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Greg Sillin, left, congratulates Mike Tabor and his wife, Marybettie, during Mike's going-away party Thursday evening at the Seward County Administration Building. Mike has been the leading man in establishing the landfill as one of the top landfill operations in the state.

Mike Tabor resigns from one of top landfill operations in Kansas

By ROBERT PIERCE

- Leader & Times

After working several years with Seward County, in the 1990s, Mike Tabor took on the job of director of the county's landfill.

Since then, he has built the facility into one of the best in the state, and starting Oct. 1, he will take on the task of doing the same for McPherson County's landfill.

"I'm going to kind of start where I started here," he said. "McPherson County has a utility that runs solid waste. They have a transfer station now."



Tabor said McPherson County will be building a brand-new landfill from the ground up similar to Seward's, and he will be in charge of the project.

"I'm going to take that project from the beginning and build it up," he said.

At the time Tabor began working as the director of Seward County's landfill, regulations for facilities changed, and he said this, in turn, altered the landscape of landfills.

"We've taken it from there," he said. "If you were ever around it 20 years ago to today, it's not even close to being the same."

Tabor said a lot has been done in the years since he took charge of Seward's landfill, and he is proud of what has been done.

"It's been a lot of fun, and I'm going to miss it," he said. "I take it kind of personal because I did start it to the concept that it is today. We've had some good successes with building cells, gas projects, liquid projects, different things with the technology that comes along. We've been recognized in a lot of areas by some of the bigger agencies and being at the forefront of that, and it's been a lot of fun."

Tabor began working full-time for the county in 1992, but he had worked part-time in the 1980s with the fire department and other divisions of the county.

"I've done the fire department, assistant fire chief, planning and zoning director, emergency management director plus the landfill," he said.

Having worked for the county for many years, Tabor said he is taking away a lot of memories from his experiences.

"Being involved throughout the county, all the processes, the budgets, the different departments," he said. "I've enjoyed it all. I love my job here. I hate even leaving just because I love what I do, but I've got a different opportunity, different adventure in front of me to get up closer to a place I want to be. We go up to Wilson Lake a lot to spend a lot of time, and this was a good opportunity to do that."

Tabor said though he does not want to work forever, he does want to see similar results for McPherson County's landfill as he had in Seward.

"It's an opportunity, and I'm looking forward to it," he said.

Tabor called his new adventure a semi-retirement.

"When they called me up, I said I'm not looking for a job," he said. "They know I want to be closer to the lake, and I want to do something for a while. I'm not one of those guys who's going

to retire and not do anything. I got to work. That's just what I do. I love working, but we're going to spend a lot more time at the lake doing things we want to do, too."

Tabor said along with the landfill, the rest of the county has come a long ways and had a lot of changes since he first came on board.

"I'm going to miss everybody here," he said. "Seward County's been very good to me."

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