

## NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Brenda Dunn ([brenda@nwppa.org](mailto:brenda@nwppa.org))

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(360) 816-1453

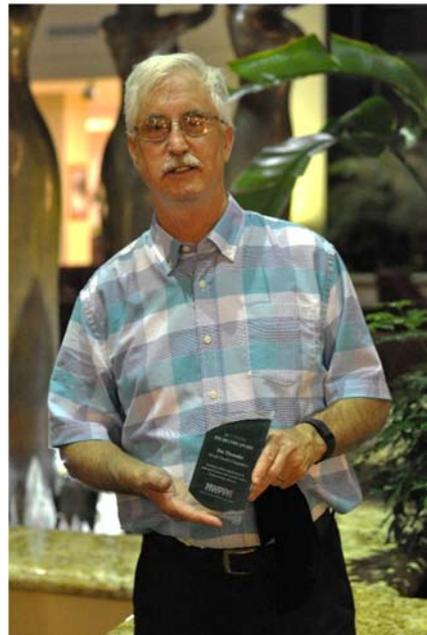
### NWPPA Honors Jim Maunder with 2017 Jim Brands Award

**Vancouver, Wash.** – The Northwest Public Power Association’s 2017 Northwest Communications & Energy Innovations Conference (NIC) Planning Committee has selected Ravalli Electric Cooperative’s Jim Maunder as this year’s recipient of the Jim Brands Award for his lifetime commitment to the public power industry and remarkable work in the areas of energy efficiency. The award was presented to Maunder on Tuesday, September 19, at NWPPA’s NIC awards banquet at the Embassy Suites in Sacramento, Calif.

Maunder has over 25 years in energy efficiency and in the utility industry, having started his career in 1992 at Missoula Electric Cooperative as an energy specialist and member services representative. After three years as a staking engineer at Missoula, he became the program manager for ENERGY STAR Homes Northwest in Montana. In 2006, Maunder joined Ravalli Electric Cooperative and has been manager of member services there ever since. In addition to overseeing REC’s marketing, energy efficiency, and community relations activities, he serves as the governmental liaison for energy efficiency issues.

He is also the Western Montana G&T representative on the Regional Technical Forum. But that’s not enough for him. He also represents Ravalli and other Western Montana co-ops on the Montana Energy Education Council Board of Directors, and the Montana Electric Cooperatives’ Association Communication, Distributive Generation, and Climate Change Committees. In 2008-2009, he chaired the Montana Electric Cooperatives Association Member Service Committee, and he has served on the NIC Planning Committee for four years and counting now.

After receiving the award, Maunder composed a haiku to express his appreciation: “I was so humbled/Jim Brands was a friend/Thank you very much.”



*2017 Jim Brands Award recipient  
Jim Maunder.*



Northwest Public Power Association

9817 N.E. 54th Street, Ste. 200 • Vancouver, WA 98662  
(360) 254-0109 • Fax (360) 254-5731  
E-mail: [nwppa@nwppa.org](mailto:nwppa@nwppa.org)  
Website: [www.nwppa.org](http://www.nwppa.org)

This annual award honors Jim Brands and his 35-year career in the electric utility and energy efficiency industries. Brands, a previous employee of NWPPA and longtime friend to the public power industry, passed away in 2014 from cancer at the age of 61. Current or former employees of NWPPA member utilities are eligible to receive this award. The NIC Planning Committee selects recipients based on accomplishments through at least 10 years of energy efficiency experience, at least 20 years of service to the industry, and promotion of public power through efforts such as community service.

Columbia River PUD's Tim Lammers and Idaho Falls Power's Van Ashton were the first two recipients of the award in 2015 and 2016 respectively.

***About NWPPA:** NWPPA is an international not-for-profit trade association representing and serving over 150 customer-owned, locally controlled utilities in the Western U.S. and Canada. The Association also serves approximately 300 associate members across the U.S. and Canada who are allied with the electric utility industry. Visit [www.nwppa.org](http://www.nwppa.org), follow us on [Twitter](#), and like us on [Facebook](#) for more information.*