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Former Fergus Falls Mayor Hal Leland receives Jack Murray Award from CGMC

ST. PAUL—Former Fergus Falls Mayor Hal Leland was recognized by the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities (CGMC) Aug. 3 during the Coalition’s three-day summer conference in Fergus Falls for his excellence in service to Greater Minnesota.

The Jack Murray Award is given to city officials who demonstrate knowledge, leadership, and active participation in CGMC program areas over their public service career. The award is named for Jack Murray, former mayor of International Falls, who was instrumental in the CGMC’s formation.

Throughout his 14-year career in city government, Leland was a consistent supporter of the CGMC and served on its Board of Directors for several years. During his time as mayor, and when he served on the city council before that, Leland was always very engaged in CGMC activities and attended numerous events across the state and “lobby days” in St. Paul. He was particularly active in recruiting efforts and helped encourage numerous cities to join the CGMC. Thanks to his hard work, the CGMC topped 90 members for the first time this year. In 2012, the CGMC recognized his work in promoting Greater Minnesota interests by awarding him its “Excellence in Service” award for elected officials.

“Throughout his years in public service, Hal was always a strong and dependable leader — not only for Fergus Falls, but for all Greater Minnesota cities,” said Sara Carlson, mayor of Alexandria and president of the CGMC. “The CGMC is stronger today because of his hard work.”

CGMC is a nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy organization representing 90 cities outside of the Twin Cities metropolitan area. The Coalition educates legislators about issues important to Greater Minnesota.

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