

# GETTING TO KNOW Garrison Diversion Directors:

By Kimberly Cook

## RICHLAND AND SHERIDAN COUNTIES

The Garrison Diversion Conservancy District (Garrison Diversion) board of directors consists of an elected official from each member county of the 28-member district. Directors are elected to serve their county for a four-year term.

The full board meets quarterly, with additional committees meeting at various points throughout each year.

A large variety of interests and backgrounds provide a diverse group of individuals, but collectively, they all have the same purpose in mind. The members work to fulfill Garrison Diversion's mission to provide a reliable, high-quality and affordable water supply to benefit the people of North Dakota.

As we continue profiling the directors who comprise the board, we introduce to you Kelly Klosterman, Richland County, and Jim Pellman, Sheridan County.



# MEET

## KELLY KLOSTERMAN, RICHLAND COUNTY

Since 2007, Kelly Klosterman has served on the Garrison Diversion Board of Directors, representing Richland County with enthusiasm and dedication. He is a current member of the Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee, though he has also served a term on the Executive Committee and acted as chairman of the Agriculture and Public Relations Committees, in addition to participation with the Engineering & Operations Committee.

“My dad was a director for many years, and I remember him thoroughly enjoying his service. Dad’s succeeding director, Lester Johnson, in trying to convince me to run for the board position, brought me along to a meeting so I could see how things went. At that point, I decided to give it a whirl, and here I am,” says Kelly. “Garrison Diversion has an excellent board and staff to work with, and the diversified group makes it a fun and interesting board to be a part of.”

“Garrison Diversion is a very complex organization, but above all, providing North Dakotan’s with safe, pure water is the heart of our being,” he continues. “Developing irrigation projects, assisting with rural water projects and granting funds to recreation projects within our district are all part of what we do.”

As a member county of Garrison Diversion, Richland County has seen many benefits through the years according to Kelly. “When looking directly at water, Garrison Diversion has been a huge supporter and a finance arm for municipal, rural water and industrial water use, providing funds to Southeast Water Users and for the Wahpeton water treatment plant expansion. The region is also hopeful to benefit from industrial water through the Red River Valley Water Supply Project.”

Also, the Matching Recreation Grant Program sponsored by Garrison Diversion has provided many recreation opportunities within Richland County. Numerous parks have received new playground equipment, vault toilets and other enhancements, plus the American Legion Natural Resource Center in Hankinson and the Marcus Friskop Learning Site and Veteran’s Memorial have received significant grant funds to develop their recreation areas.

In addition to his service to Garrison Diversion, Kelly is a member of the Richland County Soil Conservation District and the ND State Soil Conservation Committee. Kelly farms near Mooreton and enjoys spending time at the lake with his family. Kelly and his wife, Mickie, have two grown children.



Kelly Klosterman

# Matching Recreation Grant Program

The deadline to apply for the fall Matching Recreation Grants is quickly approaching! Many communities plan recreation projects to enhance their facilities, and the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District wants to help you offset recreation project costs with our Matching Recreation Grant Program.

With the help of the Garrison Diversion Matching Recreation Grant Program, park development, such as purchasing playground equipment and benches, and enhancing campground facilities are a few examples of the projects that can be completed.

Since the Matching Recreation Grant Program was established in 1990, more than \$5 million has been awarded to help fund recreation



## JIM PELLMAN, SHERIDAN COUNTY

When former Sheridan County board member Tim Schindler was set to retire, he knew Jim Pellman would be a good fit. As a former businessman, a farmer and irrigator, and a dedicated community participant, voters in Sheridan County agreed, and Jim started with the Garrison Diversion board in 2017.

“When I started on the board, I didn’t realize Garrison Diversion had so many irons in the fire, so to speak. There are many more facets to Garrison Diversion than just the McClusky and New Rockford Canals, and I’m not sure most people understand the complexities of Garrison Diversion,” says Jim. “The water projects and recreation projects we are involved in throughout the state benefit a large portion of North Dakota.”

Garrison Diversion has provided assistance in Sheridan County to enhance recreation facilities in the area. The Hoffer Lake recreation area, located three miles north of McClusky, has been a large beneficiary. Garrison Diversion manages the water levels of the lake by pumping from the McClusky Canal to provide optimal recreational opportunities. The Sheridan County Park Board manages this area. Swimming, fishing and boating can be found at Hoffer Lake.

Jim grew up in Mantador and attended school at NDSU, graduating with a bachelor of arts in ag economics. For nearly 25 years, Jim worked as the vice president of the First National Bank in McClusky, while farming in his “spare” time. He retired from the bank several years ago, and the farm hobby turned into the full-time job. A few years back, Jim became the first Sheridan County resident to irrigate from the McClusky Canal. He is irrigating approximately 270 acres of corn and canola. Jim continues to enjoy farming full-time and works with his two boys on the family farm.

“I’m happy irrigation is taking place from the McClusky Canal,” says Jim. “Though the irrigation is still limited in Sheridan County, being able to utilize the canal for a secondary benefit besides recreation is promising!”

An active citizen, Jim has been a volunteer fireman for more than 30 years, serves as treasurer of the local Dollars for Scholars program, is on the ND Wheat Commission and is also president of Parkview Housing, a nonprofit housing group.

Jim lives in McClusky with his wife, Candace.



Jim Pellman

# Deadline Approaching



projects within the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District. Political subdivisions located within the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District may apply for the program. Don’t forget about the Garrison Diversion Matching Recreation Grant Program as you are planning spring projects. Applications must be postmarked by Sept. 1 to be considered for funding.

Recreational opportunities are greatly valued by North Dakotans, and Garrison Diversion is proud to play a part in further recreational enhancement and development in North Dakota.

Visit [www.garrisondiversion.org/recreation](http://www.garrisondiversion.org/recreation) for more information and to download an application.