

Managers' Corner **Water main construction season is here**

By Brad Eilts

Distribution crews will be working with contractor G.F. Jedlicki this summer to replace water main using trenchless technologies. The pipe bursting method will be used to replace more than a mile of 6- and 8-inch water main in four different locations.

Projects are located Winthrop St., 9th St., Prior/Graham, and Mississippi River Boulevard.

Distribution is responsible for excavating pits to allow the contractor to install equipment that will pull new high-density polyethylene (HDPE) pipe through the existing cast iron water main. Rods are inserted in the existing pipe between two pits approximately 600 feet apart. An expander head is attached to the rods in front of the new HDPE pipe. The rods are then pulled back using a hydraulic pulling machine. The expander head bursts the old cast iron pipe into pieces as it is pulled back to the first pit. This makes room for the HDPE pipe being pulled after it.

After the new pipe has been pulled, distribution crews are responsible for the pipe work necessary to connect the new pipe to the water system. The main is then pressure tested for leaks and bacteria tested for water quality to ensure the new main is ready to be put into service.

Each water service needs to be excavated so the contractor can fuse a saddle to the new HDPE pipe and distribution crews can connect each water service to the new water main. Restoration crews complete concrete, asphalt, and boulevard restoration after each excavation has been backfilled.

Sidewalks get makeover



Sidewalks around the McCarrons campus got a make over this week, as contractors tore out and re-laid much of the concrete that needed replacing after 16 years. The sidewalk entrance to the administration building was torn out, poured, and set to cure during the day on June 2.



Check up on each other

In an email to staff this week, Steve Schneider, general manager, offered a kind recommendation: Check up on your co-workers.

Here is what he had to say:

Today, we are all working under challenging conditions that are rapidly changing as the days go by. First, we were dealt the coronavirus and the COVID-19 pandemic. That required us to make changes in how we do almost everything in our lives. Things are very different at work, at home, and with our friends and family.

Now our community is reeling from the activity surrounding the death of George Floyd and how it has impacted our work and personal lives.

All of this has an impact on each of us. We all deal with things in our own manner. I would like to suggest that each of us do one thing: In the next 24 hours, call one of your coworkers and ask how they are doing.

Don't talk about work; don't talk about the pandemic. Ask your colleague how they are doing, how their family is doing, ask them about what they are going to do this weekend.

We are all feeling the stress of the pandemic and all the other recent events. My hope is that this two-minute conversation lets others know that you are thinking about them and their wellbeing.

Staff on track to hire design-build firm for McCarrons plant project

The utility recently received statements of qualifications from four teams with an interest in the McCarrons treatment plant improvements project. This design-build project will provide major upgrades to the plant in the near future.

The receipt of these submittals effectively marks the mid-point of procurement efforts for the project.

An evaluation committee of utility staff is reviewing each team's responses in order to shortlist the teams that are most qualified for the work. The top three of these firms will be invited to put in full proposals later this year.

Highland Park water tower open house set for July canceled

The water utility has decided to cancel the Highland Park water tower open house set for July this year. Between the social distancing required due to Covid 19 and the reconstruction work currently underway at the

SPRWS hires accountant and welcomes back intern, utility aide



Mayka Yang



Nathan Sullivan



Ben Fedje

The utility has hired Mayka Yang as an accountant III in finance. She transferred to the water utility from the department of Planning and Economic Development. She started May 23 and reports to Lori Lee.

The utility also welcomes back Ben Fedje, an intern working in the damage prevention group under Graeme Chaple. He started May 26. Fedje interned with the group last summer.

Nathan Sullivan returns to the utility for the summer as a utility aide working out of Vadnais station. His first day back was May 26. He worked that position last summer, as well.

Please introduce yourself to Mayka Yang and welcome back Ben Fedje and Nathan Sullivan when you get a chance.

The submitted documents include information summarizing each team's experience working on other water treatment facilities, experience working on design-build projects, experience working around residential areas, and other project-relevant information.

The utility will solicit proposals from the three finalists that will include detailed information about each team's project approach, innovative ideas, and cost estimates.

Continued, steady progress has the utility on course to have a contract in place by the end of 2020 and begin piloting and design in 2021.

site, it seemed prudent to hold off on the event.

The October 10 - 11, 2020, open house is tentative.

Water utility staff are monitoring the situation and will make a decision it as we get closer to that event.