

Garrison Diversion Director Profiles

By Kimberly Cook

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 Greg Bischoff, Barnes County; Kenny Rogers, Bottineau County; and Roger Fenstad, Cass County.



MEET

GREG BISCHOFF, BARNES COUNTY

Greg Bischoff, Valley City, was elected to the Garrison Diversion Board in 2016, replacing his father, the late Roger Bischoff, as the Barnes County Director. “One thing I’ve learned being part of the board is that the McClusky Canal is currently being utilized for irrigation, and that Garrison Diversion continues to develop irrigation projects in the central part of the state,” says Greg. “I think it’s really important for North Dakotans to understand the canal is being utilized.”

In addition to serving on the board of directors, Greg also sits on the Red River Valley Committee. “It’s been an enjoyable learning experience being very hands-on with the Red River Valley Water Supply Project, and wanting to see that project through to the end keeps me motivated to continue my service.”

Greg graduated from Valley City State University with a bachelor of science degree in business administration. He spent 20 years out of state working for the U.S. Forest Service, with a Colorado-based guide and outfitting company, and then for the Wyoming State Parks system before returning to Valley City in 2005 to be closer to his ailing parents. He is the owner of Allard Trophy Co. in Valley City and a member of the local Eagles Club. Greg is an outdoorsman at heart and especially loves hunting and fishing, with a highlight being his annual fishing trip to Alaska. He also follows Valley City State University athletics, University of North Dakota hockey and North Dakota State University football.

“Overall, becoming a member of the Garrison Diversion Board has been a very positive experience. All the members are very pro-North Dakota and are looking out for what’s best for the state and their county,” says Greg.



Greg Bischoff

KENNY ROGERS, BOTTINEAU COUNTY

Kenny Rogers became involved with the Garrison Diversion Board in 1997. He has sat on multiple committees but is a current member of the public relations committee. He has a passion for agriculture irrigation and likes to share information about Garrison Diversion’s commitment to irrigation development in North Dakota. “I’m proud of our dedication to expand irrigation and for our assistance with the NDSU Ag Research at the Oakes Irrigation Research Site.”

Though Kenny is a retired farmer, he is never lacking for activity as he participates in a number of water boards. In addition to Garrison Diversion, Kenny presently serves on the All Seasons Water Users District Board, the Northwest Area Water Supply (NAWS) Advisory Board, Assiniboine River Basin Initiative, and the Missouri River Advisory Council. He is also chairman of the Lewis Township Board and Bottineau County Township Officers Association. Past experience includes service on the North Central Experiment Station Board, Bottineau County Crop Improvement Association, Bottineau County NDSU Extension Advisory Board, Prairie Hope Church Council, and the Maxbass Rural Fire District Board.

When not attending meetings, Kenny assists with pulpit supply at his church and enjoys gardening. He and his wife, Elaine, have two children and one grandchild.



Kenny Rogers

CASS COUNTY, ROGER FENSTAD

Roger Fenstad, Cass County, was elected to the Garrison Diversion Board in 2011, but his career in the water industry began many years before. Roger began working as a civil engineer with Moore Engineering in 1974, and retired from the company in 2018. He worked almost exclusively for municipalities in Cass County and surrounding areas, recognizing most cities have some type of water issue, whether it be infrastructure, supply or water treatment problems, and worked tirelessly to improve their conditions.

Roger dedicated his career to water development across the state and has seen firsthand the statewide need for quality water supplies. “Water is the backbone for the future growth of our agricultural, commercial and industrial interests in the state,” he says.

He was driven to run for the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District Board because he wanted to be part of a progressive movement to secure the future of North Dakota. Since 2011, Roger has been an active member of the Garrison Diversion Board, supporting the mission to provide a reliable, high-quality and affordable water supply to the people of North Dakota. He has served on the executive committee and is a former chair and current member of the Red River Valley Committee.

Roger has invested countless hours to the Red River Valley Water Supply Project, stating the future of North Dakota lies in the availability of quality drinking water within our state.

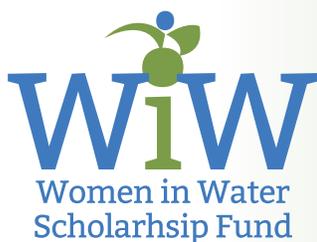
“I think the Red River Valley Water Supply Project is extremely important to the state of North Dakota and the water community. We have an opportunity to serve the state through our mission to provide the people in North Dakota with quality drinking water and I feel good about that,” says Roger. “I feel good about working on the Red River Valley Water Supply Project and, better yet, with expanding the project into central North Dakota, where we can serve even more people with quality water.”

Roger has received several honors over the years, including the ND Chapter of the American Public Works Association President Service Award, American Council of Engineering Companies of ND Lifetime Achievement Award and the ND Water Wheel Award.

Roger lives in West Fargo with his wife, Jan. They have four adult children and nine grandchildren. In his spare time, he enjoys golf, the lake and spending time with the grandchildren.



Roger Fenstad



Women in Water Scholarship Fund

Professional women affiliated with the National Water Resources Association recently took note of the growing number of women in leadership positions in the western community of water providers, engineers, managers, lawyers, scientists, communicators, government relations representatives, and water conservationists. These women were inspired to create a scholarship fund to provide opportunity for education, thus, the Women in Water Scholarship Fund was formed.

According to the website, the scholarship is an annual \$5,000 gift awarded to a woman pursuing an undergraduate or graduate degree in any facet of western water resources. To learn more about the Women in Water or to apply for the scholarship, please visit www.fundingwomeninwater.com.