

# Dave Ford Award

The Dave Ford Award honors a person for significant long-term achievement or public service in Water Resource management who exhibits the collaborative leadership style of Dave Ford. While the award is generally for lifetime achievement, it (or some other recognition) can be given to an individual for a particularly important one-time contribution to Minnesota Water Resources.

The award is for professionals and other related disciplines working in water resources. Nominees can be from any discipline and can represent work such as research, administration, engineering, etc. Politicians and current members of the Planning Committee are excluded.

## Recipients of the Earl Kuehnast Award

Year	Recipient
1986	Earl Kuehnast
1987	Ed Bowers
1991	Peter Fischer
1992	Howard Midje
1999	Ron Nargang

## Recipients of the renamed Dave Ford Water Resources Award

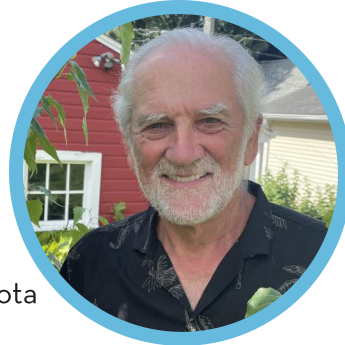
Year	Recipient
2003	Heinz G. Stefan
2005	Marcel Jouseau
2006	Ron Harnack
2007	Patrick Brezonik
2008	Steve Heiskary
2009	James L. Anderson
2010	Nels Nelson
2011	Timothy Scherkenbach
2012	Barbara Liukkonen
2013	John Gulliver
2014	Roland Sigurdson
2015	Bruce Wilson (RESPEC)
2016	Cliff Aichinger
2017	Dan R. Engstrom, Kent Johnson
2018	Suzanne Jiwani
2019	Al Kean, Bruce Montgomery
2020	Deb Swackhamer
2021	Mike Trojan
2022	Rebecca Flood, Andrea Hendrickson

*For more information on the award, recipients' bios, and how to nominate, go to [ccaps.umn.edu/minnesota-water-resources-conference/dave-ford-award](https://ccaps.umn.edu/minnesota-water-resources-conference/dave-ford-award)*

## Dave Ford Award Recipients

### John Nieber,

Department of  
Bioproducts  
and Biosystems  
Engineering  
University of Minnesota



John Nieber has a record of outstanding achievements in the management of water resources. This record includes significant contributions in teaching, research, and public service. As a professor in the Department of Bioproducts and Biosystems Engineering at the University of Minnesota, John has served as teacher and mentor for hundreds of students. His pedagogical approach blends theoretical rigor with the realities of complex watersheds. John has provided invaluable leadership in the Water Resources Science graduate program serving as the Director of Graduate Studies. The breadth of his research is amazing, with projects ranging from the determination of water storage volume across Minnesota landscapes to the rigorous analysis of “fingering” caused by instabilities in unsaturated flows. John has been a leader in establishing professional registration for hydrologists. He has served on the Executive Committee and as President of the American Institute of Hydrology. John’s collaborative leadership has resulted in strong working relationships with professionals working in academe, governmental agencies, nonprofit organizations, and consulting firms. He has inspired us to reach higher and work smarter.

### Mark Doneux,

Capitol Region  
Watershed District



Mark Doneux has dedicated his career to protecting Minnesota waters. Mark is an innovator who has, alongside of partners and staff, led cutting-edge projects including rainwater harvesting and reuse at CHS and Allianz Fields; shared stormwater systems at Highland Bridge that capture and clean 64 million gallons of runoff annually; rain gardens, stormwater planters, and the country’s longest integrated tree trench system along University Avenue; and CRWD’s LEED Gold building in the Hamline-Midway neighborhood of Saint Paul.

As leader of the most densely populated and diverse watershed district in Minnesota, Mark led CRWD to create its first Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Plan. This work has resulted in significant changes to hiring, contracting, professional development offerings, and community engagement. During Mark’s tenure, CRWD also created a Watershed Artist in Residence Program that has resulted in engaging residents in new and creative ways.

Mark’s involvement as chair of the Water Environment Federation and Central States Water Environment Association Stormwater Committees ensures Minnesota innovations influence practitioners across the country and brings new ideas back to local professionals. Mark also served as co-chair of the Minimal Impact Design Standards (MIDS) committee that brought forth a recommendation for a statewide 1.1-inch volume reduction standard and the MIDS Calculator.

Mark’s greatest legacy will be the impact he’s left on people he’s mentored, ensuring they have the tools necessary to achieve goals, supporting their advancement into leadership roles, and trusting them to do quality work and create lasting relationships.