

## Teri Sue Freehling honored with SWMPC leadership award

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Teri Sue Freehling talks about life on her Baroda Township farm in 2017.

Don Campbell / HP file photo

BENTON HARBOR — The Southwest Michigan Planning Commission recently honored Teri Sue Freehling with its 2020 Welch-Lackey Leadership Award.

Freehling has been a SWMPC member since 2016. She became vice chair in 2018, and has been SWMPC chair since February 2020.



“Her term as chair has coincided with the emergence of COVID-19 and the need for virtual meetings,” SWMPC Executive Director John Egelhaaf said in a news release. “She has skillfully navigated the commission through this new reality. In 2019-2020 she has been a significant driver of the SWMPC’s broadband work. She has maintained her dedication to the SWMPC in spite of profound personal tragedy.”

The SWMPC is the regional planning agency for Berrien, Cass and Van Buren counties. It presents the Welch-Lackey Leadership Award each year in honor of former Commissioners George A. Welch and William F. Lackey.

The men served the commission in times of great personal difficulties, yet continued throughout to represent the spirit of public service and to further the goals of intergovernmental cooperation.

Their contribution to the communities they served embodies the leadership qualities essential to the preservation of our citizen form of government. Board members vote using a ballot containing nominees of current members with exemplary qualities.

#### MORE INFORMATION



Paw Paw River Water Trail Project wins SWMPC award

