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Hawarden Municipal Utilities public works director receives national award

New Orleans, La., June 19, 2018 —Tom Kane, public works director for Hawarden Municipal Utilities in Iowa, received the Larry Hobart Seven Hats Award at the American Public Power Association's national conference in New Orleans, Louisiana. This award recognizes managers of small utilities serving fewer than 2,500 meters. These managers have a very small staff and must assume multiple roles. The seven hats they must wear are: planning and design, administration, public relations, field supervision, accounting, human resources, and community leadership.

Tom has served as public works director for Hawarden Municipal Utilities since 1997. He helped convert the utility's overhead distribution system to an underground one. He also helped to plan and design HMU's telecommunication system. Tom is described by employees as "the face of Hawarden" and keeps his community well informed, using web, social and traditional media. He works closely with the city administrator and finance officer to keep each project on budget. He supervises more than 20 employees and instills a great work ethic and passion for community in each of them. He is active in community service and in his church.

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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 93,000 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.