

Dakota Counsel

July 2015

Organizing • Research • Advocacy • Education

Vol. 38, No 3

First New DRC Local Chapter in 11 Years

On Friday, June 26th, DRC members on the Fort Berthold Reservation launched the first new DRC local chapter in 11 years with a celebration at the American Legion in Parshall.

Fort Berthold POWER (Protectors of Water and Earth Rights) is an active group of tribal and non-tribal members who support citizen driven efforts on Fort Berthold to address impacts of oil and gas industrialization

to the communities and homelands of the Three-Affiliated Tribes. These concerned citizens have organized to affect positive change on environmental issues affecting all lands within the Fort Berthold boundaries and have developed their own mission statement and bylaws. FB POWER is the first new local chapter of Dakota Resource Council since the South Agassiz Resource Council was founded in Fargo in 2005.



The mission of Fort Berthold **POWER** is to conserve and protect the land, water, and air on which all life depends. We are committed to work toward a sustainable society with an awareness for all life. We will promote unity with our communities, partners, leaders, and the world around us.

Joletta Bird Bear, Interim President of FB POWER, led the celebration. Members were joined by DRC Director Don Morrison and DRC Oil and Gas Organizer Nicole Donaghy. Long time DRC member Marilyn Hudson gave a talk about Fort Berthold history, Sebastian Braun discussed a mapping project of oil and development impacts, Theodora Bird Bear hosted an exhibit titled

“Oil Industrialization in Pictures”, and Thomas Abe spoke about concerns for water on Fort Berthold. Students of the Nueta, Hidatsa, and Sahnish College Students were represented by Lisa Deville who displayed projects titled, “Impacts of oil development on groundwater wells on Fort Berthold Indian Reservation.” The DRC movie “This Is Our Country: Living with a Wild West Oil Boom” was also screened for the attendees.

Calendar of Events

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| July 24-25 | Grassroots Leadership & Action Workshop, New Town |
| July 28 | SARC meeting, Fargo |
| July 31-August 1 | DRC Board and Staff Retreat, Bismarck |
| August 8 | Water Blessing and Healing Walk, New Town |
| August 22 | Fundraiser at Riverbound Farm with music from Gravel & Glass, Mandan |
| August 29 | DRC Oil & Gas Task Force in person meeting, Killdeer (tentative) |
| September 12 | DRC Board meeting, Minot |
| September 14-16 | WORC Continuing Education of Organizers Training, Billings, MT |
| September 20 | Northern Lights Film Screening at North Dakota Heritage Center, Bismarck |
| October 23 | Northern Lights Film Screening at High Plains Cultural Center, Killdeer |
| October 24 | DRC Annual Meeting at Buckskin Bar & Grill in Killdeer |

The Dakota Counsel is published four times a year by Dakota Resource Council, a nonprofit, grassroots activist organization. Dakota Resource Council's mission is to promote sustainable use of North Dakota's natural resources and family-owned and operated agriculture by building member-led local groups that empower people to influence the decision-making processes that affect their lives and communities.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Linda Weiss, Travis Schulz, Marie Hoff, Leo Walker, Theodora Bird Bear, Jay Mosbrucker, April Fairfield, Jim Stenslie, Bette Stieglitz, Carol Ventsch, Jeremy Wirtz along with two representatives from each affiliate

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Summer Salutations

by DRC Board Chair Linda Weiss

Just as the "1812 Overture" crescendos with the booms of the cannons, so summer does the same around July 4th. It's a busy time of year for North Dakotans, and the work of DRC continues to boom across our state.

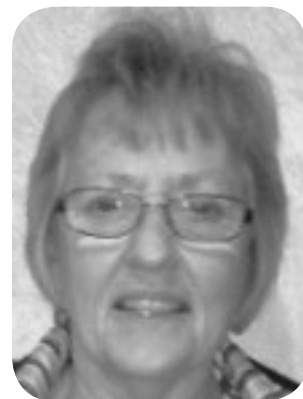
We welcome DRC's newest affiliate Fort Berthold POWER. Congratulations to all the members who brought this group together in the heart of the Bakken.

Our organizers are working with the 60% Group in Dunn County for smarter development of oil waste landfills, in Fargo learning about personal and home-based solar, organizing demonstrations against oil bomb trains, and statewide promoting family farms, local agriculture, and preparing for local government meetings and other events.

