"Watchdogs of the Prairie"

Dakota Counsel

September 2014

Organizing

Research

Advocacy

Education

Vol. 37, No 4

Annual Member Meeting October 25

by Aleta Hendricks

The 37th Annual Meeting & Celebration is fast approaching and you don't want to miss this one!

The big day is **October 25** in Bismarck at the AmVets Club with registration beginning at 9:30 a.m. cdt and the meeting promtly starting at 10:00 a.m. There is no cost to attend due to the generosity of our business sponsors and we promise a day like no other.

The day starts out with a fun-filled interactive icebreaker which involves your contribution of one (1) item valued at \$1.00 or less. A candy bar, can of food, roll of toilet paper, or anything that gives you superior bartering power is acceptable. You may leave with something better (or worse) but this will be a great time to exhibit your bartering abilities. And it only gets better from there.

The business meeting is the first item on the agenda. As a member in good standing, you not only have a voice in the election of officers but also the adoption of resolutions that will guide the Board's decisions throughout the year.

Following the business meeting, you will be treated to a tasty luncheon off the menu. While digesting

lunch, our guest speaker, Derrick Braaten from the Braaten/Baumstark Law Firm will speak on issues we are facing in North Dakota today with the theme of "The Little People in Boom Times." Derrick's practice has always centered on providing legal services to family farmers and ranchers although his focus in recent years has been oil and gas work on behalf of mineral owners and surface owners. Derrick handles many matters in this area while maintaining a significant agricultural law practice as well. You don't want to miss this!

But this day is not all work and no play. It is also a time to celebrate the accomplishments that your loyalty, support and actions have made possible. DRC is **YOU** and **you deserve to celebrate**.

We will finish up any remaining business in the afternoon and since we have added many new faces to our staff lately, we have planned a fun "get to know the staff" game time. And maybe we'll find out some new things about the "oldies" staff too.

As always, we will be holding a silent auction featuring baskets, homegrown and homemade goodies and various items of interest. We are sure you will find that special something you've been looking

for and can't live without. If you are able to bring something to add to the collection, we would be so grateful. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year and it just gets better every year. Again we will offer a prize for the basket that brings in the highest bid so get your creative juices flowing! Of course a basket is not mandatory if you have other items to donate.



Having fun while working hard at the 2013 Annual Meeting

The Dakota Counsel is published four times a year by Dakota Resource Council, a nonprofit, grassroots activist organization. The mission of Dakota Resource Council is to form enduring, democratic local groups that empower people to influence decision-making processes that affect their lives. DRC is committed to preserving sustainable agriculture and natural resources.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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CELEBRATE!

Come on

by DRC Board Chair Linda Weiss

One of the things I've noticed over the years in DRC, we need to celebrate the little wins. They lead to big wins.

Most often we won't be acknowledged for those wins but we were helpful in bringing them to fruition.

The annual meeting is a time to celebrate. We also reaffirm our efforts with resolutions, either adding more to resolutions passed before or new issues needing a resolution. The resolutions help the board carry forward the vision and mission of Dakota Resource Council and the larger organization of Western Organization of Resource Councils.



You members have an opportunity to meet each other, to hear other members' struggles and challenges at our annual meeting, and have a good time in-between campaigns. This is a time to renew your energy for the coming year. Remember elections follow and all the opportunities to see your legislators in action after January 1st.

And it is always great to see what items show up at the Silent Auction. I hear people had a great time at the recent fundraiser at Riverbound Farms August 23rd. More of these events are welcomed at other locations throughout the year other than the annual meeting.

Your presence is welcomed. Remember to bring that \$1.00 item for the icebreaker. See you on October 25th.

DRC's Calendar of Events

Sept 13-DRC Board Meeting, 1:00 to 4:00, Minot, Royal Fork

Sept 16-South Agassiz Resource Council (SARC), Fargo

Sept 17-Oil and Gas Task Force meeting, at 8:00pm (CST)

Sept 20-Media Training, 1:00 to 4:00, Bismarck (Call 701-224-8587)

Sept 23-Oil by rail safety hearing, 9:00 to 5:00, DMR 1000 Calgary Ave, Bismarck

TBA-Ag and Foods Task Force meeting (call Matthew 701-224-8587)

Oct 21-South Agassiz Resource Council (SARC), Fargo

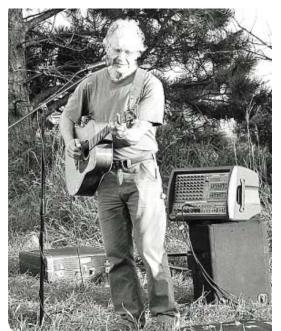
Oct 25-DRC Annual Meeting, AmVets Club, Bismarck, 10 a.m.

