



GDCD Staff, Grants Making a Difference

By Kimberly Cook

As a multi-purpose project, the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District (Garrison Diversion) aims to provide opportunities for industry, water supply, agriculture, recreation, and the development of our natural resources. Its mission is to provide a reliable, high-quality and affordable water supply to benefit the people of North Dakota, and in order to fulfill that mission, Garrison Diversion employs approximately 30 employees at offices in Carrington, New Rockford, McClusky and the Snake Creek Pumping Plant in Coleharbor.

The Carrington office recently had two new members join the administrative staff when **Sabrina Scherr** and **Jarret Bauer** both began fulfilling duties in Carrington's accounting department in February of this year.



Sabrina Scherr

Sabrina says she's excited about the transition made to Garrison Diversion. "I like that I have dedicated daily tasks and that Garrison Diversion is family oriented. It's been a welcoming place to be," she says.

Sabrina's main responsibilities include O&M accounting, which covers all aspects of Garrison Diversion's Operations & Maintenance (O&M) Division, including payroll and accounts payable, and includes correspondence with the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation). Additionally, she performs accounting duties for the Lake Agassiz Water Authority (LAWA), as Garrison Diversion performs the administrative duties for the organization representing local water users in the Red River Valley Water Supply Project (RRVWSP).

Sabrina was born and raised in McVille, North Dakota. Upon graduating, she attended Mayville State University and obtained her bachelor's degree in business administration while playing on the women's basketball team.

In 2015, Sabrina moved to Carrington where she gained work experience at Dakota Growers Pasta Plant, and then at Golden Acres Manor prior to accepting the position at Garrison Diversion.

Sabrina and her husband, Arick, reside in Carrington. They keep busy enjoying the outdoors with their two young children, Keegan and Brynlee, and the newest addition to their family, a black lab, Scout.



Jarret Bauer

Jarret Bauer is responsible for all general fund accounting activities in addition to accounting for the MR&I (municipal, rural and industrial) program and Irrigation funds. He also completes payroll for general fund employees and processes invoices and expense vouchers.

"I find the work fresh and interesting," Jarret says. "I appreciate the team organization and am really enjoying the job so far!"

Jarret was born and raised in Carrington. After attending school at North Dakota State University and graduating with an accounting degree, Jarret lived in Fargo working with Gate City Bank for a few years before he felt a pull to return to his hometown of Carrington. After moving home, Jarret gained accounting experience at Carrington Dental Care prior to coming to work for Garrison Diversion.

Jarret and his girlfriend, Hannah, are parents to an eight-month-old daughter, Haddie. He enjoys spending time with his family and friends and appreciates an opportunity to sneak out to the golf course when he can.

Garrison Diversion Awards

WATER SUPPLY ASSISTANCE GRANTS

The Garrison Diversion Conservancy District's (Garrison Diversion) MR&I Water Supply Assistance Grant Program provides funding assistance to offset the costs of new customer hookups to a rural water system or district within Garrison Diversion's member counties.

The Water Supply Assistance Grant Program is also in place to aid municipal water systems or districts with extraordinary OM&R projects or emergencies impacting the delivery of water to users, introduce health and safety issues, or bring potential harm to other infrastructure if not repaired.

"The Water Assistance Grant Program is a relatively new program but continues to gain momentum and popularity with each construction season. We are very proud this program has become life changing for some individuals and families that couldn't afford to install rural water without financial assistance," says Geneva Kaiser, chair of Garrison Diversion's MR&I Committee.

In May, the MR&I Committee awarded \$128,037 to 21 water users in the district for residential, livestock and business use.

The following systems received project funding from the Water Supply Assistance Grant Program:

- **Barnes Rural Water District** – \$42,078 for five customer hookups
- **Cass Rural Water Users District** – \$23,656 for four customer hookups
- **Central Plains Water District** – \$10,000 for one customer hookup
- **McKenzie County Water Resource District** – \$20,384 for four customer hookups
- **Southeast Water Users District** – \$11,000 for two customer hookups
- **Stutsman Rural Water District** – \$18,790 for four customer hookups
- **North Prairie Regional Water District** – \$2,129 for one customer hookup



There are two grant application periods each year. The next deadline for new customer hookup applications is **August 1**. There continues to be no deadline on extraordinary OM&R projects, as these will occur on an as-needed basis.

Eligibility requirements state the applicant must reside within one of Garrison Diversion's 28 member counties, must be or have a member sponsor that is a political subdivision (municipality or rural water district), and a municipality must serve a population of 5,000 people or less.

Grant guidelines and applications can be found at www.garrisondiversion.org.