

*41st Annual Conference – 2020 Vision:  
Remember the Past. Experience the Present. Focus on the  
Future.*

**Management Achievement Award Nominees**

**Scott Decker, Hill County Water District**

**Scott Decker** began working as Manager for the Hill County Water District in 2005 and began to address several operational challenges to bring the large rural water system into compliance as well as improving water delivery to customers. Additional projects included overseeing installation of new water meters throughout the District's service area and the addition of computer programs that enhanced the operations of the system and helped reduce water use and water loss making Hill County Water District more efficient.

Over the years, Scott has worked with the District's Board to build reserve accounts and reach financial sustainability to be able to address infrastructure problems as they occur. Scott continues to work with the Board to review possible needs of the system on a regular basis. The past year, with Scott's guidance, a new administrative office addition has been completed customized to meet the District's future customer service, operational and records storage needs, along with an expanded meeting room area to accommodate District Board and public meetings.

**John Kleinsasser, Town of Chester**

In managing the Town of Chester for the past 22 years, **John Kleinsasser** is always on the proactive side and has continued to look ahead to see what the possible needs of the entire system are. It is always easy to plan and address the problems that occur near the surface within a community as everyone can see those. It's the systems underground that often fall off anyone's visible "maintenance radar" that may cause major untimely problems. John's attention to reduce Inflow and Infiltration (I & I) issues within the wastewater collection system set in motion a recent project to clean and line the system's collection pipes which has produced some positive results. Additionally, John has set up a regular leak detection program to identify possible leaks and deficiencies within the water distribution system. His work ethic and commitment to excellence has brought the Town of Chester to be among the top small systems in the state.

**Kris Novotny, City of Big Timber, MT**

**Kris Novotny** has worked for the City of Big Timber for 19 years, the past 3 years as the Director of Public Works. During the last 2 years, Kris has been at the helm of two major infrastructure projects for the community. Also occurring during those projects were a record cold snap for the area and a large amount of snowfall to deal with just to test the system and strength of the operators.

The \$2.7 M wastewater construction project improvements included upgrades to the system's headworks, various new equipment and construction of a new Submerged Attached Growth Reactor (SAGR) system to provide BOD and TSS effluent polishing and to comply with new ammonia discharge permit limits. The \$4.1 M water improvement project included a new ultrafiltration water treatment plant and several accompanying process equipment systems, chemical feed systems, backwash water evaporation ponds, a new 20,000-gallon prefab welded steel tank, and an emergency generator. Both of these upgraded systems have required a learning curve for all staff with expanded and new operation and maintenance duties that entailed much more than the previous treatment systems required. Kris's leadership during these projects has provided a successful implementation of the new processes and future for the growth of this community.