

## **2022 SFTR Metro Candidate Statements**

The following sketches were solicited from and provided by each candidate in the upcoming Metro Board election. These biographical sketches are in the reverse order of the ballot listing.

## **Candidate: Jerry Kirkwood**

I am running for a Board position to ensure we (SFTR) have a sustainable, safe and affordable water system for years to come.

- Grew up on a farm in Maryland and am familiar with the operation of and mechanics of many forms of heavy machinery used on the farm, from tractors and dozers to back-hoes.
- Spent several years as a maintenance technician for an apartment complex and also the Maryland State Park system. Have a hands-on knowledge of most things mechanical.

Past and current volunteerism:

- Served four terms on my Fraternal Order of Police lodge, President for two and Vice President for two.
- Served on the Harford County 4-H Board of Directors for two four year terms, as the Secretary and completed countless maintenance projects at the 4-H camp.
- Volunteered for several Firewise roadside mitigation projects here on SFTR.
- Adopted several miles of roadway for spraying invasive weed species on SFTR.
- Made and donated several wood working projects to the Annual Picnic.
- Ditch Rat for the past four years. In this time as a Rat, have seen the water system in action and know much of the behind the scene processes.

We have owned our property for 16 years and have lived on SFTR for five years. I have prepared myself to serve on the METRO Board by diving into our community the best way I know how.

Work as a ditch rat has given me the required experience qualifications to qualify to become a water system operator. I have begun the education/testing process and hopefully will be the next certified water system operator for our community.

I believe in our METRO District and I definitely believe in a good close working relationship with our POA. I feel the greatest value is it is run by volunteers that live here. We have skin in the game. All of the property owners should want the water system to thrive. Additionally, having a board member or ditch rat respond to water system issue is priceless.

My former career was in Natural Resources Law Enforcement. During my 30 years I worked my way up through the ranks. Upon reaching the Rank of Captain, I was chosen to serve as the Adjutant to the Colonel. As the Adjutant, I spent a lot of time on conflict resolution with the public and was the Department's Legislative Liaison. Testifying in front of the General Assembly on proposed laws and calculating the associated fiscal note. My last promotion was to the rank of Major, where I was Chief of Field Operations. I believe I'm the only person to start out mowing grass and becoming third in Command of a 250 person police force.

Reading and understanding state regulation can be challenging to say the least. Adhering to regulations and explaining them to the public is something I did daily as a Conservation Officer.

**Candidate: Rick Kinder**

The following are some of my experiences as a 15-year member of the Metro Board.

- Certified by the State of Colorado as a Water Professional for Small Water Systems
- Attended required classes to maintain certification and proficiency
- Responsible for quarterly orders and transporting to the SFT ranch, bulk Chlorine drums (three, 15 gals) from Interstate Chemical, in Pueblo
- Reading chlorine levels and adding chlorine disinfectant as required, several times a week.
- Taking monthly water samples to the Pueblo analysis lab/Health Department, for results review making sure they are OK and make sure the State gets them entered into our water history.
- Monitoring the SCADA system that keeps track of water moving through the Metro's pumps and water tanks, and flag things that don't look right.
- Responding as needed to tank water level or pump issues at each of the seven remote water sites.
- Being on-call as a Ditch Rat many years (24/7); fixed many leaks during that time.

**Candidate: Thomas Roelofs**

Being a lot owner since 2009 and resident since 2015, I have a strong interest in working with the SFTR population and governance to meet the changing needs in development and infrastructure improvements on the ranch. If elected to the position of Director, I will actively participate in the activities of the METRO and ensure resources are used effectively and managed wisely.

I believe my degree in Wildlife Management and career as a general contractor provides me with a comprehensive understanding of the ranch's basic structure and how the system which supports the operation and framework (power, water, transport, drainage systems) all work together and need to be part of any long-term strategic plan.

My many years as a contractor provides me with firsthand experience in the placement of water systems and retention basins, an understanding of complex issues that impact soil and water, and an ability to resolve problems at all levels. If provided the opportunity to collaborate with the long-standing directors of the METRO, I will embrace the chance to learn the history and specific needs of the ranch and will invest in any additional training and certifications needed in order to fulfill the obligations of the position. Not only am I willing to volunteer and 'get my hands dirty,' I understand the need to foster discussion within the community and collaborate with elected officials and others as part of identifying issues at the watershed, local, regional, and state levels.

## **Candidate: RC Ghormley**

As a candidate for the Metropolitan District Board, some of my relevant qualifications and experience, both as a Board member and as a volunteer, are listed below:

- Metro Board member for the past several years
- Certified by the State of Colorado as a Water Professional for Class 3 systems (includes SFTR)
  - Attend required classes to maintain certification and proficiency
- Worked to design, implement, maintain and improve the Ranch radio system which serves the POA Board (roads) and Metro Board (water system)
- Worked with the SCADA control system that monitors real-time water tank levels, remotely activates pumps, and detects anomalous water flow (large leaks)
  - Respond to SCADA maintenance and upgrade issues at remote sites
- Worked as a Ditch Rat for 10 years; on call as needed
- Respond to user “we have no water” and other administrative issues
- Support the Metro before, during and after periodic CO State inspections
- Interface with CO State on backflow prevention (a State requirement); document how the Metro complies
- Address a plethora of Metro administrative and technical issues:
  - Tank corrosion evaluation and protection
  - Check chlorine levels in the distribution system weekly
  - Review monthly meter readings for anomalies
  - Interface with CO Dept of Transportation as needed to access, repair and maintain SFTR water supply lines in the DOT right-of-way
- I strive to be approachable and to work with everyone with a focus on providing continuously available and safe water to all users at the lowest possible cost.

**Candidate: Joe Richards**

Having recently retired as the Building Manager/CBO of Arapahoe County, I now have the time to invest in our community. Prior, I was up north five-out-of-seven-days every week. Before Arapahoe, I worked in Castle Rock and my first three years as your building inspector for Las Animas County. In this capacity, I had the pleasure of meeting many Ranch neighbors.

My most recent 12 years of experience serving government municipalities allowed me to become even more adept in the interpretation, creation and standardization of government regulations. Previously, I spent 35 years in the management and/or ownership of commercial/industrial steel fabrication businesses throughout the Southwest which also required extensive knowledge/compliance of government building/safety standards.

Also, I believe that everyone should be given the opportunity to serve their community if that is their desire ... it certainly has been mine. Of course, no one will be able to become as efficient as a departing Board member overnight, which is why we need support from our community and Board. They can impart valuable training, support and insight to any new Board members and can help to make the transition as seamless as possible.

Currently hold 16 state/federal certifications. I have also completed two required courses/tests toward my CDPHE Operator's Certification (104313/pending). Since retiring in January, I joined the Covenant's and FHWMC committees.

Lastly, since my career has involved extensive adherence to safety/compliance, my desire to join Metro is to support and enforce this valuable entity.

Thank you for your support.

Joe