

## **2012 International Legislators Forum Biographical Information - Presenters**

### ***Energy: Panel #1 – Now & In the Future***

#### **Brendan Jordan**

Brendan is the Director of Bioenergy and Transportation programs at the Great Plains Institute (GPI). He leads collaborative efforts with industry, the environmental community, and government to implement effective strategies that displace imported fossil fuels with domestically produced low carbon alternatives, and promote sustainable utilization of biomass for energy. These strategies include applied research, policy implementation, and project implementation. His work has included facilitating advisory groups for the Midwestern Governors Association energy initiative, serving on the project team for the Dakota Spirit AgEnergy Cellulosic Biorefinery project, collaborating with Argonne National Laboratories on life cycle accounting methodology for biofuels, overseeing a North Dakota Industrial Commission-funded project evaluating a biomass supply for Great River Energy's Spiritwood Station, and managing a United States Department of Energy-funded project evaluating the use of native grass mixtures to simultaneously supply energy and other environmental and economic benefits.

He joined the Institute part-time in January 2004 while he worked on his Masters degree in Science, Technology, and Environmental Policy at the University of Minnesota's Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, before joining full-time in summer 2005. His undergraduate degree in biology is from Carleton College in Northfield, MN. Originally from Eau Claire, WI, Brendan lives in Minneapolis, MN with his wife Natela and his daughter Sasha.

#### **Tom Heller**

Tom Heller is a native North Dakotan and presently serves as the Chief Executive Officer of Missouri River Energy Services (MRES), having joined MRES in 1992 as General Manager. He received a Bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from North Dakota State University (NDSU) and a Masters degree in Business Administration from Minnesota State University in Moorhead.

Prior to joining MRES, Tom worked for 16 years for the Moorhead, MN Public Service Department, including over 7 years as General Manager.

Nationally, Mr. Heller serves on the Board of Directors of the Consumer Federation of America, as Vice President of Consumers United for Rail Equity (CURE), and as Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Transmission Access Policy Study Group (TAPS). In addition, he has served on the American Public Power Association (APPA) Board of Directors and currently serves on the APPA CEO Blue Ribbon Climate Change & Generation Policy Task Force.

#### **Gregory L. Ridderbusch**

Greg Ridderbusch is Vice President of Business Development and Strategy for Great River Energy (GRE). With GRE as owner of Blue Flint Ethanol, he also serves as President of Blue Flint Ethanol and Dakota Spirit AgEnergy. Greg leads GRE's business diversification efforts that leverage the utility's core assets and have generated significant value for member owners and consumers. Greg's vision was instrumental in Great River Energy's initiative to build the Spiritwood Station near Jamestown, ND as a Combined Heat and Power facility, and in creating the plans for Spiritwood Energy Park and Dakota Spirit AgEnergy. Prior to joining GRE, Greg spent 10 years as a

## **2012 International Legislators Forum Biographical Information - Presenters**

utility management consultant serving utility leadership teams (cooperatives, investor-owned, and municipals) across the country, helping with strategy and business planning assignments. Greg previously was general manager of the industrial business unit of the Gas Technology Institute in Chicago. In that role, he developed and invested in national growth strategies for industrial technologies to extend the value and utilization of natural gas as a fuel for industry. Early in his career, Greg was an Engineer Officer in the United States Army and Army Reserves for 10 years.

He earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the United States Military Academy at West Point; a Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta; and a Master of Management (MBA) from Northwestern Kellogg Graduate School of Business in Chicago. When he is not working, he tent camps and travels with his wife of 25 years. He resides in Maple Grove, MN but is seen many weeks of the year in North Dakota.

---

### ***Energy: Panel #2 – Energy Transmission***

#### **Brad Crabtree**

Brad Crabtree is a native North Dakotan who grew up in Bismarck and now ranches with his family in Dickey County, south of Kulm, North Dakota. He has served as the Policy Director for the Great Plains Institute since 2002 and also co-directs the National Enhanced Oil Recovery Initiative, a nationwide coalition of industry, state government, and labor and environmental leaders that recently made bipartisan recommendations to the United States Congress and states aimed at significantly expanding American oil production.

