

Press Release - March 19, 2020

Minnesota Rural Water Association

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Minnesota Rural Water Association presents the Henry Walraven Award to Marlin Reinardy, City of Hampton.



The most prestigious award given by the Minnesota Rural Water Association is the Henry Walraven Award. The criteria for the Henry Walraven Award is leadership contributions for the improvement of a water/wastewater system in Minnesota.

Henry Walraven had a vision. His vision was to help Minnesota's small rural community water system with training, troubleshooting problems and improving legislation that governs water systems. Henry was on the first MRWA Board and often times when the association was struggling Henry kept the fire lit. Without the foresight and Henry's

dedication to helping rural Minnesota solve water problems, MRWA would not be what it is today. When Henry suddenly passed away the MRWA Board respected Henry and his vision so much they dedicated an award in his name so that he may live on throughout the growth of MRWA.

The recipient of the Henry Walraven Award is Marlin Reinardy, City of Hampton.

MRWA has worked with Marlin on the city's Wellhead Protection (WHP) program since 2006 in which time he has been the city's Public Works Director and WHP Manager. He has also been part of the City of Hampton's utility staff since 1972!

Marlin is retiring this year from the Public Works position at the city, but still plans to remain active in other areas of city business. According to Wendy Carpenter, Hampton city clerk, he never hesitates to give of his time, "...because he really cares about the city!" He has been dedicated to the betterment of Hampton for a very long time. Marlin went to great lengths to search for an old municipal well (applied for a grant to try to find it--ended up being underneath the foundation of the old city shop, so was unable to actually seal it!), then working with Minnesota Department of Health Well Management to obtain a variance for the well. He also applied for a Source Water Protection Competitive Grant to replace very old sanitary utility lines that were in close proximity to the municipal well. The lines were thought to be a potential contaminant for the city's drinking water. Marlin worked to upgrade the city's water and wastewater systems by replacing old infrastructure and was responsible for all regulatory reporting for the city's utilities. Finally, he led the effort to update the city's Comprehensive Land Use Plan, WHP Plan, and Department of Natural Resources Water Supply Plan--all in 2019 and is a member of the city's planning commission. Marlin has worked on numerous other city improvement projects as well.

Photo above (from left to right) MRWA Source Water Protection Specialist Robyn Hoerr; City of Hampton Water Superintendent Marlin Reinardy, and MRWA Chairman Les Anderson.