



*Dan Marquart*

# New Nelson County Director Appointed

By Kimberly Cook

The Garrison Diversion Conservancy District (Garrison Diversion) board of directors recently lost a long-time member and friend when Nelson County Director Dan Marquart, passed away in September.

Marquart was a resident of Tolna and was elected to the board in 2008 where he actively served as a Nelson County's representative until his death. He was a dedicated supporter of Garrison Diversion's mission to provide a reliable, high quality, and affordable water supply to benefit the people of North Dakota.

Marquart was an active participant on the board's Recreation Committee, which distributes matching recreation grant funds to many deserving projects within Garrison Diversion's district. He was also a long-time Nelson County Commissioner, dedicated to the interests and people he served.

Marquart previously owned and operated his own business as an aerial crop sprayer for 25 years, and most recently farmed land between Stump Lake and Devils

Lake. Marquart leaves behind three daughters and his wife, Nancy.

The Nelson County Commission appointed Odell Flaagan to fulfill the remainder of Marquart's term on the Garrison Diversion's board, which expires Dec. 31, 2016.

Flaagan grew up six-and-a-half miles southwest of Tolna, where he still lives today. He has been a farmer all his life, as well as being active in public service. Flaagan is a long-time Nelson County Commissioner, serving 31 years in that capacity to date. In addition, he spent six years serving the country in the National Guard. He also served as a member in North Dakota's House of Representative from 1987 to 1992.

"Clean water, irrigation, and water control are all important to Nelson County and the state as a whole," Flaagan says. "I've always been interested in Garrison Diversion and water issues across the state."

Flaagan lives in rural Tolna with his wife, Ilyce.

# Garrison Diversion Awards Matching Recreation Grants

Garrison Diversion believes in developing recreational opportunities that provide North Dakotans with areas to enjoy the great outdoors. For this reason, Garrison Diversion dedicates two-tenths, or 20 percent, of its one-mill levy to a Matching Recreation Grant Program.

Funds from this program have been awarded for projects such as installing new playground equipment at parks, developing campground facilities and walking paths, among others. Throughout the life of the program, \$4.5 million has been awarded for recreation projects across the state.

Garrison Diversion's Recreation Committee meets twice each year to review applications and award grants to recreation projects within the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District boundaries. This fall, the committee awarded matching recreation grants to six projects totaling \$98,209. Projects varied from installing playground equipment to constructing trail shelters.

The following six applicants received grant approval from the committee:

- Bottineau Park District – \$50,000 for the Tommy Turtle Park Improvement Project and Welcome Center construction

- Bismarck Parks & Recreation District – \$23,250 for new playground equipment at Kiwanis Park
- Devils Lake Park Board – \$3,750 to purchase and install a dock and fishing pier at Lakewood Beach on Creel Bay
- Hankinson Park District – \$10,000 for new handicap-accessible restrooms at the Hankinson City Park
- Sargent County Park Board – \$1,583 to construct a new picnic shelter at Silver Lake Park
- Ward County Park Board – \$9,626 to construct shelters along the fitness trails in Ward County

“The Matching Recreation Grant Program is a valuable resource for communities within the district planning recreation projects,” says Recreation Committee Chairman Alan Walter. “The committee is happy it can help fulfill so many needs across the district.”

The Recreation Committee meets every spring and fall to consider applications. The next deadline for recreation grant applications is April 1, 2016. For more information or to download an application, visit [www.garrisondiversion.org](http://www.garrisondiversion.org).

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*A recipient of a matching recreation grant was able to construct a new playground for the youth of its city.*



# Garrison Diversion Continues to Support Irrigation in North Dakota

During this year's growing season, nearly 9,000 acres were irrigated through Garrison Diversion Unit irrigation projects. A total of 4,483 acres were irrigated through four separate projects within the McClusky Canal Irrigation Project, which is a project dedicated to successfully utilize Missouri River water from the McClusky Canal, an original feature of the Garrison Diversion Unit Project. During the warm, dry summer, an average of 9.3 inches of water per acre was delivered to the Mile Marker 1.7,

Mile Marker 7.5, Mile Marker 10 and Mile Marker 49 McClusky Canal irrigation projects.

In addition, the Oakes Test Area, an irrigation research site located near Oakes in southeast North Dakota, put an average of 10 inches of water per acre on nearly 4,200 acres.

Irrigation projects bring widespread benefits to farmers while economically benefitting North Dakota.

*During this year's growing season, nearly 9,000 acres were irrigated through Garrison Diversion unit irrigation projects, including this soybean field.*