Board members on various task forces and committees are preparing for the board and staff retreat as we work towards a long term sustaining vision and plan for the work of DRC. It certainly is a big lift, and there seem to be more administrative meetings, phone calls, and emails than campaign planning meetings lately, but that is one of the duties of the chair and very necessary as we build towards the bright future we all see for DRC.

Annual meeting preparations are gelling for the Annual DRC Member Meeting in Killdeer, ND October 24th. We look forward to the film showing of "Northern Lights" the evening of October 23rd.

Be sure to mark your calendars for the events these next several months as you read through the newsletter. Bring your friends, family, neighbors, and co-workers so they can learn about all the "noise" DRC has been making across North Dakota this summer. See you there.



We Have A Winner!

Lynn Wolff was the winner of the "March-May Membership contest and is the lucky recipient of the 35 pounds of homegrown beef donated by Donny & Rena Nelson. Congratulations Lynn and if you need help consuming the beast, please call the DRC office and we would be happy to help you out:)



DRC Happenings

DRC Annual Meeting

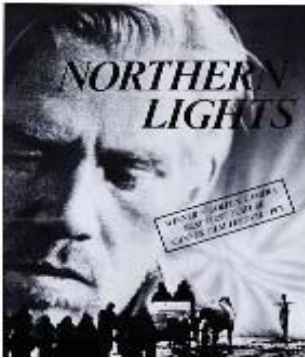
Celebrating 38 Years of Organizing to Win

The DRC annual meeting will be held at the Buckskin Bar & Grill in Killdeer on Saturday, October 24 with registration beginning at 9 AM (MDT). The business meeting will begin promptly at 9:30 AM. Full details will be forthcoming. Please contact Aleta at 483-2851 for early registration and information on lodging in Killdeer.

The afternoon will feature a distinguished panel discussing "Organizing: Past, Present, and Future."

What do we want our legacy to be and how can we continue the tradition of successful community organizing in North Dakota? What are some of the values and skills needed to successfully organize like the Non-partisan League and other movements? In addition to the panel, we will have a feature presentation of *Northern Lights* on Friday, October 23 in Killdeer. See article below.

Northern Lights



To celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the Non-Partisan League (NPL), you are invited to join DRC at screenings of the film *Northern Lights*.

The NPL was a highly successful grassroots organizing movement in North Dakota that spread across the Midwest in the early decades of the 20th Century. Farmers and other North Dakotans came together to take charge of the issues they faced. The issues are strikingly similar to those we face today.

Northern Lights (1978), is an award winning film about family and the organizing of the NPL in 1915. The movie will be shown the night before the DRC Annual Meeting in Killdeer. The film's director, John

Hanson, will be visiting us for the screening and participating on the community organizing panel Saturday afternoon. There are some extra costs associated with showing the film (film rights, promotion, and travel for the Director). Please contact Tim (701-202-6260) if you are able to help us fund the film showings.

"It is a raw, refreshingly honest slice of Americana, celebrating a time when people still cared about their neighbors." - Judy Stone, San Francisco Chronicle, September 27, 1979

DRC showings of *Northern Lights*:

- North Dakota Heritage Center, Russell Reid Auditorium, 1:30 pm (CDT), Sunday, September 20. Co-sponsored with the North Dakota Historical Society and Cinema 100 Film Society.
- High Plains Cultural Center, Killdeer, 7:00 pm (MDT), Friday, October 23.

Riverbound Farm Fundraiser

Join us Saturday, August 22 at 6:00 p.m. for delicious food, great conversation, music from Gravel & Glass, and an opportunity to learn more about DRC and Riverbound

Farm. The event is outdoors and open to the entire family.

Advance reservations are appreciated and for further information please call Tim or Liz at the Bismarck office,

224-8587 or e-mail

tim@drcinfo.com or liz@drcinfo.com



Coming Together

The entire DRC staff and WORC board reps Bette Stieglitz and Lynn Wolf participated in the June meeting of the Western Organization of Resource Councils (WORC) in beautiful Palisade, Colorado.

Sessions included training and skills development, networking and team building, issue education and strategy, and decision making on critical issues along with a bus tour addressing cottage foods and lands management.



