

Press Release - Minnesota Rural Water Association

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Minnesota Rural Water Association presents Achievement Award to Gary Searcy, City of Benson

The Achievement Award: The criteria for the Achievement Award is for a system and/or person who has applied innovative ideas, inventions, or procedures that has benefited the operation of a public water/wastewater systems and/or its customers.



Gary started working for the City of Benson in 1987 on the street department. Gary became a licensed water and wastewater operator 1990 and has been a dedicated operations specialist for the city.

Dedication is one of Gary's greatest attributes; he has worked and trained many employees over his career at Benson, and 20 employees have come and gone in Gary's years of service. He has always been a great mentor to the new people he has had the opportunity to work with, including MRWA Circuit Rider Jeff Dale. This was Jeff's first job after completing the St. Cloud water environment program. Gary was a great guy to learn from then

and many other people have benefited from his experience.

Gary was the on the front line with the new water treatment plant upgrade in 2012. He is constantly working to improve the water quality he produces for his customers and he takes great pride in his work and sharing his knowledge with everyone he works with.

Gary does have a great sense of humor and that makes him fun to be around. He asked one of the new guys to go to the store and pick up a metric crescent wrench, not sure how that ended. We aren't sure if that was Jeff or not? We are happy to recognize Gary with this award; he is what makes this industry so special and a great example for the all the new operators entering this industry. Gary has been married since 1975 and has 2 kids and 2 grandkids. He was born in Glenwood, MN and Gary's second best friend is named Molly, his dog. His hobbies include riding his motorcycle, car shows, and baseball coaching T-ball.

Congratulations Gary from the Minnesota Rural Association Board and staff.

Photo above from left to right: MRWA Chairman Les Anderson, City of Benson Public Works Gary Searcy, and MRWA Executive Director Lori Blair.