

**Press Release - Minnesota Rural Water Association**

**March 19, 2020**

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**Minnesota Rural Water Association presents the Extra Mile Award to David Levelwind, PeopleService, Inc.**



**The Extra Mile Award** is presented to an individual for efforts put forth above and beyond his/her normal scope of responsibilities assisting water/wastewater systems and their personnel. This award goes to the outstanding achievers in the water and wastewater industry that are recognized by Operations Specialists, Industry Members, Peers, and Friends.

David Levelwind transferred to the City of Biwabik’s project on June 1, 2019 and hit the ground running as the responsible operations specialist. Multiple issues had to be resolved in a short timeframe to improve compliance and system reliability. David worked successfully with the City of Biwabik, its engineering firm, outside vendors, and PeopleService coworkers to resolve these issues for the benefit of the citizens of Biwabik.

**David’s accomplishments:**

- Identified data logging issues with the water plant effluent chlorine residual and turbidity meters and worked closely with Minnesota Department of Health and outside vendors to resolve the issues and minimize regulatory concerns. During the five-day timeframe it took to resolve the data logging issue with the chlorine meter, David documented effluent chlorine residual readings around the clock manually every four hours while the plant was producing water;
- Implemented process control strategies and treatment equipment to optimize drinking water quality including the addition of a post filter chlorination system;
- Participated in the project to modify and recoat the above ground water storage tank;
- Improved flow to the distribution system by removing a broken valve that was restricting flow from the above ground water storage tank and opening isolation valves that were in the closed position;
- Identified and repaired non-functional fire hydrants; and
- Implemented a digital mapping system of the water infrastructure and identified fire hydrants that were missing on the city maps.

In addition to improving water quality and system reliability, the City has improved its ISO ratings and obtained a reduction in fire insurance premiums for the residents and businesses in the Biwabik area.

Congratulations to the David Levelwind, PeopleService, Inc.!

*Photo above (from left to right): David Levelwind, PeopleService, Inc. and Minnesota Rural Water Association Chairman Les Anderson.*