

## Managers' Corner

By **Jim Bode**

### 2020 water production still good despite pandemic

Early in 2020, when Covid-19 started shutting down businesses, office buildings, and public buildings, we were worried about what our water production numbers would look like for the year. Would the volume of water sales plummet? If so, what would this do to our 2020 operating and capital budget?

I am happy to report that from the water production side of things, we had a decent year. The volume of water pumped out of McCarrons plant was down 1.6 percent from the average of the previous four years. This was a smaller drop than we were fearing in early 2020.

Total pumpage to the distribution system was 14,005,936,000 gallons of water, compared to a previous, four-year average of 14,663,700,000 gallons. Not bad, all things considered.

And while total sales dollars for 2020 are not yet complete, early indications from our finance people are consistent with the 1.6 percent drop in production. This means our operating and maintenance budget for the year were good, and we only needed to pare a small amount of our capital work to account for the small drop in revenue.

On the water supply side, 84 percent of the water we produced, or 11,982,520,000 gallons, came from the Mississippi River. The remaining 16 percent came from precipitation and run-off from the local watersheds surrounding our supply lakes.

The quality of our water produced at McCarrons continued to be excellent in 2020. We met all regulatory requirements for safe drinking water.

*Production continued on page 2*

## Done with those holiday lights? Recycle them!



**When your tree comes down and those lights that have seen better days are destined for disposal, recycle them! Don't throw them in the trash. The utility will be collecting old holiday lights through Jan. 22. You can also recycle electrical cords, telephone cords, and appliance cords. No plastic rope lights, CFL lights, cord adapters, or battery packs will be accepted.**

## Healthy Saint Paul offers new options and new look for 2021

Did you take part in Healthy Saint Paul in 2020? You should see your first quarterly deposit into your health retirement account in mid-February.

In 2021, there are more options and a new look, while the program's thresholds for earning points has not changed. Point levels remain 3,500 for the full \$900 incentive and 2,000 for \$300.

There are some activities that will rack up points quickly. Once Covid vaccines are available, getting one will earn you 750 points. Flu shots, too.

*Healthy continued on page 2*

## Turner goes to plant    Healthy Saint Paul offers new options in 2021

Eric Turner has transferred to the treatment plant for the season. The move was effective as of Dec. 14.



Eric Turner

### 2020 water production good

[Production continued from page 1](#)

We had few water quality complaints from our customers in general, and only 12 complaints related to taste or odor.

Here's hoping that 2021 is a better year from a pandemic perspective. But 2020 was good to us in terms of water produced, all things considered.

[Healthy continued from page 1](#)

Virgin Pulse/Medica has a new layout to make it easier to get started, navigate the tool, and learn about available health and wellness resources.

The My Health Rewards website and mobile app will be organized into five new standard categories:

- **Home** (Stats, Daily Cards, Healthy Habits, Rewards)
- **Health** (Journeys®, Health Assessment, My Care Checklist)
- **Benefits** (ERN the Burn, Omada, MeQ, Firefighter screenings, Sanvello, Healthy Savings, health coaching, Next Steps Consult, etc.)
- **Social** (Challenges, Friends

& Family, Shoutouts)

- **Profile** (Devices & Apps, Shop the Store)

The website and mobile app will have a different look as well. You will receive a notification after Jan. 1 asking if you want to switch to the new experience. You are not required to change until April 1, 2021.

This year also introduces a new mental health app called Sanvello. A flier was emailed to staff on Jan. 6. Sanvello is for you and any family member 13 and older. The app can be used on a standalone basis.

If you have questions, contact Nance Lee in benefits at nance.lee.mosquera@ci.stpaul.mn.us.

## Years of service noted in January (virtual) town hall meeting

In 2020, many of our employees reached career milestones with the utility. Normally, we honor them in an awards ceremony held during Drinking Water Week in May. However, Covid had other plans.

The utility-wide town hall meeting held on Jan. 6 via Skype was the first large gathering of employees since March, albeit virtual.

In recognition of their many years of service, we honor the following employees:

### Five Years:

Allison Bruhn, Nathan Cassidy, Jeremy Erickson, Marcus Fitzgerald, Emanuel Gomez, Eric Larson, Jeff Murphy, Tommy Murphy, Nathan Pearl, Kevin Romero, Erik Sorenson, Joel Troje, and Jeremy Wry.

### Ten Years:

Connie Garrahy, Tristen Magdziarz, Brent Marsolek, Alexis Rossow, and Matthew Stone.

### Fifteen Years:

Michael Alt, Dean Bennett, Tom Blanchard, Salam

Hamid, Nick Jaeger, Josh Jonas, Andy Knuth, Brian Lanigan, Gao Moua, Lori Petricka, Ron Reeves, Ben Robetor, Justina Ross, Jermaine Smith, Elmer Stevenson, and Amber Sullivan.

### Twenty Years:

Solomon Alemu, Bob Meyer, Katie Rohrbacher, Leeann Smith, Marie Weinhandl, and Tom Zangs.

### Thirty Years:

Issac Afwerke, Martha Burckhardt, Tom Buth, Andrea Flohr, Craig Landkamer, Blong Lee, Matt Morelli, Steve Schneider, and Xue Vang.

### Thirty-Five Years:

Al Benson, Sandy Hernandez, Judy Howard, Jerry Luckner, and Kathy Travis.

### Forty Years:

Brad Eilts and Rich Reeves.

Please note that there were no 25-year recipients. Recipients should be receiving an award in the mail.