

Farewell

By Jim Heyen

Thank You!

As many of you may know, I have accepted the Wastewater Superintendent position for Hastings Utilities in Hastings, Nebraska. My career path has taken many twists and turns over the past 30+ years and has allowed my family and me to experience several parts of the Country.

In 1978, I started working at the Gibbon wastewater treatment plant part-time, while still in high school and have grabbed a hold of as many opportunities as I could along my way.

The past 9 ½ years with Nebraska Rural Water has been especially rewarding. Though the traveling was the most difficult, it was easily forgotten once I reached my destination and began visiting with an old friend or making a new one.

My wife says I have grown over the years and not only in shirt sizes! She says I have shared more of my teddy bear side and I would have to agree. I was in the airport, not so long ago and an elderly woman just sat down beside me and started to talk about her day and her great grandkids. After she got up, to get on her plane, she looked back with a wonderful smile. You know the one that makes your whole body feel warm. I thought, "I have evolved!" For this gift of listening and compassion, I would like to thank you. Every time I make a stop at a town, I am greeted by an inviting smile from the city clerk, a firm hand

shake from a city board member or a “friendly how you doing” from an operator.

Deb and I decided years ago to look to each new opportunity as an adventure and for the past 29 years it has been a great ride! Without her encouragement several adventures might have only been dreams. Thank you Deb for believing in me!

I would also like to thank the Rural Water Board and Staff for their support and friendships.

I look forward to meeting back up with you again at conferences, workshops or training in the future.