Brad holds a Bachelor of Science degree in international relations and history from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service and a Master of Arts degree in history from Johns Hopkins University.

Before joining the Great Plains Institute, Brad was project director at the Consensus Council in Bismarck, where he coordinated the International Flood Mitigation Initiative following the 1997 Red River flood, as well as the Grasslands Stewardship Initiative to help ranchers, conservationists, and the U.S. Forest Service find common ground on federal grasslands management. Prior to returning to North Dakota in 1997, Brad worked in various policy and consulting roles in Washington, DC. He has also lived, done research, and worked in Germany, Southeast Asia, and Brazil and made numerous professional trips to Europe and China on energy policy and technology matters. Brad is married to Renee and they have a daughter, Suria.

---

### ***Luncheon Speaker***

#### **Former North Dakota Lt. Governor Lloyd Omdahl:**

In addition to serving state government as Tax Commissioner, Budget Director and Lieutenant Governor, Prof. Lloyd Omdahl taught political science at the University of North Dakota (UND) for 20 years. Among his courses were State and Local Government in America, American Federalism, Political Parties and Electoral Problems, Interest Groups, Municipal Government and The

## 2012 International Legislators Forum Biographical Information - Presenters

Administrator in Public Affairs. He co-authored two editions of a college textbook titled *“State & Local Government in America.”*

While teaching full-time, he also directed the UND Bureau of Governmental Affairs where he authored a number of publications relating to North Dakota elections and government. He also drafted the model home rule charter used by the majority of cities and served as a delegate to the 1972 North Dakota constitutional convention. For the past 20 years, Omdahl has been writing weekly commentaries for many daily and weekly newspapers throughout North Dakota.

---

### ***Water: Panel #1 – the Red River Basin***

#### **Lance Yohe**

Mr. Yohe, Executive Director of the Red River Basin Commission (RRBC), did his undergraduate work at Concordia College in Moorhead, MN graduating with a degree in Biology. While working toward his Bachelor of Arts degree he received training and experience in the United States Air Force in the Medical Laboratory field, acquainting him with quantitative and qualitative analytical analysis. Later, he attended Luther Theological Seminary in St. Paul, MN and received his Master of Divinity degree.

Lance has had first-hand experience in water and land resource issues from a pastor’s viewpoint, in a local parish with churches in the Perley, MN and rural Gardner, ND areas next to the Red River. He is familiar with the unique resource and jurisdictional problems within the Red River basin as he was an early Board member of the International Coalition for Land and Water Stewardship in the Red River Basin as well as its Board Chair and later the President/CEO. After further experiences as the Executive Director of the Freshwater Foundation and as the pastor of a rural SD parish, he returned to the Red River Basin as Executive Director of the Red River Basin Board in 2001.

In 2002 several organizations: The International Coalition, The Red River Basin Board, and the Red River Water Resource Council merged to form the Red River Basin Commission. Lance has been the RRBC Executive Director since its formation. He has over 25 years of experience and familiarity with Red River Basin water and land resource issues.

The RRBC has a 41 member board that represents: Manitoba, Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota at local: county, city, water resource district, and citizen; tribal; environmental; state; and federal (ex-officio) levels. RRBC works on issues and projects that are trans-boundary and promote cooperation and future driven visioning that has the potential to solve problems before they get to the conflict stage. The Red River Basin Natural Resource Framework Plan is an example of how RRBC is working to build a basin wide vision and unified voice for action.

Lance has given many conference presentations over the years on issues in the Red River Basin including such topics as: trans-boundary approach, grass-roots involvement, local leadership roles, international issues, resource issues: water quality, water supply, flooding, drainage, water laws, flow modeling, and others. He has managed numerous projects and co-authored the *“Land and Water Guide to the Red River Basin”* and the *“Red River Basin Drought: Scoping Document”*.

