



**Marion County
Board of County Commissioners**

Office of Public Information

601 SE 25th Ave.
Ocala, FL 34471
Phone: 352-438-2300
Fax: 352-438-2309

Contact: Elaine DeIorio McClain, Public Information Officer
Office: 352-438-2314 ▪ Cell: 352-857-1434 ▪ Email: elaine.mcclain@marioncountyfl.org

**MARION COUNTY UTILITIES RECOGNIZED WITH
NATIONAL MANAGEMENT AWARD**

Immediate Release

MARION COUNTY, Fla. (June 24, 2015) – Marion County Utilities, a Marion County Board of County Commissioners department, is receiving national recognition for its management practices. The National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA), a nationwide organization of publicly-owned water treatment agencies, awarded Marion County Utilities with the 2015 Excellence in Management Gold Level Award.

The awards program honors agencies that have adopted successful management practices and made progress toward implementing the organization's 10 attributes of effectively managed water sector utilities (covering administration and operations excellence) and six resource efficiency and protection activities (covering environmental responsibility). Marion County Utilities achieved mastery of seven attributes and three activities, earning the department a prestigious gold award on its first nomination.

Focusing on continued improved efficiency, financial viability and operational optimization, the department has been able to compete with much larger utilities in benchmarking comparisons, maintain stable utility rates and set the example for operational excellence. In addition, protection of Marion County's water resources drives many of Utilities' practices. These efforts include regionalizing 11 poorer-performing wastewater plants into five advanced waste treatment facilities that discharge cleaner effluent, better protecting groundwater quality. The department also has established a reclaimed distribution system to irrigate local golf courses, reducing groundwater withdrawal.

Each year, NACWA recognizes the commitment and achievements of individuals and public agencies in the clean water community through its awards program. To learn more about NACWA and its awards criteria, visit www.nacwa.org. For more information on Marion County Utilities, call 352-307-6000 or visit www.marioncountyfl.org/utilities.

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