



Customer Service Connections

A Publication of Saint Paul Regional Water Services

Summer 2024

Saint Paul Regional Water Services Appoints Racquel Vaske General Manager

The Board of Water Commissioners of Saint Paul Regional Water Services (SPRWS) is pleased to announce the appointment of Racquel Vaske as the organization’s next general manager.

Following an extensive search, the Board of Water Commissioners appointed an examining committee comprised of SPRWS representatives, local stakeholders, and water industry experts to evaluate the candidates. Vaske, who has been serving as interim general manager since January, was selected and officially appointed to the position during the Board’s meeting on

Tuesday, April 16.

Vaske brings a wealth of experience and dedication to her new role as general manager of SPRWS. With over 10 years of dedicated service to SPRWS, the last three as assistant general manager and many years as the human resources manager, Vaske has proven herself as a trusted leader within the organization. During her tenure as the assistant general manager since July 2021, Vaske has demonstrated exceptional leadership and strategic vision

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Racquel Vaske

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GENERAL MANAGER

Racquel Vaske

Todd Blomstrom Named Assistant General Manager



Todd Blomstrom

Todd Blomstrom has been appointed as assistant general manager effective April 22.

“Todd has a wealth of experience and deep understand-

ing of our operations. I am very excited to partner with him to support our talented and dedicated team as we pursue the variety of initiatives occurring across the utility,” said new General Manager Racquel Vaske.

Blomstrom served as the distribution division manager at SPRWS for the past three years and has been integral to launching Lead free SPRWS. Prior to that, he worked in a variety of roles in

municipal engineering and management. He served as a consultant for seven years prior to coming to SPRWS and 18 years in public works director roles, including management of water utilities for the cities of Apple Valley, Brooklyn Center, and Arden Hills.

His past responsibilities have focused on the management of street and utility improvement projects as well as coordination of operations and maintenance functions. He holds a bachelor’s and a master’s degree in engineering from the University of Minnesota and is a licensed professional engineer in Minnesota.

“I look forward to serving in this new capacity as assistant general manager,” said Blomstrom.

“SPRWS has accomplished wonderful things in the last few years and I am eager to continue to build upon this success with our team.”

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SPRWS Appoints Racquel Vaske General Manager

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within the organization helping to launch Lead Free SPRWS, the Utility Trainee program, and the rollout of automated metering infrastructure. Vaske has dual bachelor's degrees in public management and human resource management and a master's degree in human resources, all from the University of Minnesota Carlson School of Management.

"Racquel's leadership style emphasizes collaboration, innovation, and excellent customer service, aligning with the values and goals the Board has for Saint Paul Regional Water Services," said Mara Humphrey, president of the Board of Water Commissioners. "We are confident that under her guidance, our organization will continue to thrive and excel in providing essential services to our community."

The Board of Water Commissioners expresses its confidence in Racquel's leadership and looks forward to working closely with her to continue delivering high-quality water services during a transformative time in the water industry.

In her new capacity, Vaske will oversee SPRWS' operational revenues of \$129 million and lead a dedicated team of about 300 employees committed to delivering exceptional drinking water and services to the communities we serve.

"I am deeply honored to step into the role of general manager at Saint Paul Regional Water Services," said Vaske. "Our organization boasts a remarkably talented team with expertise spanning water quality, cybersecurity, engineering, construction management, budget management, and beyond. I am eager to continue our tradition of innovation and excellence, upholding our mission to provide safe, reliable water services to the 450,000 customers we serve each and every day. Together with our dedicated team, I am committed to advancing our goals and ensuring a prosperous future for our communities."

Vaske's appointment marks a significant milestone for SPRWS as she will become the first woman in the organization's history to serve as general manager.

PUBLIC HEARING ON 2025 BUDGET & WATER RATES

Tuesday, September 10, 2024, at 5 p.m.

SPRWS, 1900 Rice Street, Saint Paul, MN 55113

This discussion on rates and water fees as they relate to the overall budget will be followed by the regular Board of Water Commissioners meeting, in which the board may vote on the 2025 budget, including the rates and fees proposed for 2025.

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