



Award Winners *Recognized*

By Kimberly Cook

The 28-member board of the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District (Garrison Diversion) is special for a few reasons. First, the diversity of the members provides a solid base of thinkers and doers. From the large group come farmers and ranchers, city and county commissioners, bankers, doctors, mayors, engineers, and more. Second, each of the individuals puts forth their best effort in representing Garrison Diversion and water interests across the state, which takes time and dedication above and beyond their already full schedules. Their committed service does not go unnoticed.

This year, at the 54th Annual North Dakota Joint Water Convention and Irrigation Workshop, two of Garrison Diversion's longtime board members were honored for their service and dedication to North Dakota's water industry. Norman Haak, Dickey County, was inducted into the North Dakota Water Users Association (NDWUA) Hall of Fame, and Steve Metzger, Foster County, was honored with the Water Wheel Award.

**Bismarck
Mandan**
NO BOUNDARIES

Welcomes

**NORTH DAKOTA
WATER**

**2017 N.D. Joint Water Convention
and Irrigation Workshop**

North Dakota Water Users Association
North Dakota Water Resource Districts Association
North Dakota Irrigation Association
North Dakota Rural Water Systems Association

Norm Haak

ND Water Users Hall of Fame

In December, Norm Haak, Dickey County representative of the Garrison Diversion board, received one of the highest honors recognized in the North Dakota water industry. Norm was honored by being inducted into the NDWUA Hall of Fame for his leadership and commitment to water resource development in the state. Norm Haak has dedicated more than 30 years of service and leadership to local, state, and national boards advocating for water development. To this day, his continued involvement is invaluable to North Dakota's water community.

In 1987, Norman became the Dickey County representative on the Garrison Diversion board of directors, serving as chairman of the board from 1997 to 2000. Throughout his tenure, Norm also served as committee chair for multiple committees of the board and has been involved with most of the committees, including Executive, Agriculture, Project Planning, Personnel, Municipal, Rural and Industrial, Engineering & Operations and Missouri River.

During his time with the district, he has devoted a great deal of time and energy as a water leader and spent countless hours attending meetings and hearings on behalf of Garrison Diversion and the state of North Dakota. He was an advocate for the Dakota Water Resources Act, testifying in Washington, D.C., on behalf of Garrison Diversion.

In addition to the Garrison Diversion board, multiple other water organizations have benefitted from Norm's participation throughout the years. Since 1999, Norm has participated as a board member of the North Dakota Water Users Association, also serving as board President from 2012 to 2015. He has been committed to the North Dakota Water Education Foundation since 2000. Norm has given his time to the North Dakota Water Resource Districts Association board since 2013 and is also a committed member of the Dickey County Water Resource District.

He's an advocate for irrigation development as a longtime member of the North Dakota Irrigation Association board, serving there since 2000. Norm sees the potential irrigation and value-added agriculture have on the state and has dedicated time to pursue development and policy on these issues.

Norm is the current President of the Upper Missouri Water Association, having been part of the organization since 2002.



Norm spent 20 years on the Advisory Committee of the Family Farm Alliance as the primary representative from North Dakota, where he was instrumental in strengthening relationships with water users along the Upper Missouri River system.

He has been recognized in the past with the Soil Conservation Award from the James River Conservation District, Commodore in the North Dakota Mythical Navy from the North Dakota Water Users Association, and Quality Environment Award from the Upper Missouri Water Association, to name a few.

In addition to his devotion to the water world, Norm has given time and energy to serve many additional organizations, including the James Valley Electric Board, church, and community groups. He is also an unsung hero, as he served in the United States Navy from 1961 to 1964.

Norm and his wife, Arlene, live near Oakes, N.D.

"It's a great honor to be selected for this Hall of Fame Award. I'm just doing what I truly enjoy," says Norm. "I feel privileged to be involved with each of these boards and all their members. They have all been so good to me."

Norm is a most deserving recipient of the North Dakota Water Users Hall of Fame award, and for that, we congratulate Norm.

Steve Metzger

Water Wheel Award

Steve Metzger, Carrington, was first appointed and later elected to the Garrison Diversion board of directors in 1983, representing Foster County. Steve has always been passionate about representing the people he served and looking out for their interests. His dedication, devotion, and leadership to Garrison Diversion and North Dakota's water industry make him a deserving Water Wheel recipient.

Within his many years of service, Steve has served as committee chair for multiple committees of the board and has been involved with most of the committees, including Executive, Municipal, Rural and Industrial, Budget & Finance, Recreation and Public Relations, and Red River Valley, also serving as 2nd Vice Chairman of the board.

Steve represents the City of Carrington as an alternate member on the Lake Agassiz Water Authority Board of Directors. He is also a representative on the NDSU Research Center Advisory Board.

Steve grew up in Cavalier County and is a graduate of Langdon High School and North Dakota State University, where he earned undergraduate and graduate degrees. In the past several years he has served on many boards, including the Foster County Fair Board, the Carrington Park Board, the Carrington Chamber's Agriculture committee, the board of directors for the Carrington Health Center, Sacred Heart Catholic Church board, and other organizations.

Steve is a longtime member of the state and national Agricultural Educators Association, as well as the state and national Farm and Ranch Business Management Education Association. Steve retired in 2015 after serving the Carrington area as a farm business management instructor for over 30 years. He continues to work part-time and also currently serves as the regional coordinator for North Dakota Farm Business Management in south-central North Dakota. He and his wife, Jane, have five children and eight grandchildren.

"I truly am shocked to be presented this award," said Steve. "Receiving an award like this is because I am part of an overall team, and it's the teamwork that gets it done. I just happen to be on the right team. I greatly appreciate this award."

Congratulations, Steve! Your dedication is appreciated!

