

For Immediate Release
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Park County Director of Environmental Health Receives State Award



Photo: Cheryl Juergens (nominator), Craig Caes (2017 Cert of Recognition recipient), Dustin Schreiner MEHA Pres & Chair of MEHA Awards Committee

Park County Director of Environmental Health, Craig Caes received a certificate of recognition from the Montana Environmental Health Association (MEHA) at their annual conference this month. The MEHA certificate of recognition is awarded to individuals or organizations deserving of recognition for a special achievement in environmental health or special effort that promotes or supports the work of environmental health.

This year Craig was recognized for his commitment to upholding state environmental and public health protections and for the positive leadership he brings to his job, his staff and to the relationships he builds with the community.

A few comments from current and former colleagues best describe this recognition:

“Craig has a way of sharing bad news about septic systems and having people leave feeling good about the results.”

“Craig is able to lead people to do the proper thing.”

One individual said, *“He is easy to talk with, very flexible. I have nothing to say but good and positive things about Craig.”*

Craig has worked for Park County since March of 2011 as a sanitarian and was promoted to Director of Environmental Health in April of 2016, replacing Barbara Woodbury.

Craig and his wife Laura moved to Montana to be closer to family in 2003 where he began as a sanitarian in Gallatin County. He studied forestry and has life experience as a corrections officer in Washington State, house parent at the New Mexico Boys Ranch and home builder using hammers not nail guns.

Craig said he enjoys solving problems and helping people learn about the process so they have all the information they need to make the best decision for them.

“It feels good to know that my effort does turn into something good. For example when a couple retires here and build their dream house, or when a restaurateur puts their energy into a successful business, I get to be a tiny part of that.” - Craig Caes.

It is the goal of the Park County Environmental Health Department to:

- Provide public health protection,
- Offer educational & training opportunities,
- Supply beneficial information, and
- Enforce health protection standards as outlined by the State of Montana or Federal government guidelines.

Contact:

Craig Caes

Park County Sanitarian

406-222-4224, ccaes@parkcounty.org

Or

Park County Commissioners

406-222-4106, commissioners@parkcounty.org