



## Garrison Diversion Board **Deeply Saddened** by Loss of Griggs County Director

By Kimberly Cook

Longtime Griggs County Director John Leininger passed away suddenly in January. Leininger carried on a family legacy when he replaced his father, Kenneth Leininger, on Garrison Diversion's board of directors in 2001. Kenneth served as the Griggs County director from 1981 to 2000.

Leininger was a continual supporter of Garrison Diversion's mission to provide a reliable, high quality, and affordable water supply to benefit the people of North Dakota. He believed he could make a difference in water development throughout the district.

During the nearly 15 years he served as director, he was an active participant on the board's Executive, Budget and Finance, Recreation, and Red River Valley committees. He also served as the board's chairman and second vice chairman.

Leininger was committed to facilitating unity and dialogue between the state and the Native American tribes, believing that by working together on water development, all residents of North Dakota would benefit.

His participation on Garrison Diversion's board of directors, along with his enthusiasm and commitment to water development, proved he was a worthy recipient

of the North Dakota Water Wheel Award in 2010, which he received for his accomplishments in and dedication to North Dakota's water industry.

In addition to his time on Garrison Diversion's board, Leininger was also a community leader in Griggs County, serving as chair of the Binford Economic Development Corporation, past president of the North Dakota Community Education Association, past co-chairman of the National Rural Revitalization Task Force and past regional director of the National Community Education Association.

Leininger was a man of good character and strong faith. He positively impacted those he came in contact with, and his leadership on the board will be deeply missed.

"John's long-time service to Garrison Diversion and the state of North Dakota was exceptional," says Ken Vein, chairman of the Garrison Diversion board of directors. "He was a strong and calm leader and a mentor for me as I took over the position as chairman."

The Griggs County Commission appointed John Wakefield of Cooperstown to fulfill Leininger's term on the Garrison Diversion board, which expires at the end of this year.

# Garrison Diversion Hires New Engineer

Garrison Diversion recently welcomed engineer Ryan Anderson to its Carrington office. Anderson will work closely with District Engineer Kip Kovar, and his job duties will include work on the major earth slide project at the McClusky Canal, developing irrigation, and developing

and implementing a work plan and budget for the Garrison Diversion operations and maintenance program.

Anderson received a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from North Dakota State University and is working towards becoming a Registered Professional Engineer. He is originally from Sheyenne and currently resides in New Rockford. He enjoys the outdoors, especially golfing, hunting, and fishing.

Anderson has more than six years of engineering experience with his previous employer, Braun Intertec Corporation, where he worked in both the Fargo and Bismarck offices. He has held positions as a construction materials testing program manager and as a geotechnical staff engineer.

After working with a large engineering firm in Bismarck, he says he's looking forward to the new experience of working in a smaller office setting and is glad to make the move closer to home.

As Kovar spends more time focusing on the Red River Valley Water Supply Project, he is grateful to have an additional engineer on staff. "Ryan will be a great asset to our team as we are continually developing new irrigation projects along the McClusky Canal," Kovar says. "We are fortunate to have an additional engineer on staff to help oversee the operations and maintenance of the Garrison Diversion Unit facilities while I shift my focus to the Red River Valley Water Supply Project."

