



## ITEM REPORT UTILITIES COMMISSION

Agenda Date: 3/4/2026  
Agenda Section: Information Only

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**Department Origination:** Public Works

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**Agenda Item:** 2026 Large System Dave Neiman Source Water Protection Award

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**Approval Required:** Simple Majority Vote

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### **BACKGROUND**

Every year the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and Minnesota Rural Water Association (MRWA) jointly recognize public water systems who demonstrate outstanding commitment to protecting their drinking water source. The winner and finalists are announced at the Minnesota Rural Water Conference in March. They are presented with certificates signed by the Governor's office in hometown recognition ceremonies.

This year the City of Baxter was selected as the winner of the Large System 2026 Dave Neiman Source Water Protection Award. The City's accomplishments will be recognized at the Minnesota Rural Water Conference on Wednesday, March 4th, held in Saint Cloud and Streets & Utilities Supervisor James Lueck will be in attendance to accept the award.

### **About Dave Nieman:**

Dave Nieman joined MRWA in 1995 and focused on source water, groundwater, and wellhead protection.

"Dave is one of the pioneers involved with developing the wellhead protection program and has greatly helped MDH staff determine the role that planners have in preparing and implementing wellhead protection plans. Dave is responsible for developing the roles that MRWA plays in protecting public sources of drinking water and was instrumental in helping the MDH assess the practicality of state wellhead regulations as they were being developed. The people of Minnesota owe a debt of gratitude to Dave for his devotion to drinking water protection and for the countless hours that he has contributed to helping public water suppliers protect everyone's drinking water."

Dave valued and represented the "salt of the earth" public water supplier perspective in wellhead protection planning and program development. He has left an amazing legacy, and his efforts will continue to influence the future of source water protection.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **COUNCIL ACTION REQUESTED**