

City of Scottsbluff, Nebraska

Monday, April 4, 2016

Regular Meeting

Item Reports1

Council to recognize the Water Department for being awarded the best tasting water in Nebraska by the Nebraska Rural Water Association and the fourth best in the Nation.

Staff Contact: Mark Bohl, Public Works Director

Agenda Statement

Item No.

For meeting of: April 4, 2016

AGENDA TITLE: Council to receive a report on the City's placement in a national best tasting drinking water competition in Washington.

SUBMITTED BY DEPARTMENT/ORGANIZATION: Public Works Department

PRESENTATION BY: Nathan Johnson, Interim City Manager

SUMMARY EXPLANATION: Back in March of 2015, Jack Satur, our Water System Supervisor entered a water sample in a contest held by the Nebraska Rural Water Association for best tasting water in Nebraska. It's held at the annual conference they sponsor in Kearney. The City of Scottsbluff won at the state level which allowed us to enter a national contest in Washington in February of 2016. With the assistance of the Nebraska Rural Water Association, a sample was entered in the national contest. We ended up in the top five – placing 4th in the end. According to the NRWA, the contest starts with an entry from all 50 states – and Nebraska hasn't been in the top five very often.

The City is fortunate to have a water supply that ranked 4th in the nation in taste, and also meets the drinking water standards established by the EPA and State of Nebraska.

BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION:

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: That Council acknowledge Scottsbluff's placement in the best tasting drinking water contests and that our public water system meets standards established by the EPA and State of Nebraska.

EXHIBITS

Resolution ☐

Ordinance ☐

Contract ☐

Minutes ☐

Plan/Map ☐

Other (specify) ☒ Press Release from NRWA

NOTIFICATION LIST: Yes ☐ No ☐ Further Instructions ☐

APPROVAL FOR SUBMITTAL: _____
City Manager

Rev 3/1/99CClerk

From: Chris Wilson [<mailto:chris@nrwa.org>]

Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2016 8:00 AM

To: editor@sierrasun.com; editor@duncanbanner.com; news@emporia.com; msmith@stategazette.com; editor@stategazette.com; news@starherald.com; copydesk@starherald.com; Jack Satur; armstrong47598@bellsouth.net; fabart@emporia-kansas.gov; jeffcorwd@pldi.net; lakeskater@msn.com; krwa@krwa.net; jgammill.orwa@gmail.com; nvrwa@pyramid.net; bobfreudenthal@taud.org; admin@nrwa.org

Cc: Matthew Holmes; Brad Reed

Subject: Press Release: Glenbrook, Nev. Named Best Tasting Water in the Country; Finalist from Nev., Okla., Kan., Tenn. and Neb.

Press Release: For Immediate Release

Contact: Chris Wilson, NRWA (580) 252-0629 chris@nrwa.org

Attached: Photos of top three finalists and rtf copy of release. High resolution photos and video of the event available on request.

Glenbrook, Nev. Named Best Tasting Water in the Country

Finalist include water from Nevada, Oklahoma, Kansas, Tennessee and Nebraska

WASHINGTON, D.C. – With a cheer of celebration, officials from the Glenbrook Water Cooperative in Glenbrook, Nev. walked to the stage to accept the Gold Medal Award at the Great American Water Taste Test. Glenbrook was selected by a panel of judges at the GAWTT finals at noon on Feb. 10 in Washington D.C.

The Consolidated Rural Water and Sewer District #1 of Jefferson County from Hastings, Okla. won the Silver Award, with the City of Emporia, Kan. earning Bronze. The Northwest Dyersburg Utility District in Dyersburg, Tenn. and the City of Scottsbluff, Neb. completed the top five. A panel of preliminary judges selected the five finalists from entries submitted from across the nation. Only utilities that had won their state drinking water taste test were eligible to submit samples for the national competition.

Rural Utility Service Administrator, Brandon McBride, Assistant Administrator for Water and Environmental Programs, Jacki Ponti-Lazaruk, RUS Senior Advisor Titilayo Ogunyale, Director for Rural Development's Water Programs Division, Kent Evans, and USDA Engineering and Environmental Staff Director, Kelli Kubena served as the final judges.

Judges rated each water sample based on its clarity, bouquet and taste.

A recording of the complete taste test finals is available at nrwa.org.