Todd H. Votteler



<u>View Candidate Questionnaire</u> <u>View Conflict of Interest Form</u> <u>View Code of Conduct Affirmation</u>

Todd Votteler is a sixth generation Texan and 20-year resident of District 4. He has three decades of experience in water and land management. Through his consulting firm, <u>Collaborative Water</u> <u>Resolution LLC</u>, he; conducts research on complex water issues; provides facilitation, mediation and conflict resolution training services for water and land disputes; and offers executive search services for land and water organizations including utilities.

Votteler's experience includes serving as a special master for a federal court in Midland, an executive manager at a wholesale and retail water supplier and hydroelectric power provider, and time as a research scientist at the Battelle-Pacific Northwest National Laboratory supporting the Department of Energy.

Votteler has served on boards at Texas State University and The University of Texas at Austin. He was elected chairman of the Texas Land Trust Council and the Guadalupe Basin Coalition. He is a graduate of the Governor's Executive Development Program. His degrees include a doctorate in environmental geography from Texas State University.

Votteler's education and experience in science and resource management would complement the wealth of business experience within the current board. In addition to affordable power, Votteler's priorities for the PEC include:

<u>Increasing transparency</u>. Increasing the board agenda posting requirement from 72 hours to one week prior to meetings (as many state and regional utilities agencies already do in Texas) will allow the public more time to prepare and participate in PEC meetings.

<u>Reducing the potential for wildfires</u>. In 2024, the largest wildfire in Texas history was started by downed power lines. A comprehensive examination of the wildfire risk associated with the PEC's transmission system would reduce the likelihood of PEC operations sparking future wildfires.

<u>Increasing system resilience</u>. Ensuring that the PEC is ready for the next winter storm like Uri or summer demand surge should be a top PEC priority. Increasing the PEC system's resilience would reduce the impact of surge events and their associated spikes in energy prices. Expanding the use of underground lines where necessary would reduce the vulnerability of the PEC's lines to falling branches during thunderstorms and ice storms. Expanding PEC's current battery storage facility in Johnson City, and adding additional battery storage facilities, will increase system resilience and allow the PEC to take greater advantage of growing supplies of wind power, which has become the least

expensive source of all new supplies.

<u>Upgrading system capacity</u>. Replacing more of the PEC's conductors with larger conductors and upgrading more 69kV lines to 138kV lines, will increase the capacity and reliability of PEC's system and ensure that the PEC will meet the service area's growing power demands.

Votteler and his wife Sharmon have two daughters, Victoria who graduated from James Bowie High School, and Caroline who is a student at Bowie.

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Candidate Questionnaire Responses

1) What makes PEC's mission meaningful to you, and what interest you about serving on the PEC Board of Directors?

For nearly two decades I worked for the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA), which is regional water and hydroelectric power utility. As Executive Manager of Science, Intergovernmental Relations, & Policy I learned the importance of providing reliable and affordable water and power to those who depend upon it. The PEC relies upon energy supplied from a mix of sources through the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT). Each source has certain advantages and disadvantages. Personally, I am drawn to the challenge of providing reliable power to 8,100 square miles of service area with rising demands.

2) What education, skills, strengths or life experiences do you have that would benefit PEC?

Through my experience in water and land conservation and management I have acquired skills that can benefit the PEC. My preparation for this work included a B.S. and M.S. in natural resources, eventually a doctorate in environmental geography from Texas State University and graduating from the Governor's Executive Development Program. Today, I conduct water research and provide facilitation, mediation and training services for those navigating natural resource conflicts. I believe my accumulated education and experience will benefit the PEC board, which must reconcile competing interests to fulfill its mission to serve its customers.

Through the executive search service, I provide to water utilities and other organizations I evaluate executive leadership and performance. This work has given me insight into how the changing workforce impacts organizations like the PEC that compete to hire engineers and other employees with skills that are in demand.

3) What other boards or committees have you served on or leadership positions have you held in the past?

I have served on multiple boards, committees and councils including those at Texas State University and The University of Texas at Austin (UT). At UT I served on an advisory committee at the Jackson School of Geosciences, and with the Austin Technology Incubator. I was elected chair of the Texas Land Trust Council and Guadalupe Basin Coalition.

4) Are you familiar with the elements of the cooperative business model?

As a former executive manager at a not-for-profit regional water and power utility, I understand the PEC's business model and how utilities operate. Electric cooperatives are not-for-profit businesses owned and controlled by their members, who are also the customers.

5) How would you approach working with your fellow PEC Board of Directors to achieve collaboration and consensus?

My education and experience in science and resource management would complement the abundance of business experience on the current board. Through my facilitation and mediation work I understand collaborative problem solving, which would be the foundation of how I would approach serving on the PEC board.