

Dakota Counsel

Annual Member Meeting October 23 & 24

You are invited! The 38th Annual Member Meeting & Celebration is almost here and it promises to be our best yet. We will be gathering at the Buckskin Bar & Grill, 64 Central Avenue South, Killdeer, ND on Saturday, October 24th. Registration begins at 9:00 am MDT and the meeting convenes promptly at 9:30 am. There is no cost to attend thanks to our business sponsors and any contributions to DRC are always greatly appreciated to help with expenses.



The evening before the Annual Meeting, Friday, October 23, join DRC and the Dunn County Historical Society for a free screening of *Northern Lights*. We are showing this award winning 1978 film about the Non-Partisan League as the NPL is celebrating 100-Years of grassroots organizing in 2015. The film’s director, John Hanson, will be joining us as a special guest and there will be a panel discussion following the screening.

The film is being shown at the High Plains Cultural Center, 194 Central Avenue South in Killdeer. Doors open at 6:00 pm MDT and the film starts at 7:30 pm. John Hanson will answer questions from the audience following the movie.

Saturday morning will start with introductions, a fun icebreaker, and time for networking. The business meeting portion of the day starts at 10:15 am. Every DRC member (in good standing) has a voice. Your decisions will guide the Board’s decisions throughout 2016 and help staff prioritize work in administering our campaigns. Meeting agenda items include approval of the 2014 annual meeting minutes, treasurer’s report, state of DRC report, report from the Western Organization of Resource Councils, election of officers, adoption of resolutions and approving changes to the bylaws.

A tasty luncheon begins at 12:30 pm with lip-smacking selections from the Buckskin’s “Wild West” menu. After lunch, former DRC Staff Director Mark Trechock will delight hearts and minds with his original poetry. We will wrap up the business meeting and conclude the afternoon with a panel discussion “Organizing: Past, Present and Future” featuring

See **Annual Meeting, pg 7**

Calendar of Events

- September 12**.....DRC Board Meeting – Minot, ND
- September 14-16**.....WORC Continuing Education for Organizers Training – Billings, MT
- September 20**.....*Northern Lights* screening at ND Heritage Center, Panel Discussion, and social and fundraiser to follow – Bismarck, ND
- October 23**.....*Northern Lights* screening at High Plains Cultural Center, Panel Discussion with director John Hanson kicks off DRC Annual Meeting – Killdeer, ND
- October 24**.....DRC Annual Membership Meeting & Silent Auction – Killdeer, ND
- November 9**.....Tailgate Party and Raffle Drawing – Bismarck, ND
- November 14**.....DRC Board Meeting – Jamestown, ND
- December 4-5**.....WORC Board and Staff Meeting – Billings, MT

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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Burning Rubber

by **DRC Board Chair Linda Weiss**

Since replacing my car tires in March (after one had shredded), the time came recently to have the tires rotated. I realized after reviewing the calendar how 10,000+ miles happened so quickly.

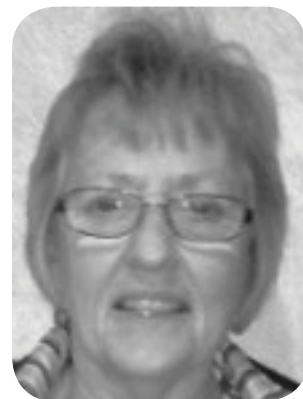
First, I attended the Grassroots Leadership and Action Workshop ("Mini-POCO") in New Town at Nueta Hidatsa Sahnish College on July 24-25. The training was a great refresher and it was great to meet new members, especially those interested in clean energy work.

I traveled to Manning twice, first to attend the Dunn County Planning and Zoning Board meeting on August 11 and then the County Board of Commissioners meeting on August 19 to support the work of our members and friends. I was so impressed by the fortitude of the Dunn County Citizens for Local Control group, especially their four committee members, as they tried to represent the residents of the county and stand up to their elected officials. The response from their Commission and States Attorney was sadly similar to officials in my county.

Then another member and I traveled to Riverbound Farm for a DRC fundraiser south of Mandan on August 22 and we may have hooked the rain on our bumper as it showed up at the farm. Appetizers were fantastic, grown here in ND, and it was great fun meeting some of the growers and the chef. The musical duo Gravel and Glass managed several sets of enjoyable music before the severe weather put an end to the great evening.

On Women's Equality Day, August 26, DRC's POWER affiliate sponsored an environmental law training in New Town. I learned more about legal options available to our members, especially how the federal Clean Water and Clean Air acts affect tribal lands. It was a very valuable presentation from attorneys Derrick Braaten and JJ England. I finished the day, looping back to Bismarck to celebrate the anniversary of women's national voting rights at the old Governors' mansion, an event attended by a few DRC members from the Bismarck area.