A Note of Thanks

Thank you! We couldn't have made the progress we've made defending ourselves against out-of-state landfill companies without the help of DRC and the support of your members. With your help, we've demonstrated the importance of local control to our county commissioners and other elected officials throughout ND oil country. What's best about North Dakota is not lost.



we're not done yet. With the help of attorney and DRC member Derrick Braaten, we've submitted a new ordinance to Dunn County Planning and Zoning that states that if 20% of

No one knows the land better than a farmer or a rancher. As landowners, we have rights and when we work together our voice matters.

When we first brought our case to a Planning and Zoning meeting in early March to reinstate the 60% landowner approval rule for special waste landfills, so many showed up, the meeting had to be delayed and moved down to the County Shop, and people stayed, and stayed late, because they cared. We've hit some set backs along the way, but we've had some great success, in that one landfill company pulled their project, and the Green Group, represented by Odney Advertising out of Bismarck, had their first permit application denied in May. And

landowners within two miles of a proposed landfill site protest the site, the county commission would have to unanimously agree to override the protest to go ahead with the landfill. We all know how hard it is to get a commission to agree 100% on anything, so this protest provision allows for some landowner protection.

With the help of DRC, we will continue to hold our commissioners accountable for the words they say, their actions, and most importantly their votes. Our elected officials – from the State's Attorney, to the County Commission, to the State Capitol – need to remember **they were elected to represent us.**

Dale Dvorak, Linda Kittilson, Curt Kralicek, Mark Kovash
Dunn County 60% Committee Chairs

New Wheels!

DRC and staff are the proud owners of a 2003 Chevy Malibu graciously donated by Christopher Dopson shown presenting the keys to organizer Tim Glaza. The Chevy represents the 5th vehicle our generous members have donated. Art & Rose Sickler, Harlin & Marie Kling, Don Vig and Jesse Wiesenborn also gave vehicles that got our organizers where they needed to be to do DRC's important work.

We are so grateful!



DRC Completes Corporate Farming Referendum Petition Drive

Dakota Resource Council Board Chair Linda Weiss congratulated members of DRC and its allies for successfully completing a statewide petition drive to refer ND Senate Bill 2351 for the June 2016 ballot. On



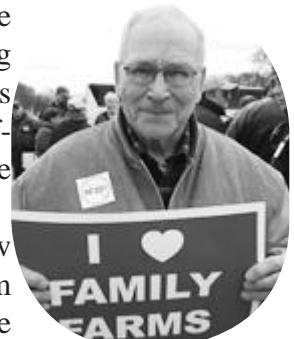
June 16th, D R C members j o i n e d members of North Dakota Farmers Union, The Catholic Conference, and the Independent Beef Association of North Dakota, as they turned in over 21,000 signatures to Secretary of State Al Jaeger, in advance of the petition deadline.

“North Dakota was built by family-owned farms and ranches. Those farmers and ranchers, and their descendants, turned around and built towns and cities, small businesses, banks, and schools. No one knows how to maintain a strong community better than the farmer or rancher living there. Dakota Resource Council proudly supports family-owned and family-operated agriculture, because ND farmers and ND ranchers have a vital stake in the future and well-being of North Dakota and its vibrant rural communities. We want to give a big thank you to North Dakota Farmers Union and its members for stepping up to lead this fight for family agriculture.” said Weiss, speaking from her home in Belfield, ND.

SB 2351, which allows for exemptions to North Dakota’s longstanding ban on corporate owned farms, for dairy and swine operations, was passed during the 2015 legislative session. The law change allows corporate-owned farms and non-family companies to buy, rent, or lease dairy farms and swine production facilities. The bill passed the ND Senate on February 20th, passed the ND House on March 16th, and the ND Senate concurred to the ND House version on

March 19th. ND Governor Jack Dalrymple signed the bill on March 20th despite vocal opposition from producers and consumers from across the state, industries, and political spectrum.

Those in opposition to the law changes held a “Rally for Family Farms” in Bismarck on the steps of the state capitol on March 27th and announced plans to start a petition drive to refer the law to the 2016 ballot. Organizers submitted petition paperwork to Secretary of State Al Jaeger that same day. Jaeger approved the petition on April 6th and forty-six members of Dakota Resource Council circulated petitions along with volunteers from North Dakota Farmers Union, The Catholic Conference and the Independent Beef Association of ND. The 13,452 minimum signatures needed were easily collected by DRC and its partners within the 90-day timeframe. DRC members alone collected over 1600 signatures. The Secretary of State’s Office will now review the signatures for placement on the June 14, 2016 ballot. Jaeger’s office has stated that they have found no irregularities in the signatures and they are waiting on a few procedural requirements before the referendum can be officially approved for a statewide vote. Stay tuned!



