

The Pipeline Express

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## Staff attend Pride parade



Photo provided by Racquel Vaske

**Walter O' Neal, Racquel Vaske, and Jamal Evans take part in the Twin Cities Pride parade held June 30.**

## Brian Finnegan named field supervisor in distribution

Brian Finnegan has been named a field supervisor in the distribution division.

Brian started with the utility in 2000 as a water utility worker I and has held the titles of water system worker II, HEO, and water distribution supervisor.

"Brian brings a lot of knowledge

*Finnegan continued on page 2*



**Brian Finnegan**

## Graeme Chaple selected as distribution division manager

Graeme Chaple has been selected as the next distribution division manager.

Graeme has been working for the utility for more than 15 years in a variety of roles.

Graeme started out as a water utility tech in the Damage Prevention Unit (DPU) and became the DPU supervisor after three years. He held that title for a decade before becoming a field supervisor in 2022 before moving to distribution assistant division manager.

"During his tenure, he has made significant contributions to the organization with his technical knowledge of construction methods, strong problem solving skills, and his fair and consistent management style," said Racquel Vaske, general manager.

Graeme graduated in May with a bachelor's degree in management and leadership from Concordia University in Saint Paul.

"I am excited to take on this new role as the distribution division manager," said Graeme.

"We are deep into challenges with the lead replacement program, mains replacement, and preventative maintenance. I feel that we have the staff and capacity to succeed.

"Feel free to stop in anytime if you need to talk or if you have concerns you want to discuss," said Graeme.

The distribution team will continue to work under the leadership of Todd Blomstrom, assistant general manager. Todd and Graeme will be working closely to transition duties.

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**Graeme Chaple**



## Chaple named distribution division manager

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At this time, we will not be backfilling the assistant division manager role previously held by Graeme.

"We are eager to see Graeme and Kirill Maloylo, assistant division manager, continue to grow into their roles and we will work together to evaluate whether an additional hire is needed," said Racquel.

## New PIO, interns recently hired



Josh Cobb

The water utility has hired three new employees.

Josh Cobb is a new public information officer hired to assist with the development and management of events in marketing and PR.

Aveyna Mao is a right track intern working the business division.

Liz Woxland is an intern working in the water quality lab.

Welcome to all the new staff.



Aveyna Mao



Liz Woxland

## Distribution crews to be featured in magazine



Crews working on water mains gather for a group photo for the magazine *Municipal Sewer and Water* on June 20. Photos of warehouse staff were also taken as part of the article on pipebursting, which is slated to be published later this fall. From left are: Andrew Ruiz, Sam Caliguire, Dylan Jotblad, Mike Bailey, Raymond St. Germain, Adan Moreno-Paramo, Matt Schmidt, Spencer Mead, Graeme Chaple, Greg Sorenson, Yesy Carbajal, Joe Moy, Jake Moy, Jonathan Kirk, and Dustin Schluessler. Photo by Brad Stauffer for *Municipal Sewer and Water* magazine.

## Gate valve dedicated to safety



An original 1888 gate valve that was replaced in 2022 was dedicated to ensuring that safety remains the utility's top priority. It is located at the employee entrance. It is in memory of Pete Davis, a former distribution worker and supervisor who was killed while working for another construction firm after retirement from SPRWS.

## Finnegan named supervisor

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and skill to the role," said Graeme Chaple, distribution division manager.

Brian will be supervising the mains and preventative maintenance crews.

Congratulations to Brian!