Nov 4-Election Day

Nov 8-DRC Board Meeting, Jamestown

DRC Fundraiser - A FUN Success!

On Thursday, August 21, DRC members Ellen Chaffee and David Schwalbe hosted a fundraiser for Dakota



Chuck Suchy at DRC Event

Resource Council. Both members and non-members were invited to come out to Riverbound Farm and have a fun time socializing and taking in the stories and music of Chuck Suchy.

The night was not only spent talking about the issues that are troubling in the Bakken, but to see new and old faces, gain new members, raise money and celebrate the wins that DRC has accomplished in the past year.

The night began with a social hour including appetizers featuring produce from Brian and Angie McGinness' Riverbound Farm, a welcome from DRC member Ellen Chaffee and then a night of entertainment with Chuck Suchy performing.

DRC member David Schwalbe gave Chuck Suchy a break by talking about some disturbing issues that our state government has been allowing. Schwalbe also discussed how Dakota Resource Council has helped members improve some of these problems and issues and encouraged the crowd of 70 that they should join or get active with DRC.

Overall, it was a successful money raising event and DRC even picked up some new memberships! For more information on

throwing a fundraiser for DRC in your area, contact Liz in the Bismarck Office at 224-8587 or liz@drcinfo.com. DRC will do the majority of the legwork and help you out every step of the way. Your most important job is to be the host!

Board and Staff Meet for Yearly Retreat

On July 11 and 12, DRC staff and board members met for a yearly retreat to talk about past and current campaigns, new areas to be worked on, and how to handle fundraising. The board consists of DRC members across the state.

Kevin Williams, Director of Organizing for WORC, facilitated the meeting. He is responsible for coordinating a multi-faceted training program for members and staff, and delivering a wide range of leadership and capacity building assistance to WORC's member groups.

The board began the retreat by looking back on last year's priorities, assessing the accomplishments, and identifying the next steps to be taken. Board members participated in a self-evaluation and indentified key areas to work on during the next year.

The day concluded with socializing and a barbeque at Don and Karen Morrison's home. It was a good night to get together and decompress after a long day of talking about issues.

Saturday morning consisted of training exercises and discussion about starting a strategic planning effort.

The afternoon board meeting included discussion and decisions on organizational issues.

Serving on the board is a major component of DRC's success. If you are interested in being on the board, please contact one our offices. Your membership, activism and support helps ensure North Dakota is a safer and better place to live.



Board and Staff meet in Bismarck

DRC Members Raise Awareness of Bomb Trains

In early July, DRC members who live in the Red River Valley took to the railroad tracks in Fargo and Grand Forks to say no to Bakken Bomb Trains. Members involved with the protests are concerned about safety of not only North Dakotans, but folks

in Canada and other U.S. states.

With the train derailments in Quebec and Casselton fresh in evervone's minds, DRC members are urging the National Transportation Safety Board to ban the current use of the DOT-111 rail cars that were responsible for both of the Quebec and Casselton explosions. DRC members are also urging North Dakota regulators to require oil producers to strip explosive NGLs from Bakken prior to

shipment via train.

allowed more Bakken crude to be put on trains than can be handled.

Todd Leake, DRC member and farmer in the Emerado area, told the Grand Forks Herald in July that "This is becoming a fight between (agriculture) and



DRC Members Daryl Bragg and Lynn Wolf hold up a sign to protest oil trains
Photo Credit/Bruce Farnsworth

DRC members were interviewed by KFGO radio, Fox News/KVRR, Forum Communications, Valley News Live, and a Jamestown radio station. We said there are ways to make the rail cars safer and we need immediate action to remove unsafe rail cars and upgrade them with safer rail cars.

Our members made the case for safety by pointing out potential disasters in the making when oil trains explode. For example, in Bismarck both Sanford and St. Alexius hospitals are near the railroad tracks, as are the police station and some of the larger fire stations. If something were to happen to those buildings, Bismarck would have an even bigger disaster.

Not only has the currently weak regulation of oil trains caused critical safety issues, but it has caused serious economic hardship as well. North Dakota's longest lasting and most reliable sector agriculture - is at risk because public officials have the energy sector in this state and apparently agriculture is losing out." He went on to say, "This is costing farmers and farming communities throughout North Dakota a lot of money. We have to take a step back and see what these railroads were built for."

A recent study by North Dakota State University found that delaying shipments of grains has already cost North Dakota farmers \$66.6 million in lost sales as of May 2014.

Another \$100 million is predicted to be lost by the end of the year. The estimates only include spring wheat, corn and soybeans sales.

The Oil and Gas Division of the Department of Mineral Resources will hold a **special hearing** on **Tuesday, September 23**, regarding how to make Bakken crude less explosive prior to shipment. DRC members are preparing testimony and will participate in a media training led by DRC member Darrell Dorgan. Contact DRC's Bismarck Office for more information.

