

Managers' **IS** undergoing a Corner culture shift

By Dolly Ludden and Carol Kaszynski

A culture shift is happening at SPRWS.

Adaptability. The definition from Webster's dictionary defines adaptability as a noun, meaning: the trait that allows something or someone to change according to need or environment. In today's world of Covid-19, civil unrest, and other important issues, adaptability reflects being adaptable, an action verb. (A word that expresses action.)

So how does that change what we are doing today at SPRWS?

Traditionally, IT technology governance, initiatives, solutions, and decision-making have been the responsibility of the IS department. However, over the past several years, there has been a shift from IS ownership to an ownership more toward customers.

This change is happening today at SPRWS. We are implementing a formal Technology Governance structure using industry standards and best practices based on the principles behind Control Objectives for Information and Related Technology. This helps organizations meet business challenges in the areas of regulatory compliance and risk management while aligning IT strategy with organizational goals.

We have several technology teams that have roles and responsibilities in this effort. These teams include the Executive team (E-team), the Cross-Functional team (CFT), which is made up of staff across the utility, and the Technical Advisory Team (TAT).

The focus of Technology Governance is to:

- Develop a consistent and sustainable program for technology.

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Deep cleaning continues



Photo by Bruce Berg

Staff from WCEC Environmental head downstairs in the dewatering building to sanitize and wipe down surfaces on Thursday, July 2 as part of continuing cleaning efforts in utility buildings.

Alene Tchourumoff appointed to board Matt Anfang thanked for 20 years on the Board of Water Commissioners

The Board of Water Commissioners said good-bye to its current president this month. A new board member will be introduced.

Matt Anfang, board president the last eight years and member for the last two decades, received his resolution of thanks and appreciation at the July 14 board meeting.

"For those that have worked with Mr. Anfang over the years, please feel free to reach out to him and thank him for his great service to SPRWS and the city of Saint Paul," said Steve Schneider, general manager.

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Board changes announced

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Alene Tchourumoff was appointed by Melvin Carter, mayor of Saint Paul, at the July 15 city council meeting to be one of the board



Matt Anfang



Alene Tchourumoff

members representing Saint Paul, taking Anfang's spot.

Tchourumoff is the senior vice president of Community Development and the Center for Indian Country Development for the Federal Reserve Bank in Minneapolis. She leads the bank's engagement with communities throughout the Ninth District to promote economic opportunity for low- and moderate-income people and those living in Indian Country.

She had previously served as chair of the Met Council, was the State Rail Director, and was director of the planning department for Hennepin County Public Works.

Tchourumoff earned a bachelor's in business administration from George Washington University School of Business and a master's in public policy from the Harvard Kennedy School.

Board of Water Commissioners reviews budget, rates for 2021

The Board of Water Commissioners reviewed the proposed budget and water rates for the 2021 fiscal year at its July 14 meeting.

Staff have been working on the budget extensively this spring to present to the board for their consideration.

"The proposed budget continues our practices of funding all of the necessary resources to ensure all the operations and maintenance needs of SPRWS are met and the funding necessary to continue our investment in our system in accordance with our 10 year capital plan," said Steve Schneider, general manager.

It will also include an issuance of debt that will fund the first part of the construction activity for the McCarrons treatment plant improvement project.

The board will review the proposal and hold budget workshops this month.

The 2021 proposed budget and water rates will be discussed during a public hearing on Sept. 8 before the board votes on whether to recommend the budget to the city council for adoption.

If recommended for approval and approved by the council during a series of council meetings, the proposed budget will go into effect on January 1, 2021.

IS culture shift

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- Increase transparency.
- Form a cohesive, collaborative, trusting partnership between business units and IS.
- Reduce redundant systems and processes.
- Provide a forum for you as the customer to give input into recommendations for current and future IS initiatives.
- Review and endorse the Technology Strategic Plan (Road map).

More information will be coming as the CFT works on the Technology Governance communication plan.

Please contact Carol Kaszynski, IS manager, for more information, feedback, and/or questions.

Water treatment plant operator II, water utility aides recently hired

A new water treatment plant operator II and three water utility aides started work on July 6.

Tait Tellefsen, previously a water utility worker, is working out of the plant as a water treatment plant operator II.

Russel Bertrand, Henry Neitz, and Jason Rangel are all working out of Vadnais station this summer as water utility aides.

Izak Hofstad, water utility aide, will return to Vadnais on July 20.

Congratulations to Tait on his new position. Please welcome the new and returning utility aides if you see them.



Tait Tellefsen



Russel Bertrand



Izak Hofstad



Henry Neitz



Jason Rangel