

Todd Blomstrom appointed interim AGM Vaske appointed interim GM

By Racquel Vaske

Although saddened by the departure of our colleague and friend Pat Shea, it is with excitement and gratitude that I reach out to you to share some important news. As of Jan. 20, I am honored to assume the role of Interim General Manager at Saint Paul Regional Water Services.



Racquel Vaske

I am committed to assisting the Board of Water Commissioners in the interim time frame including helping to ensure they can select the right fit for their vision of SPRWS into the future, even if that is not me. The goal is for the Board to be able to appoint the permanent General Manager at the April Board meeting. As interim, I do not intend to make any significant changes that don't align with the variety of scenarios that may play out in the coming months.

First and foremost, I want to express my unwavering confidence in our incredible team. Our success as an organization is built on collaboration and a shared commitment to our mission. I am excited about the work that lies ahead and the positive impact we can continue to make together. The dedication and expertise each of you brings to our organization are the cornerstones of our success, and I am committed to ensuring that you have all the

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Water board welcomes new members after elections

The Board of Water Commissioners has two new members and a returning commissioner starting their terms.

Sara Joust, a new council member from Ward 3 was appointed to the board to replace outgoing commissioner Chris Tolbert.



Sara Joust

Tolbert was re-appointed to the Board as a commissioner as a Saint Paul citizen.

Anika Bowie is a new council member from Ward 1, replacing Dai Thao. She was appointed to the Board of Water Commissioners at the January meeting.



Anika Bowie

The rest of the Board consists of President Mara Humphrey, who is a Saint Paul citizen; Nelsie Yang, vice president and Ward 6 council member; and Rebecca Cave and John Larkin, the suburban representatives.

The next board meeting is on Tuesday, Feb. 13 in the administration cafeteria at McCarrons.

Century College courses open for the spring semester

The world around us keeps changing, and taking professional skills courses can help you keep current with today's business environment.

SPRWS continues to partner with Century College to offer

continuing education classes to utility employees this winter and spring. Classes are available from now until the end of May.

The program offers classes and certificate programs in supervision, management, com-

munication, accounting, project management, computers, technology, and more.

Some classes will still be held at the main Century College campus in White Bear Lake, but most will be conducted via

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College courses available this spring

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Zoom. The catalog will indicate either the on campus location or Zoom.

For Zoom classes, students will receive an email by the evening before the class is to run with links to pick up materials, enter the virtual environment, and evaluate the class. Attendance will be taken at a variety of points during the session.

You must obtain management approval prior to signing up for the course(s) you are interested in.

Once you have obtained approval, send an email to both Sandy Kimbrough at Sandy.Kimbrough@ci.stpaul.mn.us and Becky Carlson at Becky.Carlson@ci.stpaul.mn.us with the course name, ID number and date. You will then receive an email either confirming your registration or letting you know that the available seats have already been filled.

Water pumping operator hired

The utility has recently hired a new water pumping operator.

Cedric Kenfack Dongmo started work on Monday, Jan. 22.

Please welcome Cedric to the water utility!



Cedric Kenfack Dongmo

Work continues on clarifiers 3, 4 and 5



Panha Chan and Arnett Hughley work on repairing chains from clarifier 3.



Workers clean out clarifier three after all of the chains have been removed from one section for repair.

Photo: Arnett Hughley

Vaske appointed interim general manager

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resources necessary to thrive in your roles.

As we embark on this new chapter, I am pleased to announce the appointment of Todd Blomstrom as the Assistant General Manager. I believe that Todd's wealth of experience and deep understanding of our operations greatly complement my experience and give me great excitement about partnering into the future. In alignment with our commitment to fostering collaboration and efficiency, we are implementing a small restructure. It is important that we make decisions and structure changes to align with the skills of our leadership team. Todd, in his role as Assistant General Manager, will provide direct oversight to the distribution and engineering divisions. I will continue to provide oversight to the Administration team as well as the Business and Production divisions. This strategic move aims to enhance coordination and support across these crucial areas, ultimately contributing to our collective success. While this

move is exciting, it really becomes possible with the promotion of employees into Assistant Division Manager roles for both the Distribution and Engineering Divisions. I'm hopeful to be able to share more on these important additions to our E+ team in the next week!

If this structure were to stick based on the Boards decision, we would then backfill the Distribution Division Manager position. If not, re-adjustments can be made.

I am confident that this tweak to our structure will strengthen our ability to deliver exceptional service and drive innovation. Together, we will continue to uphold the high standards that define Saint Paul Regional Water Services.

Here's to a successful and fulfilling journey ahead!

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out or swing by my office.



Todd Blomstrom