

Photo Caption: From the left, CRWP Executive Director Kristi Pursell, Tim Little, Virginia Lorang, and David McKee. Pursell presented Little, Lorang, and McKee with Cannon River Champion Awards on Friday.

Little, Lorang, and McKee Name *Cannon River Champions*

By Kevin Strauss

Tim Little, Virginia Lorang, and David McKee were named *Cannon River Champions* at the Cannon River Watershed Partnership (CRWP) *Cider on the Cannon* celebration in Dundas on Friday. “Cannon River Champions are people who have been leaders in the community who used their skills to clean and protect our rivers, lakes, and drinking water,” said CRWP Executive Director Kristi Pursell.

Tim Little, a crop farmer in Millersburg, has been a leader in installing farm conservation practices that create both cleaner water and more a profitable farm.

“In a region where fewer than 10% of the cultivated acres are protected by cover crops, Little has planted cover crops on *every acre* he worked this year,” said CRWP Conservation Program Manager Al Kraus. “On the Rice SWCD Board of Supervisors, he has worked tirelessly to encourage other producers to follow his lead in and install more clean water conservation practices.”

Virginia Lorang, with her background in nonprofit finance and administration has spent the last year doing the CRWP bookkeeping as well as reorganizing and realigning our fiscal practices to be sound and sure.

“(Lorang) has worked patiently and kindly with CRWP staff and board members to help us learn about best practices in nonprofit budgeting and financial statements,” said Pursell. “She has also supported my growth and knowledge-base around non-profit management and leadership.”

David McKee brought his business experience and nonprofit management experience to the CRWP Finance Committee. His ability to make complex ideas understandable has been a real benefit to the organization.

“Over coffee he has explained the tax law changes to me,” said Pursell. “His fresh perspective as someone less familiar with the history of our organization has been incredibly valuable to us.”

Founded in 1990, CRWP uses educational programs, conservation projects, and hands-on activities to give people the knowledge, skills, and opportunities to “Make Clean Water Happen” in southeastern Minnesota. To learn more about CRWP’s clean water projects and programs, visit www.crw.net.