

# INDEX-JOURNAL

## Longtime CPW employee tapped as its new GM

By ADAM BENSON [abenson@indexjournal.com](mailto:abenson@indexjournal.com) 11/14/2017



Commissioners of Public Works electric utilities director Jeff Meredith, center left, is congratulated by CPW's board on Monday after being named the agency's ninth general manager. Commissioner Henry Watts shakes Meredith's hand while Commissioners Arthur Bush, left, and Michael Monaghan look on.

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A Greenwood native with more than 20 years of industry experience — including 17 at Greenwood Commissioners of Public Works — will take over as the agency's ninth general manager this spring, officials announced on Monday.

Jeff Meredith, 46, was chosen after a nationwide search that attracted more than 100 applicants. He's been director of electric utilities for CPW since December 2002 and will make \$156,173 a year in his new position.

He'll assume the position held since 1991 by Steve Reeves.

"It's a logical next step for me. I've got a lot of ideas to offer, and I'm just looking forward to moving forward. We've got a very good staff who has been very supportive, and I'm looking forward to working with them," Meredith said.

A Greenwood High School graduate, Meredith has a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Clemson University. He's also president-elect of the South Carolina Association of Municipal Power Systems' governing board and sits on the SC811 board.

Meredith said he'll spend the next several months meeting with the board and CPW administrators to gauge their priorities.

"I think 2018 may be a little bit of a different year for us. Going forward, 2019 and onward we'll have some pretty nice years," he said.

Meredith and wife, Amy, have two children.

Meredith's career began at Duke Energy in 1990. He spent three years as an engineer before joining Palmetto Electric Cooperative in Hilton Head in 1994. He was hired by CPW in December 2000, spending 14 months as administrator of its distribution system before he was named director of electric utilities.

CPW officials said Meredith's familiarity with existing contracts, personnel and infrastructure made him an attractive candidate.

Of the four candidates under consideration, three were in-house candidates — Meredith, gas operations director Eduardo Noriega and water department division chief Jeff Chapman.

The other was Michael Hiese, an Ohio-based power systems designer.

"We went through over 100 applications and we did a national search," Commissioner Michael Monaghan said. "That attests to how good our current general manager is, because he staffed the departments with very competent people."

Meredith played a key role in negotiating CPW's 2014 deal with NTE Energy for a 20-year power purchase agreement that takes hold on Jan. 1, 2020.

"He was in on the ground floor with that," CPW board member Henry Watts said.

Reeves has been CPW's longest-serving general manager since A.J. Sproles, who ran it from 1899 to 1927.

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