

## District 2 Director



### **Julie Kester**

Julie Kester has been a resident of Benton County for the past 28 years. Julie graduated with an accounting degree from Kirkwood and worked at the Linn County Assessor's office for almost 40 years, 10 of those years serving as the Linn County Assessor. Julie and her husband, Bill, farm north of Urbana and share 6 daughters and 12 grandchildren.

Julie was first elected to the ECIREC Board of Directors in 2019 and currently serves as the Secretary/Treasurer. Julie has earned the Credentialed Cooperative Director certificate and is working on the Board Leadership Program.

Julie enjoys reading, traveling, gardening, playing games, volunteering, organizing, and spending time with family, friends, and especially her grandchildren.

## District 3 Director



### **Brian McNulty**

Brian graduated from Benton Community High School and went on to pursue a degree in Ag Business from Kirkwood Community College. He has worked part-time as the City Clerk for the City of Blirstown for over 20 years. When he is not at City Hall, you can find Brian on his row crop, hay, and cattle farm.

Brian has enjoyed serving as an ECI REC board member and is working to obtain his Credentialed Cooperative Director certificate. Brian is actively involved in the Benton County Fair Board and the Benton County Extension Council. In addition, he also serves on the Alliance Mutual Insurance board, Benton County Community Foundation, and the Benton County Landfill Commission. Brian is also the Trustee for St Clair Township in Benton County.

## District 4 Director

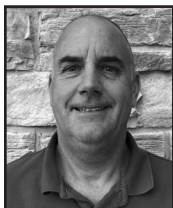


### **Gary McKenna**

Gary has proudly served on the ECI REC Board since his election in June 2016. During his tenure, he has demonstrated a commitment to cooperative excellence by earning the Credentialed Cooperative Director certificate, Board Leadership Certificate, and Director Gold Credential. Gary also represents ECI REC on the Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO) board of directors, contributing to strategic decisions affecting the cooperative's power supply.

Though retired from the insurance industry, Gary continues to serve as Assistant Manager at Eden Mutual Insurance in Vinton, where he has been a dedicated leader since 1997.

Gary and his wife, Teresa, have two children and enjoy spending time outdoors. In his free time, Gary enjoys golfing, snowmobiling, carpentry, and camping. His commitment to community service is reflected in his 32 years with the Vinton Fire Department, including 12 years as Fire Chief. He is also an active member of Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Vinton.



### **Kyle Schminke**

Kyle Schminke is a lifelong resident of Shellsburg, Iowa, and has lived on ECI REC line's his entire life. He graduated from Shellsburg High School in 1985 and has been involved in agriculture since the age of 15, raising livestock and crops in Shellsburg and the surrounding areas. Kyle and his wife have two daughters and one son-in-law.

In addition to his farming responsibilities, Kyle is active in both the agricultural and local community. He is self-employed as a farmer and served as a Deacon at Oak Grove Church. Kyle has a long history of community involvement, including serving on the Vinton-Shellsburg School Board from 2015 to 2019, participating on the Virginia Gay Hospital Board since 2020, and being an alumnus of the Vinton-Shellsburg FFA. He was also a member of the

Farm Service Agency (FSA) for nine years, serving as chairman for seven of those years, where he played a key role in agricultural policy decisions and supporting local farmers.

Kyle strongly believes in the cooperative model and would be honored to bring his extensive agricultural background, leadership experience, and community involvement to the ECI REC Board of Directors.



### **Thomas Duffy**

Thomas Duffy, a resident of rural Shellsburg, Iowa, has over 30 years of experience in business development, project management, and leadership within the energy and construction industries. He currently serves as Director of Pre-Construction and Business Development at Power Grid Transmission, overseeing high-voltage transmission and substation projects nationwide.

Thomas began his career at Alliant Energy, where he spent nearly 16 years in key roles, including managing predictive maintenance at the DAEC Nuclear Facility and leading community and economic development initiatives for REC's, municipal utilities, and other wholesale clients. As National Manager of Alliant's Renewable Energy Division, he developed wind and solar projects across the U.S.

In addition to his time at Alliant, Thomas held executive roles with companies such as Iconic Power Systems, Forbes Group, and Great Southwestern Construction, where he led project teams, expanded operations, and drove revenue growth. His certifications include Six Sigma Green Belt, Lean Training, and contract negotiation.

Active in his community, Thomas has coached ASA girls' softball and youth baseball and softball. In his free time, he enjoys hunting, golfing, and playing pool. His extensive industry experience and dedication to cooperative values fuel his commitment to serving ECI REC and its members.