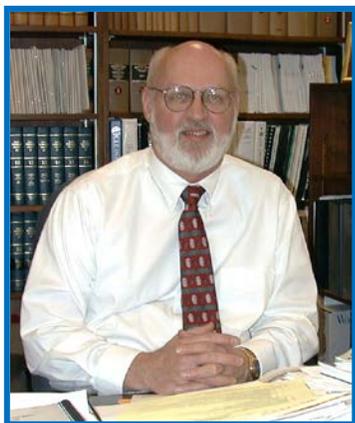


Jim Cook

2007 Maurice Kremer Groundwater Achievement Award Winner

Jim Cook has been selected to receive The Groundwater Foundation's 2007 Maurice Kremer Groundwater Achievement Award. The Kremer Award was established in 1985 to recognize Nebraskans who have made a substantive contribution to the conservation and protection of Nebraska's groundwater. Selection Committee member and past Kremer honoree, Jim Goeke said, "Jim Cook is a very deserving recipient of the Kremer Award. Jim's accessibility and responsiveness to Nebraska's citizens are qualities exemplified by Maurice Kremer himself, one of Jim's mentors." Committee members also cited Cook's involvement in writing Nebraska's water laws and drafting important groundwater legislation over the past 25 years and his key role in the development and implementation of the Platte River Cooperative Agreement.

Groundwater Foundation President Susan Seacrest described the selection of Jim Cook as the



JIM COOK

2007 Kremer honoree as "A natural choice given all that Jim has given to our understanding and protection of Nebraska's groundwater. Jim worked on controversial issues without ever becoming part of the controversy himself. This is a testimonial to his ability to respect and value stakeholder interests while maintaining his integrity and professional manner."

Cook became an attorney for the Nebraska Soil and Water Commission in July of 1970 and served as chief legal counsel for the Commission from July of 1973 through June of 2000. In 2000, the Nebraska Soil and Water Commission merged with the Department of Water Resources to create the Department of Natural Resources.

Cook served as chief legal counsel for the Department of Natural Resources until late 2003. Cook then semi-retired but continued to work part-time for the Department of Natural Resources until March, 2007.

During his career, Cook helped guide the formation and evolution of Nebraska's innovative natural resources districts and authored much of Nebraska's groundwater legislation. He also served as a member of the Nebraska team that negotiated a settlement of the dispute with Kansas and Colorado over the Republican River Compact. For more than ten years he worked with representatives of the States of Wyoming and Colorado, the federal government, water users, and environmental groups to formulate a basin-wide program to improve habitat conditions in the Central Platte River Basin for threatened and endangered species. That program, now endorsed by the Governors of the three states and U.S. Department of the Interior, stands as an on-going legacy to Jim's expertise, work ethic, and long-term vision.

The Kremer Award is chosen by a selection committee appointed by The Groundwater Foundation Board of Directors. 2007 selection committee members include: Don Kraus, Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District, Jim Goeke, University of Nebraska Conservation

and Survey Division, Bob Kuzelka, University of Nebraska Environmental Studies, and Susan Seacrest, The Groundwater Foundation.

Cook was presented with the Kremer Award at the Foundation's National Conference held November 28-30, 2007, at the Sheraton Denver West Hotel in Denver, Colorado.