

CPW narrows GM search to 4; three in-house candidates make cut

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Three current Commissioners of Public Works department heads are in consideration for the utility's general manager position, joining an Ohio-based engineer from a nationwide field of 80 applicants.

On Thursday, CPW's governing board spent several hours interviewing candidates to replace Steve Reeves, who announced his retirement in July after a 27-year run.

The candidates are Jeff Chapman, CPW's water department director; Michael Heise, CEO of Power Systems Design & Quality Lines in Findlay, Ohio; Jeff Meredith, CPW's director of electric utilities; and Eduardo Noriega, director of CPW's gas operations.

Reeves provided the names, resumes and cover letters of the four candidates to the Index-Journal in response to request made under the Freedom of Information Act.

- Chapman, who has a master's in civil and environmental engineering from the University of South Carolina, has led the 37-person water department since 2006. Prior to that, he spent nine years as a project manager for the state Budget and Control Board, evaluating water and sewer funding requests from local governments.
- Heise has a bachelor's in electrical engineering from the University of Toledo in Ohio. Since 2015, he's been CEO of Power Systems Design & Quality Lines, an engineering firm that designs power lines and electrical infrastructure. From 2003-15, he ran The Medical Center Company in Cleveland, which provides power to organizations

including the Cleveland Art Museum, University Hospitals Health System and Case Western Reserve University.

- Meredith joined CPW in 2000 and spent 14 months as distribution system manager before becoming director of its electric utilities. He has a bachelor's in electrical engineering from Clemson University. From 1997 to 2000, Meredith worked as a product engineer at Cutler-Hammer.
- Noriega, leader of CPW's gas division since 2010, has a bachelor's in civil engineering from Ohio State University. He manages a staff of 29. From 2005-10, Noriega worked as an operations auditing manager for Atlanta-based AGL Resources Inc.