The next several months look to be more of the same as I finish up my tenure as chair. I look forward to seeing everybody at the annual meeting in Killdeer. I hope to hear about all the travels you did this summer!



Save the Date!

DRC showings of *Northern Lights*:

- North Dakota Heritage Center, Russell Reid Auditorium
Sunday, September 20, 1:30 pm (CDT)

Co-sponsored with the State Historical Society of North Dakota
Cinema 100 Film Society and North Dakota AFL-CIO

- High Plains Cultural Center, Killdeer
Friday, October 23, 7:00 pm (MDT)

With support from the Dunn County Historical Society

DRC Happenings

DRC Announces 2015 Raffle!

A special thanks goes to the Salted Lands Council for the donation of a pair of tickets to the Packers/Cowboys game on December 13th in Green Bay, WI for our grand prize. Cash prizes of \$200, \$100, and \$50 will also be awarded. 600 tickets will be sold and the drawing will be held November 9 during the tailgate party at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Bismarck. More details to follow. Contact DRC Office Assistant Liz Anderson at liz@drcinfo.com or 701-224-8587 to get your tickets.

Environmental Law Seminar in New Town

DRC members participated in an environmental law training in August hosted by the POWER affiliate in New Town. Attorneys Derrick Braaten and JJ England demystified major federal environmental



Photo Courtesy of Joletta Bird Bear

laws and explained to members how they can help enforce those laws. The Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act both contain “citizen suit” provisions that allow members of the public to enforce violations of these laws through lawsuits in federal court. These laws also can require the polluter to pay for the time spent by citizens’ attorneys if they win the case. The training explored this, and much more, by diving into the nitty gritty of permits, how to obtain relevant information from the government, and ways for our members’ to voice their concerns in permitting decisions. A detailed PowerPoint presentation from the training is available from DRC staff upon request.

Welcome Kyra Hill to DRC!

Kyra Hill joined the DRC Bismarck staff as an organizer and policy analyst at the end of August. She’ll work half time and cover oil and gas and clean energy. Kyra has a BA from Harvard College and a JD in Environmental Law from Lewis & Clark Law School in Portland, Oregon. She has an interest in renewable energy and its potential to provide cleaner, more affordable power while maintaining the integrity of our land, water, and air. Welcome Kyra!



Update from Dunn County Citizens for Local Control

The citizen-led group fighting for landowner’s rights in the siting of landfills in Dunn County presented their “protest provision” ordinance to the county Planning and Zoning Board and the County Commissioners in August. Unfortunately, their efforts were ultimately unsuccessful. Dunn County Citizens for Local Control Committee member Mark Kovash said in response to the final decision, “They’re just finding ways to shut us down so landfills can come in.” The group is now discussing next steps to bring more accountability to the Dunn County Commission who they feel are siding with industry over health and safety concerns.



Mark Kovash

Keep COOL



North Dakota’s congressional delegation has given in to demands from the WTO, Mexico, and Canada and now support gutting the Country of Origin Labeling Act (COOL) saying it is a barrier to free trade. But, 90% of Americans support knowing where their meat comes from and farmers and ranchers want to share that information. Bowing to pressure, the US House has already voted to repeal COOL, and there is a “compromise” bill currently in the US Senate that would make labeling voluntary, co-sponsored by Senators Hoeven and Heitkamp. DRC and WORC expect debate over COOL to continue into the fall in Washington and at the WTO in Switzerland. Stay tuned and follow DRC on Facebook or Twitter for up to the minute updates on this critical issue.

Corporate Farming Law Referral Campaign Gears Up

The efforts of DRC and its allies at ND Farmers’ Union, the Catholic Conference, and the Independent Beef Association have paid off. Senate Bill 2351, which allowed for pork and dairy exceptions to the longstanding ban on corporate owned farms in ND, did not become law on August 1. The law has been successfully referred and the ND Secretary of State has approved the referral for the June 2016 ballot.

Now the real work begins. DRC members gathered in Bismarck on August 31 for a full day of campaign planning, led by Ag and Food Organizer Tim Glaza. Liz Moran-Stelk, from the Western Organization of Resource Councils joined the strategy session, bringing her expertise in agriculture and local food issues. Topics of discussion included allies and opponents, messaging strategy, timelines, and goals for the campaign.

There is still time for you to get involved with the core campaign team – contact Tim Glaza at tim@drcinfo.com or 701-202-6260 to find out how to help!

