

STATE OF MINNESOTA
Executive Department



Governor Tim Walz

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT

Rick Wahlen

Because of the special trust and confidence I have in your integrity, judgment, and ability, I have appointed you to the office of:

**Municipal Public Water Supply Superintendent
Plumbing Board**

Effective: May 17, 2020

Expires: December 31, 2022

This appointment carries with it all rights, powers, duties, and emoluments granted by law and pertaining to this position until this appointment is superseded or annulled by me or other lawful authority or by any law of this State.

Signed and sealed May 12, 2020.



Handwritten signature of Tim Walz in black ink.

Tim Walz
Governor

Handwritten signature of Steve Simon in black ink.

Steve Simon
Secretary of State

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MAY 15 2020

Replacing: David Wagner

President of the Senate

Filed on May 13, 2020
Office of Minnesota
Secretary of State,
Steve Simon

Application for the position Municipal Public Water Supply System Operator Or Supervisor

Part I: Position Sought

Agency Name: Plumbing Board

Position: Municipal Public Water Supply System Operator Or Supervisor

Part II: Applicant Information

Name: Rick Bradley Wahlen

Phone: (507) 995-3656

County: Sibley

Mn House District: 18B

US House District: 7

Recommended by the Appointing Authority: False

Part III: Appending Documentation

Cover Letter and Resume

Type	File Type
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Cover Letter	application/pdf
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Additional Documents (.doc, .docx, .pdf, .txt)

Type	File Name
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No additional documents found.	
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Part V: Signature

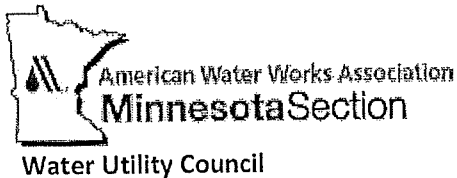
Signature: Rick B. Wahlen

Date: 12/30/2019 9:39:26 AM

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President of the Senate



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MAY 15 2020

President of the Senate

December 30, 2019

To Whom it May Concern,

SUBJECT: Nomination of American Water Works Association Member to fill Municipal Utility Member Position on State Plumbing Board

As Chair of the Minnesota Section of the American Water Works Association representing over 800 water utilities in our state, I am pleased to offer my strongest recommendation for Rick Wahlen as a replacement for outgoing State Plumbing Board member David Wagner. As was the case with Mr. Wagner, Rick has more than 20 years of experience in municipal utility operations leadership and has a depth of practical, hands-on knowledge in water treatment, water distribution, water metering, plumbing, and the resolution of public water quality concerns.

Rick has managed public water utilities in both South Dakota and Minnesota, and he has extensive experience as a water treatment plant operator and maintenance technician. He was almost single-handedly responsible for gaining public support for a new water treatment plant and oversaw the preparations of plans and specifications and the construction of a new lime and soda-ash softening surface water treatment facility for the city of Aberdeen, SD. As the manager of utility operations for Eden Prairie, a utility with assets in excess of 200 million dollars, Rick also recognized many opportunities for enhancing the performance of the city's 28 million-gallon-per-day lime softening water treatment plant, and managed millions of dollars of necessary improvement projects including new process control systems, new chemical feed systems, the implementation of supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) systems, and most recently the construction of a 4 million gallon water storage reservoir and pumping station. Rick successfully introduced an asset based, maintenance oriented, tiered usage utility rate program that includes annual incremental increases in water, wastewater, and stormwater fees to ensure each utility remains self-sustaining and grows its own cash reserve for future growth and upkeep. This model program is referenced in the MPR production "Liquid Assets Minnesota," and has served as an example of sustainable, proactive water utility financing for other municipalities facing infrastructure funding challenges.

Rick has been a member of AWWA for 22 years and has been very active in supporting the Minnesota section as a member of the Information Technology Committee where he collaborated with his fellow committee members to introduce systems of automated, web-based conference and training registration and payment as well as many website enhancements and customer service features. As an ongoing member of the Metro District Water School Planning Committee, Rick has contributed greatly to the improvement of water operator training by creating the leadership

training track bringing in subject matter experts in personnel management as well as teaching many sessions himself. Rick is routinely asked to speak at water training conferences throughout Minnesota and has enthusiastically presented on various topics impacting utility operations, planning, and leadership. His sessions are well received and highly attended. Rick has also been one of the founding members of the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) committee, taking on the serious responsibility of improving public awareness of water utilities as a career and helping create a number of public outreach options for the section including testimonial videos, printed handouts, and website information. Most recently, Rick volunteered to serve on a special subcommittee formed to facilitate the creation of a water utility operator technical college program in the Twin Cities that will be recognized by both the Department of Health and Pollution Control Administration as a valid program for the development of qualified water and wastewater operator candidates.

Lastly, Rick is completing his 3rd year as the Minnesota Water Utility Council chair, having served on the council since 2014 in successive terms as secretary, vice chair, and chair. Rick has worked hard to bring many improvements to the role of the council in providing the public utilities perspective to the former Legislative Water Commission and its successor, the Subcommittee on Minnesota Water Policy, and to improve communications and partnerships between the agencies represented on the council. It is in this capacity that Rick plans to bring an active and informed voice to the Plumbing Board regarding decisions that involve public water utilities.

Rick is highly regarded as a leader in municipal utility operations by the Minnesota Department of Health, the Department of Natural Resources, and the Metropolitan Council. Rick is frequently invited to participate in statewide planning groups and has served in various workgroups studying water conservation, sustainability, water resource planning, drought management, sourcewater protection, and comprehensive planning.

I believe Rick's record of dedication and involved commitment to the water industry is the best indication of what you can expect from him on the Plumbing Board. Rick is a believer in what he does and he will fulfill his obligation to the mission of the board with as much enthusiasm as he has shown for his career and to the water industry as a whole.

For these reasons and more I haven't mentioned, I am confident you will find Rick to be an ideal municipal plumbing board member.

Please accept this nomination for Rick Wahlen for the term beginning January 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

William Schluenz

Bill Schluenz
Chair
Minnesota Section
American Water Works Association

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MAY 15 2020

President of the Senate