## **2012 International Legislators Forum Biographical Information - Presenters**

### **Nicole Armstrong**

Nicole Armstrong is the Director of the Water Science and Management Branch with the Manitoba Government's Department of Conservation and Water Stewardship. The Water Science and Management Branch is responsible for protecting and managing surface and groundwater quality and quantity in Manitoba. Nicole has a BSc from the University of Manitoba and an MSc from the University of Alberta in aquatic ecology. Nicole has worked for the province of Manitoba for the past 12 years and much of her technical work has focused on issues related to algae, nutrient loading and Lake Winnipeg. She is also the co-chair of the International Red River Board's Water Quality Committee and is working with the committee to develop a nutrient management strategy for the international Red River watershed.

### **Representative Morrie Lanning – R-MN**

Representative Lanning is currently serving his fifth term in the Minnesota House of Representatives. He was first elected to the House in 2002 after serving as Mayor of Moorhead, Minnesota from 1980 through 2001 and as City Alderman from 1974 through 1979. After spending nearly 39 years as an administrator at Concordia College in Moorhead, he retired as Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students at the college in 2005.

Throughout his 37 years of elected public service, Morrie has worked to advance a basin-wide approach to land and water issues. He is currently carrying legislation to move Minnesota's management governance to a basin and watershed system. Representative Lanning's responsibilities in the Minnesota House of Representatives include chairing the State Government Finance Committee and the Legislative Commission on Pensions; serving on the Capital Investment, Health and Human Services Finance, and Ways and Means committees; and serving as Speaker Pro Tempore.

---

### ***Water: Panel #2 – the Missouri River Basin***

### **Michelle Klose**

Michelle Klose has served as the Assistant State Engineer for the North Dakota State Water Commission since July 2011. She chairs the Cost Share Policy Subcommittee of the State Water Commission to address state cost sharing on water projects across North Dakota; was appointed by the Governor to represent North Dakota on the congressionally authorized Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee to address local interests in the recovery of endangered species on the Missouri River; and serves on the Western Area Water Supply Authority as the representative of the State Engineer in the development of that regional water supply project.

Prior to her current position, Michelle served as the State Water Commission Project Manager on the Northwest Area Water Supply (NAWS) project for five years. As manager of NAWS, Michelle directed project construction as well as addressing international issues and litigation associated with that project. Michelle also worked with the Bureau of Reclamation for nearly 15 years on the planning, construction, and operation and maintenance of tribal drinking water systems in North Dakota and South Dakota.

Michelle earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from NDSU in 1993. She and

## **2012 International Legislators Forum Biographical Information - Presenters**

her husband Ron, enjoy life in Bismarck with their teenagers Ellie and Michael.

### **Kevin Grode**

Kevin Grode is the Reservoir Regulation Team Lead, Missouri Basin Water Management Division of the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Northwestern Division. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology in Rapid City, SD. He has been with the USACE since 1986. Most of his tenure with the Corps has been in area of water management. He worked in the Omaha District Water Control and Water Quality Section (1991 – 2003) as a reservoir regulator and has been in the Missouri Basin Water Management office since 2003.

In his current position, Kevin leads a team of hydraulic engineers and computer specialists to conduct studies and forecasts pertaining to the regulation of the Missouri River Mainstem Reservoir System. This includes the update of System water control manuals and various technical studies, as well as producing short-term and long-term Missouri River basin forecasts to ensure compatibility with the System's authorized purposes.

---

### ***Trade: Panel #1 – Cross-Border Trade – The Big Picture***

### **Timothy L. Cipullo**

Tim Cipullo arrived in Winnipeg, Manitoba on August 5, 2011, to take up the post of Consul and Principal Officer at the U.S. Consulate. As such, he is responsible to explain and advance the interests of the United States to the residents of Manitoba, and to report their views and issues to the U.S. Embassy in Ottawa and to Washington. His expected tour of duty is three years.