For more information on how to get involved in the referendum effort, contact Dakota Resource Council Agriculture and Food Organizer Tim Glaza at tim@drcinfo.com or by calling DRC at (701) 224-8587.

Link Reinhiller

Seeking Stories

Why do you support DRC? What accomplishments and projects are you most proud of?

We are seeking stories of DRC members past and present to use for various social media, online, and promotional materials and we need to hear from YOU!

Please send thoughts, memories, pictures to mandy@drcinfo.com or give her a call at 701-799-3494 to discuss the project.

Family Farms are the Future of Agriculture

by Fred Kirschenmann

Fred Kirschenmann is president of Kirschenmann Family Farms near Medina a 1,800-acre certified organic farm. He is a member of Dakota Resource Council and a longtime national and international leader in sustainable agriculture. Fred shares an appointment as Distinguished Fellow for the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture at Iowa State University and as President of the Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture in Pocantico Hills, New York. Fred has given talks around the world on agricultural issues and is the author of the 2010 book, "Cultivating an Ecological Conscience: Essays from a Farmer Philosopher." He lives in Ames, Iowa. You can view a Ted Talk by Fred at: <http://tedxtalks.ted.com/video/TEDxManhattan-Fred-Kirschenmann>



My family owns a farm near Medina, and we now are transitioning that operation to Steve Sund and his family. Our farm has always been and will always remain a family farm committed to serve the health of the land and the community.

In my career I've had the opportunity to directly observe the evolution of corporate-owned farms. Such farms operate by a single principle: maximum, efficient production for short-term economic return (especially return to the shareholders). There are no incentives in that business model to attend to the health of the land or the community. As an article from Time magazine pointed out in October 1992, the corporatization of US agriculture makes farmers "virtual serfs on their own land." That is not the path to a future sustainable food and farming system in this country.

The expansion of non-family corporations into North Dakota will enhance the undemocratic and unfair system that is damaging communities across the world. Non-family corporations are attacking Country of Origin Labeling (COOL), destroying food sovereignty, and fighting to weaken laws that protect people, land, and communities. It is in everyone's interest to attend to this destructive process.

Weakening the anti-corporate farming law in North Dakota is a grim mistake. The movement towards large-scale industrial agriculture is not just about unfair economics; it is about the negative impacts on quality of life, the environment, and destruction of rural communities. Non-family corporate controlled agriculture is destroying rural communities across the United States

Furthermore, these structures are extremely energy intensive and cannot continue to operate as energy.

costs go up. As an example, when crude oil rose to \$147/barrel back in 2007, corporate hog operations in Iowa were losing \$20 a hog. We need to prepare for a future when crude oil will likely be much higher than that. We need to design farming systems that are more regenerative, more diverse and more self-renewing.

Corporate farms operating on the principle of short-term return, devoted to "getting big or getting out", and farming "fencerow to fencerow" are not sustainable. Family farms operating on the principle of taking care of the land and their communities will have a distinct competitive advantage.

Family agriculture in rural North Dakota is thriving because North Dakota's farmers and ranchers are the experts. They are in the best position to make decisions about how to use their land and run their businesses.

And most importantly, they operate on the principle of affection -affection for land, affection for community, affection for home, and for your neighbor. The focus for North Dakota must be on strengthening family-run agriculture, rural communities and using the tools we have to grow the economy from the bottom up.

We have an ideal system of family farm agriculture in ND. It is not a relic of the past - it is the agriculture of the future. North Dakotans support and want food produced on a family farm where food safety, food security, and stewardship of land and livestock are a way of life.

ND Farmers Union and Dakota Resource Council have got it right. Why change a system we know works?

See **FamilyFarms**, pg 7

Trade Vote Disappointment

Dakota Resource Council members from across the state are disappointed that Sen. Heidi Heitkamp, Sen. John Hoeven, and Rep. Kevin Cramer voted to give “fast track” or Trade Promotion Authority to President Barack Obama.



Todd Leake, DRC member and farmer from Grand Forks County, said “Trade Promotion Authority (S. 995) creates a “fast track” process for Congress to approve trade deals with limited debate and no right to offer amendments. The Obama Administration is seeking fast track authority to finalize two free trade agreements, the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and the Trans-

atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). Leake said, “There is a provision in these huge trade agreements that would allow foreign corporations to sue North Dakota if they believe our laws are reducing or will reduce their profits. This fast track bill needs to ensure that the sovereignty of the U.S. is protected.”

