Abel Wolman Award

Purpose
Established by the Public Works Historical Society, the Abel Wolman Award recognizes the single best new book published in the field of public works history. This award is intended to provide encouragement and recognition to historians whose research and publications have made outstanding contributions to the history of public works.

Eligibility
Books copyrighted in calendar year 2014, covering one or more public works topics are eligible. Public works is defined as the physical structures and facilities that are developed, owned, and operated by public agencies to house governmental functions and provide water, power, waste disposal, transportation, and similar public services.

Selection
The selection committee is comprised of professional historians and public works practitioners appointed by the Public Works Historical Society.

Criteria
The criteria used in the selection process include:

• academic significance to the historical community,
• practical application to the public works profession,
• dissemination of information not provided by other means
• unique or innovative presentation of topic.

Nomination Process
Individual authors or their publishers may submit a book for consideration. Nomination submittals must include six copies of the publication and any supporting documentation, along with the nomination form. Materials should be sent to APWA national headquarters in Kansas City. Materials submitted in support of nomination will not be returned.

Deadline
April 15, 2015

Presentation
The award is presented to the author at the Society’s annual luncheon held in conjunction with the APWA International Public Works Congress & Exposition.

Former Recipients

2014 Empire of Water: An Environmental and Political History of the New York City Water Supply, by David Soll
2013 Crabgrass Crucible: Suburban Nature and the Rise of Environmentalism, by Christopher Sellers, Ph.D., M.D.
2011 Eden on the Charles: The Making of Boston, Michael J. Rawson, Assistant Professor of History, Brooklyn College
2010 Paying the Toll: Local Power, Regional Politics, and the Golden Gate Bridge by Louise Nelson Dyble, Ph.D
2008 Building Louisiana: The Legacy of the Public Works Administration by Robert D. Leighninger, Jr.
2006 Shock Cities: The Environmental Transformation and Reform of Manchester and Chicago by Harold L. Platt
2004 Building Gotham: Civic Culture & Public Policy in New York City 1898–1938 by Keith D. Revell
2003 Water and American Government by Donald J. Pisani
2002 Empire on the Hudson: Entrepreneurial Vision and Political Power at the Port of New York Authority by James W. Doig
2001 The Sanitary City by Martin V. Melosi
2000 Waste and Want: A Social History of Trash by Susan Strasser
1999 Bay Cities and Water Politics: The Battle For Resources in Boston and Oakland by Sarah S. Elkind
1998 Water-Evolution of Water Supply and Sanitation in Finland from the mid 1800s to 2000 by Dr. Tapio S. Katko