



DEPARTMENT OF
UTILITIES

Department of Utilities
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MEMORANDUM

Date: September 19, 2024
To: Chairperson Vered Meltzer and Members of the Utilities Committee
CC: John Pogrnt, Water Operations Supervisor
From: Chris Stempa, Director of Utilities
Subject: **Utilities Committee Information: City of Appleton voted 2024 Wisconsin Best Tap Water Taste Test Winner**

Each year, the American Water Works Association (AWWA) conducts a tap water tasting competition during the annual state conferences. This year marked the first time that the City of Appleton was voted "Best Tap Water Taste Winner" during the Wisconsin AWWA conference held in Madison. The judges tasked to evaluate submitted samples based on its flavor characteristics. AWWA guidelines for tap water tasting competitions include the following:

- **Eligibility:** The water utility must be an AWWA member.
- **Sample submission:** Samples must be received at the registration desk on time and must be at room temperature. Samples must be at least 2 liters and clearly identified with the water system's name and category (surface water or groundwater).
- **Sample limits:** Samples submitted should be from systems that have no state or federal drinking water violations for the previous calendar year.
- **Onsite representative:** Entrants must have an onsite representative attend the taste test and be available for photos.

The City of Appleton will have the opportunity to compete at the June 2025 AWWA Annual Conference and Exhibition (ACE) being hosted in Denver, Colorado with the chance to be voted "Best of the Best". ACE attendance exceeds 10,000 people and is made up of water professionals domestically and internationally. Being selected as the winner in our own state is a great honor and we look forward to competing at the national level in 2025. The recognition not only helps reinforce customer confidence but speaks to the quality of the drinking water being produced by staff at the Appleton Water Treatment Facility

If you have any questions regarding this project, please contact Chris Stempa at 920-832-5945.