Steadfastly Supporting Dakota Resource Council

DRC hosted an outdoor “Fundraiser on the Farm” in Mandan on August 22. Despite high winds, rain, and the imminent threat of thunderstorms over 30 hearty North Dakotans braved the weather to show their support for Dakota Resource Council. Special thanks go to Riverbound Farm for use of their farmstand for our shelter, Gravel and Glass for their hot tunes, Chef Kristin Brit Sande for her gourmet menu of fresh local food, and everyone in attendance for a blustery evening full of warm hospitality.



Hearty North Dakotans at Riverbound Farm. Photo Courtesy of Chad Nodland

To Flare or Not to Flare?

On August 19, the EPA released new rules to regulate methane emissions from oil and gas production in the US. Those living in western ND know the effects of flaring too well, and DRC supports the Obama administration's first attempt to curb this wasteful practice. Chair Linda Weiss said in a statement supporting the rules, "The natural gas that is flared every day in North Dakota could heat over 500,000 homes. We now look to Governor Dalrymple. Will his words match his actions? Will North Dakota take real steps to reduce flaring?" The North Dakota Industrial Commission will be discussing the Governor's flaring plan at their September 24 hearing. Will the NDIC vote to delay flaring regulation, as ND Director of Mineral Resources Lynn Helms is urging them to do? One thing is certain, DRC will be talking about flaring this fall.



was scheduled and how the public is being notified.

North Dakota Health Council Raises Radioactivity Levels in ND Landfills 10x

The 11-member North Dakota Health Council, the governing body of the ND Department of Health, unanimously voted on August 11 to increase the allowable limits of radioactivity from 5 picocuries per gram to 50 picocuries per gram of allowable radioactive material for special waste landfills approved to handle radioactive waste. The change in rules came at the request of the oil industry.

Marie Hoff of Bismarck attended the Health Council meeting on behalf of DRC. She said, "If this was a sound and safe decision for future North Dakotans, why not give a proper 30-day notice and conduct themselves with the utmost transparency? I am very concerned that the agency charged with protecting the health and safety of the people are maneuvering with such secrecy. It makes one wonder what else is being hidden."

DRC came out in strong vocal opposition to the change, the way the hearing

DRC and the ND Energy Waste Coalition have submitted a joint records request under the Freedom of Information Act to determine whether ND open meeting laws were violated. DRC staff and members will continue to hold elected officials and administrators accountable for every harmful decision as the rules and implementation progresses.

Oil and Gas Task Force Meets



On August 29, eleven members of the Oil and Gas Task Force met in Manning for their annual face-to-face strategy meeting. The meeting was led by DRC Oil and Gas Organizer Nicole Donaghy and task force chair Theodora Bird

Bear. The day started with an exercise to identify why organizing is important when facing the sometimes overwhelming issues around oil. The group worked to prioritize campaigns, identify goals and objectives, and brainstorm resolutions for the DRC Annual Meeting.

Members Speak Out

Fort Berthold POWER & DRC Board Member Lisa DeVille, Mandaree, ND Grand Forks Herald - August 14, 2015

On Aug. 8, Ft. Berthold Protectors of Water and Earth Rights along with the Indigenous Environmental Network hosted our first annual 2015 Water Blessing and Healing Walk. We prayed for all the sacred waters of the Earth.

For centuries, we Native Americans were forced



Lisa DeVille (left)

people were beaten because they spoke their own language.

But what happened to Native Americans is not taught in non-Native American schools. The historical trauma has affected us greatly; we are losing our language and our way.

This land was taken from our ancestors, and today it is being destroyed by industrialization and money.

We need more people to stand up for Mother Earth. For Colorado—the site of the recent, 3-million-gallon spill of toxic yellow sludge into the state’s waterways—isn’t the only place that’s suffering from disasters. Such events also are happening in our own communities. Think of the million-gallon brine spill that fouled a portion of the Ft. Berthold Indian Reservation in July of last year, a spill for which the responsible party has neither

been charged nor fined, nor for which there has been a proper cleanup.

What flows downstream affects all life. We need to be proactive, and we need to be aware of the impact of all of this industrialization. We must demand updated environmental laws, environmental justice and more research. We cannot take Mother Earth for granted. Our instruction from the creator is to protect Mother Earth. We must act now for our future generations.

