



Iron County Water Stewards

Recognizing Tyler Allred

Preserving water for the town of Kanarraville is a high priority for Tyler Allred, who spent 10 years on the town council and has been the community's fire chief for 14 years. He also serves on the Central Iron County Water Conservancy District Board, and has been instrumental in preserving Kanarraville's watershed through controlling the foot traffic in Kanarra Falls.

Kanarra Falls, a popular hike, produces enough water that in the winter it sustains the entire community. As long as there is no excessive livestock watering or other outdoor watering, they don't have to use their well during the winter.

He said during his time on the town council, when his father was the mayor, there were 700 to 800 people a day hiking Kanarra Falls. There was a tremendous amount of destruction, including human waste and trash left behind and damage from such heavy foot traffic.

Allred said working with the county, Bureau of Land Management, and Utah State Trust Lands, they were able to limit the canyon's use to 150 people per day, and permanent bathrooms were installed in the canyon and in the parking area. In the past few years since the changes were made, the canyon has begun to recover, there are far fewer injuries among hikers, and the town's watershed is being protected.

"I brought a lot of attention to it statewide just trying to help our area," he said.

Allred said from a fire protection standpoint it has been important to ensure the town also has access to adequate water through wells and tanks. In 2005 they had a shortage of water, with the spring not producing well, and they were having to haul in water from Chekshani Cliffs, south of Kanarraville. The town was able to get a grant that allowed it to install another water tank, drill a second well, and rehabilitate the spring.

However, after the second well was drilled and the older well had sat idle for a few years, it collapsed. The community is currently in the process of having a back-up well drilled. Allred said the town's ISO rating, which affects homeowners' insurance rates, was a 7 when he took over the fire department, and with the bigger storage capacity, rehabilitated spring, and new well coming online, they've been able to get that rating to a 5, which is one of the best ratings for a town of their size in Utah.

Former Kanarraville Town Clerk David Ence said Allred has been an asset for Kanarraville and the county through his service on the town council and Central Iron County Water Conservancy District Board, and especially as the fire chief.

"He has put Kanarraville on the map as far as firefighting goes," Ence said.

He said Allred has been instrumental in obtaining grants to update the department's equipment, including uniforms, gloves, boots and helmets. The department now has 13 firefighters who are all structure and wildland trained, and it has a collaborative relationship with the other fire departments in the area so they train together and help each other with big calls.

He has also involved the community in a state program so that by building fire breaks, educating residents, and making other proactive efforts, the town gets points taken off if the state ever has to fight a fire there, Ence said. He praised Allred's ingenuity and can-do attitude.

"If I have a problem or something I can't figure out, he's the guy I go to," Ence said.

Allred said he has lived in the area his whole life and he has always had some involvement with water. His dad was a part-time farmer and Allred helped to irrigate the family's crops. His father also started a concrete company before Allred was born, and when he graduated from high school he knew there was nothing he would rather do than be involved in the concrete business. He and his father are now co-owners of Allred and Allred, Inc.

"My job and my living is based on growth, and water is a huge thing for growth in the county," he said.

The purpose of the Iron County Water Stewards program is to recognize community members for contributing to the effort to optimize every drop of water in Iron County. The Central Iron County Water Conservancy District (CICWCD) is actively engaged in education, conservation, reuse and import projects to meet the growing demands on local water supply.

For every effort you make to conserve, we consider you a water steward, too. To Get to Know Your H2O, visit <https://cicwcd.org/>.

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