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**COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

**TO: Thomas Thomas, City Manager**

**SUBJECT: ATSC Presentation**

**Date: 2/8/12**

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The following will provide information on next Monday's presentation of the Mark W. Schwiebert Sustainability Leadership Award. The award was created in July 2009 by the city's Advanced Technology & Sustainability Consortium (ATSC). It recognizes a business, organization, or individual that has demonstrated outstanding leadership in the area of green or sustainable initiatives.

The 2011 award will be presented to Mitch and Melba White, owners of White Hydropower Co. Mayor Pauley will assist ATSC Chair Kevin Koski with the presentation.

**Submitted by:** Mary Chappell, Land & Development Programs Coordinator  
Greg Champagne, Community & Economic Development Director

# **2011 Mark W. Schwiebert Sustainability Leadership Award**

Members of Rock Island's Advanced Technology and Sustainability Consortium (ATSC) established the Mark W. Schwiebert Sustainability Leadership Award in April 2009. It was created to honor former Mayor Schwiebert for his 20 years of service to Rock Island and for his work in the area of sustainable initiatives. This special award would be given annually to a business, organization, or individual that has demonstrated outstanding leadership in the area of green or sustainable initiatives. The first award was presented to Mark Schwiebert at a January 2010 City Council meeting.

The actual award was created from a green material as it was developed from a small piece of a steel beam taken from the Armory demolition site. Valley Construction generously provided a 10" x 6" section of beam and also created an attractive wooden base to hold the heavy piece. The base was designed with space for names of future award recipients. The award is now kept in the City Hall trophy case with a smaller award presented to the recipient as a reminder of the acknowledgement.

The 2011 award recipients are Mitch and Melba White, owners of the White Hydropower Company. They were selected based on the following:

- Their success in returning an abandoned hydropower plant on the Rock River back to production.
- Involvement in the city's 2006 purchase of the plant and ongoing support as the facility was refurbished and new turbines were added to increase production.
- The power generated by the plant provides 55% of the electricity needed for City-owned facilities from a completely green and renewable resource.
- The purchase of the plant has been the largest "green" effort by the City to date.
- Mitch White was a founding member of the city's Advanced Technology & Sustainability Consortium. His background, experience, and understanding of sustainable issues have made him an invaluable asset to the organization.