



MEMORANDUM

To: Alison Stroud, Council Chair

From: Tom Ward, PE, Public Utilities Director *TW*

CC: Mayor Bradburn, Matt Huish

Date: July 21, 2021

Re: Metropolitan Water District of Salt Lake & Sandy
Board Appointment Recommendation for Don Milne

I respectfully recommend Don Milne to be reappointed to the Metropolitan Water District of Salt Lake and Sandy (Metro Water) Board of Trustees.

As you may recall, the Metro Board is a governance board. Sandy Council appoints 2 members to the 7 member board, with Salt Lake City appointing the other 5. As you have heard me say, Sandy City benefits tremendously by appointing highly qualified and respected individuals to the Metro Water governing board. This board is very involved in technical, fiscal, administrative, public health, sustainability, safety, reliability, and customer service decisions for Metro to assure a high quality, efficient, and reliable water supply for Sandy. The impacts to Sandy of a failure of the Metro system cannot be understated from a public health, economic and social perspective.

Our current board appointees are Don Milne and John Kirkham. Don's term expired this year, and he is interested and willing to serve an additional term. Don is a long time Sandy City resident. He is highly respected in the Utah and western states water community. Don is retired from the military and was Deputy Director for Los Angeles Public Works, with over 4,000 employees and one of the largest utility budgets in the country. Don currently serves on the Public Utilities Advisory Board as well as the Provo River Water Users Association where he serves as chair of the Engineering Committees, among other positions. His knowledge, expertise, and respect on those governing boards give Sandy sizeable influence and control over the management of those institutions that control our water supply. Metro Water consumes over \$11M of Sandy's annual \$22M water budget, and

represents over \$125M of Sandy investment with about \$75M indirect debt service. Efficient management of those institutions on behalf of Sandy saves our residents millions.

As one example, over the first part of this year, Don as chair of the Engineering Committee of the Provo River Water Users Association helped push and brainstorm with the Association engineers to redesign the Deer Creek Dam intake project to reduce it from a \$109M estimated cost down to \$50M. That \$59M project savings represents over \$10M savings to Sandy (Sandy indirectly pays through Metro about 18% of Provo River Association costs).

To lose Don from any of these boards would be a significant loss and potential impact to Sandy. Don's direct experience and role at Metropolitan Water gives Sandy a strong presence at those institutions that are so important to the continued sustainability, efficiency and high quality of our drinking water supply for Sandy.

Thank you for your consideration.