



**Press Release:**  
**February 29, 2024**

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### **Harlan Utilities Named 2023 Community of the Year**

The Iowa Rural Water Association is pleased to announce that Harlan Municipal Utilities of Harlan, Iowa has been named the 2023 Community of the Year. This award was presented to utility representatives Donald Cote, Trevor Harrison and Joseph Rueschenberg during the Iowa Rural Water Association's 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference held at the Veteran's Memorial Community Choice Credit Union Convention Center February 19-21, 2024, in Des Moines, Iowa. This award is presented to an outstanding community who exceeds the expectations of their citizens with reliable, quality services. Harlan Municipal Utilities has been hard at work, to ensure that Harlan has water for the future. In 2012 they put their RO plant online and has been plagued with problems. In 2018 they rebuilt the RO skids to properly do CIP on the system and to properly perform the post RO run flush. Also, in 2018 they modified the pressure filters so they would do a forward flush before startup. In 2020 they rebuild the pressure filters to include a layer of sand that was missed in the initial installation. In 2023 they started a well field project which includes the drilling of three new alluvial wells. They will also drill one new Dakota aquifer well to provide resilience to their water system and remove their dependence on only having wells in one aquifer that is susceptible to drought. Replace all main lines and service lines to existing wells and design the system in such a way that they will be able to pig or clean the entire length of the pipe in the raw water distribution system. They will be installing a loop power system that provides backup generation to their 17 existing wells and four new wells in case of loss of power. They are replacing all new electrical infrastructure in the well fields and equip all wells with VFDS. They are also installing fiber and SCADA panels on all wells. The SCADA system and treatment plant will be run with all new computers.

Through hard work by utility staff, and collaboration with consulting, legal, and funding agency partners, Harlan is positioned well to meet the utility needs of the City for decades to come. And this is why we celebrate Harlan Municipal Utilities as Iowa Rural Water's 2023 Community of the Year.