

# Pipeline Express

Providing reliable, quality water and services at a reasonable cost.

## Safety Picnic Staff Celebration

### Years of Service recognized

Staff celebrated Drinking Water Week and the kick off of another construction season on May 7 at the water utility.

As part of the safety picnic, the SPRWS Years of Service awards were also handed out.

Getting their certificated of appreciation were the following employees:

#### Five Years

Nadya Olseth

James Rodgers

Jonathan Rue

Raymond St. Germain

Matt Stephenson

Michael Schiller-Feidt

#### 10 Years

Allison Bruhn

Nathan Cassidy

Jeremy Erickson

Marcus Fitzgerald

Manny Gomez



Staff took a moment to celebrate Drinking Water Week with Willy Water at the safety picnic on Wednesday, May 7. From left are Ty Vidal, Walt O'Neal, Matt Stephenson, Willy, James Brown, Joao Coelho, and Kirill Maloylo.

Eric Larson

Thomas Murphy

Nathan Pearl

Kevin Romero

Erik Sorenson

Joel Troje

#### 15 Years

Tristen Magdziarz

Brent Marsolek

Alexis Rossow

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# Years of Service recognized

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## 20 Years

Michael Alt  
Dean Bennett  
Tom Blanchard  
Josh Jonas  
Andy Knuth  
Gao Moua  
Lori Petricka  
Ron Reeves  
Ben Robetor  
Justina Ross  
Jermaine Smith



Michael Schiller-Feidt gets his five-year award from Racquel Vaske.



Erik Sorenson and Nate Cassidy are recognized for their 10 years of service.

## 25 Years

Solomon Alemu  
Bob Meyer  
Tom Zangs



Alex Rossow gets her 15-year award from Racquel Vaske.



Jermaine Smith and Josh Jonas are recognized for their 20 years of service.

## 35 Years

Martha Burckhardt  
Tom Buth  
Craig Landkamer  
Xue Vang



Solomon Alemu and Tom Zangs are recognized for their 25 years of service.



Al Benson gets his 40-year award from Racquel Vaske.

## 40 Years

Al Benson  
Sandy Hernandez Cullen  
Judy Howard  
Kathy Travis



# SPRWS: A leader in water quality through the Partnership for Safe Water

By Steve Nystrom and Jeremy Erickson

Saint Paul Regional Water Services has long been committed to delivering safe, high-quality drinking water to its customers. As part of this commitment, SPRWS is an active participant in the American Water Works Association's (AWWA) Partnership for Safe Water—a voluntary program that supports utilities in optimizing water treatment and distribution performance beyond regulatory requirements. The Partnership is broken down into four phases: Commitment (I), Baseline Data Collection (II), Self-Assessment (III), and Optimized System (IV), with the ultimate goal of optimizing or making the best possible water with the treatment and distribution systems we have.

The Partnership for Safe Water includes two tracks: the Treatment Plant Optimization Program (Production Partnership) and the Distribution System Optimization Program (Distribution Partnership). SPRWS is proud to be a member of both.

## Production Division Continues to Maintain Phase IV Excellence

SPRWS recently celebrated 25 years of maintaining the Partnership's Phase III status (Director's Award) and 10 years of maintaining the Phase IV status (President's Award). In order to receive these awards SPRWS had to go beyond the EPA regulatory requirements for the treatment plant filter turbidity and drinking water turbidity by consistently meeting strict turbidity requirements set by the Production Partnership.

Turbidity is essentially the cloudiness of the water and is caused by small particles in suspension. In addition to being unsightly, these particles can hide bacteria or viruses from disinfection and can also consume chlorine, thereby increasing the risk of consumers getting sick. So, the lower the turbidity, the better! To go beyond the EPA's regulatory requirements, SPRWS had to optimize its treatment processes.

So, what did that entail? For the treatment plant operations staff led by Che Fei Chen, it meant many years of jar testing (small scale treatment dosing experiments), pilot testing, and in-process testing of treatment changes to each stage in the treatment process including coagulation, softening, flocculation, re-carbonation, and disinfection. Che Fei found the filter optimization particularly challenging and had to work closely with operators on tasks such as a floc retention study, adjusting the backwashing and filter ripening times and a high rate washing study. Maintaining these awards for this many years really is a testament to the talent and pride of the SPRWS operations staff and particularly the operators in going beyond the regulatory requirements.

## Distribution Division Progressing Toward Phase IV

On the distribution side, SPRWS has achieved Phase III status in the Partnership for Safe Water's Distribution



System Optimization Program. This level represents significant progress, including the completion of a comprehensive system self-assessment and implementation of measures to enhance water quality and system performance. A couple examples of ways the partnership have increased water quality and system performance are the installation of smart hydrants that monitor water pressure and a chlorine residual analysis that led to new flushing practices. This resulted in improved water quality for our customers.

Currently, SPRWS is working toward Phase IV compliance in the Distribution Partnership—a goal that requires demonstrating optimal system operation and maintenance practices. This ongoing effort includes detailed data tracking, proactive asset management, and robust water quality monitoring. Achieving Phase IV will further cement SPRWS's reputation as a utility committed not just to compliance, but to excellence.



# NEW UTILITY TRAINEES START WORK AT VADNAIS STATION

Utility trainees started work May 5 out at Vadnais Station. They will spend the next year learning about the utility and working at Vadnais on various projects. They are Andre Cannon, Victor Chang, Sesavah Moua, Tim Perez, and Rylee Wheelock.



Andre Cannon



Victor Chang



Sesavah Moua



Tim Perez



Rylee Wheelock

## New staff join water utility



Rachel McCarten



Kayla Morrissey



Justin Woods



Faith Xiongblaxang

New staff have joined the water utility in recent weeks.

Rachel McCarten has joined the lead free team as a civil engineer working with Brent Marsolek. She started on May 12. Rachel enjoys fishing and canoeing and likes to explore our lakes and rivers.

Kayla Morrissey is a civil engineer working with Luke Sandstrom and she started work on May 5. Kayla has a minor in German and

likes to travel to German-speaking countries to keep fluent and connect to the language.

Justin Woods is a temporary plumbing inspector and is working with Tom Zangs in engineering.

Faith Xiongblaxang is a water utility tech. Il working with Luke Sandstrom in engineering. She stared work on May 5.

Welcome everyone to the water utility!

## To order office supplies

To streamline our ordering process and ensure responsible budget use, a new procedure for requesting office supplies is now in effect. Each division has a set budget for office supplies, so it's important to prioritize needs and plan ahead.

### How to request office supplies:

1. Obtain supervisor approval  
Before submitting a request, ensure you have approval from your direct supervisor.
2. Submit your request through Waternet
  - Visit Waternet
  - Click on the Request Assistance dropdown
  - Select "Request Office Supplies"
3. Complete the Supply Order Request Form  
Provide the following details:
  - Item name and description
  - Product number and/or Amazon link
  - Quantity neededClick Submit at the bottom of the page.

### Ordering Schedule

Orders will be placed bi-weekly on Wednesdays. Please submit your requests before Wednesday to be included in that week's order.