

# NEWS RELEASE

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## O'Brien Named Water & Resource Recovery Center Manager

DUBUQUE, Iowa – City Manager Mike Van Milligen has named William O'Brien as the City's new Water and Resource Recovery Center manager, effective immediately. O'Brien has served as the acting manager of the facility since Feb. 29, 2016, following Jonathan Brown's retirement.

"Willie O'Brien has the educational background, experience, and leadership skills to continue to bring the Water and Resource Recovery Center into the 21<sup>st</sup> century," said Van Milligen. "Willie has gone through the arduous process to receive the Iowa Department of Natural Resources certifications required to operate a facility of this complexity."

As Water & Resource Recovery Center manager, O'Brien is responsible for the operation of Dubuque's wastewater treatment facility on Julien Dubuque Drive as well as its associated lift stations throughout the community and the facility's environmental monitoring laboratory. The position also proposes and enforces ordinances and regulations regarding the operation of the Water & Resource Recovery Center as well as the chemical, biological, and bacterial analysis and sampling services for other City, partner agencies, and private sector activities.

O'Brien began employment with the City of Dubuque in 2007, first as a contract laboratory technician at the then-named Water Pollution Control Plant and eventually as a wastewater operator at the facility, responsible for daily operations including observation and adjustment of plant processes. He was promoted to laboratory technician in 2009 and industrial pre-treatment coordinator in 2011 and was responsible for managing the industrial pretreatment program, maintaining sample collection equipment, revising laboratory operating procedures, maintaining laboratory certification, and analyzing wastewater and drinking water samples. In August 2014, he was named assistant plant manager, a position he held until assuming acting manager responsibilities in late February.

O'Brien holds a bachelor of science degree in environmental science from the University of Dubuque. He is licensed as a wastewater treatment operator by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. O'Brien is a member of the Water Environment Federation and the Iowa Water Environment Association.

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***Willie O'Brien***