In a recent video conference, DRC and Underwood farmer Gene Wirtz urged Sen. Heitkamp to oppose fast track authority, “As a farmer, price is very significant and this particular ‘fast track’ bill doesn’t prevent other countries from manipulating their currency. Artificially low and manipulated foreign currencies hurt North Dakota farmers and ranchers because it gives those countries an unfair advantage in the marketplace.”

Of over 500 past trade agreements since 1974, only 16 have been “fast tracked.” Dakota Resource Council opposes “fast track” because they believe in robust public discussion and transparency. The Trans-Pacific Partnership is a particular trade agreement that will be “fast track” and will likely come up for a vote by the end of 2015.

“The fight is not over,” Jeri Lynn Bakken, a rancher from Adams County, added. “We already know the model of NAFTA doesn’t work. Why would these trade agreements, using the same model be any better for our state and its producers? We cannot afford another ‘one size fits’ all trade agreement.”

Family Farms, from pg. 6

Together with volunteers from across the state, these groups have successfully completed a petition drive to refer SB 2351 which weakened protections for family-run ag in ND. The Secretary of State’s office is now verifying the over 21,000 signatures collected for placement on the June 2016 ballot.

All of this is not just about short-term economics as the June 12th Fargo Forum editorial implied, it is about long-term food and farming resilience, and that security is in everyone’s interest. How North Dakotans vote on this issue in 2016 will have a strong impact on our food future, and that does kick up more than a “dust devil’s worth of difference.”

Keep up to date with DRC!



Like **DRC on FACEBOOK**
To get the word out ‘SHARE’ our posts with your friends.

**I’D LIKE TO SUPPORT DRC
ENCLOSED PLEASE FIND:**

General Membership

___ \$500 • Watchdog of the Prairie

___ \$250 • Sustaining

___ \$100 • Century Club

___ \$ 55 • Household

___ \$ 35 • Individual

___ \$ 15 • Student/Low Income

BARC/DRC Membership

Household \$60___ Individual \$40___

Ft. Berthold/DRC Membership

Household \$65___ Individual \$ 45___

GFC3/DRC Membership

Household \$60___ Individual \$40___

MCETA/DRC Membership

Household \$65___ Individual \$ 45___

MVRC/DRC Membership

Household \$60___ Individual \$40___

SARC/DRC Membership

Household \$75___ Individual \$ 45___

Name _____

Address _____

City, State _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

e-mail _____

Bits & Pieces

April Fairfield appointed Assistant Treasurer

April Fairfield was appointed to fill the Assistant Treasurer position on the DRC Board at the Board's May meeting. April has been a member and long-time supporter of DRC and knows our issues, vision, and organization well. She was a founding member of DRC's local chapter, Stutsman County Citizens Coalition (SC3) in 2001.

A native of Eldridge, west of Jamestown, she's been the policy analyst for North Dakota Farmers Union, a state budget policy analyst for the North Dakota Economy Policy Project, a legislator from District 29 (rural Jamestown area) from 1996 to 2006, and a candidate for North Dakota Secretary of State in 2014. In her election to the State Senate in 2002, one of the major issues she ran on was opposition to the introduction of GM wheat.

She lives in Bismarck and will serve the remainder of Molly McLain's 2015 term.

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Hiring Field Organizers

DRC is hiring two field organizers to work with members on oil, ag, clean energy, and local chapters. DRC members are engaged in some of the most critical issues shaping our community. If you know a highly motivated and skilled person who could be an organizer, please let us know. The job announcement is on the DRC website.

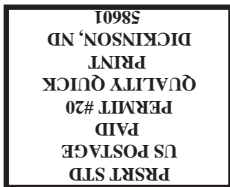
The two organizer positions are currently vacant. One has been held open since Scott Skokos moved to WORC in January. The other is from the recent resignation of Kathryn Hilton who left to pursue other efforts on energy extraction.

Member Input on Strategic Planning

The DRC Board and staff are working on a new five year strategic plan. Our last one was in 2009. Watch for a member survey in the next couple months.

Change of Address

Please note a change of address to 1200 Missouri Ave, Suite 201, Bismarck ND 58504. The Bismarck office moved upstairs and now has a conference room and windows. Stop in and visit.



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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