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Rick Tollakson recognized nationally for regional leadership on water trails

Hubbell Realty President and CEO Rick Tollakson has received a national award for his leadership to establish “water trails” on 150 miles of rivers and creeks in Greater Des Moines.

The National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) named Tollakson as this year’s recipient of the national John Bosley Leadership Award, recognizing his role as Chair of the Greater Des Moines Water Trails and Greenways Master Plan, which was developed by the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).

“While there are many talented and committed people involved in bringing water trails to Greater Des Moines, Rick Tollakson stands out for his exemplary leadership and devotion of time to the project,” said MPO Executive Director Todd Ashby, who nominated Tollakson for the award. “He is a tireless, visible, and highly effective advocate for water trails.”



The Greater Des Moines Water Trails and Greenways Master Plan, adopted in November 2016, provides the region a road-map for enhancing citizen experiences in and along the 150 miles of waterways in Greater Des Moines. The plan is now in its first phase of implementation, an engineering study. More details at dmampo.org/water-trails.

“It is an honor to be recognized for something you believe strongly in,” Tollakson said. “In my opinion, developing water trails is the single most significant economic development strategy that the region can pursue right now. In addition to supporting water-quality improvements, it helps address another of the region’s biggest challenges – attracting and retaining a quality workforce with quality-of-life amenities.”

For interview requests, please call or email Hubbell Realty Communication Specialist Claire Brehmer at 641-740-2019 or claire.brehmer@hubbellrealty.com.

Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization acts as a regional forum to ensure coordination between the public and local, state, and federal agencies in regard to planning issues and to prepare transportation plans and programs. MPO develops long- and short-range multimodal transportation plans, selects projects for federal funding based upon regional priorities, and develops methods to reduce traffic congestion.

The National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) serves as a national voice for regionalism by advocating for regional cooperation as the most effective way to address a variety of community planning and development opportunities and issues. NARC’s member organizations are composed of multiple local governments that work together to serve American communities - large and small, urban and rural. For additional information, please visit www.NARC.org.

Hubbell Realty Company is a leading commercial and residential developer and commercial property management firm. Headquartered in West Des Moines, Iowa, Hubbell Realty Company has 33 residential communities and 12 business parks. Always breaking new ground, Hubbell Realty Company has been a catalyst for growth in Greater Des Moines and can trace its presence in Iowa back to 1856.