Mr. Cipullo joined the State Department on September 10, 2001, and has served overseas as a Consular Officer in Chile and a Political Officer in the Philippines, as well as working at the State Department in Washington. His last assignment was as the Environment and Energy Officer in Tokyo, where he was recognized with a Superior Honor Award for his work in the aftermath of the 2011 earthquake, tsunami and nuclear accident. He speaks Spanish, Japanese and Tagalog.

Born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Tim has lived in Colorado since 1988. He received his M.A. in Economics from the University of Colorado Boulder in 1997 and his M.S. in Computer Information Systems from Colorado State University in 1999. He is married and has two small children.

### **Michael Flaherty**

Mr. Flaherty took up his position as Consul and Senior Trade Commissioner, Canadian Consulate General in Minneapolis in September 2011. As Canada's Senior Trade Commissioner he is responsible for the delivery of the commercial programming of the Consulate General in Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa and Nebraska. The Consulate's commercial program focuses on trade and investment development, as well as science and technology linkages.

## **2012 International Legislators Forum Biographical Information - Presenters**

Prior to his posting in Minneapolis, Mr. Flaherty served as the Consul and Senior Trade Commissioner in Buffalo, NY and as the Investment & Corporate Relations program manager in the Consulate General in Atlanta, GA.

Michael joined in the Department of Industry in 1990 and held several senior positions with Canada's Investment Promotion Agency, Industry Canada's Small Business Secretariat and the Office of the Chief Information Officer.

Prior to joining Industry Canada, Michael spent 7 years on Parliament Hill in Ottawa as a political assistant to a Member of Parliament, the Minister of State for Small Business, the Minister of Agriculture, the Deputy Prime Minister and the Prime Minister of Canada.

Michael is a graduate of the University of Western Ontario, is married, and has two children.

---

### ***Trade: Panel #2 – Cross-Border Trade – Day to Day Issues***

#### **Diane Gray**

Ms. Diane Gray is the founding President and CEO of CentrePort Canada Inc. CentrePort is Canada's first tri-modal inland port and Foreign Trade Zone and encompasses 20,000 acres in the North West quadrant of Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Ms. Gray worked for the Province of Manitoba from 1995 to 2009 and simultaneously served as Deputy Minister of Finance, Deputy Minister of Federal-Provincial and International Relations, and Deputy Minister of Trade. In December 2010, she was awarded the Lieutenant Governor's Medal for Excellence in Public Administration for Manitoba.

Ms. Gray currently serves on the boards of Biomedical Commercialization Canada, Manitoba Film and Music, Manitoba's International Trade Council, MITACS, the Royal Winnipeg Ballet and the Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters, Manitoba Division.

Ms. Gray is a graduate of the University of Manitoba's and University of Winnipeg's Joint Masters of Public Administration Program and has an undergraduate degree in political studies from the University of Manitoba.

#### **Reynold Martens**

Reynolds Martens holds the position of Executive Vice President of GHY International, and is the President and co-founder of the firm's US subsidiary, GHY USA Inc. Founded in 1901, GHY International is one of the oldest independent customs brokerage houses in North America, and has been recognized in 2008, 2009, 2010, and 2011, as one of Canada's 50 Best Managed Companies. The firm specializes in providing personalized service, quality expertise, advanced business-to-business technology solutions, and national Customs clearance and representation for Canadian and US importers and exporters of all sizes, including top tier companies in North America.

## **2012 International Legislators Forum Biographical Information - Presenters**

Reynold graduated from the University of Winnipeg with a degree in history, has been involved in the trade services industry since 1985, and in leadership at GHY since 1991.

Reynold is active in various industry and community leadership roles, including national directorships with the Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters Association (CME), and the Canadian Association of Importers and Exporters (IE Canada). He was appointed as Chairman of the Board of CME's Manitoba Division in August 2010, and joined the Advisory Board of Winnipeg-based CentrePort Canada in February 2012.

He is the architect of GHY's thought leadership platform on "Integrated Global Trade Compliance Strategies," author of the firm's white papers, and a regular speaker at national trade conferences.