counter will be closed to the public during the conference to allow staff to take part.

Como Park Zoo and Conservatory is located at 1225 Estabrook Drive in Saint Paul.

Thanks to those who gave to the charitable giving campaign

In this season of thanksgiving, many people have a reason to be thankful for employees of Saint Paul Regional Water Services.

This year, 14 SPRWS employees provided \$5,326 to the annual Charitable Giving Campaign.

The efforts of all employees who gave to the Charitable Giving Campaign this year are greatly appreciated.

Thank you to all who participated.