

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: [REDACTED]@ci.northfield.mn.us>

To: Culligan, [REDACTED]@brimbridge@yahoo.com>

Sent: Monday, May 29, 2023 at 11:23:20 PM CDT

Subject: Re: 50 N

Is this the Mr. Schiesser affiliated with Culligan? If so, it is important to note he is not an independent municipal water treatment expert and clearly offers a biased opinion. Culligan most certainly must be concerned about the idea that a new city-water water treatment plant could lessen the need for water softeners in the home. While the new treatment plant may not fully eliminate the need for water softeners, it should lessen the need for as much salt use. It is not surprising Culligan is speaking out against a city-wide system that could lessen resident dependency on their products and services.

We live in an area of the country where water is naturally very hard. Only those privileged enough to afford a water softener and the salt (and installation and maintenance costs) are able to enjoy softened water. Not only can soft water be preferable from a comfort standpoint, but we all know hard water is very hard on the home appliances and equipment that use it, shortening the lives of those appliances and costing us more money over time to repair and replace. So those who cannot afford the water softening system Culligan and others sell must deal with the financial consequences of continued hard water use. Offering softer water through a city-wide treatment plant is an EQUITY issue. EVERYONE in the community can benefit from soft water, not just those who have the financial means to afford it. EQUITY is a strategic goal of the city.

Likewise, the manganese level in our city is too high and unsafe for pregnant women and infants. According to Mr. Schiesser's interview a year ago on KYMN, he thinks we can solve the manganese issue with a consumer-based approach. Again, this means only those who can afford to install some kind of system in their homes to remove manganese benefit from it and get manganese-free water. So if you can't afford one of these consumer-based devices (which I'm sure Culligan sells), you will be forced to continue to drink water that is unsafe for pregnant women and infants. What about renters? What if their landlord won't install such a device? Are they forced to drink water with manganese levels that exceed acceptable, safe levels? Elevated levels of manganese, by the way, have health consequences for infants. So again, this is an EQUITY issue. **We are responsible as a city for providing SAFE drinking water for ALL people.** Ignoring the elevated manganese level and instead counting on people to obtain some expensive consumer-based product for their homes is irresponsible and a dereliction of our basic responsibilities to our residents. It is simply unacceptable as a city to ignore these unsafe levels of manganese. It is our duty to provide safe water for all residents.

Mr. Schiesser is listed in interviews as a director of sales and marketing. He is not an objective expert on municipal water treatment systems or water quality. We hired a team of experts who specialize in this field to study and direct us on this issue. Likewise, Justin Wagner is a trained professional in municipal water management. I fully trust their guidance and expertise. I fully support a water treatment plant that will provide SAFE, clean drinking water for ALL RESIDENTS, regardless of their financial status or ability to purchase Culligan products.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Northfield City Council - [REDACTED]

Scott Schiesser

From: Jeff Hill (jeffhill@minnwa.com)

To: [REDACTED]

Date: Thursday, June 1, 2023 at 03:10 PM CDT

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]:

I have heard that people are disparaging Scott Schiesser because he is a businessman with business interests. As a retired businessman who has worked with Scott in a volunteer capacity for many years, I am offended. I was a competitor to Scott for many years. We worked together on State and Federal legislative issues as well as with the Minnesota Plumbing Board, with state and federal Water Quality Associations and with the Ethics Committee of the Minnesota Water Quality Association. Scott's firm, the Driessen Group Ultrapure Industrial and Culligan, get little direct benefit from these activities. Civic engagement is a strong ethic at Driessen Group. Scott's immediate boss was recently re-appointed by Governor Walz to the Minnesota Plumbing Board. Northfield leaders and I will agree on one thing – civic involvement is a long and often thankless task!

Scott has lived his professional career in water treatment. He has the national certification Master Water Specialist and the Minnesota license as a Water Conditioning Master. Both those certifications and licenses carry the requirement for continuing education. The Chemistry and processes of municipal water treatment are most often the same as in small scale treatment. Yes, Scott is in a sales management position. To be in good in sales is in part to have a deep product knowledge that helps you to bring the correct product to the consumer. It is an error to believe that a position in Sales or in Marketing implies either a lack of technical expertise or a lack of ethics.

It should be noted that the engineering firm Bolton & Menk builds great water plants, just as Scott's firm is highly respected in the high purity industrial water and various products in homes, schools, and hospitals. Bolton & Menk engineers must also promote their services and water plants in order that Bolton & Menk will remain a viable entity, as they should. In Northfield the product for sale is the design and construction management of water plant. If they are a competitor to the local water dealers and plumbers in Northfield, their ideas should be considered on a level playing field. All the local businesspeople in Northfield are experts in their own area and should not be dismissed either because they are local or because they are businesspeople.

More specifically about Scott, he is deeply local and cares about Northfield. Scott and Melissa have always been in southern Minnesota, have been in Northfield for 15 years, educated their children in public schools and are active in Grace Lutheran Church in Nerstrand. Most recently, the hours he has put into the refreshing the Groveland Cemetery in Dundas are many. (I drove by it to check two weeks ago.) Scott is near retirement. I assure you that his passion for discussing the alternatives to your proposed water project are more civic than profit motivated. His ideas should not be ignored.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Chemist

Director, Minnesota Water Quality Association