DRC Oil and Gas Task Force Meets in New Town

By Nicole Donaghy

Dakota Resource Council's Oil and Gas Task Force members and staff gathered at the Senior Center in New Town, North Dakota on August 17 to strategize the next steps in our Oil and Gas Campaigns. The agenda covered topics from DRC resolutions, progress on the current year's Oil and Gas Campaigns, current events, to priorities for the coming year.

Attending the meeting along with DRC members were Mountrail County Commissioners, Greg Boschee and Colleen Reese. The commissioners participated in group exercises and discussions that added a new element to the breakout focus groups. Boschee talked about reforming the tax formula to increase the allocation of funds to counties. The dramatically increasing revenues should help pay for increasing local education, road and housing costs.

Josh Fox, writer and director of Gasland and Gasland 2, attended the end of the meeting. He came to North Dakota to gather information for his new documentary on climate change. Gasland was nominated for an Academy Award for best documentary, nominated for four Emmys, and awarded the Emmy for best directing in 2011. After the meeting, Fox met with DRC members to discuss their experiences living amid the oil boom. Fox was eager to hear the seemingly endless stories from the Bakken.

DRC members Vance Gillette and Bruce Farnsworth led a session on the Bear Den Bay salt water spill that occurred in early July in Mandaree. They ventured into the Bear Den Bay area and investigated the area that was affected by the 1 million gallon salt water spill. The pair presented photographs that showed defi-

nite damage of dying vegetation and murky water. Arrow Pipeline, LLC a subsidiary of Crestwood Midstream owns and maintains the pipeline that spilled the toxic salt water that spread 2 miles down a ravine that ends at the Bay. Gillette stated that tribal officials claim that the water did not reach the bay and even though the water has been tested, refuse to share the results with the public. Bear Den bay is located ¼ mile from Fort Berthold's water intake system.

Theodora Bird Bear was re-elected for a second term as DRC's Oil and Gas Task Force Chair. She accepted and will continue to strengthen our campaign on oil and gas. Congratulations Theodora!

The meeting yielded several recommendations



Film Director, Josh Fox, visits with DRC members at the August task force meeting

for resolutions be brought to the DRC annual meeting. The proposed resolutions clude protecting authority at the city and county level, tougher regulations on spills and accidents that are preventable, 60% allocation to oil

impacted counties, and working to expand the membership of the NDIC to better represent the interests of landowners and locals living in the Bakken.

Affiliate Update

South Agassiz Resource Council (SARC) and **Grand Forks County Citizens Coalition (GFC3)** members participated in the "Bomb Train" protests in the Red River Valley. Please refer to story, *DRC Members Raise Awareness of Bomb Trains*, page 4, for more information.

Missouri Valley Resource Council (MVRC) joined the effort for safer oil transportation. At a September 11 meeting, members learned more about the issues and prepared to participate in upcoming campaign activities.

Badlands Area Resource Council (BARC) is exploring the idea of a bus tour of rail facilities to see how these facilities operate and their effects on the area. Contact Linda Weiss for more information.

DRC Members Investigate Million-Gallon Bear Den Bay Spill

by DRC Staff

Dakota Resource Council members Vance Gillette, an attorney in New Town, and Bruce Farnsworth, a photographer from Grand Forks, recently investigated a fracking wastewater spill located on Fort Berthold Indian Reservation.

The fracking wastewater leak was discovered July 8 from an underground pipeline owned by Aero Pipeline, LLC, a Crestwood Midstream Partners LP subsidiary. The one-million gallon wastewater spill occurred directly above a drainage that leads to Bear Den Bay in Lake Sakakawea.

The spill is located above the Mandaree water intake system, which supplies the reservation its drinking water. The company and state, federal and tribal officials have released very little information about the spill.

Gillette and Farnsworth met with other Dakota Resource Council members and staff at the August 17 Oil and Gas Task Force meeting in New Town to discuss their findings. They presented photographs Farnsworth had taken at the site as well as a firsthand account of what they saw at the spill site.

"The tribal government tested the water after the spill, but they haven't released any results." Gillette said. "From what I saw at the spill site it is highly unlikely the results of the water tests will show no contamination." Gillette, an enrolled member of the Three Affiliated Tribes, is a former chief judge at Fort Berthold.

SOAR, a Three Affiliated Tribes community activist group, held an environmental forum in White Shield August 19 to allow local citizens to voice their concerns about the spill. Addressing the group was Edmund Baker, Tribal Environmental Director.

