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**City of Garden City, Kansas Director of Public Works and Utilities receives leadership and managerial excellence award**

**Seattle, Washington, June 20, 2023** — Mike Muirhead, Director of Public Works and Utilities for the City of Garden City, Kansas, received the Mark Crisson Leadership and Managerial Excellence Award during the American Public Power Association’s National Conference in Seattle, Washington. The award recognizes managers at a utility, joint action agency, or state or regional association who steer their organizations to new levels of excellence, lead by example, and inspire staff to do better.

Mike has been employed with the city of Garden City, Kansas, since 2010. During his time as Director of Public Works and Utilities, he has overseen improvements in electric reliability. He implemented a preventive maintenance plan to improve substation and line reliability, which helped the city earn a Gold Reliable Public Power Provider designation in 2016 and Platinum designation in 2019. He spearheaded the adoption of new AMI, SCADA, and outage management systems to improve outage visibility and reduce response times. Mike is an active member of APPA, Kansas Municipal Utilities, and the Kansas Municipal Energy Agency, serving as a board and executive committee member for both KMU and KMEA, including tenures as president of each. Mike volunteers to help area municipal utility managers and small-town City Administrators assess and improve their systems.

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*The American Public Power Association is the voice of not-for-profit, community-owned utilities that power 2,000 towns and cities nationwide. We represent public power before the federal government to protect the interests of the more than 49 million people that public power utilities serve, and the 96,000 people they employ. Our association advocates and advises on electricity policy, technology, trends, training, and operations. Our members strengthen their communities by providing superior service, engaging citizens, and instilling pride in community-owned power.*