

Third quarter townhall held



Rich Hibbard, engineering division manager, discusses the top capital improvement projects on the horizon for SPRWS at the town hall on Sept. 28. Justine Roe discussed lead and copper sampling efforts; Will Menkhaus addressed new phosphoric acid treatment coming in 2024; Racquel Vaske addressed the new meter replacement project and Advanced Metering Infrastructure; Jamie Atkins revealed a new uniform allowance procedure; Patrick Shea went over vacation policies; and Tom Miller discussed new voluntary lead testing for staff exposed to lead and hepatitis shots that will be made available.

Rich Rowland named new business division manager

Rich Rowland was promoted to the business division manager effective as of September 23.

He will be working alongside Dolly Ludden, business division manager, as she prepares for her retirement in December.

The overlapping time will allow Rich to hand off some of his duties as assistant division manager in distribution while he learns his new role in the business division.

Rich has been with the water utility since 2013, where he started as a water utility tech. and moved to management assistant IV before taking on his role as assistant distribution division manager in 2018.

“As we embark on several vital initiatives, we are confident in Rich’s leadership and the collective capabilities of the business division team to steer SPRWS towards greater success,” said Patrick Shea, general manager.

Congratulations to Rich on his new role.



Rich Rowland

Come to the fall safety picnic on October 11

A safety picnic to officially close out our construction season will take place from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 11, near the employee entrance on the east side of the administration building.

There will be opportunities to network with your fellow employees and to challenge them to either a game of Kuub or bags.

The picnic will feature hot dogs, chips, and beverages. Don’t miss it!

Water treatment operator hired

Alec McCuskey was hired as a water treatment operator as of September 23.

He reports to Paul Scott.

Please welcome Alec to the water utility when you see him.



Alec McCuskey

SPRWS represented at Minnesota Section AWWA conference



Speakers on the Lead Free SPRWS program were featured at the Minnesota Section of the American Water Works Association conference held Sept. 19-22 in Duluth. From left are: Racquel Vaske, assistant general

manager; Jacob Pauna, GIS analyst; Rich Rowland, business division manager; Ben Robetor, lead coordinator; Rich Hibbard, engineering division manager; and Sarah Brown, water quality specialist.



Dennis Rosemark, (right) management assistant, won the Jon Eaton Excellence in Volunteering Award for 2023 at the MN AWWA conference for his many years working the event in registration and other volunteering efforts on behalf of the MN AWWA. Rosemark is presented the award by Robert Isabel from CDM Smith, left.

The utility was well represented at the Minnesota Section of the American Water Works Association conference held Sept. 19 - 22 in Duluth.

From speakers during the educational sessions to a team competing in the pipe-tapping competition and

taking home the trophy for excellence in volunteering, staff represented SPRWS in a positive light amongst peers from across the state who attend the annual conference.

Thank you to all who represented SPRWS!

Staffing changes announced



Josh Jonas



Alex Robertson



Jon Falardeaux

Several water utility staff have new roles this fall. Josh Jonas is now a custodian II working in the administration building.

Alex Robertson is now working as a water pumping operator in the plant.

Jon Falardeaux is working as a lead electrician.

Congratulations to all of these employees on their new roles at the water utility.



The pipe-tapping team of Joe Garcia, Andrew Lardani, Marcus Fitzgerald, Jake Wolf, and Jake Masiello (alternate) competed against other teams from across the state in the pipe-tapping competition held on Wednesday, Sept. 20 as part of the MN AWWA annual conference in Duluth.