Baker said, "The tribe's withholding the water testing

results would lead anyone to infer that the spill did hit the lake"

Gillette said, "The toxic solution could contain petroleum, fracking residue, sand, water and other undisclosed chemicals that are pumped into the drilling site to help fracture rock formations. It is hard to say what exactly killed the vegetation surrounding the shoreline since production fluid elements are considered a trade secret."

The continuing investigation is a joint effort between SOAR and DRC.

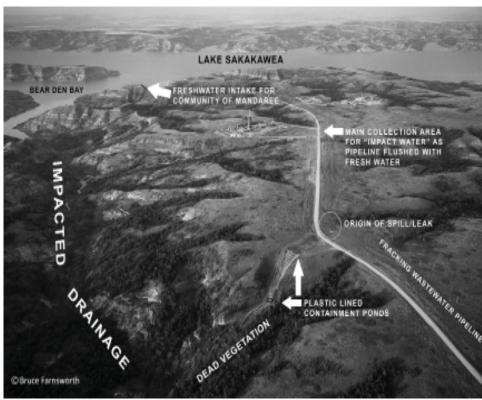


Photo of the Spill Area
Photo Credit /Bruce Farnsworth

Ag and Food Task Force Meets with Ag Commission Office

by Sean Arithson

Tuesday, August 5, DRC's Ag and Food Task Force members met with Carrie Larson and Tom Bodine from the North Dakota Department of Agriculture (NDDA).

Members wanted to meet with state ag officials to talk about concerns North Dakota farmers have regarding the GM wheat field trials in North Dakota. Many foreign countries do not allow genetically modified wheat in their countries and U.S. farmers are worried about those trials getting into exports and affecting U.S. markets.

The North Dakota Ag Department officials stressed to DRC members in the meeting that they have "no enforcement authority over the regulation of test plots in North Dakota" and that when the permits are submitted to NDDA,

the exact locations of the trials are redacted.

DRC was also told in the meeting that the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) does inspect the field trials, but to what extent is unknown. The NDDA has its own safety requirements in addition to those of USDA, specifically their more strict 660 foot setback from other wheat hybrids, up from the USDA's 330 foot rule.

The DRC task force will contact the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service on what information they can give about the test plots in North Dakota.

If you would like to get involved with DRC's Ag and Food Task Force, contact organizer Matthew Leibel at 701-224-8587 or email him at matthew@drcinfo.com.

Member Meeting, from pg. 1

The day will conclude with a social featuring a contest amongst the staff. The competition will be fierce and your taste buds will decide who will take the title of the "Big Dip."

There are a block of rooms reserved at the Comfort Inn for both October 24 and the 25 at the low price of \$84/94 plus tax if you wish to make it a family fun-filled weekend. There are only 15 rooms available for each night so call early (223-1911) and ask for the DRC block. The rooms at this rate need to be reserved by **October 9**.

We are all geared up to make your meeting and celebration productive and fun but we need you **let us know** if you are able to attend by **October 15** so we can reserve a spot for you at the luncheon table. Call 483-2851 or e-mail aleta@drcinfo.com. to confirm your attendance. Don't forget your \$1.00 item for the icebreaker and a silent auction contribution if you can. **See you there!**

Keep up to date with DRC!





To get the word out 'SHARE' our posts with your friends.



I'D LIKE TO SUPPORT DRC ENCLOSED PLEASE FIND:

General Membership

	\$500 9	Watch	ndog o	of the	Prairie
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\$250 • Sustaining

___\$100 • Century Club

\$ 55 • Household

\$ 35 • Individual

____\$ 15 • Student/Low Income

BARC/DRC Membership

Household \$60 Individual \$40

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_____

WELCOME!

DRC is excited to announce that two new organizers have joined DRC! Nicole Donaghy and Kathryn Hilton will be working full time on oil and gas issues with our members.

Nicole was raised in Fort Yates, North Dakota. A member of Standing Rock Lakota, Nicole is a graduate of United Tribes Technical College where she earned her

Nicole Donaghy

bachelor's degree in Business Administration. Nicole spent time with Americorp in Billings, MT with the Building Engaged Citizens program. She spent 3 years organizing and advocating for tribal college students. Through her writings she helped raise awareness for environmental issues and issues that affect tribal people.

Kathryn was raised in Aiken, South Carolina and graduated with her bachelor's degree in Communications from the University of South Carolina-Aiken. Before joining DRC, Kathryn was an organizer with Mountain Watershed Association working on oil and gas issues in the Marcellus Shale in southwest Pennsylvania. Previous experience includes

campus organizing in Pennsylvania and South Carolina.

Both organizers attended WORC's POCO session the first week on the job and have been meeting with members and working hard for DRC. Feel



Kathryn Hilton

free to stop by or give them a call and introduce yourself to them. They would both love to meet you!

Plan to attend the DRC Annual Meeting. 125.

KELNKY SERVICE REQUESTED

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