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Spring Valley Public Utilities superintendent receives national award

WASHINGTON, D.C., June 9, 2020 — Stuart (Stu) Smith, superintendent of Spring Valley Public Utilities in Spring Valley, Minnesota, received the Larry Hobart Seven Hats Award during the American Public Power Association's Public Power Connect: Virtual Summit & Business Meeting. The 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.

Stu has supervised seven employees for the entire time he has been the utility superintendent with a very low turnover rate. He is both well-liked and highly respected by his team. Having come up through the ranks, Stu is able to communicate effectively with his staff and understand the challenges his employees face. Stu has a productive working relationship with his local commission and has served on the Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency board since 2014. He brings a very wise small-town perspective to the board. He has participated in legislative rallies at the state capitol and brings a trustworthy voice of reason to interactions with elected officials. Stu has been a member of the Kiwanis of Spring Valley, the local chamber of commerce, and the Spring Valley Sportsman Club. He is a Spring Valley native and has poured himself into his work for the utility throughout his career.

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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.