

Press Release - March 9, 2022
Minnesota Rural Water Association
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Minnesota Rural Water Association presents the Henry Walraven Award to Tom Dowdle, Kittson Marshall Rural Water.



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 Tom Dowdle, Kittson Marshall Rural Water.

Tom joined MRWA’s Board of Directors in 2013 and is currently the Vice Chairman. Tom serves on the Board of Directors of Kittson Marshall Rural Water for the past 15+ years as Secretary/Treasurer and is a dedicated board member to both associations.

When MRWA’s Chairman was ill, Tom helped steer MRWA during challenging times of COVID and new positions. He is always willing to assist in MRWA’s endeavors. Tom is also active as Chairman on MRWA’s Minnesota Rural Water Finance Authority serving interim financing for communities using permanent financing through USDA Rural Development funding. And just last year, Tom also agreed to become President of MRWA’s Minnesota Governmental Agency Finance Group which serves financing options for our Micro, Midi, and Mega loan programs for communities.

Tom is very active and busy in his work/career also and was recently promoted to a National Sunflower Association Board. MRWA thanks you Tom for your dedication to rural water, rural communities, and your assistance and teamwork to the industry.

Photo above (from left to right) MRWA Board Vice Chairman Tom Dowdle and MRWA Executive Director Lori Blair.