*Contact Tobias Sellier, Senior Director of Media Relations and Communications at* [*TSellier@PublicPower.org*](mailto:TSellier@PublicPower.org) *or 202-467-2927*

**City Administrator of City of Ellinwood, Kansas receives national award**

**New Orleans, Louisiana, June 10, 2025** — Chris Komarek, City Administrator for the City of Ellinwood, Kansas, received the Larry Hobart Seven Hats Award during the American Public Power Association’s National Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana. 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.

Chris began his career with the City of Ellinwood, Kansas, as a lineworker in 1982. He has worked with the electrical department for 35 years, steadily advancing to the position of Superintendent before being appointed City Administrator. During his tenure, Chris has played a crucial role in large-scale infrastructure projects, addressing updates to electrical, water, and sewer systems. He managed recovery efforts from major floods in 2007, as well as fire and ice storms in 2013, collaborating with FEMA to secure reimbursement. With his background as a lineman, he can often be found on project sites, supervising and imparting knowledge to his electric crew. Currently, he is active on the KPP Energy Board of Directors and holds the Secretary position. Within his community, Chris previously served as an Ellinwood police officer, Chief of the local fire department, and a paramedic for the Ellinwood EMS.

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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.*