

QUICK TAKES

Taste Test: Stevens Point, Wis.

AWWA's sixth annual "Best of the Best" Water Taste Test was won by the [Stevens Point \(Wis.\) Water Department](#). At ACE10's Tuesday competition, 21 North American utilities battled for the title of absolute best-tasting tap water after winning their AWWA Section contests.

The [New York City Department of Environmental Protection](#) received second place in the competition, while the [Lincoln Water System](#) of Nebraska and [Silverdale Water District](#) of Washington tied for third place.

Stevens Point WD has pumped groundwater to serve central Wisconsin residents since 1922. All water is created equal in terms of its two basic components, yet water taste and odor differ based on constituents in either the source water — river, lake or aquifer — or those added or removed during the water treatment process.

A panel of four judges rated each water sample based on its flavor characteristics; the judges were: Stephen Booth of Kennedy/Jenks, and Monique Durand, an engineer at Hazen and Sawyer (both of whom serve on AWWA's Taste and Odor Committee); Pinar Omur-Ozbek, research assistant professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Colorado State University; and Matt Rodewald, reporter for Chicago's NBC affiliate.

Following are honorable mentions for this year's competition: [City of Allegan, Mich.](#); [City of Blythe, Ga.](#); [Aurora \(Colo.\) Water](#); [Ave Maria \(Fla.\) Utility Company](#); [Massachusetts Water Resources Authority](#); [Village of Canajoharie \(N.Y.\) Water Works](#); [Guaraguao Treatment Plant, Ponce, Puerto Rico](#); [City of Hamilton, Ohio](#); [Hardin County \(Ky.\) Water District No. 2](#); [Kearns \(Utah\) Improvement District](#); [Marshalltown \(Iowa\) Water Works](#); [Moorhead \(Minn.\) Public Service](#); [San Patricio \(Texas\) Municipal Water District](#); [St. Charles \(La.\) Water District No. 1](#); [City of Stratford, Ontario](#); [Valley City \(N.D.\) Public Works](#); and the [Village of Park Forest, Ill.](#)

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Kim Halverson, utility director, and Gary Kuplic, water superintendent, were on hand Tuesday at ACE10 in Chicago to accept Stevens Point Water District's first-place honors for North America's best-tasting tap water. Photo by David Plank