

Racquel Vaske appointed new general manager of SPRWS



Racquel Vaske

The Board of Water Commissioners of Saint Paul Regional Water Services is pleased to announce the appointment of Racquel Vaske as the organization's next General Manager. This vacancy resulted from the departure of the previous General Manager, Patrick Shea, who assumed a new role in Florida earlier this year.

Following an extensive search, the Board of Water Commissioners appointed an examining committee comprised of SPRWS representatives, local stakeholders, and water industry experts to evaluate the candidates. Racquel, who has been serving as interim General Manager since January, was selected and officially appointed

to the position during the Board's meeting on Tuesday, April 16.

Vaske brings a wealth of experience and dedication to her new role as General Manager of SPRWS. With over 10 years of dedicated service to SPRWS, the last three as Assistant General Manager and many years as the HR Manager, Vaske has proven herself as a trusted leader within the organization.

During her tenure as the Assistant General Manager since July 2021, Vaske has demonstrated exceptional leadership and strategic vision within the organization helping to launch Lead Free SPRWS, the Utility Trainee program, and the rollout of automated metering infrastructure.

Vaske has dual bachelor's degrees in public management and human resource management and a master's degree in human resources, all from the University of Minnesota Carlson School of Management.

"Racquel's leadership style emphasizes collaboration, innovation, and excellent customer service, aligning with the values and goals the

Board has for Saint Paul Regional Water Services," said Mara Humphrey, president of the Board of Water Commissioners.

"We are confident that under her guidance, our organization will continue to thrive and excel in providing essential services to our community."

The Board of Water Commissioners expresses its confidence in Racquel's leadership and looks forward to working closely with her to continue delivering high-quality water services during a transformative time in the water industry.

In her new capacity, Vaske will oversee SPRWS' operational revenues of \$129 million and lead a dedicated team of about 300 employees committed to delivering exceptional drinking water and services to the communities we serve.

"I am deeply honored to step into the role of General Manager at Saint Paul Regional Water Services," said Vaske.

"Our organization boasts a remarkably talented team with expertise spanning water quality, cybersecurity, engineering, construction

Racquel Vaske named GM

Vaske continued from page 1

management, budget management, and beyond. I am eager to continue our tradition of innovation and excellence, upholding our mission to provide safe, reliable water services to the 450,000 customers we serve each and every day. Together with our dedicated team, I am committed to advancing our goals and ensuring a prosperous future for our communities.”

Vaske’s appointment marks a significant milestone for SPRWS as she will become the first woman in the organization’s history to serve as General Manager.

Flashback Friday



An employee in the original lab at the plant. Undated. One of the undated images being considered for the history book of the plant.

Staff changes announced



Matt Stephenson



Scott Thompson



Brian Myers

Matt Stephenson is promoted to lead carpenter, effective April 20.

Scott Thompson is promoted to lead painter, effective April 20.

Starting as a new temporary plumbing inspector is Brian Myers, effective March 25.

Please congratulate Matt and Scott and welcome Brian to the water utility.

Office chairs to be cleaned



Office chairs will be cleaned on Thursday, April 25.

Please bring your office chair to the administration lunchroom between 9 a.m. and noon or if you are in the plant, please bring your chair to McCarrons room between 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

COIT will clean the primary employee chair—the one you use every day. You can drop off the chair at either location with a tag with your name on it. Tags will be provided. Please make sure to pick up your chair after cleaning. If you would rather, you can take your chair to either location and wait while the technicians clean the chair if you don’t want to drop it off.

It takes about two minutes to clean an office chair.