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Water District No. 2 selects Youravich as new GM

MARY ALFORD The News-Enterprise
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YOURAVICH

A 28-year veteran of Hardin County Water District No. 2, Shaun Youravich has been appointed as the district's new general manager.

Youravich began his career at the district as a water treatment operator. From there, he rose to his most recent position as operations manager in which he oversaw the district's water treatment, distribution, projects and engineering operations.

"I am honored that the board selected me. I am proud to serve in this position. I am proud to serve the citizens of the community I was raised in. I feel like there is a great team of people here I work with," Youravich said. "I take a lot of pride in the water district. This has been my second home for the last 28 years."

The Western Kentucky University graduate came to the water district fresh out of college.

"It's something I've greatly enjoyed," he said, noting he enjoys all aspects of it. "This industry is just fascinating to me and it makes it enjoyable."

Youravich views the staff as a unit of closely knit professionals whose mission is to be the absolute best at providing the highest quality water and service to their customers and their community.

Youravich is active with Kentucky Water and Wastewater Operators Association and the Kentucky/Tennessee Chapter of American Water Works Association, serving on various committees as well as spending years in the chairman and vice chairman positions.

The Hardin County native also has been the recipient of several significant awards. In 2016, he was presented Eugene Nicholas Award – the highest honor the Kentucky Water and Wastewater Operators Association can bestow on a water management professional.

Youravich also was named Meritorious Operator of the Year in 2006 by the Kentucky/Tennessee Section of American Water Works Association. The award is presented to one operator from Kentucky and one from Tennessee each year for success in management of plant and/or distribution system performance, as well as technical knowledge, regulatory compliance and section participation.

According to a news release from Hardin County Water District No. 2, both accolades are considered a lifetime achievement in recognition of an individual's efforts for the professional advancement of management and operator training in the public water sector.

"These successes still cannot truly express how Shaun has impacted the district as we know it today," the release said. "Shaun acted on the management staff for years as the District endured increasing customer demand, several expansions in our distribution system, and in-house growth. His decades of well-rounded knowledge provide him the best possible insight to lead the District to continuing success."

In terms of some of current and upcoming projects, Youravich said they are finishing up the Glendale sewer project, the development of a sewage collection system to serve the historic town, businesses at the Interstate 65 exit and the 1,551-acre industrial megasite property. He said the final two contracts are expected to be finalized within the coming week.

The water district began planning the project, formally known as the Nolin River Watershed Project, in 2012 after approval of a $16 million state grant. It held its first public meeting regarding the Glendale sanitation project in July 2013.

"We now have that project pretty much behind us," he said.

Hardin County Water District No. 2 also has several other initiatives on the horizon, such as expanding its customer service center.

In 2016, the district purchased 23 acres across the street from its current office at 360 Ring Road in Elizabethtown. On the land sits the shell of the former Remington Arms building.

The customer service center expansion, which will help address growth, is in the final steps of its design phase, Youravich said.

“We have final drawings that are being prepared,” he said, noting they soon will be moving forward with that project.

Most likely, Youravich said the new facility will be constructed behind the former Remington building. Plans call for the property to be subdivided and then the frontage along Ring Road and the Remington building will be sold.

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