

Lisa Darling, Acting Chair
Metro Roundtable
Via email: lisadarling@southmetrowater.org

Re: Interest Letter for At Large Position with Adjudicated Water Rights

Dear Ms. Darling and Board Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this letter of interest to serve on the Metro Roundtable in the position that you determine I am best suited. I am committed to serving on the Roundtable on behalf of Parker Water & Sanitation District (Parker Water) which has a significant portfolio of adjudicated water rights within the Metro Roundtable boundary and the South Platte Basin. In addition, Parker Water owns and operates Rueter-Hess Reservoir. In my position as Water Resource Manager, I also work with our team on upcoming water quality regulations such as Regulations 72 and 38. District leadership is supportive of me serving on the Roundtable if elected. I have attended the Roundtable meetings in person or virtually since transitioning to Parker Water in May of this year. In addition, I am willing to serve on committees that are in need, including the WSRF Committee.

I have over 25 years of water resources experience, first with Leonard Rice Engineers (LRE Water), then with Castle Rock Water and currently with Parker Water. I have a sound understanding of the complexities of water rights, water conservation and efficiency, water quality regulations for utilities, and achievable master planning. If elected, I would bring to the table my experience and sound judgment to help foster discussions and help complete the tasks that are before the Metro Roundtable.

Parker Water and I are aligned with the purpose and mission of the Roundtable in “collaborative efforts to coordinate and facilitate the appropriate use of the state’s waters, to develop long-term solutions to intra-basin water needs”. I believe this is demonstrated through the Platte Valley Water Partnership (PVWP) project which is an innovative water supply solution that will benefit both agricultural and municipal communities in the South Platte River Basin. As the Water Resource Manager, I am tasked as the driving force for the implementation of the PVWP project.

I welcome the opportunity to answer any questions you or the Board may have.

Sincerely,

Heather L. Justus, P.G.
Water Resource Manager

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Parker Water and Sanitation District

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18100 E. Woodman Dr, Parker, CO 80134

EXPERIENCE

Parker Water and Sanitation District

April 17, 2023 – Current - Water Resource Manager

Plans, manages, and conducts water resource studies, analysis, and special projects. Plans and directs work for staff and consultants. Represents the District with stakeholders, community partners, and customers at meetings and events regarding water resources and conservation issues.

As the Water Resource Manager, I am the driving force in the implementation of the District's Long-term Water Program, The Platte Valley Water Partnership. The Platte Valley Water Partnership (PVWP) is an innovative, long-term water supply solution that will benefit both agricultural and municipal communities in the South Platte River Basin. The PVWP is a partnership between Lower South Platte Water Conservancy District and Parker Water and Sanitation District. The partnership is currently considering new partners.

I work closely with the District's Water Attorney concerning the District's water rights and water court cases, ensuring the water rights are incorporated into the Water Resources Supply Plan, providing technical and policy oriented support to the District's operations.

Water conservation and efficiency program development and implementation is also a key focus for the District's water resource programming. The District is currently revamping the Conservation and Efficiency goals and objectives. Including consideration of changing the current guidelines to include reductions in high hydro-zones (turf areas).

In this position, I also attend and participate in the Water Quality Control Commission hearings and stakeholder meetings in regard to water quality regulations that impact the District and the region. We are currently participating in Regulation 72 and Regulation 38. In addition, we are developing the Water Source Plan for Rueter Hess Reservoir (RHR) which will help the District to develop a comprehensive understanding of the RHR water quality dynamics. This includes developing work groups of multi-disciplines to develop solutions and meet regulations.

Town of Castle Rock, Castle Rock Water

May 2018 – April 13, 2023 - Water Resources Project Manager

October 2014 – May 2018 – Water Resources Program Analyst

Achieved a track record of results in managing utility infrastructure and developing and implementing creative renewable water supply projects. Responsible for coordinating and managing the Town's Water Resources including the non-renewable groundwater supplies and various renewable and reusable water supplies. Additional responsibilities include capital improvement management, water portfolio

management, utility master support, long-range utility planning, annual budgeting and preparing memos and presentations for Utilities Director, various Town Commission Boards, Town Manager and Town Council.

