



DeKrey the New GDCD General Manager

By Kimberly Cook

On Jan. 1, Duane DeKrey assumed his duties in Carrington as general manager for the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District (Garrison Diversion). DeKrey replaces Dave Koland, the former general manager. DeKrey first served as Garrison Diversion's deputy manager, working closely with Koland to learn the ins and outs of the job.

"I'm excited about coming to Garrison Diversion and to be a part of completing statewide water projects that are in the works," says DeKrey. "It's an important mission to bring good quality water in sustainable quantities to the citizens of North Dakota."

DeKrey most recently served as the deputy director of the North Dakota Game and Fish Department. He then worked as deputy manager for Garrison Diversion for 10 months. He brings to Garrison Diversion an extensive background in agriculture and lawmaking.

Born and raised in Pettibone, DeKrey is no stranger to water shortages and the struggle for good water. "Water was always a real problem," he says. "We lived on a farm with dairy and beef cattle. The amount of water available absolutely determined the number of cattle we were able to run. There was never enough water at the farm, and there were four or five families in the area that fought with the constant lack of water."

DeKrey attended and graduated from Pettibone High

School. From there, he continued his education at the North Dakota State University, where he majored in agriculture education and received minors in military science and general science.

DeKrey graduated from the Infantry Officers Basic Course in 1979 and was a member of the Individual Ready Reserve until joining the Reserves in 1983. He transferred to the North Dakota National Guard in 2002, where he continues to serve and fulfill his obligations today. Throughout his 35 years of military service, DeKrey has served at the platoon, company, battalion, and brigade levels. During his military career, he has received the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, and the Expert Infantryman Badge.

DeKrey was a former vocational ag teacher in the Warwick and Crary school systems and in the Robinson school district as an industrial arts instructor. He also spent 30 years dedicated to farming and ranching in the Pettibone area.

Legislative Background

One of DeKrey's first political experiences was when his grandfather took him to a political rally to see Richard Nixon at the old World War Memorial Building in

Bismarck in 1968. Because he grew up with a politically active family, he was inspired to pursue a legislative career, and followed in the footsteps of his great uncle who was a North Dakota legislator. DeKrey was elected to the North Dakota Senate in District 31 in 1990, where he served one session. He served nine more sessions representing District 14, serving on the House Natural Resources Committee the entire time. He also chaired the House Judiciary Committee for seven sessions. “I once heard the saying that ‘government is done by those who show up’ and throughout my years of experience, I found that to be a true statement,” he says. DeKrey received the Council of State Governments’ “Toll Fellow Award” and the North Dakota State Bar Association’s “Service Award” while serving in the legislature. His extensive background in lawmaking is a considerable asset to Garrison Diversion.

“I want to see us as a state maximize the irrigation potential out of the Missouri River system and provide a good quantity of quality, potable water to eastern North Dakota,” DeKrey says. “I have come to believe that the future of North Dakota is water, and we have to perfect our water rights and understand how critical Missouri River

water is to our state – it is the basis of our economy.”

DeKrey and his wife, Jan, have been married for more than 30 years and have three grown children, all of who live in North Dakota.

“We are happy to welcome Duane and embrace the knowledge and experience he brings to Garrison Diversion. His political experience within the legislature has been highly beneficial to our organization,” says Ken Vein, chairman of the board. “Duane is a positive addition to our staff and he’s become acclimated to the critical issues on our plate and is assisting us in moving forward.”

Garrison Diversion is committed to securing a stronger future by providing a reliable, high quality, and affordable water supply to benefit the people of North Dakota. The focus goes beyond a dependable drinking water supply, as Garrison Diversion aims to provide opportunities for industry, the environment, agriculture, recreation, and development of North Dakota’s natural resources. In addition to the headquarters office in Carrington, Garrison Diversion has three additional operation and maintenance offices in New Rockford, Oakes, and McClusky.

Garrison Diversion Welcomes New Director

Garrison Diversion welcomes Geneva Kaiser to its board of directors. Kaiser was elected in November’s general election to represent the constituents of Stutsman County.

Kaiser replaced retired director Thomas Olson of Jamestown. She was sworn into office at the board’s quarterly meeting in January and will serve a two-year term.

Kaiser attended Valley City State College, where she studied accounting. She has worked for the Stutsman Rural Water District for 25 years, currently serving as its manager. She is also the managers’ representative on the North Dakota Rural Water Systems Association’s state executive board. She is an active member of her church community, as well, serving on the executive board of the United Methodist Church in Jamestown.

Geneva lives in Jamestown and has one daughter.

The Garrison Diversion board of directors has 28 members, each representing a member county. The board



works to fulfill Garrison Diversion’s mission to provide a reliable, high quality, and affordable water supply to benefit the people of North Dakota.

Koland Retires

from

Garrison Diversion

After 13 years of strategic operational leadership at Garrison Diversion, General Manager Dave Koland retired from his position. Koland began with the district in 2002 and became the general manager in 2003.

Koland's expertise was garnered through 11 years as the executive director for the North Dakota Rural Water Systems Association and through serving three terms as a North Dakota State Representative from District 5 in Minot.

Koland's passion and dedication to Garrison Diversion's mission of providing a reliable, high quality, and affordable water supply for the people of North Dakota has been the driving force behind his work. He was a leader in the development of the Red River Valley Water Supply Project, a project designed to bring Missouri River water to eastern North Dakota. He was also instrumental in utilizing the McClusky Canal for irrigation development in central North Dakota. His perseverance to provide McClusky Canal water for irrigation resulted in the signing of the long-term irrigation water service contract with the Bureau of Reclamation in 2012, accomplishing one of the authorized uses for the Garrison Diversion Unit Project.

Koland is well-known for his long involvement in water development and water policy issues in North Dakota. He will continue to provide leadership in the water industry as he serves in the national arena as president of the National Water Resources Association. This is an honor both for Koland and the state of North Dakota. He will also remain president of the North Dakota Water Education Foundation.

"Helping develop North Dakota's water resources has been a rich and rewarding experience, and I'm grateful for the opportunity my board has given me to be a part of that," says Koland.

Garrison Diversion's staff and board are thankful for the effort put forth by Koland. He continually worked to improve the quality of life across the state through providing quality water supplies to the people of North Dakota.

