

Honorable Chief Justice Cory Swanson,

I write this recommendation for Julia Nordlund to the position of Associate Water Court Judge.

I have known Julia and her family for 3 generations. Her family's farm in Pondera County was a short distance from our farm as I grew up. Her grandmother and grandfather were active leaders in our 4-H club. Her family and mine were friends for many years and remain so today. I can personally attest to her upbringing and commitment to Montana and its people.

I have lived in Gallatin County for over 50 years. During that time I have seen many changes in the valley. I served as a Gallatin County Commissioner from 2015 to 2020 during which I watched the water right holders, the Association of Gallatin Agricultural Irrigators (AGAI), the DNRC, and municipalities sort out the water rights in the Gallatin Basin. In her capacity as Senior Water Master she helped guide the water right holders through the complex issues in 41H (Gallatin River Basin) with accuracy and efficiency to the point where the basin is nearing full adjudication. This is a testament to her skills as Senior Water Master because water rights in this basin are extremely intricate and among the most complex in the state.

It is my pleasure to recommend Julia Nordlund to the position of Associate Water Court Judge.

Respectfully,  
Donald Seifert