Significant Projects include:

- Denver Basin Aquifer Storage and Recovery Pilot Project.
- Directional Drilled Alluvial Horizontal Wells in Plum Creek Alluvium.
- Castle Rock Water Rights Cases.
- Participated in Water Resources Five-Year Strategic Master Plan 2019 and 2023.
- Managed Alternative Sources of Supplies projects including Box Elder and Lost Creek projects.
- Served as stake holder for the Drought Mitigation Study and Plan.
- Provided support and guidance on conservation issues the Town faces and helped develop conservation policies.

Leonard Rice Engineers, Inc., Denver, Colorado AKA LRE Water

2009 – January 2013 – Project Manager and Employee Owner

Select, organize, inspire, and manage teams to provide optimal water solutions for clients using expertise in water rights, groundwater and project management. In addition, develop and maintain good working relationships with clients, staff, and peers. Managed multiple projects at the same time with multi-discipline team.

2007-2009 – Senior Project Hydrogeologist

Involved in groundwater studies and analysis including the interpretation and evaluation of the hydrogeologic systems, geologic and geophysical logs, water quality data, geologic and hydrologic maps, computer modeling, aquifer testing, water well design and construction, evaluation of mining impacts on groundwater systems, groundwater and surface water interactions, and water rights. Field experience includes mapping, water quality sampling, aquifer testing, logging and supervision of well drilling. Duties required the collection and analysis of data, report preparation, litigation support and project management.

2002 – 2006 - Project Hydrogeologist

1998 – 2001 – Staff Hydrogeologist

1996 – 1997 – Assistant Hydrogeologist

PROFESSIONAL TESTIMONY

August 2020. Provided written and verbal testimony on behalf of the Town of Castle Rock before the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission Docket NO. 2003000071: In the matter of Changes and Regulations of the Oil and Gas Conservation Commission of the State of Colorado.

2018. Provided Expert Reports, Rebuttals and Statements on behalf of Town of Castle Rock prepared for 17-GW-05, Proposed Amendment of the Designated Basin Rules 5.6 and 5.8.

PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION

Professional Geologist: Wyoming #3709, Arizona #51112

American Institute of Professional Geologist: Certified Professional Geologist #11324

EDUCATION

B.S., Geology, Adams State College, Alamosa, Colorado 1995

Graduate Work at Colorado State University in Civil Engineering, Fall 1995- Spring 1996

2017 – Water Education Colorado 2017 Water Leaders

2012 – LRE Leadership University (In House Course)

2010 – LRE Project Management University (In House Course)

RECENT PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

April 2022. “Emotional Intelligence in the Workplace” Alumni Panel Presentation to 2020 Water Leaders, WECO.

April 2021. “Evaluating the Effect of a Glass Bead Filter Pack on Denver Basin Well Efficiency” 2021 AWRA-CGWA Annual Symposium Entering New Territory – Forging Ahead in Water Resource Planning; April 28th, Virtual; Co-presented with Joel Barber, LRE Water Inc.

October 2019. “Aquifer Storage and Recovery: Castle Rock’s Perspective”, RMSAWWA Conservation Quarterly Meeting, October 2, 2019, Castle Rock, Colorado

June 2018. “The Revolution of Subsurface Water Storage”, AWWA ACE Annual Conference and Exposition: Innovating the Future of Water; June 11-14, 2018, Las Vegas, Nevada.

June 2018. “Update to the Benefits of Directional Drilled Alluvial Wells in the Town of Castle Rock”, AWRA Colorado Section Annual 2018 Conference: Colorado Water 2018: Turning Conflict into Collaboration, Golden, Colorado.