

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

April 14, 2016



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Pendleton’s Public Works Director Bob Patterson Named APWA 2016 Top Ten Public Works Leader

KANSAS CITY, MO. – Pendleton’s Public Works Director, Bob Patterson, was recently named to the American Public Works Association (APWA) national 2016 Top Ten Public Works Leaders of the Year. Each national Top Ten Public Works Leader will be honored during the Awards Ceremony of the APWA 2016 PWX annual conference taking place in Minneapolis, MN during August 28-31, 2016 at the Minneapolis Convention Center. Patterson will also be honored for this recognition at the Oregon Chapter APWA conference on Thursday, evening, April 21st, in Hood River.

An award presentation and local reception will be held on Sunday, May 15th, in kicking off National Public Works Week, May 15th – May 21st. The local reception will be held from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm at Great Pacific Wine & Coffee Company, 403 S Main Street, Pendleton, with a 3:00 pm award presentation provided by Larry Stevens, Past President, APWA National. Hors D’oeuvres will be available and the kitchen will be open for purchase of beverages and food. Please RSVP by contacting Jutta.Haliewicz@ci.pendleton.or.us or by phone at 541.966.0240.

The APWA Top Ten Public Works Leaders of the Year program honors excellence and dedication in public service by recognizing career service achievements of individual public works professionals and officials, from both the public and private sectors. As one of the most prestigious awards presented by the association, the Top Ten Public Works Leader award is given to honor the public works professional’s career, in which he or she demonstrated excellence in public works, services and infrastructure in his or her community through advancement of public works services and technology.

As the Public Works Director for the City of Pendleton, OR, he was selected to lead the \$1.2 million master planning effort for water, sewer and storm water systems. Through his recognition, the GIS mapping of the entire city water system was championed and secured for funding to provide critical mapping and location of all the city’s water, sewer and storm water infrastructure. Patterson also provides professional leadership training for all staff to mold the public works team into a cohesive unit, and also cemented internal staff coordination and communications. He also is often chosen as the city spokesperson to media on public works issues and projects such as road improvements, bridge replacement, and utility rate increases, and has monthly live radio interviews, on KUMA “Coffee Hour.”

Patterson’s accomplishments include the development, design and construction of various water supply infrastructure projects to greatly conserve and enhance the natural resources and quality of life in a high desert community that receives only 12 inches of rainfall annually. He also designed and directed the new aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) water distribution system for the city. The ASR system incorporates micro-turbine and regenerative drive technology to generate electricity in five wells. In addition, the new water filtration plant uses a major siphon design, the first of its kind in the world. The ASR system has significantly slowed historic critical aquifer water level declines, and has stored over a billion gallons of water for future use, and has met the year-round water demands of the high desert community, even in the recent drought years.

He is also a strong supporter of APWA’s Oregon Chapter efforts and has been a dedicated member of the chapter, serving as Director, Secretary, President-Elect, President and Immediate Past President. Patterson has advocated the value of public works throughout his career, and has been a supporter of continuing education and succession planning as demonstrated through his ongoing education programs. He has also organized and hosted several statewide conferences in his community, and most recently been awarded the William A. Bowes Service Award at the Oregon Chapter’s fall conference.

For more information on APWA's 2016 Top Ten Public Works Leaders, visit APWA National Awards Program web page at www.apwa.net/awards. For APWA media queries, contact APWA Media Relations/Communications Manager Laura Bynum, M.A., at lbynum@apwa.net, or 202.218.6736.

About APWA

The American Public Works Association (www.apwa.net) is a not-for-profit, international organization of more than 28,500 members involved in the field of public works. APWA serves its members by promoting professional excellence and public awareness through education, advocacy and the exchange of knowledge. APWA is headquartered in Kansas City, MO, has an office in Washington, D.C. and 63 chapters in North America.

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