



COUNTY OF POLK

Public Works Department

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Des Moines Business Record, Forty Under 40 Selection Committee
100 Fourth Street
Des Moines, IA 50309

Dear Selection Committee:

It's my pleasure to support the nomination of Johnathon Swanson for recognition as a member of the 2019 cohort of the Des Moines Business Record's Forty Under 40.

John's commitment to protecting our natural resources is hugely valued in Polk County. Through his enthusiasm and leadership in the role of the Watershed Management Authority Coordinator, watershed plans and associated projects throughout Polk County have been not only planned, but also implemented — benefiting businesses, residents and natural resources alike.

This progress is in no small part due to John's persistent energy and enthusiasm. He works to help build consensus among stakeholders with different objectives. He understands the importance of collaboration to reach shared goals.

Whether he is wearing muck boots and dirty jeans in the field or in meetings with leaders across the county, John always has Iowa's future at heart. His friendly but focused demeanor have been critical to the accomplishments of multiple watershed authorities and associated watershed plans.

As the Director of Polk County Public Works, I know the importance of understanding and protecting our waterways, improving our water quality, and encouraging smart growth. John grasps these priorities better than anyone. His ability to bring people together to reach these goals makes him one of Iowa's greatest advocates, and he is worthy of the Des Moines Business Record's recognition as a result.

Robert Rice, Director
Polk County Public Works