DRC Member Shelly Ventsch, New Town, ND The Fargo Forum – September 2, 2015

David Glatt, the North Dakota Department of Health (DoH), and the State Health Council chose oil’s finances over the health/safety of western North Dakota’s residents and the value of water, air, land and wildlife. By raising picocurie limits, the DoH spit in the faces of commenters opposing this change (75 percent) and kissed the feet of the remaining commenters, all associated with energy/oil (one individual claimed he wasn’t). Glatt’s reasoning? “We have a responsibility to handle the waste ...” Responsibility for proper disposal of oil field waste began with the first drilling, but TENORM (Technologically Enhanced Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material) turned away from landfills was never tracked by DoH.

“Responsibility” is making sure it reached a licensed out-of-state disposal. Oil companies drilled in North Dakota knowing TENORM would go out of state, but they banked on their ability to manipulate state agencies.

They succeeded.

The first public hearing on picocurie limit was held on Jan. 20, but HB1113 (regulating radioactive waste) was heard in the House on Jan. 16. The State Health Council approved the change on Aug. 11, but DoH placed an ad in the Bismarck Tribune on Aug. 9 for an environmental scientist, requiring a degree in health physics/chemistry/radiologic health. It appears raising picocurie limits was a done deal prior to any hearings, approval of the State Health Council, the Legislature’s Administrative Rules Committee, and the Attorney General.

DoH’s responses to comments and their previous failings have done nothing to allay concerns. They have only increased them.

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“Northern Lights” director John Hanson, Theodora Bird Bear from Mandaree, Jeri Lynn Bakken from Lemmon, SD, Marie Hoff from Bismarck, and DRC Staff Director Don Morrison moderating.

The meeting ends with a celebration of the year that has passed and the year to come. We will be giving out the DRC awards to those members who have gone above and beyond in the past year to make a difference in North Dakota. We will be celebrating the launch of DRC’s newest affiliate Fort Berthold POWER. We’ve added three new staff members since last year, so be sure to touch base with Tim, Mandy, and Kyra and learn about the work they are doing. 2015 was a big year for DRC – from an unfriendly legislative session, train derailments, oil spills, radioactive waste disputes, to a threat to ND’s longstanding ban on corporate owned farms. DRC has been at the front of these issues because of your dedication, support, and action!

As always, we will be holding a silent auction, which is often our biggest fundraiser of the year! Items already donated are food and drink baskets, handcrafted items, pottery, Patagonia clothing, original art and a rolling Coleman cooler donated by Linda Weiss filled with North Dakota beef originally donated by Donny & Rena Nelson for the membership contest won by Lynn Wolff and redonated by Lynn for the silent auction. Generous members in action! We hope for the best auction ever, so please bring something to donate! And remember, we always give a prize to the donation that brings in the highest bid!

We are also offering sponsorship memberships to North Dakota businesses and groups. In return, businesses are listed on DRC’s website, including a logo and link to the group’s website. The business or group is also featured in our annual meeting brochure, and representatives from the group are specially recognized during the business meeting if they are in attendance. If you’d like to talk more about business or group sponsorships, have a relationship with a group that should be a sponsor, or recommend a business that should support DRC, please contact Aleta at aleta@drcinfo.com or 701-483-2851.

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Cobblestone Hotel & Suites, 158 Rodeo Drive, Killdeer, ND, 58640. The DRC special rate is \$120 for Friday and/or Saturday night and need to be reserved by **October 9**. The hotel’s phone number is 701-764-2200. We are meeting in oil country, so rooms are limited. Make your reservations in Killdeer, Watford City, or Dickinson early!

The staff and board can’t wait to see you in Killdeer! We need you to let us know if you are able to attend by **October 15** to ensure a place at the luncheon table. Call 701-483-2851 or email aleta@drcinfo.com to confirm your attendance at this year’s annual meeting or send your regrets. **See you there!**

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_____

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Why Do We Organize?

In early July, DRC Ag & Food Organizer Tim Glaza and DRC Communications Director Mandy Kubik attended the Western Organization of Resource Council's bi-annual "Principles of Community Organizing" Training in Billings, MT at the WORC offices. With over 30 attendees it was the largest POCO training yet.



On July 24 & 25, DRC hosted a "Mini-POCO" at Nueta Hidatsa Sahnish College in NewTown. The Grassroots Leadership & Action training was led by Kevin Williams, WORC's Director of Organizing and Campaigns with over 25 participants over the two-day event.

The core question at both trainings was, "Why do we organize?" Instead of doing a direct-service to the communities or working from an advocacy model like the Sierra Club and Farmers' Union, what makes the community organizing model uniquely effective? One answer: It is people powered. Why do you think community organizing works? Why do you organize? Share your thoughts with DRC Communication Director Mandy Kubik at mandy@drcinfo.com

Attendees discuss campaign planning at DRC's grassroots leadership training in New Town

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